Holiday Boutiques (and prior events) have raised close to $300,000 for the Society

It all began back in February 1953 with a "Trash & Treasure" sale to raise beautification project funds for the newly-founded Solana Beach Women's Civic Club. That first "popup" shop at Witmer Drugs netted $650 to buy and plant shrubs along Hwy. 101.



WOMEN ARE 'CRAFTY'

THE SAN DIEGO UNION DIO

Prune Juice Bottles Help Make Art Objects

By VIRGINIA SPILLER

Stained glass windows from a Los Angeles church, medicine bottles from a local hospital, shatter-proof glass from wrecking automobiles, beer and prune juice bottles have been used by the craft group of the Solana Beach Women's Civic Club to make unique art objects.

Mrs. Alexander Reerie, chairman of the group formed last January, said the women have used their own ingenuity to create not only patterns, but methods.

Some of the 20 women in the group have had some art and craft training. But many, like Mrs. Reerie herself, have no such background.

GLASS WINDOWS

Mrs. Don Crawford, a member of the group, had a friend in the building wrecking business in Los Angeles. He told them of the church scheduled to be demolished and offered to get the stained glass windows.

Mrs. Winifred Nottingham Mellring, one of the more than 100 members of the club formed nine years ago, is a charter member of the craft group.

"We got 20 windows from the old church," she said. "We found the lead quite soft, so we put on our gloves and went to work with chisels.

"One of our first and loveliest creations was a wind chime made from the little filler chunks of glass just as they came from the window. We fastened them to wrecking concern for shatter-proof window and windshield glass. A friend at a hospital saved bottles, especially blue ones. The club members saved beer bottles for amber glass and prune juice bottles to provide green glass.

The craft group discovered that candles made to members covered with pieces of stained glass make lovely night lights.

Mrs. Mellring initiated glass to glass art in the group. Taking a clear sheet of plate glass, the pieces of stained glass are fastened to it in pictures or designs. The plate then is mounted in a holder to be set in front of a lamp or window.

WALL PICTURES

Others in the group added Italian and Japanese mosaic tile to their collection of materials and made wall pictures, hot mats for the table and mosaic-topped cocktail tables.

As the holiday season approached, they covered paper mache half-bells with fragments of stained glass to make sparkling door and wall hangings.

"We are ready for this year's holiday season," Mrs. Reerie said, "but already we are planning experimental work for next year."

The woman have bought a small kiln and are experimenting with melted glass. Although they have received many offers to buy the lead from the church windows, the craft group has kept it.

"We are going to learn to work with lead," said Mrs. Reerie confidently.

Mrs. Alexander Reerie, chairman, left, and Mrs. Winifred Nottingham Mellring show art objects made by the craft group of the Solana Beach

The Union-Tribune noticed our "crafty women" in 1953.

In December, the same year, the Club hosted its first Christmas Tea and gift sale, launching a tradition that has expanded and continues annually — our treasured Holiday Boutique.

"In the beginning, they'd select four or five members' homes to decorate for the holidays and then invite folks in for tea and to select from hand-made gifts for sale," remembered past Craft Group leader Pam Dalton.

The Christmas Tea tradition continued for five or six years, said former Society president and long-time Crafter Phyllis Schwartzlose. "Then, we held rummage sales at Fletcher Cove Community Center. They evolved into the Holiday Bazaar and, now, the Holiday Boutique — which has become quite popular."

Continued on next page

President's Message

It's Holiday Boutique season! Please join us on November 14, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at La Colonia Community Center, 715 Valley Ave. to shop for one-of-a-kind gifts for everybody on your list. Our Craft Group has once again outdone itself! Sneak a peek at some of the treasure available on pages 3 and 4. Special thanks to Group leaders Kathryn Schmiedeberg and Stephanie Wilde. The SeaWeeders also will be on hand, selling Christmas Cactus and taking orders for their annual poinsettia sale (find a form on page 7.)

It's also election month; all ballots must be postmarked or dropped off by November 3. If you haven't yet voted, and are feeling a bit daunted by the size of the ballot, you might want to watch this video from the League of Women Voters of North County San Diego. Their presentation at our meeting on October 13 greatly helped to clarify the 14 propositions on the ballot, and described the organizations funding campaigns for and against them. A link to the presenters slide deck also is available on our website.

On Friday, December 4 -- back by popular demand -- our Holiday Luncheon will return to Lomas Santa Fe Country Club, from noon to 2 p.m. This year, we will honor our own Treasurer, Holly Smith Jones, for her distinguished career and contributions in our community. Make your reservation online, or return the form on page 8. See you there!

Jolene Dodson Bogard

Holiday Boutique sales support our scholarship awards

No kidding! We welcome hundreds of Boutique shoppers each year, and over the years estimate that the events have raised close to $300,000 for the Society. The Boutiques are the primary fund-raiser for our annual scholarship awards.

Today, the Crafts Group counts more than 30 members, many of whom work year-round in their sewing rooms or art studios to create one-of-a-kind treasures. (For a preview of 2026 wares, see pages 3 and 4). “What I love about our group is that we make gifts — year-round presents — not just Christmas items,” Phyllis said.

After 60-plus years and raising hundreds of thousands of dollars, we were determined that a beloved tradition would prevail through the Covid 19 lockdowns of 2020. With hundreds of items already filling craft rooms and storage boxes, our Craft Group got even busier. Members cataloged the items, staged photos and built an online store to go live for four days.



“My craft skills were inspired . . . and expanded to include building an online Holiday Boutique,” remembers Lenore Dale, who teamed with other capable volunteers to create descriptions for and upload an inventory of close to 1,000 hand-made items to a new section of our revamped website that debuted Monday, November 9, 2020. Visitors could shop around the clock, including for a special ornament that help to capture the unique spirit of the season in the challenging Covid year.

Although they couldn’t meet for their usual monthly project gatherings, the Crafters gathered on Zoom calls to figure out how to transform the usual one-day, in-person Boutique into a mostly online experience that protected shoppers health and safety. Items were batched and packaged for each buyer, who collected their wares via a “contact free” drive-through at La Colonia Community Center. Home deliveries to local addresses were offered for a $10 donation to the SBC&HS scholarship program.

Who knew that we would still be in the eCommerce business through 2022? For three years, the online Boutique continued -- albeit with an outdoor, in-person shop in 2022.

Finally, in 2023, the Boutique moved back inside the Community Center. The event again raised about $10,000 for the Society's scholarship fund -- a record that has been eclipsed in recent years.



In 2024, Pam and Lenore asked Kathryn Schmiedeberg, to take the Craft Group lead. "I was flattered that they trusted me to take over their 'baby'," Kathryn remembers. "Thank goodness Stephanie was standing nearby and said "yes" when I asked if she'd help. "We make a good team," Stephanie adds. "We are both very organized."

Among their innovations? No more $9.99-style pricing. "We have rounded prices to the dollar -- much easier to tally at check out."

New this year -- an antique quilt sale. There also will be an opportunity drawing for this lovely, group-stitched bookcase-themed quilt. The popular Sweet and Savory Bake Sale is back, along with another array of one-of-a-kind gift items for your family and friends. Sneak a peek on the following page. The SeaWeeders will sell colorful Christmas Cactus in 6-inch pots for $12 and take orders for their annual poinsettia sale (see page 7).



Here's a peek at some of the treasures available at our November 14th Holiday Boutique!















More Boutique treasures . .

















2026 Calendar of Events

Navigating the Pathways to U.S. Citizenship, Tuesday, November 10, 6 p.m. at La Colonia Community Center, 715 Valley Ave., sponsored by Solana Beach Community Connections.

***Holiday Boutique!* Saturday, November 14, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at La Colonia Community Center.** Mark your calendars and join us for our Annual Holiday Boutique! Crafters have been creating lovely handmade items for you throughout the year. We're featuring a "Buyers Choice" vintage quilt sale and, as always, great gifts! "Calling All Bakers" for our sweet and savory baked goods table. If interested, please contact Karen Dorney at: 2karendorney@roadrunner.com

SeaWeeders 14th annual poinsettia sale, Saturday November 28, 9 a.m. to noon. Pick up pre-ordered plants at the Boys & Girls Club, 533 Lomas Santa Fe Dr. Unreserved plants will be available for sale there and at Fletcher Cove Park, until sold out.

Holiday Luncheon! Friday, December 4, noon to 2 p.m., Lomas Santa Fe Country Club, 1505



SeaWeeders November 10 Meeting Cancelled, December 10th wreath making

Since we will be busy on the 14th selling Christmas Cactus and taking poinsettia orders, and again on November 28 distributing poinsettias and selling unreserved plants at Fletcher Cove Park, we are taking a break from our regular second-Tuesday morning meeting this month. Our December meeting will shift to the evening of the 10th to make wreaths with the Boys & Girls Club kids and Foundation at La Colonia Community Center.

Have you added native and/or pollinator plant to your garden? Please take this survey, sponsored by the Pollinator Friendly subcommittee of the Solana Beach Climate Action Commission, to help us assess the breadth of pollinator habitate in our City.

Annual Society Dues are Nearly Due!

If you haven't already, please renew your Society membership for 2027!

Annual membership payments are due in January and can be paid **online** or by check to P.O. Box 504, Solana Beach, CA 92075.

- **Single membership: $30**
- **Family membership: $35**
- **Business membership: $100**
- **Lifetime membership: $500**

If you have a question about your membership status, please email **solanabeachhistory@gmail.com**

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

2026-27 Executive Board
President.....Jolene Dodson Bogard
Vice President.....Michele Stribling
Treasurer.....Holly Smith Jones
Recording Secretary.....Lori Wolf
Corresponding Secretary.....Cindi Clemons

Committee Chairs
Civic Affairs.....Cindi Clemons
Communication.Karen Dorney, Robbie Harless
Crafts.Kathryn Schmiedeberg, Stephanie Wilde
Hospitality.....Karen Dorney
Membership List.....Kathleen Drummond
Museum Curator.....Vacant
Newsletter, Website.....Kathleen Drummond
Nominations.....Vacant
Parliamentarian, Programs.....Carol Childs
SeaWeeders.....Kathleen Drummond

2026

The Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society
Craft Group celebrates our 73rd year of creating

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Saturday November 14th

Handcrafted Items & Great Gifts for everyone on your list

PLUS Sweet & Savory Baked Goods

Bookcase Themed Group Quilt Opportunity Drawing

SeaWeeders poinsettia pre-orders & Christmas Cactus sales

"Buyer's Choice" Antique Quilt Sale

La Colonia Park Community Center
715 Valley Ave, Solana Beach

Proceeds help fund educational scholarships and other SBC&HS Civic Projects.

For more information visit: sb-chs.org

"SeaWeeders" 14th Annual Sale

DATE: **SATURDAY, 11/28/26** TIME: **9:00–noon**

LOCATIONS: Fletcher Cove and Boys & Girls Club



The Solana Beach Garden Club is offering gorgeous locally grown RED Ecke Prestige Poinsettias in 6" pots for $15 each and assorted colors of Christmas Cactus in 6" pots for $12/ea. Proceeds will benefit several ongoing beautification projects in Solana Beach.

QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED!!!

Pre-order poinsettias TODAY using the form below to guarantee availability. Pre-orders can be picked up at the Center for a Healthy Lifestyle cottage behind the Boys & Girls Club at 533 Lomas Santa Fe Dr. on Sat. 11/28 between 9:00 & noon. **This is a one-day only event! A limited number of poinsettias and cactus will be available at both locations until we sell out.** Thank you for your continued support!

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT KATIE AT 619-991-3119 OR PELICANDESIGN@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Poinsettia Sale

Pre-Order Your Poinsettias by Weds. Nov 25th

Today's Date: Phone #:

Your Name:

Email address:

Quantity of RED Poinsettias Ordered: ☐ **@ $15/each**

Total Enclosed: $ ☐

Payment Method: ☐ Check enclosed or ☐ Paid by Cash (please do not mail cash)

Make Check Payable to
SBC&HS

Mail to :Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society (SBC&HS)
Attn: SeaWeeders
PO Box 504, Solana Beach, CA 92075

✂ **CUT HERE & KEEP THIS REMINDER - Thank you for supporting "SeaWeeders" beautification projects in Solana Beach. Pick-up poinsettias 9 to noon on Sat. 11/28 behind B&G Club 533 Lomas Santa Fe Dr.**

To ensure that everyone in your party is served their preferred meal, please write their name and selected entree on the reverse side of the form prior to mailing.

2026 Holiday Luncheon

December 4th, Noon-2pm

Lomas Santa Fe Country Club
1505 Lomas Santa Fe Dr



Advance Reservations Required by Dec. 1 st

To Reserve, Please Visit
our website or fill out
and mail form
www.sb-chs.org

- ☐ Beef Short Ribs
- ☐ Sea Bass
- ☐ Pumpkin Ravioli

Visit: www.sb-chs.org

Name: _____ # in your party_____
Please select and enter the number of entrees for your party

$50 Per Three Course Meal including salad and dessert
Enclosed is my check for: _____

Or Mail to: SBC&HS
Luncheon
PO Box 504
Solana Beach CA 92075