



# Laguna Niguel Historical Society

Fall 2015

VOLUME 3 Number 2

Phone: 949-495-3974

lagunaniguelhistoricalsociety.com

## General Membership Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2015, 5 PM

Laguna Niguel Library

at Laguna Niguel's Library Community Room,  
Laguna Niguel, CA

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Members.

**W**ith summer break come and gone your Board of Directors is back at work.

We began our 'new work year' with a Board Meeting on September 24 at which we welcomed three new Board members. They are: **Sheryl Bailen, Linda Stephen, and Kaz Kashimoto**. Cheryl and Linda have been hard working members of the Archives committee and

Kaz, a registered architect, has been researching our community's original 'planned community' development plans. We are pleased they are willing to share their time and talents, as new Board members, to our ongoing mission to preserve and enhance our community's heritage. Speaking of 'heritage' our Oral History project, under the direction of Archives Co-chair **Carl Schulkin**, is underway. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months, and we invite all members to participate by sharing your story of life and times as a resident of Laguna Niguel.

Our activity program for 2015-16 will include our annual 'members only' Laguna Niguel Birthday & Holiday Party in December and plans for a Gala Fun/Fundraiser in 2016. Your participation and ideas for activities and programs is welcome. Bring them with you to our October 15 General Meeting and Potluck as we look forward to hearing and seeing you.

*Pat Bates, President*

Hon. Pat Bates



President  
**Pat Bates**

Vice President  
**Bruce Rasner**

Secretary  
**Jeanette Krembas**

Treasurer  
**Jerry McCloskey**

Newsletter Editor  
**Anna Bryson**

### Calendar

Board Meeting - 4th Thursday  
of each month.

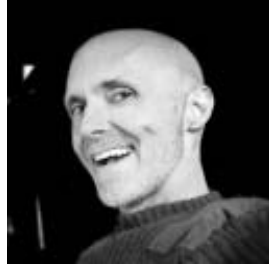
General Membership Meeting -  
October 15 - 5 PM



Preserve the Past . . . . Enrich the Present . . . . Promote the Future

## October 15 - General Meeting Program Speaker - TED WELLS - Second Act

Those of you who attended the April 2015 LNHS General Meeting surely will not want to miss another opportunity on October 15<sup>th</sup> for our very own LNHS member TED WELLS' return visit. He is the principal of Ted Wells Living Simple, LLC., Ted Wells, a distinguished architect and a treasure chest packed full of rich early Laguna Niguel history.



Ted is living in a home, in Laguna Niguel, which was the site of the original Laguna Niguel Ranch's stable. In his restoration of this historical home and land he discovered many artifacts which he has preserved, featured, and incorporated into the design within his home and is very eager to share with those who have interest in this history of the original Ranch.

His 2<sup>nd</sup> Act Program:

Laguna Niguel: Historical Interventions, Intentions, and Preceptions.

Laguna Niguel, one of the earliest master-planned communities in California which has one of the longest histories related to creation, experimentation, and the relationships of public and private spaces.

For the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we have optional and strengthening forms of social activity in a city space that offers challenges for the future based on our rich past, far beyond what we often perceive as the history of the community. We will explore the city from eye-level and how that makes the individual experience here as part of an evolving and strong community.

As LNHS Program Chairperson I am so pleased with Ted's eagerness and enthusiasm to return for another presentation to continue the very interesting April program history presentation he shared. I do hope each of you who were in attendance in April will attend and spread the word to those who missed in April to be sure to **mark their calendars to attend this October 15<sup>th</sup> program at 5:00 at the Laguna Niguel Library.**

*Linda Bayme  
LNHS Program Chairman*



**The Horizon House was the first home that went up in the master-planned community.**

It was a startling sight for a private pilot buzzing over the Southland Coast in the spring of 1964. A flying saucer had touched down in the rugged hills of the old Rancho Niguel, a sheep ranch just a mile from the Pacific.

A dip of the wings, a drop in elevation, and the pilot might have spotted a roadside sign—'visit the Horizon House.' The house, all concrete and glass and circular, with a floating, scalloped concrete roof, was open to the public every day from 9 to 5. Thousands of people trooped through.

Built "to show you could make beautiful things with pre-cast concrete," in the words of its structural engineer, Hanns Baumann, the Horizon House was simultaneously a promotion for the concrete industry, an idea house suggesting the future of home building, a house for sale—and the first house in the new master-planned community of Laguna Niguel.

## Education Committee Report by Paul Whitelock

**D**ue to our very successful Gala event, the L.N.H.S. Board of Directors approved a grant distribution of \$2,500 or \$625 each to four local elementary schools. These schools submitted a grant request to supplement their teaching of local and state history.

The checks have been sent to the schools and thank you letters have been received. The Education Committee will follow up on the use of this grant money in these teaching units.

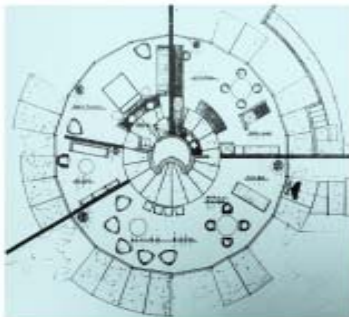
### Horizon House



At the entrance to the Horizon House: a spectacular bit of architectural sculpture.



Horizon living room.



Horizon floor plan.

during a Friends of Laguna Architecture open house.

The architect who designed the house was not, as is often said, George Bissell, who designed the 72 other homes in the tract. It was the Pasadena firm John Galbraith Associates, Wells says. Wells had interviewed Bissell before the architect's death.

But Bissell had the challenging job of working with engineer Hans Baumann to turn the design into reality. The task involved attaching pre-cast concrete wedges to inner steel rings, inflating a giant balloon-like form to hold things in place, and shooting on a slurry of gunite.

"It's all held up like a tree trunk from that central core," Wells said of the house

## A note from the Membership

**S**ince our last report we are pleased to welcome the following new members. **Jan Scholte, Larry Lizotte, Richard Frazee, Carl Nelson and Nathaniel Kang.**

We are always seeking new members - residents who may wish to participate in reviewing and archiving donated material, serve on other committees or simply provide financial support of our efforts. So please encourage your friends and neighbors to join us in our efforts to preserve documents and memorabilia that tell the story of Laguna Niguel.

Membership applications are available on our website: [www.LagunaNiguelHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.LagunaNiguelHistoricalSociety.org). For further information please contact our Membership Chairman, Solveig Darner, at 949 495-1438 or via e-mail at [Solveig.darner@gmail.com](mailto:Solveig.darner@gmail.com)

**Solveig Darner**  
Membership Chairman  
[solveig.darner@gmail.com](mailto:solveig.darner@gmail.com)

### from Anna

**T**hank you to everyone, for helping me publicize our LNHS by sending me information on the friends, neighbors and relatives you know, who have marvelous stories about our city.

I'm keenly interested in the unusual and compelling stories that will pique the curiosity of new members, and the press. I read the history of the founders of our country and think —one hundred years from now, there will be questions about how Laguna Niguel went from grassy pastures to a thriving community of individuals. Help me write about some of the people not so well known but important. Does anyone know the first Doctor in our area?

Please contact me about unique individuals and events for publication.

See you at the next meeting, Anna, Hon. Anna Bryson, Former Trustee, Capistrano Unified School District.

**Anna Bryson**  
**949-290-7196**  
[anna@annabryson.com](mailto:anna@annabryson.com)

# Laguna Niguel Historical Society

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## OBJECTIVES & PURPOSE

The primary objectives and purpose of

The Laguna Niguel Historical Society shall be the promulgation of historical information about the Community of Laguna Niguel and its surrounding area.

This will include the gathering, storage and display of historical documents and artifacts and sponsoring of activities and events that will celebrate our history

History is made every day and as every day passes more of it is lost to memory. The Laguna Niguel Historical Society has been formed to preserve the record of Laguna Niguel's past and of it's new history that is constantly being created. Even though the City of Laguna Niguel was incorporated as recently as 1989, there is a rich past preceding cityhood that needs to be preserved for this and future generations. The native American population, the Spanish explorers, the mission fathers and the ranchers all had a part in our history that needs remembering. The Laguna Niguel Historical Society intends to preserve this history for future generations.

### Laguna Niguel Historical Society

*30025 Alicia Parkway #190*

*Laguna Niguel, CA 92677*

*lagunaniguelhistoricalsociety.org*

### Founding Directors

*Patricia "Pat" Bates*

*Linda Bayme*

*Gary Capata*

*Solveig Damer*

*Jeanette Krembas*

*Gary Kurtz*

*Nancy Kurtz*

*Jerry McCloskey*

*Betty Pequet*

*Bruce Rasner*

*Carl Schulkin*

*David Weiss*

*Judy Whitelock*

*Paul Whitelock*

*Marc Winer*