



Learning (and Protecting) Our Heritage

One of my favorite activities with the Society is meeting Solana Beach third graders at the Heritage Museum for our annual Living History Programs.

Last month, we hosted four classes (with their teachers and parent volunteers) for a hands-on exploration of the Museum. Did you know that our Museum was painstakingly designed nearly 25 years ago *specifically* to encourage "experiential learning" of life here in Solana Beach before

residents had running water or electricity in the early 1900s, and then later -- in the 1930s -- when both were available? Thank you to former Presidents Jim and Kathalijn Nelson for their leadership in bringing that theme to life! [Learn more here](#). (See page 23 . . .)

The students cranked early telephones: "That's a phone?!" They learned that early students in what is now Solana Beach had to walk to school in what is now Del Mar. "That's far!" They learned how to make toast on a wood-burning, pot-bellied stove: "How do you know

when

it's done?" And they played the games kids played a hundred years before the word "video" had been coined. "You guys had a lot more fun as kids than us!"

For future programs, we are working on a scavenger hunt that invites visitors to find additional artifacts in the Museum. Questions include: "What is that creepy doll in the 1900s parlor dressed as?"

Curious yourself? Come join the **Solana Striders on April 6, 8:30 a.m.**, because exploring the La Colonia neighborhood and our Museum will be the focus of the trek! (Page 4).

Also, please join our **very important General Meeting on Thursday, April 16 to learn how native California plants can help to fire-safe your home landscape**. Bring along a neighbor -- all are invited for this special presentation (page 2). I am very personally in the throes of a fire-protective re-landscaping around my own home, which sits squarely in the dreaded very-high-hazard fire zone. As our guest speaker Greg Ruben will suggest, the plan my local landscaper designed includes a lot of natives -- which may also bring the benefit of attracting even MORE butterflies to my garden. How about all these Monarchs and Painted Ladies we've been seeing lately! Feed them! Our SeaWeeders will host another native milkweed and nectar plant sale this spring; order forms will be available at the April 16th meeting.

Another important date to remember -- the April 30 deadline for applications for our 2026 scholarships of \$3,500 each (page 4). And **Tony's Jacal Restaurant is celebrating its 80th Anniversary** (page 3) -- how many eateries can claim that success? The Solana Beach School District is throwing itself an Anniversary party, too (Page 5). Join the fun.



Jojo Dodson Bogard

Join us! Thursday April 16, 5 p.m. Fletcher Cove Community Center

Fire-resilient Landscaping with Native Plants

For several years, our SeaWeeders Garden Club members have teamed with the citizen Climate & Resiliency Commission and the City of Solana Beach to expand native plant and pollinator habitat in the City. Most recently, we renovated the landscaping at City Hall to feature natives and milkweed. But planting with natives is about *even more* than feeding the butterflies and bees. In fact, expanding native habitat is a goal in the City's climate action plan, and landscaping with native plants can improve your home's chances of surviving a wildfire.



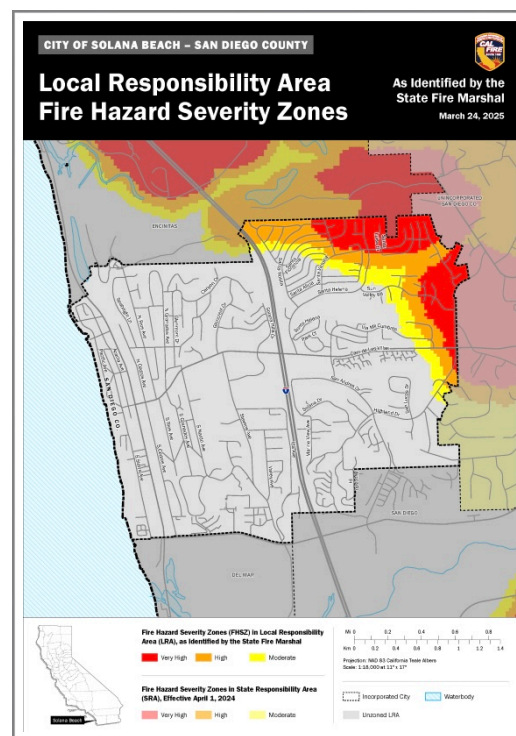
Our **April 16 meeting, 5 p.m. at Fletcher Cove Community Center, 133 Pacific Ave.**, will feature an overview of City+Commission+SeaWeeders efforts and a **special presentation by Greg Ruben, owner of California's Own Native Landscape Design.** With more than 31 years of experience, Greg is a recognized leader in the field of native plant design and a sought-after expert speaker. "We've had 25 client homes that have experienced major fire events . . . and we have yet to lose a home," he says. Although there are no guarantees, his approach to fire-resilient landscaping also was successfully tested in a four-year government research study.

Greg has been working with California native plants since 1985. By 1993, he was able to transition out of his career as an aerospace engineer to devote all of his time to his landscaping business, which has designed more than 825 native landscapes in Southern California. Specialties include residential, commercial, and institutional gardens providing year-round appeal, low maintenance, water efficiency, rich pollinator and wildlife habitat, and fire-resistance.

Greg has been featured in a number of periodicals including the Wall Street Journal, San Diego Union Tribune, Los Angeles Times, and Sunset and San Diego Home and Garden magazines. In 2018 he was named San Diego Horticulturist of the Year.

He is co-author of two books with Lucy Warren: "The California Native Landscape: the Homeowners' Design Guide to Restoring its Beauty and Balance" and "The Drought-Defying California Garden." Greg has also served on the boards of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation, California Native Plant Society, the Lux Art Institute, and the Garden Native foundation.

Hans Schmidt, Interim Fire Marshall for Del Mar and Solana Beach, also be on hand to address questions you may have about the Department's recommendations for creating defensible space and "hardening" to protect your home from wildfires.



Celebrate Tony's Jacal 80th Anniversary April 13 to 19

Tony's Jacal Restaurant in La Colonia de Eden Gardens was one of the earliest restaurants opened in what is now Solana Beach and is still serving loyal patrons 80 years later! Join a celebration of the restaurant's anniversary with **special events planned throughout the week of April 13, including mariachi performances from 5 to 8 p.m. on April 17 and 18.**

When Tony Gonzales got out of the Army in 1946, he became a truck driver at Solana Beach Lumber and Building Supply. He moonlighted at La Tienda in Del Mar where his wife, Catalina, was the cook. Later that year he started the first



SBC&HS Meetings & Events

Please note date changes for the April and May meetings. Unless otherwise noted, General Meetings start at 5 p.m. at Fletcher Cove Community Center, 133 Pacific Ave.

Thursday, April 16: Our SeaWeeders will host a brief overview of their partnership with the City to expand native pollinator habitat in Solana Beach. Meeting highlight: Hear a special presentation by Greg Rubin of California's Own Native Plant Landscape Design about how native plants can help create fire-resilient landscapes.

Thursday, May 21: Representatives from the City of Solana Beach will provide an update on the City's many public works and other initiatives.

May 30-31: Volunteer with us for the 45th annual Fiesta del Sol! Email solanabeachhistory@gmail.com.

June 4: Scholarship awards and 2026-27 SBC&HS Executive Board installation dinner, 5 p.m. at Tony's Jacal Restaurant.

Tony's Jacal restaurant in his father's house on Valley Ave.

Tony and Catalina thought they could do more business if they moved to the old Navy blimp port, later used as a small airport, east of the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Celebrities and race fans arrived there by plane! So in 1947 they opened a restaurant southeast of the track. People would cross a catwalk over the San Dieguito River to get to their place. However, they found that most of the celebrities got back on their planes and left after the races, and business was not all that great.

Later that year they built an adobe house on the east side of Valley and reopened Tony's Jacal in 1947 to the west side of Valley Ave.,



Crafts Group Meets Thursday, April 23

Join us for another fun project for our 2026 Boutique. (Until further notice, projects will be subject to change.) We'll meet from 1 to 3 p.m. at La Colonia Community Center. Inspiration and materials provided. All are welcomed!

Assistant City Manager Dan King Leaving After 23 Years of service



Dan played an essential role in every project the City has completed over the past two decades, including the formation of the Solana Energy Alliance, policy development at the Regional Solid Waste Association, and ensuring cost-effective service delivery and partnership with EDCO. He also led numerous successful labor negotiations with the City’s employee groups.

As noted in a recent Weekly Update from the City, Dan's work reflected both his institutional knowledge and his unwavering commitment to the community. He is recognized as “the definition of calm, cool, and collected,” whose thoughtful leadership guided the City through City Manager transitions and other periods of uncertainty -- including a global pandemic!

He has served as a valued mentor to many

colleagues. He has also been a valued friend to and supporter of the Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society and our SeaWeeders Garden Club. Please join us in wishing him all the best in his new role as Assistant General Manager at the Encina Wastewater Authority in Carlsbad.

Application deadline April 30! **SBC&HS to Award Two \$3,500 Scholarships**

Our scholarships are available to high school students or adult learners to assist in financing college, graduate school or technical school tuition. The awards are available *only* to applicants who are current residents with home addresses in Solana Beach and who have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4-point scale, or equivalent. Find the application and instructions at www.sbchs.org.

*Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society
a 501c (3) organization*

2025-26 Executive Board

- President.....Jolene Dodson Bogard*
- Vice President.....Michele Stribling*
- Treasurer.....Holly Smith Jones*
- Recording Secretary.....Lori Wolf*
- Corresponding Secretary.....Cindi Clemons*

Committees

- Civic Affairs.....Cindi Clemons*
- Communications.....Robbie Harless, Karen Dorney*
- Crafts.....Kathryn Schmiedeberg, Stephanie Wilde*
- Heritage Museum Curator.....Vacant*
- Hospitality.....Karen Dorney*
- Membership Recruitment.....Vacant*
- Newsletter, Website.....Kathleen Drummond*
- Parliamentarian, Programs.....Carol Childs*
- Scholarship Program.....Holly Smith Jones*
- SeaWeeders.....Kathleen Drummond*

The April 6 walk begins at 8:30 a.m. at the La Colonia Park playground and features fun historical facts about the neighborhood and our Heritage Museum! Bring comfortable shoes, water, and good vibes! All are welcomed.

55+ SOLANA STRIDERS

Join us for a fun-filled walk that takes place once a month!

1ST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH



Solana Beach School District Celebrates its Centennial



Since our founding in 1953, the **Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society** has thrived thanks to the generous donations and dedicated volunteerism of our members. [Click here](#) to learn about our 70+ years of service in our 70th Anniversary booklet. Among the Society's contributions:

- Artist Kevin Anderson's murals at the Solana Beach Post Office, dedicated in 2025
- Annual Living History Program at the Heritage Museum
- Annual scholarships for college-bound students — \$49,500 awarded since 2014
- Torrey Pines grove at the north end of the Coastal Rail Trail
- Landscaping of the Lomas Santa Fe median
- The War Memorial at the Plaza

- Contributions for the Harbaugh Seaside Trails land acquisition
- Crafts Workshops and our cherished annual Holiday Boutique
- \$10,000 donation to help build the La Colonia Skatepark
- Landscaping and benches at our Post Office
- Boulder seating and native garden at the Fire Station
- Boulders and landscaping at El Viento park

If you haven't already, please renew today to continue your membership in 2026

Complete and return this form or pay [online](#). Questions? Email solanabeachhistory@gmail.com

Please RSVP by **Friday, April 24**

YOU ARE INVITED!
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

May 6, 2026
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

309 N Rios Avenue,
Solana Beach 92075

For more information:
kristieweigel@sbsd.net
858-794-7104

Celebrating 100 Years of Learning & Discovery

2026 Annual Membership Renewal

Name _____ Spouse / Partner _____

Address _____

Phone# _____ Email: _____

Please check if interested in joining . . .

Annual Dues (check your category):

- Board of Directors
- SeaWeeders Garden Club
- Crafts Group
- Other volunteer opportunities

- Individual \$ 30.00
- Family \$ 35.00
- Business \$100.00
- Lifetime \$500.00

Make your check payable to SBC&HS and mail to P.O. Box 504, Solana Beach, CA 92075