



Established 1971 To preserve and enhance the unique village character of Laguna Beach

November

newsletter 09

Bonnie and Arnold Hano named 2009 "Villagers of the Year"



Bonnie and Arnold at the October 21 MLPA hearing

Village Laguna members and friends will gather on Saturday, November 14, to honor Bonnie and Arnold Hano as Villagers of the Year.

Striking off from New York in search of a better place to raise their daughter in the early 1950s, Bonnie and Arnold happened upon Laguna Beach and were immediately struck by the beauty of the place and the congeniality of its residents. They settled in Bluebird Canyon in 1955 and quickly became involved in local issues. Bonnie helped establish the Free Clinic, which evolved into the Laguna Beach Community Clinic. Arnold discovered that a black man couldn't get a haircut in Laguna and helped to change that. When in 1971 the City Council began negotiating with a developer who envisioned high-rise hotels along the coast, the Hanos and others passed an initiative that limited building heights to 36 feet citywide. Arnold was the first president of Village Laguna and in the early days fought to save North Laguna's star pine, to keep Campus Drive from ripping through Boat Canyon, and to prevent development on the slopes above Bluebird Canyon.

Bonnie, a marriage and family therapist, had a practice in Newport Beach. Arnold wrote hundreds of magazine articles and 26 books, perhaps the best-known of which is a classic account of the first game of the 1954 World Series called *A Day in the Bleachers*. When Bonnie retired in 1991, they went to Costa Rica as Peace Corps volunteers to help rehabilitate a village school and, enjoying the village life, stayed on. On their return to Laguna for good in 2000, they once again plunged into the life in our own "village" and are often heard at City Council meetings encouraging the preservation of everything we love about it.

The party in their honor will be held at the home of Sally and Jeff Jameson, 494 El Camino del Mar, from 3 to 6:30 p.m. A donation of \$75 per person is suggested. For reservations and information call 499-4809.

City Invites Applications for Housing Committee

Applications are being accepted for a single two-year term on the Housing and Human Services Committee, which provides input to the City Council on affordable housing and on services to seniors and the disabled and reviews the progress of the City's housing policies and programs. The seven-member committee meets at 4 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Application forms are available at the City Clerk's office or on the City's web site (www.lagunabeachcity.net) and must be completed and returned by 5 p.m. on November 24.

Villagers of the Year Party
Saturday, November 14,
3-6:30 p.m.
Home of Sally and Jeff Jameson
494 El Camino del Mar

December Board Meeting
Saturday, December 5, 9 a.m.
Home of Cindalee Penney-Hall
1367 Circle Way

**Annual Holiday Party
and Election of Officers**
Monday, December 7, 7 p.m.
Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship
425 Cypress Drive



Members Spend a Morning in Laguna Canyon

Our October general meeting was held al fresco on Saturday, October 24. Members enjoyed getting better acquainted with the Nix Nature Center and hiked Mary's Trail and then the trail through the wildlife underpass to Barbara's Lake and back. Mary Fegraus, former director of the Laguna Canyon Foundation, and Kimberly Leeds, education director, were our guides.

Update on Recent Issues

Mozambique: The restaurant's request for extended hours was denied, and Planning Commissioners called for monthly unannounced visits by staff for six months to monitor adherence to the conditions of the original permit (which was for a restaurant with music rather than a concert venue).

Heisler Building: The Planning Commission voted 3–2 (with Rob Zur Schmiede and Norm Grossman opposed) to grant a variance for modifications of the roof plan to enclose a 494-square-foot space on the second floor. Both dissenting commissioners considered the original design for the roof more appropriate, and Grossman couldn't justify the variance.

Third Street cottages: The City Council approved in concept the idea of incorporating the three remaining cottages into a private development at the Big Bend. Under the plan, the developer would buy a strip of adjacent City-owned land to accommodate the cottages (as artists' studios) and give the City an easement for access from Laguna Canyon Road.

MLPA: After taking public testimony in Long Beach on October 21, the Blue Ribbon Task Force postponed selection of a preferred alternative until November 10. Laguna Beach's support for a citywide marine reserve was represented by Councilmembers Toni Iseman and Verna Rollinger and by a letter from the Council read by lifeguard chief Kevin Snow. They and some two dozen Village Laguna members joined the many environmentalists favoring Proposal 3, which includes such a reserve and is the only proposal that meets the legislation's scientific criteria.

Invasive Plants Added to Weed Abatement Program

The City Council has added five invasive plants to the annual weed abatement program: artichoke thistle, pampas grass, fountain grass, arundo (giant reed), and Cape ivy (*Senecio mikanioides* or *Delairea odorata*). Residents who have these plants on their property may receive a notice giving them the choice of removing them or having the City do so at their expense. Weed abatement notices go out in the spring and may be contested at a public hearing. A brochure illustrating the first four plants listed is available from the Fire Department; a Google search will produce photos of Cape ivy.

Crosscultural Council to Study Idea of Shared Housing

The South County Crosscultural Council is assembling a task force to study the possibility of shared housing in Laguna Beach. Affordable housing is a great need in our community, and shared housing is one solution. Members who are interested in becoming part of the task force are encouraged to call Sally (494-8618) or David (497-3936) and let them know when they might be available for an initial meeting.

Interpretive Signs Restored to Carolyn Wood Knoll

The interpretive signs that identify the peaks and islands visible from Carolyn Wood Knoll have recently been reinstalled. The knoll, which at 1,020 feet is the highest point in the City and provides panoramic views in all directions, overlooks the trailhead at the end of Alta Laguna Boulevard. It was dedicated to Laguna Canyon Conservancy president and Village Laguna member Carolyn Wood by the City in 2001 in recognition of all she has done for the preservation of open space. The signs were designed to enhance the spot, but they have been repeatedly vandalized and have been replaced before. With luck—and perhaps the help of the new curfew for parks—they will last this time.





Village Voices

by Arnold Hano

On November 14, Bonnie and I will be honored as Villagers of the Year. A cynic says we are villagers without a village. I say, "Open your eyes."

That's village I see from the mullioned-pane window next to our computer—well, Bonnie's computer, which she permits me to use for this column. I remain a Luddite. I do not own a cell phone. I still think Blackberry is what makes a jam. I do not know what a Facebook is. Nor do I want to know. I've lived 87 years without knowing. Why confuse me further?

What do I see from my window? I see Randall Way. You never heard of Randall Way. I bet you never heard of Roosevelt Lane, either. It's in Laguna Canyon; you find it by a wooden street sign tacked to a tree. Roosevelt Lane is six feet wide. City streets are sixty feet wide. How about Glomstad Lane? Osgood Court? Even the street we live on poses problems finding it. Santa Cruz Street is really two streets, one south of an arroyo and one north. One of them should be renamed. Don't let it be mine.

It's these cockamamie streets that make it a village. I love crooked streets. I love narrow streets. Yes, I know it's hell for Waste Management to turn around on Randall Way, but we cheer them on, and

at Christmas time we tip the guys. They deserve it. Can you imagine tipping a garbage collector in New York? We're a village.

Of course, it's changed since we arrived back in 1955. The town has swallowed South Laguna and Bluebird Canyon and Arch Beach Heights. None of those areas was in the city of Laguna when we arrived. The 6,000 people have become 24,000. Once a truck toiled up Temple Hills twice a week to sell water to the handful of houses on Top of the World. Today the jam-packed neighborhood has its own water (for much more money). We used to have no smog. Then we began to import it from Los Angeles. Now we create our own.

Mary Zava, who lived on Jefferson Way, near the top of Bluebird Canyon, rode her horse Glissanda all over Bluebird Canyon. Mary and Bob Zava, an architect and artist, were our closest neighbors. Actually, Glissanda was closer, in a corral, where our two-year-old daughter, Laurel, would sometimes crawl to eat the wild mushrooms that grew in Glissanda's manure. I kid you not.

Another Bluebird neighbor was a dentist who rode his skateboard to his office on Gleneyre every day. His reception room had no chairs. But it did have a gorgeous receptionist who sat cross-legged on the floor and served tea to waiting patients, all of whom also sat on the floor and chanted "Om." One day the dentist and his receptionist closed down the office and

moved to a commune up north. I guess our village was becoming too stodgy for them.

But it remains a village. It looks like a village. It smells like a village except when the sewer pipes break. It sounds like a village. The sound of a city is clatter. The sound of a village is birdsong.

We have houses on the 500 block of Oak Street that you can't see from the street. Each house has a bridge that crosses over a sometimes dry creek. That's how you get to the front door. Tell me that's not a village.

So we're being honored. We've worked hard to keep Laguna Laguna. So have a zillion others. This is a town that has survived crises. Fire. Flood. Landslide. I guess it can survive us.

Meanwhile, we keep doing what we do most of these days, going to our doctors in Newport Beach, whose reception rooms have chairs and whose patients aren't chanting "Om." But then nobody ever accused Newport Beach of being a village.

Mission Hospital Holds Community Forum

Michael Beck, vice president of operations at Mission Hospital Laguna Beach, has invited members of the community to attend the first of a series of forums on the hospital's activities. The forum will take place from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 16, in the hospital auditorium.

Join us or renew your membership!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

I have enclosed my check for the following membership:

- Basic - \$25/person, \$45/family
- Supporter - \$120 per family (includes 2 t-shirts)
- Sustainer - \$240 per family (includes 2 Charm House Tour tickets and 2 t-shirts)

*Contact Treasurer Doug Reilly at 494-4137 or reillyd@cox.net to arrange for automatic monthly or quarterly payments.

Mail to Village Laguna, PO Box 1309, Laguna Beach, CA 92652



P.O. Box 1309
Laguna Beach, CA 92652

FIRST CLASS MAIL

My Favorite Local Business

by Bonnie Hano

Madison Square and Garden Café (320 N. Coast Highway), which fits comfortably into the interior and garden of a lovingly tended 1912 Craftsman bungalow, is one of our favorite places to go for breakfast or lunch. The noise of traffic on the highway completely disappears there; all you can hear is quiet conversation and birds.

Inside, there's a gift shop filled with unique choices for the discriminating buyer. Outside, the century-old trees are hung with unique handcrafted garden décor, and the grounds are covered with statuary and fountains.

The food is excellent. There are the usual breakfast choices, plus my favorite, a succulent apple pancake. For lunch, we especially recommend the halibut. It all comes with unlimited coffee, unfailingly courteous service, and a friendly welcome from Jon Madison himself. Jon puts his love of Laguna to practical use as a member of the City's Heritage Committee and hosts the annual opening event of Heritage Week along with fundraisers for local nonprofits.

Dog-lovers, you don't have to leave Fido at home. Dogs are welcome.



2009 Board of Directors

Ginger Osborne, President	499-4809
John Monahan, Vice President	497-9224
Darrylin Girvin, Recording Secretary	376-7565
Doug Reilly, Treasurer	494-4137
Armando Baez	637-9867
Ann Christoph	499-3574
Jackie Gallagher	415-0157
Bonnie Hano	497-7454
Christine Hynes.....	632-4019
Helen Krugman.....	494-8015
Charlotte Masarik	494-1630
Barbara Metzger	494-3624
Cindalee Penney-Hall	494-9460
Barbara Picheny	499-0505
Phyllis Sweeney	494-1335
Jinger Wallace.....	499-6367

Web site: www.villagelaguna.org

Phone: (949) 472-7503