


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

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# SeaScrolls

Notes from the  
Ocean Beach Historical Society


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Frank McElwee Sr.  
Family Collection

December 2012 • President: Pat James • Editors: Susan James & Stephanie Greenwald • Creative Director: Kathy Blavatt

**COMING**



**PHOTOGRAPHER  
JOE EWING**

THURS., JAN. 17, 7 PM  
at P.L. United Methodist Church  
1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., O. B.

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



**“BEACH TOWN”**  
Reprints & 125 Yr. Editions  
**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

**M E M B E R S H I P**  
**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

- 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) \_\_\_\_\_



**2012 a Year to Remember... 2013 an Exciting Year Ahead!**

**C**ELEBRATING THE 125th ANNIVERSARY OF OCEAN BEACH AT THE OB HOLIDAY PARADE WAS THE PERFECT WAY TO END 2012. OBHS' Pat James & Jan Gawronski were judges.

In Nov., the OBHS had a celebration of the “40th Anniversary of the 30-foot Coastal Height Limit Law” which was a 1972 peoples’ initiative. According Alex Leondis, Chair of VOTE the group, 80% of O.B. and P.B. voters voted in favor of the height limit. The signatures were ALL collected by unpaid gatherers. After 4 years of court battles the 30ft. law was upheld and has protected our views and coast from overdevelopment.

**2012 OBHS programs reunited groups of extraordinary people at “Remembering LoVerne Brown- O.B. Poet, Activist, Beloved Friend” and “OB’s Notable Women Surfers”.**

**OB EXPOSED!** and the Wisteria Party had record attendance.

Pat & Susan James are renting the Titlow home, so the Wisteria Parties will continue into the future!



**ALEX LEONDIS**  
Speaking for Proposition D  
Keamy Mesa - October 24  
11:00am - 1:00pm - Gallery



Lanbergh Field - October 25  
10:00am - 11:30am - Lunch eating area between Building 2 & 3 near Building 3  
11:30am - 1:00pm - Gallery

The  
**OCEAN BEACH  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**  
is NOW producing an  
**OCEAN BEACH BOOK**  
for Arcadia Publishing.

We need  
**O.B. historical photos!**  
*THE BIGGER THE  
SELECTION,  
THE BETTER THE BOOK!*

We need a variety of O.B.  
photos showing the big events  
and historical structures.

Also, we want to show the  
community, families, beaches  
and businesses that made-up  
O.B. over the years.

If your family has a history  
here, we want to know about it,  
and document it.

Please consider donating to the  
OBHS and help preserve our  
history in our archives and  
upcoming book.

—Kathy Blavatt  
OBHS Creative Director

**MEMBERS**  
Oct. - Nov.:

**New Members:**  
Robert Fode; Donna Kaup;  
Tom Leech; Robyn &  
Chuck Massey.

**New Sustaining  
Members:**  
Barbara Chrestman;  
Chuck Curtis.

**Welcome Back:**  
Betty White.

**Donations: In memory of  
Wilma "Billie" Kowal from  
the "Xzephias" Celia &  
David Ball; Byrna Bicknell;  
Deborah Irons & Wade  
Williams; Jane Meiners.**

**THANKS BLUE VASE  
DONORS**



Frank McElwee-Sr. Family Collection

**DONATE**

**PRESERVE OB'S HISTORY!**  
**OCEAN BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES**

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

**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 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 O.B. 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 O.B.'s past.

**When donating photographs to the Archives,  
please remember to date, 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.**

**CONTACT OBHS ARCHIVIST MARY ALLELY**

**TO SCHEDULE A MEETING OR PICKUP: (619) 223-7784**



**ARCHIVE DONATIONS**

**Frank McElwee Sr., aka "Mac" Family Collection-** Historical O.B. Photos

**Marti Manning & Ellie Currier Collection-** O.B. Photos & Clipping

**Flicka Dormer-** Archive and sign supplies

**Ted & Stephanie Zimmerman-** 8 San Diego 1915-1956 newspapers

**The Ocean Beach Historical Society Won 3 Awards in 2012!**  
*ASSEMBLY CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION  
OCEAN BEACH TOWN COUNCIL CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION AWARD  
OCEAN BEACH MAINSTREET ASSOCIATION AWARD*



**OBTC Award  
Cultural  
Contribution**

Presented October 2, 2012, by OBTC Board of Directors to

**OB Historical Society**

In recognition of your dedicated research, collection and preservation of all information and artifacts, especially photographs, relating to the history of the community of Ocean Beach.

Gracias! Merci! Thank You! Danke! Domo Arigato!



**OBHS CELEBRATED  
RECEIVING 3 AWARDS**

Below, Susan James and Mary Alley received the Mainstreet Award for working on the OB 125 Year Anniversary Celebration and the Beacon's OB Anniversary addition.



©2012-Photos by Kathy Blavatt

**2013 BOARD MEMBERS**

- Pat James, President
- Derek Sander, V.P.
- Terry Beddoes
- Kathy Blavatt
- Ray Blavatt
- Kathy Frasca
- Jane Gawronski
- Tom Gawronski
- Stephanie Greenwald
- Susan James
- Dedi Ridenouer
- Steve Rowell
- Jonnie Wilson
- Archivist-Mary Allely

OBHS is happy to have Steve Rowell elected to our 2013 board. He has donated photos, given programs and judged OB Exposed!

