

# Pacifica Historical Society

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**Historic Shelter Cove and Pedro Point**

## PAST EVENTS

**Late May** There was a "Garden Party" in May at the Little Brown Church . Carolyn Miller, Judy Heldberg and Kathy McGuire take a tea break in style thanks to Pat Kremer & her elegant service, china, silver & linen. Those high weeds didn't have a chance! Hopefully next time our city crew will do the job!

**June 4-5** Fri-Sat. Estate Sale at 900 valley terrace, Pacifica

**June 11-13** PHS Rummage Sale at the Pacifica Coastside Museum.

**June 19** OSRR Car 1409 Restoration Committee Mtg, at Museum.

**June 27** PHS Docent Refresher Course

**June 27** PHS Quarterly Meeting, included virtual tour of the OSRR Pass. Car 1409 reconditioning work.

**July 1** OPENING DATE of the Coastside Museum

**July 15** Steve Johnson invites artist Patricia Araujo to the Museum:

*At my invitation, Patricia Araujo came to visit our Coastside Museum. She enjoyed looking at our exhibits and meeting some of our members and our president, Judy Heldberg. Patricia is an artist who lives in Sausalito, CA and among her many works is a portrait of the Goddess Pacifica, the famous statue that was at the Golden Gate Exhibition on Treasure Island from 1939-1940. As most of you know, that statue was the inspiration for the name given to our city when it was incorporated in 1957. The statue was also the inspiration for artist and sculptor Sal De Guarda, who created a scaled-down copy of the statue, and who donated it to the city. It now resides in our museum, next to our exhibit of the Golden Gate Exhibition.*

*Patricia received her Bachelor's Fine Arts degree from the San Francisco Art Institute, and has had her paintings exhibited in various galleries around the city. (see a description of her and her works at [https://www. AbstractMetropolis.com](https://www.AbstractMetropolis.com). She has always been interested in architectural forms, which she inherited from her father, a noted architect. She loved the style of the buildings and statues at the Golden Gate Exhibition, especially the Goddess Pacifica, attracted by its graceful form and colors. She has done many oil paintings of the statue's face, using the colors popular in the art deco period. During her visit to the museum, Patricia gave us some of her limited edition prints to sell; some of the proceeds will go to the upkeep of our museum. The next time you visit our museum, look at her prints of the Goddess Pacifica and enjoy the artist's use of color in a variety of ways. You too may be captivated enough to take the Goddess home with you.*  
by Stephen Johnson Board Member

**July 24th 2021 Memorial Marv Morganti**

A Memorial was held July 24th 2021 at the Moose Lodge for our beloved Member Marv Morganti attended by many friends and Historical Society Members.



Above Carolyn Miller, Judy Heldberg, Kathy McGuire are enjoying an elegant Tea Break, courtesy of Pat Kremer, during their "Garden Party".



Board member Steve Johnson shows the print he purchased from artist Patricia Araujo during her visit to the museum.



## Quarterly Meeting, June 27th 2021



In June, the Vargas Twins, who built the Ocean Shore Railroad Display many years ago, were the featured speakers at the opening of this wonderful display! They enjoyed describing how they built it & were pleased to see it at home in the Coastside Museum.



The Seaside Singers sang and played their "Car 1409" song for the audience.

### "Trains, Trains, and More Trains!"

A good time was had by all with 75 people in attendance. Rob Wullenjohn set the tone for the fun times with a performance of his original ditty about Car 1409. (That is the number of the passenger car now being re-furbished by the PHS.) Kathleen Manning then gave a brief history of the car and told us of the substantial progress being made by the restoration crew.

Then the newly refurbished Ocean Shore Railroad Model was unveiled. The model was originally built by brothers Armando and Daniel Vargas, born in San Francisco and raised in Pacifica, when they were teen-agers 20 plus years ago. It was so interesting to hear them tell how they built the model in their parent's garage. The model was exhibited at various sites in Pacifica and has been in storage for many years. Rob Wullenjohn as project leader and his crew worked long and hard to bring this extraordinary model to life in our Museum. The Pacifica Seaside Singers concluded the meeting with a lively trio of train songs and refreshments of lemonade and train cake.



# O.S.R.R. MODEL TRAIN

A century ago, railroads were speculative high-tech businesses, somewhat like computer, internet or space businesses of today.

The Ocean Shore Railroad was built about 1908 to promote shoreside real estate, with nearby home lots for just \$250. OSRR steam trains carried passengers and farm products between San Francisco and the southern peninsula. Tickets were just 20 cents. But winter landslides sometimes washed away tracks, and cars and trucks became more popular, so the route became unprofitable. Tracks were removed in the early 1920s.

Our model shows the local area as it was about 1915. The train runs along the shore, from northern Mussel Rock south to the old railroad tunnel at Devil's Slide. Those 2 points are connected together to create a circular trip. While not geographically correct, that trick produces a realistic, walk-around layout.

Notice there were only a few buildings back then, with no pier, highway, or shopping center. The area wasn't even named Pacifica yet. You may be able to identify the beaches, some buildings and even railroad stops.

## KEY FACTS ABOUT THE MODEL

- Conceived and funded by Ocean Shore RR Associates, a local group
- Built 1999 by Armando and Dan Vargas, with Mauricio Davila
- First displayed at Lighthouse Hotel
- Stored for 20 years at "Prints Old and Rare" by Kathleen Manning
- Moved to PHS and restored by Rob Wullenjohn in 2021
- Popular N-Gauge scale
- Powered by safe low-voltage electricity
- Works at the touch of the **RED** button

**Skilled volunteers are invited to help maintain this model.  
A full-size OSRR passenger car is also being restored for future display.**

## **Pacifica Historical Society**

**At the Little Brown Church**

1850 Francisco Blvd, Pacifica, CA 94044

650-359-1909

[www.PacificaHistory.org](http://www.PacificaHistory.org) / [www.OceanShoreRailroad.org](http://www.OceanShoreRailroad.org)

## Up-coming Events

**Sept 10 - 11 Rummage Sale @ LBC 9 AM - 4 PM (Half -price Sat Sept 11 - 1 - 4 PM) Sorry, no drop-offs of donations until further notice.**

**Sept 14 - Board Meeting 7 PM**

**Sept 18 - Rancho Days @ Sanchez Adobe**

**Sept 19 - Anza Talk 1 PM @ LBC \$5 donations requested**

**Sept 25 - 3 - 5 PM @ LBC Book signing: "Secret California: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful and Obscure" by Ruth Carlson**

**Oct 3 - Tea Party @ LBC 3 PM Reservation required, \$35**

**Oct 12 - Board Meeting 7 PM**

**Oct 15 - 16 Rummage Sale @ LBC 9 AM - 4 PM (Half-price Sat Oct 16 1-4 PM) Sorry, no drop offs of donations until further notice**

**Nov 6 - Ribbon Cutting @ Sanchez Adobe for naming of point for Ohlone People (Time TBA)**

**Nov 9 - Board Meeting 7 PM**

**Nov 12 - 13 Rummage Sale @ LBC 9 AM - 4 PM (Half-price Sat Nov 13 - 1 - 4 PM) Sorry no drop-offs of donations until further notice**



**RANCHO DAY  
FIESTA**

**CELEBRATE  
CALIFORNIA'S  
MEXICAN HERITAGE**

**12:30 Grand Opening, Sanchez  
Adobe Interpretive Center**

- Listen to Early California Music
- Create Make-It-Yourself Crafts
- Discover Bygone Trades

**SANCHEZ ADOBE  
HISTORIC SITE**

**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2021  
12-4 P.M.**

Free Admission  
Charges for Activities and Food



1000 Linda Mar Boulevard,  
Pacifica, CA 94044  
Sanchez Adobe: 650.359.1462  
Association: 650.299.0104  
[www.historysmc.org](http://www.historysmc.org)  
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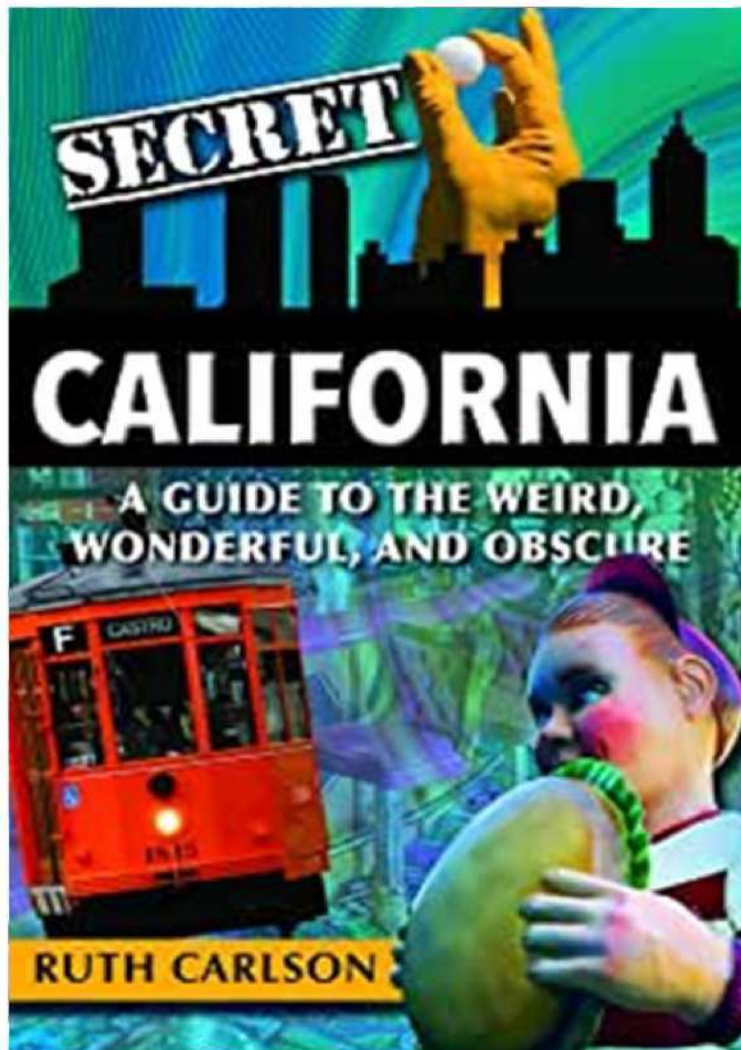
# **Weird California : a Talk by Ruth Carlson**

Ruth is the author of “Secret California: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure” - a compilation of the less well-known stories in California’s history. The state has plenty of secret and not-so-secret places that are quite unique and sometimes just bizarre, and the author - a well-known travel writer - loves to tell these tales about California’s unusual places. Pacifica is mentioned in her book, so find out what secrets about our city she plans to reveal. Her paperback book will be available for purchase and for signing.

**Saturday, September 25, 2021**

**Pacifica Coastside Museum 3 pm**

**A donation is welcome but not required**



The Anza Expedition —  
The Beginning of San Francisco  
a lecture by



Walter Coe

Hear National Park Service volunteer and historian Walter Coe as he describes the expedition which brought settlers to the area now known as the city of San Francisco. Who was Anza, and where did he find these settlers? (Their descendants still live in the Bay Area) What was their journey like, and what did they find when they arrived? What were the consequences of this important expedition? Where can you see the Anza trail today?

Sunday, September 19, 2021  
1 p.m.  
Pacifica Coastsid Museum

Donation of \$5 requested but not required, at the door  
We follow all County health protocols. Masks may be required.

This is one of a series of lectures sponsored by the Pacifica Historical Society to illuminate the history of our city and its surroundings. All donations go to the upkeep of our museum and its exhibits.

## Help is Needed

In order to operate at its best, an all-volunteer organization like the Pacifica Historical Society needs to draw upon the skills and interests of its members. Under the very uncommon circumstances of the last year and a half or so, member participation has been understandably limited. The Board of Directors, consisting of 15 current and two emeritus members, has been doing its best to attend to the essentials, but there are some significant jobs that haven't been filled. If you've thought you might like to become more involved in this very enjoyable group, please consider pitching in in one of the following areas:

If you have good computer skills and a moderately techie mindset, we would appreciate your input in regard to maintaining our website.

We urgently need someone to take on the job of Membership Chairperson. This involves working with the treasurer to keep membership and dues payment records up to date, recruiting and welcoming new members, reminding lapsed members that it is time to renew, and sometimes sending out information and announcements to the membership.

A PHS Historian is needed to keep up the yearly hard copy records that have been collected throughout the Historical Society's existence. These records contain agendas, minutes, financial reports, flyers, news articles and photos, etc. This work is interesting and fun but has been neglected lately because of a sheer lack of people and time.

In addition, there are always ongoing projects at the museum, such as filing clippings or copying and labeling DVDs. Volunteers can work in the museum shop or become involved in the docent program.

If you're interested in working in any of these areas, you can contact the Pacifica Historical Society at [info@pacificahistory.org](mailto:info@pacificahistory.org) or respond to the newsletter staff at [pac.hist.soc.newsletter@earthlink.net](mailto:pac.hist.soc.newsletter@earthlink.net).



Carolyn Miller, our Secretary and Librarian, hard at work!





# Pacifica Historical Society

## Pacifica Historical Society (A Non-Profit Organization)

Mailing Address: PO Box 752, Pacifica, CA 94044  
 Museum Location: 1850 Francisco Blvd., Pacifica CA 94044  
 Phone number: 650-355-1909  
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 Newsletter Email: [Pac.Hist.Soc.Newsletter@earthlink.net](mailto:Pac.Hist.Soc.Newsletter@earthlink.net)  
 Please visit our website [www.PacificaHistory.org](http://www.PacificaHistory.org)  
 Facebook: Search "Pacifica Historical Society"

### Officers:

President: Judy Heldberg  
 VP: Shirlee Gibbs  
 VP: Pat Kremer  
 Secretary: Carolyn Miller  
 Treasurer: Janet Ang

### Emeritus Members

Kathleen Manning  
 Jerry Crow

### Newsletter

Co-Editor: Ken Miles, Marlene Duschek  
 Co-Editor: Carolyn Miller

### This Issue:

Writers: Carolyn Miller,  
 Kathy McGuire, Judy Heldberg , Stephen Johnson

Photos: Susan Stallard, Kathy McGuire  
 Judy Heldberg, Stephen Johnson

## Board & Planning Meetings (are now held virtually due to COVID-19 health requirements)

The PHS welcomes everyone to join our organization, and join our committees. We hold monthly Board Meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, 7 PM, at the Museum. The Planning Committee for events and activities meets monthly on the first Tuesday of each month, 4 PM, at the Museum.

## Board of Directors

Clorinda Campagna, Mary Dougherty, Shirlee Gibbs, Marlene Duschek, Judy Heldberg, Steve Johnson, Pat Kremer, Kathy McGuire, Carolyn Miller, Erika Rigling, Susan Stallard, , Diana Zollinger, Laura Del Rosso. Sue Digre

## Pacifica Coastside Museum and Gift Store Hours (closed per COVID-19 health requirements)

The Museum and Gift Store are open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 1 to 4 PM. The Museum is free to the public and ADA accessible, and our docents are there to assist you. The Gift Store has many nice and inexpensive gifts including one pound blocks of Pacifica Jack Cheese to purchase. The Museum may be closed on some holidays.

## Rental Space and Rummage Sales (some restrictions due COVID-19 health requirements but exceptions allowed if certain precautions are taken)

The Pacifica Coastside Museum (aka The Little Brown Church) is a great venue for events and revenue generator for the PHS. For rental information please contact Judy Heldberg at 650-359-6874. The building is available outside museum hours and is an ideal site for meetings, memorials, etc.

Great bargains are available at the Museum's rummage sales usually held during the second Fridays and Saturdays of each month. Donated items are welcomed for drop-off on the Thursdays before the days of each rummage sale.

From:

**Pacifica Historical Society**

**www.PacificaHistory.org**

**PO Box 752, Pacifica, CA 94044**

Place

First Class Stamp

Here



To:



**Goddess Pacifica, the Goddess of Peace - Displayed at the Coastside Museum**