

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. XXVI No. 2 Published Bimonthly



Bill Corwin of the *JUKETONES*  
will sing the *Wonderland Song*  
at the Wisteria Garden Party.

March - April 2020 • President: Eric DuVall • Editor: Susan James • Creative Director: Kathy Blavatt

**COMING**

OBHS PRESENTS:  
**WISTERIA  
GARDEN  
PARTY**  
**SUNDAY,  
MARCH 22, 2020**  
**1 PM**  
at 4761 Niagara Avenue  
O.B., 92107

*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

**SPECIAL OFFER**

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



**OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

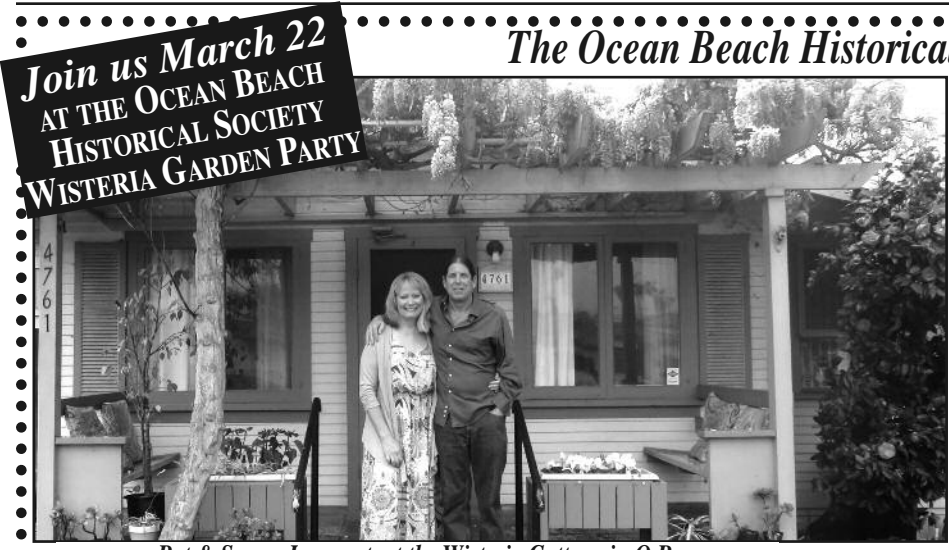
**ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY?**  
*We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, DONATIONS MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.*  
**JOIN AND RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS.**  
*Fill out the form below and mail it with a check to:*  
**OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
P.O. Box 7895, San Diego, CA 92167-0895

Individuals-\$15/yr.       Business, 2 Adults, or Family-\$20  
 Sustaining Member-\$100/yr.       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 \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER     RENEWAL     CHANGE OF ADDRESS

**Receive an 1887 Map Poster with \$100 or Larger NEW Membership**  
*Redeemable at any OBHS Event or Program*



Pat & Susan James at the Wisteria Cottage in O.B.



Wisteria Party in Ocean Beach

The Ocean Beach Historical Society Presents:

**WISTERIA  
GARDEN  
PARTY**

**Sunday, March 22**  
**1:00 - 3:30 PM**  
at 4761 Niagara Avenue  
Ocean Beach, 92107  
*Minimum Suggested Donation:*  
**\$15 MEMBERS**  
**\$25 NON-MEMBERS**  
(Includes OBHS Membership)

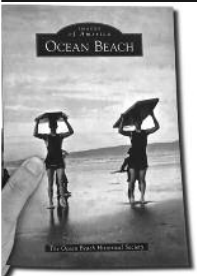
Spend the afternoon in the historic O.B. Wisteria Cottage garden under the largest wisteria canopy in Ocean Beach.



Listen to live music including songs from the 1920s by local **JUKETONES** (with a dance area).

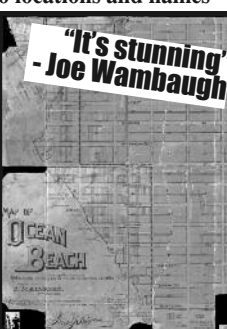
- Enjoy:**
- TASTY SNACKS & BEVERAGES
  - VINTAGE PHOTOS & O.B. SIGNS
  - OPPORTUNITY DRAWING
- Dress: HISTORIC, GARDEN PARTY, PURPLE ATTIRE, OR O.B. CASUAL.*

**"OCEAN BEACH"**  
 by Ocean Beach Historical Society & Arcadia Publishing  
**2015 WINNER**  
 Be transported back in time through this fantastic book filled with O.B.'s wonderful history, historical photos and fascinating images.  
 Available at OBHS events and at local vendors.  
 Proceeds go to the OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY a 501(c)(3) non-profit org.



**1887 O.B. MAP POSTER**  
 1887 O.B. historical color map poster has lovely calligraphy, old street names and railroad lines. Also locations and names of beaches & rock formations, sand dunes and fresh water springs. The map's natural aging, torn edges & stains give it a wonderful pirate-map quality.  
**\$20 ea.** (includes tax)

*"It's stunning" - Joe Wambaugh*

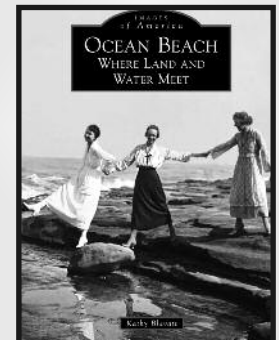


**DONATIONS Support OB Historical Society**



**BLUE VASE**

**OCEAN BEACH**  
 WHERE LAND AND WATER MEET  
 By KATHY BLAVATT  
 Arcadia Publishing



Available at OBHS events & local vendors.

**PRESERVE O.B.'s HISTORY Thru CONTRIBUTIONS!**

The OBHS Archives was founded to preserve the history of Ocean Beach and the peninsula.

The OBHS Archives Room is upstairs on the top floor of the WATER'S EDGE FAITH COMMUNITY 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O.B. THE OBHS ARCHIVE COLLECTION INCLUDES:

Photos, maps, books, papers, newspapers, letters, artifacts and an extensive biography index with San Diego City Directories from 1926 to 1984 (which list people, their addresses, their spouses & occupations). Dedicated volunteers assist with processing and organizing incoming materials.

**THE OBHS NEEDS:**

- Historical Photos, Items & Documentation
- Cash Donations
- Historical Interviews
- Archival




**ARCHIVES DONATIONS ARE WELCOME**

Many people believe that their lives are of no interest to others, but they are! Unfortunately, important history is lost when photographs, house plans, business and organization records, and family papers end up in the trash after a death in the family. Photographs are historically important because shots of people depict their activities and customs, homes and buildings, and dress. Without records of O.B. buildings, we lose links to the past when the buildings vanish or their functions change. Likewise, when the cliffs erode and scenery changes, it needs to be documented. Donations to the OBHS Archives provide an invaluable window into Ocean Beach's past. **WHEN DONATING PHOTOGRAPHS TO THE ARCHIVES, PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECORD THE DATE AND IDENTIFY THE PEOPLE AND PLACES.** Reluctant to give up your photos or papers? The Archives 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**  
 OBHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
 DONATIONS OF ITEMS & CASH MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

**CONTACT FOR ARCHIVES:**  
 TO SCHEDULE A MEETING OR PICKUP: 619-226-8125

**OBHS GENERAL INFO. CONTACT:**  
 Pat James: [pjinob@gmail.com](mailto:pjinob@gmail.com)  
 or ph. 619-226-8125




**MEMBERS**  
 Dec. 2019 - Jan. 2020  
**New Members**  
 Melyssa & Patrick Semels;  
 Welcome back  
 Melinda Resende  
 Name Correction From Nov.:  
 Riese Smith  
**Donations**  
 Mark Mussen

**Thank You Blue Vase Donors**

**THANK YOU**  
 Diane Kane  
 and  
 Randy Dible  
 for your programs at the  
 Ocean Beach  
 Historical Society

**Farewell**  
 MARY ELIZABETH MILLER  
 APRIL 13, 1917 – DECEMBER 27, 2019  
 Ocean Beach/Point Loma



**MARY ELIZABETH MILLER, AGE 102,** passed away tranquilly at home with her loving son Fletcher and devoted daughter-in-law Jane by her side, Dec. 27th, 2019. Mary was born on her lucky day, Friday the 13th, April 1917 in Fargo, ND to recent Norwegian immigrants Johannes and Ida Mickelson. Mary graduated from Fargo Central High and attended North Dakota Agricultural College (now, North Dakota State University) for two years before marrying Robert Miller at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Fargo, on New Year's Eve, 1937.

Bob was active in the Kansas Guard in the early part of WW II, and worked in the aircraft industry, while Mary worked as secretary to the Director of the Office of Civilian Defense. In 1943 Bob enlisted in the US Marine Corps and was sent to San Diego for training followed by deployment to the Pacific. Mary soon followed and worked at Consolidated Aircraft while Robert was in the Philippines, followed by China, until 1946, a year after the war officially ended.

Mary held a variety of jobs during the late 1940s and early 1950s, while Bob earned a law degree and went to work in the San Diego County Superior Court. During this time, they built and lived in a small beach cottage in Point Loma that still stands in its original condition. From 1953 until 1960, Mary worked as Secretary-Hostess for the Lutheran Service Center downtown where she helped countless young men in the armed forces stationed in San Diego. In 1960, Bob and Mary's life was surprisingly but pleasantly turned upside down by the arrival of son Fletcher, making Mary the oldest first time mother her doctor had ever seen. Bob built a larger house in Ocean Beach to accommodate the new arrival and Mary's own mother, who was recently widowed. Mary resided in that home for the rest of her life, 57 more years. Neighbors and a sense of community were very important to Mary, and she was blessed with many caring neighbors.

After Fletcher was born the family went to St. Peter's by-the-Sea Lutheran Church in Ocean Beach. Mary was an active "church mouse," she sang in the choir and helped organize functions, for decades.

In 1972 when Bob became unemployed, Mary attended community college to earn a certificate and then worked in accounting at CalTrans for the next 10 years. She was the primary breadwinner, caring for her own mother and son and maintaining the household. When Fletcher graduated from college in 1982, Mary decided to retire.

After her mother and husband passed, Mary lived alone for 22 years, during which time she became active in many organizations in San Diego. She loved Balboa Park. She was an original member of the Spreckel's Organ Society, she helped guide tourists through the park, and was a member of the House of Norway. Mary also volunteered at the Lutheran Thrift Store, Seek'n Find, and was a Friend of the Ocean Beach Library.

Mary and Bob loved to travel and camp. She continued traveling after Bob's passing, making trips to Norway, Elderhostel trips, hiked to Havasu Falls in the Grand Canyon in her late 60's, and enjoyed visiting Cleveland, OH, where Fletcher worked for NASA.

In 2007, when Mary turned 90, Fletcher moved back to San Diego into her house, making her the happiest woman in Ocean Beach. Jane joined the family in 2009, making Fletcher the happiest man in Ocean Beach.

Mary is survived by son, Fletcher, daughter-in-law, Jane Manderscheid, nephew Robert Randall of Monrovia, CA, and his family, and many relatives in the US and Norway.


Mary was a long-time Ocean Beach resident, attended the OBHS Wisteria Party, and spoke with Pat James about O.B.  
 She was great friends with Ned and Shirley Titlow for decades.

The Ocean Beach Historical Society  
 Presents:

**"EARLY LIBRARIANS AT THE SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY (1887-1970)"**  
 BY RICK CRAWFORD,  
 Supervisor of Special Collections,  
 San Diego Public Library

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020**  
 AT WATER'S EDGE FAITH COMMUNITY  
 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. O.B.

*Grandma Clarke's house - Ocean Beach*



**Join us for party time!**  
 AT THE  
 OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**WISTERIA GARDEN PARTY**  
**Sunday, March 22**  
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