



The Historian

Preserving Today for Tomorrow

Volume 5 Number 2

March — April 2011

Annual Historical Society Update

This is a special edition of The Historian to update you on the Historical Society's activities over the past twelve months. If you would like more information on any of our projects or programs, please contact us at (949) 206-0150 or history@comline.com. The Board of Directors and I would like to thank you for your continued support and commitment to local history. — *Bob Ring, President*

Veterans History Project: Calling All Veterans and Civilian War Workers

The Historical Society continues to seek veterans and civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts to participate in the United States Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. This includes war industry workers, USO workers, chaplains, flight instructors, and other homefront heroes.

The Veterans History Project in Laguna Woods is a part of a nationwide program to collect, preserve, and share personal accounts of wartime service for future generations. Individuals involved in World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, and Afghanistan and Iraq are eligible to participate.

Taking part in the Veterans History Project will help ensure that your stories and remembrances become a lasting part of our nation's history. Participants can submit a short form describing their service or submit the form and sit for a recorded interview filmed in the comfort of the Historical Society's Office. Those that choose to participate in the interview are given DVD copies to share with family and friends. All of the information is stored at the Historical Society and at the Library of Congress in Washington DC.

For more information on how to participate, please call Joanne Johnson at (949) 206-0150 or e-mail her at history@comline.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Honorees of the Month Continue to Highlight the Best in Laguna Woods

Since 1976, the Historical Society has honored local residents who have made outstanding contributions to Laguna Woods. In the past year we have celebrated ten individuals whose volunteerism and talent has greatly increased our quality of life and enhanced our community. As always, we would like to encourage you to nominate deserving candidates who have lived in the city for at least five years and been involved in pursuits benefiting large segments of the community. Nomination forms are available from the Historical Society's Office.

Honoree ceremonies are held on the first Wednesday of the month at Clubhouse 7. The public is always invited to attend. Keep an eye on the Laguna Woods Globe to find out who our latest honorees are.

We continue to be grateful for the generous support of The Regency and Las Palmas (both Vintage Senior Living communities), without whom the Honoree of the Month program would not be possible.

Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership for 2011

If the mailing label indicates that this will be your last issue, please renew your membership now to ensure uninterrupted delivery (see form on back page).

Oral Histories Featured in Statewide Collection

The Historical Society partnered with the City and OC Public Libraries to bring the *California of the Past Digital Storytelling Project* to Laguna Woods. With the help of a LSTA grant from the California State Library, oral histories were recorded with local residents about their experiences growing up, living, and working in California. You can watch our stories online at www.DigitalStoryStation.com.



James Tsutsui

This January, a DVD collection highlighting the best of the California of the Past stories from throughout the State was issued to nearly 200 libraries. We are proud to announce that two stories recorded by the Historical Society are included. "Life at Santa Anita" and "Excluded" tell James Tsutsui's fascinating story of Japanese internment during World War II.

If you are interested in viewing the California of the Past DVD collection, please visit the Laguna Woods public library at City Hall (949-639-0500).

2010-11 Board of Directors

Bob Ring, President
 Mark Schneider, Vice President of Finance
 Ira Joss, Vice President of Public Relations
 Trish Cassidy, Vice President of Operations
 L.D. Freedman, Treasurer
 Lee Bevilaqua, Secretary

Terry Baker	Leslie Keane	Evelyn Shopp
Marty Hecht	Fran Lindberg	Dick Tyhurst
	Elaine Morgado	

Our Annual Business and Organization Meeting will be held on Friday, May 27 at 8:30 a.m. at City Hall (24264 El Toro Road). All are welcome to attend.

Archives Modernization Effort Underway

The Historical Society remains committed to finding new and exciting ways of sharing the thousands of items in our archival collection with fellow residents, the public, researchers, and other interested parties. To further that goal, the Board of Directors continues to implement their 5-year modernization plan, which includes over \$50,000 in strategic investments made possible thanks to your generous support.

A combination of new equipment, infrastructure, and computer software, as well as digitization projects (a process that creates electronic copies of our records) will eventually allow us to launch an interactive archives system, available online, 24-hours a day, anywhere in the world. With the stroke of a key, you will be able to explore photographs, documents, and other items reflecting our rich history.

Working to Share Our El Toro Airport Collection

Volunteers are hard at work digitizing our expansive collection of items related to the once proposed El Toro Airport (now the Orange County Great Park). If you were stationed at the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station or if you have any pictures of the former base that you are willing to share, please contact Joanne Johnson at (949) 206-0150 or history@comline.com.

In addition to our digitization efforts, the Historical Society is working with Laguna Woods Village TV 6 on an oral history project that will tell the story of the El Toro Airport from the perspectives of residents, government leaders, and other individuals who were significantly involved in supporting or opposing it. We hope to have a television program available for your viewing pleasure in the coming months.

Invaluable Volunteers

The Historical Society relies on volunteers passionate about local history to accomplish the work described in this newsletter. Whether they work the front desk, manage the archives, help out at events, scan records, take pictures, or pitch in when there's a mailing, their service is truly appreciated and invaluable. To join our team, call Trish Cassidy at (949) 206-0150.

Help Us Identify Pictures from Our Archives

Periodically we come across pictures in our archives with people or activities that we can't place. If you can help us identify any of these pictures, please call (949) 639-0555 or e-mail history@comline. Larger versions are available at www.lagunawoodscity.org.



If you have pictures of the Laguna Woods area or of past or present community events that you would like to donate, please contact Trish Cassidy at (949) 206-0150 or history@comline.com.



Membership for 2011

Historical Society
of Laguna Woods
P.O. Box 2220
Laguna Woods, CA 92654
949-206-0150

The Historical Society of Laguna Woods is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of Laguna Woods. We are the official historian for Laguna Woods.

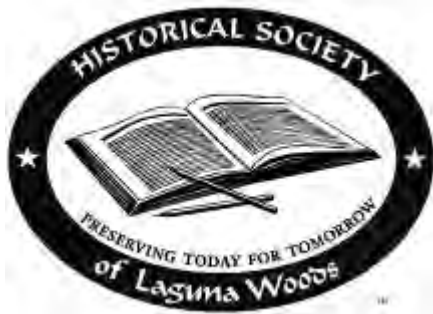
The Historical Society participates in the following worthwhile activities:

- Library of Congress Veterans History Project
- Oral history projects to capture first-hand stories
- Maintenance of a vast repository of historical material
- Honoree of the Month ceremonies
- Display of a diorama of the city

The Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable corporation – #FJ95-3213797. Your support will make it possible to continue these activities, as well as many other special projects, events, and activities.

As a member, you will receive The Historian, our bi-monthly newsletter.

Please use the form on the next page to renew your membership for the 2011 calendar year.



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P.O. Box 2220
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Return Service Requested

L J

----- Clip & Mail -----

Yes! I / we want to support the Historical Society of Laguna Woods in 2011.

Please list your name as you would like it to appear on our membership roster.

Name 1 _____
(each membership is for one person)

Name 2 _____
(additional member)

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Check # _____ Date _____ or Cash _____

Membership Level

- _____ \$300.00 – Patron
- _____ \$100.00 – Sponsor
- _____ \$ 50.00 – Friend
- _____ \$ 25.00 – Contributor
- _____ \$ 15.00 – Regular

***Please mail this form to Historical Society, P.O. Box 2220, Laguna Woods, CA 92654
or drop it off at our office (next to the Laguna Woods Village Library).***

If you have questions, please call (949) 206-0150. Thank you!