

San Clemente Historical Society

"Forward with the Dream"

WHAT'S HAPPENING

May 1, 2021



President's Message



It is so wonderful to see San Clemente reopening! This past month we have been supporting IN PERSON events at our local historic venues. Casino San Clemente has resumed its popular Dinner Under The Stars jazz program. Cabrillo Playhouse has reopened with Musical Theatre Under the Stars. Casa Romantica is offering a full program of indoor and outdoor events of all types. Please support these venues and others in town to help get our economy going again.

The Board of Directors has been busy with many topics from Archives to Zoning. We can always use more volunteers to help out with the various projects and programs we are trying to accomplish. Fortunately, another new member has stepped forward to take on a much-needed function; Fundraising.

Katie Potts is a longtime San Clemente resident and fundraiser for the American Heart Association. She has volunteered to take us into the 21st Century with respect to fundraising. She has a wealth of ideas for how we can reach out to the community to get their help in our preservation mission.

Welcome aboard Katie!
Larry Culbertson.

The following is a reprint of another great article by Tom Marshall that was recently published in the San Clemente Times

May Is National Preservation Month

By Tom Marshall

Tomorrow begins the annual celebration of National Preservation Month, also called National Historic Preservation Month. Starting out in 1973 as National Preservation Week, the event was expanded to a month-long celebration in 2005 by a joint Congressional Resolution. A former San Clemente resident, Richard M. Nixon signed it into law with a Presidential proclamation on May 5, 1973.



The proclamation reads in part: “As the pace of change accelerates in the world around us, Americans more than ever need a lively awareness of our roots and origins in the past on which to base our sense of identity in the present and our directions for the future.”

President Nixon knew of what he spoke. His San Clemente residence is arguably the most historic structure in San Clemente. In fact, the Cotton Estate was here before San Clemente was. Built in 1926, the estate was originally named Casa Pacifica by owner Hamilton Cotton, who was ironically the state’s Democratic Party treasurer. Republican Nixon changed the name to The Western White House. The home is reportedly back on the market for a cool \$65 million asking price.

The whole purpose of National Preservation Month is to call the public’s attention of the historic resources of their local communities. The Covid-19 Pandemic sidelined the San Clemente Historical Society’s usual celebration of May as National Preservation Month. But, this year we will begin inching our way back to normal.

We recently launched a program of walking tours of the historic buildings of downtown San Clemente. The free guided tours by Historical Society board member and longtime resident Jim Hamilton will highlight everything from the significance of the tiles leading into South of Nick’s Restaurant, the building that housed Ole Hanson’s original sales office, to the splendor of the former Hotel San Clemente. He will also note the decorative tiles in the rest areas donated by Historical Society supporters.

There are several buildings along the walk from El Camino Real down Avenida del Mar that have an interesting past. Jim is also happy to answer any questions you may have along the tour route. The tour is an outside event due to Covid-19, but masks are required. You can join Jim at 10AM, Saturday, May 15, by reserving a spot at jimehamiltonschs@gmail.com. You can also book a private tour with Jim most any weekend this year. The tours are free, but as a non-profit, donations to the Historical Society are greatly appreciated.

Archives

Field Trip to Tustin Area Museum

by Mary Ann Comes



Larry Culbertson, Mary Ann Comes, Jackie Dooley and Katie Potts ventured to the Tustin Area Museum on April 22. The reason for the visit was that we are in the market for software for our archives, membership, and fundraising. Our archive system is on cards and in file cabinets. We need to move into the 21st century.

The Tustin Area Museum is situated in the historic downtown of Tustin. We were all impressed with the amazing collection of artifacts that are so nicely displayed. A perfectly restored 1920's era fire engine dominates the room. We recommend a visit.

The Museum uses Past Perfect museum software. At least eight other historical societies in Orange County and over 11,000 nationwide are using Past Perfect. Donna Peery gave us a great test drive of the program. The program allows for database storage of artifacts, documents, photographs, and books. There is also a contact list function for storing donors and members information. Donna told us they have been using the program for many years and are happy with it.

We are considering buying the program. The cost would be about \$1,200. We could sure use an angel to help us with that purchase! If we do get it, that is when the real work will begin. It will require hundreds of hours of data inputting, so a lot of volunteer hours will be needed. If you are tech savvy and want to help out, please contact Larry at larryculberton3@gmail.com or Mary Ann at maryanncomes@gmail.com.

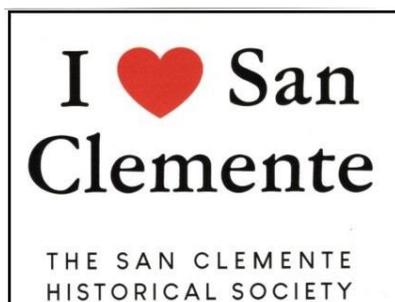
Social Media

by Carla Blanco

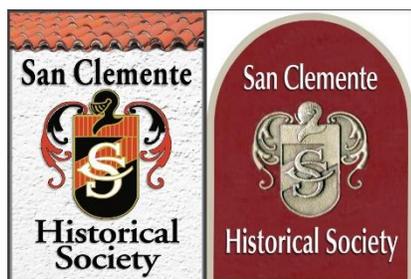
San Clemente Historical Society is getting social! We are excited to announce that we will have a new Facebook page. The page will be used as a casual and interactive place for discussion about the history of San Clemente. This is the next step for us as we seek to expand our membership base not just here locally, but wherever fans of San Clemente live.



New Pins and Stickers!



When our new Membership Chair, Carolyn Kipper, came on board in February she asked about our Membership Pins and the "I ♥ San Clemente " stickers. She wanted to include them in the New Member Packets she was putting together. Unfortunately we had run out of both. Carolyn redesigned our stickers and we now have 500 beautiful new sticky stickers for your car bumper or wherever you want to place one!



Our old Membership Pins were a bit tiny and plain. Lisa Spinelli is working on a new design. Here are two of the options we are considering. They will be one inch wide and 1.25 inches high. Current Members will be able to pick one up (for free!) from our Village Art Faire booth as soon as we are able to get a space. Good work Lisa!

Historical Society Board Member **Jim Hamilton** continues his in-depth study of the downtown businesses and the people who make our historic downtown so interesting. This is Part 2 of a great two part article about one of the most well known businesses in San Clemente.....

Sam's Shoes - Larry Tiberi

Sam's Shoes, 135 Avenida Del Mar

Larry shared with us his life here in San Clemente: “I have been a San Clemente resident most of my life being born at Hoag Hospital. I went to public elementary school, then Our Lady of Fatima, from 3rd to 8th grade, then off to San Clemente High School. I wanted to play football but severely broke my elbow and that sidetracked me for my high school career in sports. A second injury would have the potential of crippling that arm for life. I was a good athlete but did not excel at any one sport. I transitioned from a focus on football, which started as early as I could play, to surfing and water sports.



I have always been a physically active person. I still am active. I went to Hawaii a few times. My dad's dance band piano player moved there and invited me over for a stay. Working at the store as a teen did not keep me busy enough. I wanted something more physically challenging, so I worked construction during the building boom. A strike in that field sent me to Hawaii again working for Western Plaster in Mission Viejo. During the strike, a friend invited me over and it has had a lasting effect on my attitude towards life. I had an extremely competitive nature. This changed to one of being broader minded. Enjoying the full perspective from being a person who wanted to win to the attitude of having fun, 'He who has the most fun wins' attitude. I stopped taking life as a series of challenges, to be more accepting of changes not of my own making or doing. I also found the advantage of custom-made surfboards. Items that are made just for you and your style and the conditions you expect to encounter. An item made for you works best for you. An actual custom fit makes the experience better.

Before returning long term to the family business, I did a few things on my own. I did live in Hermosa Beach where I worked on a boat, was a chef, and an exercise therapist while owning my own gym. I got hurt, injured again, and returned home.” I could always work with and for my dad and family. I was given the opportunity to go my own way. One of my brothers lives on the east coast and works in banking. Coming back to San Clemente has made me appreciate, more than ever, the advantages growing up here gave me.

When I was a kid San Clemente was really a small community. We had lots of places to play. We roamed around, there was horseback riding, biking, there were fruit trees you could pick fruit from and eat it, more open spaces to roam, and we went to the beach a lot. There was so much less supervision and concern for what you and your friends were doing. We were just out having self-made fun and adventures. Ortega Highway was an incredibly open untapped area. We would go camping and just explore. One thing I really enjoyed was roller skating at Dana Point Harbor. We could go about enjoying ourselves without the community concern of what you were doing or who you were with. Not like today with cell phone check ins and the need for uninterrupted communication. The small community was remarkably close in care and involvement.

My life then centered around home, family, and the store. Mom home cooked. It was a different time. Quite different from now. We would occasionally eat at the El Adobe

restaurant, it was a favorite of my mom's, but that is in San Juan Capistrano. We would sometimes go to Mr. Pete's and Bob's Coffee Shop before it was Tommy's. Now both are gone. Now that I am older, I appreciate growing up here more than I did then.

Football was a big part of my family's life. My dad played semi pro football. He was also active in so many events and groups in town. Until I was injured, football was a big focus of my life. By the time I could play for our high school again, it was just too many years away from the game. Along with the realization that football is just a sport and I had to keep my overall health, my arm and especially my elbow in the game of life. My perspective had changed too.

Presently, my life is about my spirituality, my wife Teresa and family. I have four grand kids and one great grandchild. My church groups, stand up paddle boarding and wave riding, art, archery, various other activities and of course, keeping Sam's Shoes available for our customers, keeps me pretty busy. As you know, I like keeping busy."

Scholarship



Our Scholarship Committee is proud to announce the 2021 recipients of our Scholarship Awards. San Clemente High students Megan Moe and Joshua Sherreitt are the recipients of the San Clemente Historical Society's 2020/2021 scholarships, which will be awarded virtually on

May 20 by San Clemente High School. They will each receive \$750 toward their college education.

Both students have over 4.0 grade point averages, have performed extensive community service and engaged in countless extracurricular activities. The resumes for both are highly impressive. Each wrote a stellar essay about a historical site in San Clemente that impacted them. Megan wrote about the Historical Cottage in San Clemente State Park and Joshua wrote about the clock tower building that is known as the San Clemente Marine Safety Building. We hope to feature their essays in future newsletters.

Congratulations Megan and Joshua!

A big thank you to Suzi Klickstein who chairs the Scholarship Committee and Marilyn Wigglesworth for administering the program, evaluating the applicants, and determining recipients.

Anyone who would like to contribute to our Scholarship Fund would be doing a great service

for San Clemente youth. We would like to increase the number of scholars we are able to help. Contact Suzi Klickstein at suziklick@gmail.com.

Last Quarter we leaped up from 13 to 14 households participating in the program. We took in over \$84! Please help your Historical Society by signing up for the program.

Community Contribution Program

Did you know that if you shop at Ralphs Supermarkets in San Clemente you can direct a portion of your bill be donated to The San Clemente Historical Society? It will cost you nothing. As a participant in Ralphs Community Contributions Program, the supermarket chain will automatically contribute a portion of your check out amount to the S.C.H.S. If you do not have a Ralphs Rewards Card, go the Ralphs website and click on “Create Account.” Follow the easy steps to create your account.



To register in the Ralphs Community Contributions Program, just log into www.ralphs.com. Click on “Sign In.” Enter your email address and password. Click on “Welcome Valued Customer” (In the top right-hand corner.) Click on “My Account.” Scroll to the bottom of your account. Link your card to the Historical Society by clicking on “Community Rewards” and typing in San Clemente Historical Society. Then press “Search.” If you have forgotten your Ralphs Rewards Card number, you can use your phone number.

Once enrolled, your contributions will be automatically made by Ralphs. You do not have to tell the checkout person to do so. You can check on the contributions you have made by accessing your account online at www.ralphs.com.

Ralphs assures us that all of your information will kept confidential. They will never sell, trade or rent their customers’ personal information to outside companies. It will not even be shared with us.

The money raised will be used entirely for our worthy programs of protecting San Clemente’s historical and cultural heritage. No money can be used for administrative, political or legal purposes.

Membership



Membership Chair Carolyn Kipper reports that membership renewals have been pouring in! Targeted emails have been successful for renewals. What we need now is to recruit new members. If every current member would help the Society by recruiting just one new member, it would help give us the people power to further convince the City to prioritize preservation. So please, encourage your friends and neighbors to join, we need all the help we can get!

For those who would rather not have the bother of renewing each year, we have established a Life Membership level at \$500. We encourage those who can to Join or Renew at this level. There are two easy ways to JOIN or RENEW:

By Mail: Download and print the Membership form by clicking [here](#). Fill out the form and mail it with your check payable to:

**San Clemente Historical Society
P.O. Box 283 San Clemente
CA 92674-0283**

On Line: Click [here](#), fill out the form and submit it. You will then be redirected to PayPal.

**That's all for now, see you next month.
Please Stay Healthy!**

