

SLCA
P. O. Box 9668
South Laguna
CA 92652-7639
<http://southlaguna.org/>



Bulletin

Summer 2011

"Dedicated to Protecting the Quality of Community Life"

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION • BOX 9668, SOUTH LAGUNA, CA 92652 • FOUNDED IN 1946 • VISIT US AT WWW.SOUTHLAGUNA.ORG

Garden Bounty

By Juliana Essen

The South Laguna Community Garden is bursting at its seams. Giant, silvery artichoke plants, tall, flowering arugula and purple-stemmed kale refuse to admit that winter is over, while the summer favorites are beginning to show their faces. If you bump into another gardener there, they will excitedly tell you about how they've just cleared out the turnips to make way for baby tomato plants or how they can almost taste the fresh cucumber salad they'll have this summer.

In fact, there is an OVER-abundance of edibles growing in our garden. We do our best to keep up – sheepishly admitting that we've never had so many salads – but still, our plots runneth over. Until, that is, we approached the Friendship Shelter about donations.

The Friendship Shelter, located downtown on the ocean side of PCH, provides temporary housing for 32 homeless men and women, giving preference to residents of Laguna Beach. The Shelter's three-month support program, which helps residents achieve self-sufficiency, has a success rate of over 63 percent, meaning graduates attain stable housing, sustained employment and sobriety. Volunteers make

dinner most nights, and the pantry is pretty well stocked with non-perishables; however, according to volunteer coordinator Taylor Mathieson, they hardly ever get fresh produce. Thus, they were thrilled with our suggestion.

Taylor now comes to the garden every Wednesday morning around 10:00 to pick up our offerings. Though



Shown from L to R, Juliana Essen and daughter Märta in front of her, Barbara Granger, and Taylor Mathieson who serves as the volunteer coordinator for the Friendship Shelter

the Shelter is happy to receive any amount, our goal is to gather enough fixings for at least one salad per resident each week. Thanks to a number of gardeners who have given their extras, and to Denise Bennett who has given up a portion of her box to grow goodies specifically for the Shelter, we are succeeding.

The garden expansion into the lower level next to PCH means more space, more members and more opportunities to

share our bounty with the larger community. If you'd like to participate in the Friendship Shelter donations, contact Juli Essen at esse0026@yahoo.com. If you can't make it down to harvest yourself, she'll happily do it for you. For more information on the Friendship Shelter, visit their website at friendshipshelter.org. Finally, to find out more about the garden, visit <http://southlaguna.org/garden/>. To sign up for a plot, contact Ann Christoph at ann@ac-la.com or Bill Rihn at wjrihn@cox.net. ☀

Laguna Bluebelt Award

By Mike Beanan

The South Laguna Civic Association was on hand during April's Earth Week to receive the City of Laguna Beach Environmental Recognition Award 2011. The City Council presented its coveted Environmental Award to a large gathering of supporters including SLCA President Bill Rihn and Board leaders Greg O'Loughlin, Richard Picheny and Mike Beanan.

SLCA was part of a local Laguna Bluebelt Coalition aimed at establishing a citywide network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The Laguna Bluebelt Coalition at www.lagunabluebelt.org brought together fishermen, spear fishermen, elected officials, environmental groups and individuals for monthly gatherings over two years. They negotiated and designed a plan for protecting Laguna's marine environment that gained unanimous approval by the California Fish & Game Commission last December.

(Continued on page 2)



Bluebelt Award, continued from page 1



Those featured in the presentation of the city's Environmental Award to Laguna Bluebelt are (L to R): Toni Iseman, Mayor of Laguna Beach, who presented the award; Dr. Sandy Dildine, Facilitator for Laguna Bluebelt; Charlotte Masarik, Village Laguna Board Member; Mike Beanan, SLCA Board Member; Jinger Wallace, Laguna Bluebelt organizer; Ray Hiemstra, Project Manager for OC Coastkeeper

The award-winning effort involved numerous Lagunans. Local community leaders Jinger Wallace and Charlotte Masarik spearheaded a vigorous campaign that included letter writing and crafting speeches. They brought to bear the full strength and commitment of Laguna's fabled "mermaids" and "mermen." Coalition carpools caravanned up and down California for months testifying at commission hearings about the importance of protecting Laguna's coastline, the "Little Big Sur" of Southern California. The city council added its support, especially as members Toni Iseman and Verna Rollinger attended and spoke at nearly all of these hearings. Village Laguna President (and former SLCA President) Ginger Osborne led Village Laguna's enormous effort by mobilizing its members to testify and write letters in order for our community to be heard. SLCA Board member Morrie Granger's moving account of our fisheries provided commissioners with an important first-hand story of South Laguna's marine life. Letters attesting to this many-faceted effort and in support of the Environmental Award came from Wyland, the MacGillivrays, former Surfrider Foundation President Rob Caughlin, Laguna Greenbelt, Laguna Canyon Conservancy and many others.

With implementation of the Laguna Bluebelt this fall, Laguna Beach may become the first American city with an integrated greenbelt/bluebelt protecting the local environment and promising a sustainable future for our community. For many decades, SLCA leaders have guarded our hillsides and coastal waters for future residents and visitors. This award honors those selfless contributions and calls on us to continue protecting and restoring South Laguna's many natural treasures. Please consider adding a few hours of your talent to SLCA's many environmental efforts at mike@southlaguna.org or 499-6367. ☀

From the Beginning

By Ann Christoph

In March, local artist Jorge Fernandez installed his sculpture of early inhabitants of our area, long before it was called South Laguna. Placed adjacent to the new public parking lot at Sea Cove Drive, it is an Arts Commission Art in Public Places project.

Titled, "From the Beginning," the bronze work depicts a standing man and seated woman on a native boulder, as if they had just journeyed to our coast. They are looking around their new home appreciatively, just as we do today, concluding, "Yes, this is the place."

The sculpture has sparked a range of reactions. One resident mused that the woman's quizzical look inland is coupled with her inquiry, "And how did that 7-Eleven get there?" Others have left coins and flower tributes around the couple. It is lovely and poignant. Still the sculpture looked lonely and there was a lot of clutter around, with the wood bench and trash receptacle distracting from the scene.

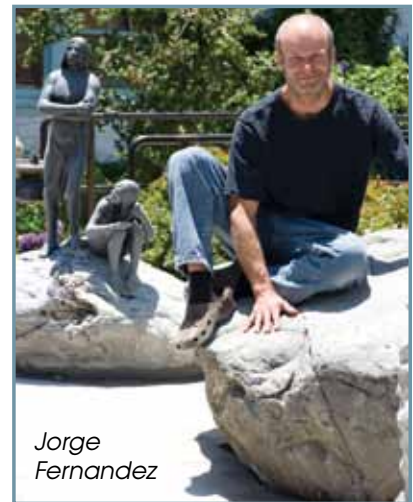
Sian Poeschl, the city's arts coordinator, had suggested that we should install another boulder that would not only complete the scene, but also serve as a seating place for today's South Lagunans.

Jorge liked the idea. Greg O'Loughlin spied a prize boulder along the Coast Highway Frontage at Monarch Bay. Jorge took a look at it and showed it to Sian and me; we were sold. After Sian found funding, permissions were obtained from the Arts Commission, Monarch Bay Association, and the City of Dana Point. The City Public Works department relocated the bench and trash receptacle. On May 20, Kevin Clark of Laguna Bobcat and his crew plucked the rock from Monarch Bay and soon it was on a trailer next to the site.



Ann Christoph directs rock placement

Was the sculptured woman commenting to her husband, "Honey, the new furniture has arrived!?" Now the rock, much larger than we ever imagined, has been placed and we are preparing for a ribbon cutting on July 16, 2011, at 4 p.m. at the sculpture site. Please come and compliment Jorge on his thoughtful and artistic contribution to our community. ☀



Jorge Fernandez



SOUTH LAGUNA CIVIC ASSOCIATION DUES

- Individual \$15
- Family/Business \$25
- Supporting \$50
- Sponsor \$100
- Contribution for historical research \$ _____
- Friend of the South Laguna Community Garden \$100

Additional contributions are welcome!

Name _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Address _____

City _____

Email _____ Date _____

The SLCA is a non-profit organization; however, your contributions are not tax deductible.

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In Memoriam

Frank T. Keneley (1916-2011)

By Morrie Granger

On March 20, 2011, South Laguna's beloved pharmacist and neighbor Frank T. Keneley died at age 94. Frank was often seen walking near our Village Green Park with his faithful dog Ginger. In his later years, Frank joined local friends, including me, for breakfasts at Café Vienna.



Frank was born in Twin Falls, Idaho, in 1916. His family subsequently moved to Long Beach, CA. In 1943 he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He received his primary and advanced flight training at airbases in Visalia, Merced and Stockton, and was assigned to become a flight navigator. After graduation from navigation school in Austin, Texas, he was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant and assigned to the 91st Bomber Group. The 91st was shipped overseas to its home base at Bassingbourne, England. Its task was to destroy the German war machine within the Reich. Frank flew 19 harrowing missions over Germany in B17 Bombers. During his last mission to destroy an aircraft parts plant at Eschwege, his plane was shot down by a Luftwaffe fighter, killing seven of the crew of ten. Frank and two other crewmen were able to bail out before the plane disintegrated. He was captured by Germans that night and sent to Stalag Luft III, a prison camp for flyers, southeast of Berlin. There the prisoners survived only on their wits and the barest of necessities of life with Red Cross packages supplementing their meager rations. Freedom, home and food were constantly on their minds. During his year of incarceration, Frank lost 50 pounds and nearly lost his leg from wounds received during the crash. Finally, in 1945, the camp was liberated by General George Patton and Lieutenant Keneley was homeward bound to Los Angeles. >



Frank Keneley at left, recovering from his leg injury at the German prisoner-of-war camp c. 1944. The artist was a fellow prisoner, shown on the right hand side of the sketch.

Frank graduated from the USC School of Pharmacy. He operated Village Pharmacy here in South Laguna Beach for more than 20 years. Greatly missed, he is survived by his wife, Hilde, who resides in Laguna Beach, and two daughters, Susie and Robbi, who live in San Juan Capistrano. ☀

The Open Space Initiative: Sign the Petition!

By Tom Osborne

Sign a petition for the Open Space Initiative; do it for your home value, South Laguna and the good of the city. Let me explain.

Last April, Citizens for Preservation of Open Space, a political action committee, submitted to the City of Laguna Beach a measure calling for a vote on the Initiative. Supporters of the measure have six months to gather the signatures from voters registered in the city; roughly 2,700 signers (15 percent of the electorate) are needed. The clock

(Continued on page 4)



P. O. Box 9668
South Laguna CA 92652-7639

STAMP

URGENT!

**Sign the Open Space Petition,
collect signatures, phone
Ginger Osborne, 499-4809.
Details begin on page 3.**



Open Space Initiative, continued from page 3

is ticking. Ginger Osborne and Sharon Larimer are overseeing the organization, counting and reporting essential to the signature drive. They report that the campaign is “going very well,” as was expected. Polling last year showed overwhelming support for the Initiative. The South Laguna Civic Association Board of Directors supports the Initiative and has contributed, along with other civic groups in the city, toward a fund to support it.

The measure would enable the city to purchase much or all of the remaining open space comprising our “inner greenbelt.” Funds would be raised through a flat, city-wide parcel tax of \$120 per year (\$10 a month). The tax would raise about \$1 million annually during a 20-year period. Four percent of the funds raised would be set aside for maintenance of the acquired land. Parcels are located near Canyon Acres, Temple Hills and in South Laguna, among other places. There would be no eminent domain; land could be purchased only from willing sellers. The City Council would decide which parcels to acquire and at what price. An oversight committee, representative of diverse segments of the citizenry, will monitor all expenditures and report to the public. The oversight committee would operate much as the oversight committee for the school bond has operated.

Signing the petition is the first step in the public campaign to acquire the open space, which is in our interest. As former Laguna Beach Mayor Steve Dicterow, a self-

described “fiscal conservative,” has recently written in the *Independent*, “Our open space is a real and tangible reason that our property values are stronger than most California coastal cities.” Second, the measure will preserve some of our beautiful South Laguna hillsides in perpetuity. Given new technologies that make possible, however inadvisable, building on steep slopes, time is of the essence if we intend to keep intact the open space, for example, above South Laguna’s Mission Hospital. Third, the acquisition of open space for the public defines the character of Laguna Beach. Recall the city’s passage of a \$20-million bond taxing our citizenry for the purchase of Laguna Canyon a little more than 20 years ago. We are a citizenry that prizes the physical environment enough to pay for it, which makes this town distinctive in Orange County.

To sign the petition and/or help collect signatures, contact Ginger: osbornes1@cox.net. ☀

DUES, DUES, DUES

It may be time to renew your SLCA membership. Check the date on your mailing label. That’s the date your membership expires. Please clip the coupon on the back page and mail it with your check in the enclosed envelope to SLCA, P. O. Box 9668, South Laguna, CA 92652-9639.

Extra contributions are always welcome. ☀