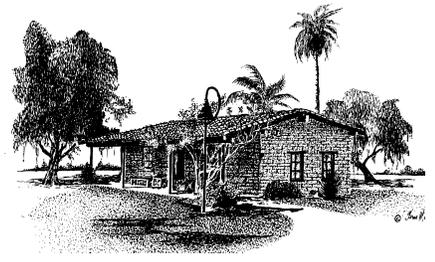


Fairview Register

Monthly publication of the Costa Mesa Historical Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3)

MEMBER: CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES, NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY



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President's Message

Fellow Society Members and Supporters —

It was an honor to recently be elected as Society President for 2020. My name may be familiar to many of you: I have served as 1st Vice President for the last fourteen years, primarily in the capacity of finding speakers for our public programs, and one year prior to that as a director. Additionally, I have served as our webmaster and Facebook page administrator, both functions of which are now shared with others. Much of what we do at the Society takes a collaborative effort and I have received much assistance over the years in fulfilling these responsibilities, and my thanks go out to those involved.

I am not the first in my family to volunteer with the Society, my father also served on the board for a number of years. My parents moved to Costa Mesa in 1949 "all the way from Santa Ana" and I have lived the majority of my life

here. I have had a lifelong interest in many facets of history, so it was only natural that I would find my way here to my hometown's historical society.

Likewise, we encourage you to avail yourselves of opportunities to become more familiar with us and even to find your niche to volunteer. The museum is open Thursday and Friday from 10:00-3:00 (except for holidays) and the Diego Sepulveda Adobe is open the first and third Saturday of the month from 12:00-4:00 (weather permitting). Also, we have a Speakers Series throughout the year which is free to the public. If you are not a member, we encourage you to become one. Information is available in the newsletter or on our website. Thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing you in the coming year!

Terry Shaw
President, Costa Mesa Historical Society

NEW – Volunteer Reserves

The Historical Society has members who volunteer weekly to assist with the processing of our ever-increasing number of historical items and documentation. The task is huge and we are always looking for more volunteers. But aside from our weekly activities, there are special events that we take part in periodically throughout the year, and it is with these events that we always need extra help.

This is why we created the **Volunteer Reserves**. These are members who are not able to help as frequently as they would like to, but can be called and asked if they are available. Volunteer Reserves do not require any special skills and can

assist as little or as much as they want to. Typically, they are called upon to volunteer only a few times a year. Some of the duties of the volunteer reserves at these special events is to pass out information, serve refreshments, set up tables and chairs, etc.

We know that many of you would love to help but have a busy lifestyle. But even if you can only afford a few hours a year, we could still use your assistance and we ask you to join our **Volunteer Reserves**.

If you're interested in helping out, we invite you to stop by our museum at 1870 Anaheim Thursday & Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. or call 949 631-5918.

Thank you for the support.
– Bob Palazzola, 1st Vice President

INSTALLATION DINNER

Letty Rodella on the Spanish Patriots of the American Revolution: Friday, January 24

Join us January 24 for an evening of delicious food, lively conversation, and entertaining history. This year's installation dinner will feature Letty Rodella, President of the Society of Hispanic, Historical and Ancestral Research, who will discuss "Spanish Patriots during the American Revolution." The presentation will highlight notable Spanish Patriots and their important impact on the Continental Congress and its army.

For the first time, the event will be held at the beautiful, spacious, historic Halecrest Park Swim & Tennis Club. Dinner will be catered by the Newport Rib Company. The menu will feature roasted chicken, tri-tip, roasted vegetables, garlic mash potatoes, garden salad, cornbread, and cookies, as well as soft drinks, tea and coffee. There will be plenty of free parking.

This event is open to the public.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at costamesahistory.org/dinner. Tickets must be purchased by January 10. Sorry, no walk-ins.

JANUARY CALENDAR

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Museum	Adobe	Installation
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Promoting and preserving Costa Mesa's history is our mission

Remembering Phil Brigandi

The local historical community suffered a devastating loss last December with the untimely passing of Phil Brigandi.

Phil had been involved with Southern California history since 1975. He published his first book at 23, and over the next 37 years wrote countless articles and over twenty more books. His career saw him serving as historian, archivist, curator, director, tour guide, and volunteer for a long list of historical organizations, including the Ramona Pageant Association, the OC Historical Commission, the OC Archives, and the Orange County Historical Society. Speaking engagements took him everywhere through the Southland, including many visits to the Costa Mesa Historical Society.

He was the guy who knew everything about everything Southern California. But though he was a giant in the field, he was never pretentious or self-serving. Phil remained grounded, generous, and always eager to smile. As the shock of his passing rippled throughout the community, countless people shared stories of his giving spirit, his tireless support, and his ready encouragement. We have collected a few of these memories below.

Phil Brigandi was the heir apparent to a long line of local historians who have preserved the history of Orange County for over a century. That is exactly how I like to imagine him now; in a lively discussion with Sleeper and Stevenson, Meadows and Pleasants, Armor, Cramer and Friis. His membership in that heavenly fraternity is fitting but comes way too soon.

— *Ellen Bell, writer, broadcaster, and historian*

A major loss to all who knew him and the historical community he served. Phil was one of our “go to” speakers. He was a major researcher and contributor to the local historical landscape for decades and will be greatly missed.

— *Terry Shaw, President, Costa Mesa Historical Society*

Phil had an endearing ability to make people feel important in the time he spent with them. Whether Phil was your mentor or whether he was interviewing you, Phil became more than an acquaintance, he became your friend. I believe that it was Phil’s genuine sincerity and his ability to connect with people that enabled him to find the great human interest stories within his research. I will miss him immensely.

— *Nancy Pedersen, curator of “The Hull Story” at the Costa Mesa Historical Society museum*



Chris Jepsen and Phil Brigandi at the Bowers Museum in 2018. Photo Courtesy Nancy Pedersen.

My favorite memory of Phil Brigandi is the special effort he made to appear at Society’s Early California Days on June 1, 2019. Around the same time, he was giving his talk “Portola’s Expedition in Orange County” to various docent groups, preparing for a July event to take busloads of people along Portola’s trail, and finishing up the book he and Eric Plunkett were working on to accompany the 250th anniversary of Portola’s trek. Even with all of that, Phil made room on his schedule for us and what a treat it was.

— *Cynthia Humphreys, Director, Costa Mesa Historical Society*

One of my personal recollection involving Phil was when he was to give a talk last year at the adobe. It drizzled on and off, but not bad. Aside from that, there still was a poor turnout. I approached Phil and said, “Phil, I’m sorry there is such a poor turnout. You don’t have to give your presentation.” To which he replied, “Oh no, I’d do it no matter how many people were here.” That was Phil.

— *Bob Palazzola, 1st Vice President, Costa Mesa Historical Society*

He was one of those people who, when you had a question about something or someone in Orange County, you would ask. He was a good friend to our historical society, and I will personally miss him also — looking back, I realized I have known him for more than 30 years.

— *Mary Ellen Goddard, Archivist, Costa Mesa Historical Society*

I cannot, frankly, imagine what the landscape of local history will be like with his passing, but it is immeasurably diminished. And on a personal level, I can’t yet fathom what my own life will be like in a post-Phil world. I know I’m not the only one who feels this way.

— *Chris Jepsen, President, Orange County Historical Society*



Adobe News – Cyclists bring attention to Costa Mesa history

In November, the Diego Sepulveda Adobe in Estancia Park saw visitors from two different cycling events.

On Sunday, November 17, Costa Mesa Community Ride's "Historic Sites with Arlis Reynolds" began with a tour of the society museum and continued on to Estancia Park.

As one of the ride organizers, Marc Perkins, put it: "It seems like our Costa Mesa history focus got some new riders to come along. I think this was our most popular ride yet (this is our 6th ride), and we had almost half a dozen new riders come along. Yay for history appreciation!"

On Sunday, November 24, SoCal Cyclo-Cross's Turkey Trot Cross featured a course that began in Balearic Field and wound up the bluff to Estancia Park. The cycle-cross event, which challenges riders to dismount and shoulder their bikes through parts of the course, drew riders of all ages and visitors from the surrounding Mesa Verde neighborhood.

One of the participants, Costa Mesa Parks Commission Chair Jim Erickson (pictured above) encouraged us to open the Adobe during the event. We were pleased with the turn-out, Jim! – *Cynthia Humphreys*

A-4M Skyhawk Dedication

On November 9th, 2019, the Fairgrounds held its annual Veteran's Day Event. As part of the activities, the newly installed A-4M Skyhawk outside Heroes Hall was dedicated. The A-4M Skyhawk, developed by the Douglas Aircraft Corporation, was used by the Marines in Vietnam as a ground support aircraft. This particular aircraft actually flew out of the El Toro Marine Base. On hand at the ceremony were quite a number of Marine pilots who flew this A-4M Skyhawk. Visitors can view the Skyhawk just outside of Heroes Hall. Heroes Hall is located on the Orange County Fairgrounds, at 88 Fair Drive, and is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. – *Bob Palazzola*

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Every time you start your order with Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate to the Costa Mesa Historical Society – at no cost to you. Visit costamesahistory.org/smile before making your next purchase. You can use your existing Amazon account.

Temporary Parking Instructions

Please note: entry to the historical society parking lot is currently limited to Anaheim Avenue.

Dues Overdue?

Make sure your dues are up to date by looking at your **dues expiration date** on the address label to the right of your name. If your dues are due, renew online at costamesahistory.org/membership, mail in a check, c/o Susan Weeks, Treasurer, or drop it off on a Thursday or Friday from 10am to 3pm. Membership dues are listed on the back page.

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V I S I T U S

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Open 12-4 p.m. Every 1st and 3rd Saturday*

Explore centuries of history when you visit one of Orange County's oldest buildings in its gorgeous setting at Estancia Park.

Costa Mesa Historical Society Museum

1870 Anaheim Ave.

Open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Every Thursday and Friday*

View a mind-boggling array of artifacts from 5,000 years of Costa Mesa history – from the first peoples to the City of the Arts.

* Or schedule an appointment at 949-631-5918.

I N S I D E

Letty Rodella on Spanish Patriots in the Revolution
Remembering Phil Brigandi
Adobe News, A4-M Dedication & More

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Business and Professional	\$100.00			
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