


Ocean Beach Historical Society  
P.O. Box 7895, San Diego, CA 92167

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# Sea Scrolls

Notes from the  
Ocean Beach Historical Society

Vol. xviii No. 3  
Published Bimonthly



June - July 2012 • President: Pat James • Editors: Susan James & Stephanie Greenwald • Creative Director: Kathy Blavatt

**COMING**



**OBHS AND  
CA SURF MUSEUM  
OB'S NOTABLE  
WOMEN SURFERS**  
THURS., JUNE 21, 7 PM  
at P.L. United Methodist Church

**"BEACH TOWN"  
Reprints  
NOW Available!**

If you're moving or temporarily changing address  
Contact: STEPHANIE  
(619) 602-0771  
luckyme3@cox.net  
or mail to:  
Ocean Beach Historical Society  
P.O. Box 7895, San Diego, CA 92167

Please join our OB Blog to tell your favorite OB stories, facts and memories. Visit:  
[www.obhistory.wordpress.com](http://www.obhistory.wordpress.com)



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**ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY?**  
*We are a 501 (C) 3 Nonprofit, DONATIONS MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.*  
**Join and receive our newsletters & announcements.**  
*Fill out the form below and mail it with a check to:*  
**OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
P.O. Box 7895, San Diego, CA 92167

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Individuals-\$12/yr.                       Business, 2 Adults, or Family-\$20  
 Sustaining Member-\$100               Life Member-\$500/1 payment  
 Special Friend of OBHS (includes Life Membership) - \$1,000/1 payment

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address or PO Box \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Email(optional) \_\_\_\_\_



*Photo courtesy Faye Baird Fraser*

**The Ocean Beach Historical Society  
and the California Surf Museum  
present:**  
**OB'S NOTABLE  
WOMEN SURFERS**  
Thurs., June 21, 7 PM  
P.L. United Methodist Church,  
1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B.

**T**he OBHS and the California Surf Museum will team for an entertaining overview of some of OB's notable women surfers. Jane Schmauss, Historian at the surf museum, and local artist/surfer/historian Cher Pendarvis will celebrate the growth of women's surfing in the area, beginning with Faye Baird Fraser, considered to be San Diego's first boardwoman, on to the Vahine Kai Surf Club, and other stand-out individuals. Boards, bathing suits, and photos will round out the evening's presentation.

**REMEMBERING  
LOVERNE BROWN—  
O. B. POET,  
ACTIVIST,  
BELOVED  
FRIEND**  
Thurs., July 19th,  
at 7 PM  
P.L. United Methodist Church,  
1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B.



**P**rior to coming to Ocean Beach in 1950, LoVerne Brown led a somewhat nomadic life. During her half-century in O. B. (1950-2000), LoVerne was active in the community in many ways, especially following her retirement in 1974. She was co-founder of the Ocean Beach Community School in 1976 (as well as the school's poetry teacher); a longtime member and officer of the O. B. Friends of the Library and the O. B. - Point Loma chapter of the National League of American Penwomen; founder of the Ocean Beach Poetry Circle, which for years published the annual anthology "Zip Code 92107"; and a founding member of the Ocean Beach Historical Society. She was known for her generous spirit, her inclusive nature, and her unconditional love for her fellow human beings. A lifelong Democrat, she was active on the political scene and supported numerous social justice causes, especially those that benefited the homeless and victims of abuse.

By the late 1970s LoVerne, who was getting her second wind as a writer, especially as a poet, began responding to requests to do poetry readings throughout the city. And when it comes to community schools, LoVerne literally wrote the book on it. With co-authors Katie Elsbree and Denny Doyle, she penned *The Grass Roots Alternative: A Citizens' Approach to Community Education*, a 1977 publication based largely on the authors' experiences in founding the Ocean Beach Community School a year earlier. *Continued on page 2*

**MEMBERS April - May:**  
**New Members:** Jenn Avoledo & Matt Defauw; Nicole Boramanand & Jim Perry; Caridad; Laura & Dan Dennison; Margaret Fischbeck; Jacquelyn & William Neil; Kristoffer Newsom & Family; Ocean Beach Business Center; Karin Ostrand; Albert Powell; Lucille Richard; Joe Stevens.

**THANKS FOR DONATIONS:**  
*Donation In Loving Memory of Jonell Kermott:* Lawana "Dolly" Belt.

THANKS BLUE VASE DONORS

*On Thurs., July 19th, the Ocean Beach Historical Society will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of LoVerne Brown. Family members and friends from various facets of her life will be on hand to tell their stories about this unforgettable OBecean. Please join us for this celebration!*

*Continued from pg. 1—Multi-talented LoVerne had many friends who were happy to ensure that her poetry was available to everyone. (Much of her early serious work was published in poetry journals, which had limited audiences of mostly other poets.) In 1983, LoVerne's friend Steve Kowitz, published a collection of her work (*The View from the End of the Pier*) as a 71st birthday present to her. This volume sold out quickly and is now a collector's item. Two more collections followed: *Gathering Wine Grapes at the Hollywood Hilton* (1986) and *The Under Side of Snow* (1996). In 1999, 87-year-old, LoVerne Brown was honored with the *Local Author Lifetime Achievement Award (LOLA)*, an annual award given by the San Diego Public Library to a local author for his or her body of work.*

**Pre-O.B.**— Loverne was born in North Dakota in 1912, her childhood years were spent in Alaska (still a territory) and the northern woods of Wisconsin. Following high school in Kingsburg, CA, college at UC Berkeley, and a stint as a newspaper reporter in Juneau, AK., LoVerne married a fellow reporter, and then made her way back to CA. She ghostwrote two books— *No Life for a Lady* and *Consultation Room*—both won national awards. She frequently wrote humorous poems about her children, which she sold to magazines such as the *Saturday Evening Post* and *The Ladies Home Journal*.

In 1950, Loverne's husband, George Brown (employed by the fed. gov.) was transferred to San Diego. They and their children—Tony, Jonnie, and Tim chose beautiful O.B. as their new home. Sadly in 1952, George died of a heart attack, and LoVerne became the family breadwinner, working for the next 22 years in the City of San Diego Engineering Dept. Her kids grew up settling in other parts of San Diego and CA., but LoVerne never left her beloved O.B.

## PRESERVE OB's HISTORY!

### OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES

**WE NEED:** • HISTORICAL PHOTOS, ITEMS & DOCUMENTATION  
 • CASH DONATIONS • HISTORICAL INTERVIEWS • ARCHIVAL SUPPLIES

## GIVE A GIFT THAT HELPS PRESERVE OUR COMMUNITY'S HISTORY ARCHIVES

*The Ocean Beach Historical Society Archives was founded to preserve the history of Ocean Beach and the peninsula. The Archives Room is housed in space rented from the PLUM Church in O.B., where the OBHS programs are held. The collection includes: Photos, maps, books, papers, newspapers, letters & artifacts. Also, there is an extensive biography index and San Diego City Directories from 1926 to 1984 which list people, their spouses & occupations. Residents are also listed by street address. Dedicated volunteers assist with the processing.*

### DONATIONS TO THE ARCHIVES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Many people believe that their lives are of no interest to others, but they are! Unfortunately, photographs, house plans, business & organization records, and family papers end up in the trash after a death in the family. Photographs, especially, depict people, their activities & customs, homes & buildings, and dress. Some OB buildings vanish or functions change almost overnight and new ones appear. The cliffs erode and scenery changes. The OBHS Archives provide an invaluable window into OB's past.

**PLEASE when donating photographs to the Archives, remember to date and identify the people and places in them.** Reluctant to give up your photos or papers? The Archive's staff would be happy to copy and safely return items to you with your permission to use the materials.

Preservation work often needs support & supplies.

**GIFTS MAY BE DONATED AT MONTHLY MEETINGS**

It's important to preserve our history and maintain the archives.  
*OBHS is a 501 (C) 3 Nonprofit,*

*DONATIONS OF ITEMS & CASH MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.*

## DONATE

CONTACT OBHS ARCHIVIST MARY ALLELY TO SCHEDULE

A MEETING OR PICKUP: (619) 223-7784



## OB EXPOSED!

### THANKS

May 2012, the 18th Annual OB EXPOSED!  
 Photographic Impressions of Ocean Beach & Point Loma featuring  
 Wonderland Documentarian Noah Tafolla was a Blast!...  
 With a 101 PHOTO ENTRIES and hundreds of attendees!

### OB EXPOSED! 2012 WINNERS:

**BEST IN SHOW:**  
 Ray Hitchcock - *Moonrise over OB Pier*  
**PEOPLE'S CHOICE:**  
 Kristoffer Newsom - *The Leap*  
**VINTAGE:**  
 Mark Hudson - *Cub Scouts Day at the Beach*  
**SPECIAL EFFECTS:**  
 Cleveland Storrs - *Abbott Market*  
**BLACK & WHITE:**  
 Clifford Beck - *Memories of Rough Seas*  
**COLOR:**  
 Ralph Guest - *Reflections on the Cliffs*

Guests saw a large variety of beautiful photos while feasting on great food donated by local businesses and OBHS friends.

**THANKS TO DONORS:** Point Loma Masonic Lodge; C.J.'s Catering & Speciality Baking; Chef Lauren Ritchey; European Cake Gallery; Newbreak Coffee At the Beach, OB Business Center; OB People's Co-op; OB QuikStop; Olive Tree Market Place; Pepe's; Shades; Whale Tail Tortilla Chips and Fran DeSanto's "Fran & John's Noodle Kugel" (with recipes).

**EXTRA THANKS to the OB Business Center who were wonderful in helping collect photos... even the OB-time late entries.**

Photos will be available for pick up at The OB Business Center (M-F). OB Business Center, 4876 Santa Monica, OB (9 am-5 pm, Mon.- Fri.) Any photos not picked up after 30 days will be the property of the Ocean Beach Historical Society. The Ocean Beach Historical Society is not responsible for lost or damaged photos.

For more Fun and History...  
 Come visit our OBHS booth at the  
**33rd ANNUAL OCEAN BEACH STREET FAIR**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 23rd, 2012**

## Great Photos and a Great Time!



Below, Thanks to Judges Joe Ewing & Steve Rowell.



OBHS volunteers and guests enjoy OB EXPOSED!