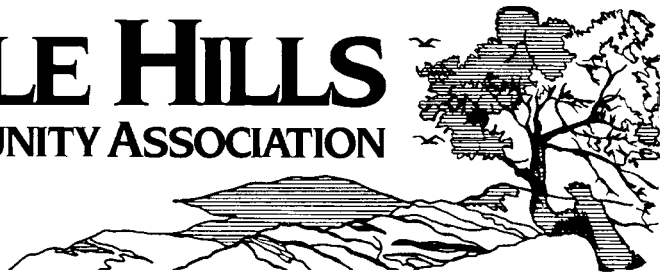


P. O. Box 4913
Laguna Beach
California 92652
www.lagunatemplehills.com

Fall 2009
Volume 37
Issue No. 3

TEMPLE HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



PRESORTED
STD CLASS
US POSTAGE
PAID
ANAHEIM, CA
PERMIT NO. 514

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

The Annual Meeting on September 20, 2008, at the home of Susan and Steve Sandler, was attended by some 80 residents, followed by a very successful party with dinner and refreshments organized by Rhonda Kinn with Doug Kinn and many others. Approximately one hundred persons attended this event. Thank you Rhonda for that great party.

There were no formal meetings of the steering committee, and all business was conducted by email. We especially thank Elaine Merz for her efforts as treasurer and John Walker who has now assumed duties as treasurer. Also Fran Chilcote for her tireless efforts in keeping up with our membership records. We mourn the passing of Richard Holmes who set up our web site.

On October 24 at City Hall, THCA joined with Top of the World Neighborhood Association and the South Laguna Civic Association to sponsor a forum for candidates for City Council. Verna Rollinger was elected, thus joining Kelly Boyd as Temple Hills residents on the Council. We are revamping our web site, now at LagunaTempleHills.com, and we have added a blog and a photo gallery, and encourage all of you to submit photos to lagunatemplehills@gmail.com. Past newsletters and association records are posted there. Charlotte Masarik, Bob Borthwick and Ron Chilcote are participating with the Laguna Coalition and its web site at lagunaconcerns.org where you can find information about town issues and successes. Particular concerns of THCA are work toward preservation of the Inner Greenbelt and eradication of invasive plants in public- and private-owned open space. Three newsletters appeared during the year: Winter-Spring 2009; Summer 2009 and Fall 2009.

The association continues its efforts to conserve privately owned open space in Park and Rimrock Canyons.

— The Steering Committee, Oct. 17, 2009

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!!

I would like to give a special thanks to all the people who helped make our Temple Hills Annual Meeting and Party such a great success. Amy and Grieg Altieri were such gracious and helpful hosts. We all truly enjoyed and appreciated their hospitality and their beautiful, charming home. Carol, once again, did her splendid job of conducting our meeting and moving us along on schedule. Our Mayor Kelly Boyd, even though on a very tight schedule due to his role in Lagunatics, stayed to bring us up to date on current issues in Laguna, and answer questions and concerns of our community. Stu was our charming guest of honor, and we feel lucky to have him in our community. Sadly, Robin Walker wasn't able to attend the party due to a bout with a flu. However, Robin spent hours creating and updating our email list for the party E-vite. Mary Kate Saunders and her son, Rory, came early to help with setup including washing and setting out wine glasses. I always can count on Mary Lou to bring and set up our coffee for dessert. Fran and Karen manned the tables — what dedication. Hope you had a chance to visit and enjoy the party, as well! And last, but not least, Ron as always put together the annual meeting.

So Thank you all. It was a great party, fun to catch up and meet new neighbors. — Rhonda Kinn
[And a special thanks to Rhonda who organized the party and all the details — it was very special this year and we celebrated her birthday, too. And to Doug Kinn who prepared the delicious salmon and handled beverages.]



Hosts Greig and Amy Altieri
Party Organizer Rhonda Kinn
Karen and Fran at Registration Table
One last photo on page 4, and
many more in the next issue!

Honoring Stu Saffer

At the Annual Meeting we recognized the contributions of journalist and editor, Stu Saffer. Following is the tribute read about him in his presence:

We recognize Stu Saffer for his community service and efforts to provide Laguna with its own weekly newspaper.

Stu Saffer came to Laguna Beach from his native Virginia in 1966. During the early 1980s, he turned his interests toward writing, his true passion. He wrote newsletters for various corporations, declarations as an expert witness on mortgage issues used in both state and federal courts, and briefly started a business co-authoring autobiographies for everyday people.

In 1997 he began writing for the old *Coastline News*. He ran the paper after its longtime editor, Jerry Ledbetter, retired in 1998 until it was purchased by the *L.A. Times* in early 2002.

In late 2002, Stu founded the *Laguna Beach Independent* and was its publisher and senior editor until earlier this year. It was and continues to be a place where our letters and concerns often appear and reflect community spirit and desire to be active and involved.

Undeterred by these changes, Stu immediately established an electronic newspaper he calls *Stu News Laguna*. Its 39th edition appeared yesterday. You can find him at www.stunewslaguna.com or 949-497-1615.

Thank you, Stu, for all you have given the community. 🐾

A Marine Reserve for a Portion of Laguna Beach

At the November 11 Marine Life Protection Act hearing in Los Angeles, the Blue Ribbon Task Force unanimously approved a patchwork of marine protected areas along California's coast to safeguard marine life and to replenish the seas. This "preferred" alternative will be sent to the Fish and Game Commission for their final approval at a joint meeting in December. The five-member State panel was appointed to help restore California's fisheries, some of which are seriously depleted. The give-and-take process resulted in a compromise between fishing interests and conservationists whereby critically needed protection was given to some areas while leaving other areas open to anglers.

Despite the sometimes contentious debate, only 8 to 10% of the South Coast was closed to fishing. Laguna was designated as a Marine Reserve because of its rich mix of habitats and diversity of species. The portion of Laguna's shoreline to be protected will be from Abalone Point to Secret Cove, leaving the areas to the north and south open to fishing. The Marine Reserve designated by the Blue Ribbon panel for Laguna is the minimum size required for the successful reestablishment of the fisheries. It is one of the six "backbone" reserves created in the South Coast area in order to achieve optimal success.

The panel clarified once again that activities in a Marine Reserve such as walking on the beach, snorkeling and diving, boating, surfing and all manner of activities will still be allowed and that public access will not be affected. "It's been a long, difficult process and we can be proud of our commitment to restore our coastal habitats and fisheries" commented Charlotte Masarik, and businesses in Laguna will benefit from the increased tourism attracted by a flourishing "Bluebelt."

In a typical Reserve, the fish and invertebrates become larger and more numerous. For example, in the Anacapa Reserve, lobsters are six times more abundant. On average, the diversity of fish increases as well as their biomass. Ultimately fishermen benefit from these increased stocks and what is called the "spillover" effect as these larger, more plentiful fish migrate outside the Reserve. "We have tried to keep the economic impacts to the fishing industry to a minimum and are looking for ways to help fishing businesses transition until the nearshore fisheries recover" said one Bluebelt member. For example, Dana Wharf Sport Fishing boats now take out whale and dolphin tours along with sunset cruises. The "party boats" or CPFVs are already suffering from a result of diminished numbers of calico and sand bass as shown on their "landings" sheet. Councilmembers Jane Egley, Verna Rollinger, Toni Iseman, Verna Rollinger and Elizabeth Pearson endorsed a Marine Reserve for Laguna after careful consideration for the state of our oceans and the economic benefits to Laguna from increased eco-tourism. We thank them for their vision and commitment to restoring our ocean. Other community and civic organizations supported the Marine Reserve and contributed to the effort. We hope that we will now have an opportunity to learn the true facts about a Marine Reserve and of the economic benefits a healthy ocean will generate for our local businesses.

To learn more, see the Laguna Bluebelt website at www.lagunabluebelt.com or the MLPA website at www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa. Contacts: Judy Yorke 636-1354, Mike Beanan 499-6367, Charlotte Masarik 494-1630. 🐾

Annual Budget Update

As of 10 November 2009

INCOME 2009 YTD

Dues.....	\$2720.00
Newsletter/advertising.....	225.00
Annual Meeting and Party.....	1340.00
Total Income	\$4285.00

EXPENSES

Website ('08 Expense paid in '09).....	\$ 500.00
Printing/Graphics	1128.08
Postage.....	445.96
P. O.Box.....	40.00
Website.....	270.00
Secretary of State (non-profit filing fee)....	20.00
Office Supplies.....	9.78
Annual Meeting and Party.....	1594.41
Total Expenses	\$4008.23

Balance	\$ 276.77
Reserves	7170.66
Total.....	\$7447.43

— John Walker, Treasurer

Neighborhood Character and Viewsheds

[The following letter reflects a concern throughout town about preserving neighborhood character in the face of remodeling that interferes with views. The City Council asked Design Review to reconsider the project and find a satisfactory outcome.]

We are writing in support of Charlotte Rich, the neighbor to the south, and Armando Baez, the neighbor to the north of 30812 Driftwood. The appeal on this matter should be upheld.

In our neighborhood on Oak Street, we have had CC&Rs in place for our small subdivision since 1946, and we bought our home and property in part on the strength that these Covenants and Restrictions were in effect and still are in force, giving us security and conformity consistent with the neighborhood as to the value and viewshed of our property. Like other neighborhoods in Laguna, we support compliance with the CC&Rs and Design Review Guidelines and Criteria in order to maintain our neighborhood character, views and privacy. Our CC&Rs encourage building design that minimizes the scale, bulk and obtrusiveness of development, and require compatibility with the surrounding scale and type of development. When a neighbor on Oak Street wished to add a second story a few years ago, the DRB denied the project 5-0, and the CC&Rs were taken into consideration and respected.

We would also like to reference a property in the Temple Hills neighborhood, 1684 Temple Hills Drive, that was before the Design Review Board in March of this year. DRB denied the proposed project because of the same neighborhood incompatibility and the same historical pattern of development.

We feel that it is the City of Laguna's responsibility to take into consideration and be supportive of these existing CC&Rs in LB neighborhoods and consider them valid. The scale and mass and proposed two stories of this property on Driftwood are disproportionate to the surrounding properties and should not be allowed to be built as such. We think it is incumbent upon the City to uphold the anti-mansionization sentiment in Laguna and adopted in the new Land Use Element Plan (Land Use Element Goals, page 44, Goal 2, Policy 2.1), by denying this overly large addition be approved in this neighborhood and for it to be sent back to the Design Review Board for further review.

— Charlotte and Alex Masarik 🐾



**Steering Committee
2010**

- Joe Baker Neighborhood Watch
Evacuation Plan & Group 4 Chair
- Lisa Black..... Neighborhood Liaison
- Tim Black..... Land Use Issues
- Bob BorthwickCommunity Issues
- Fran Chilcote..... Corresponding Secretary
Membership Records
- Ron Chilcote.....Newsletter
- Jamie and Stephen Crawford.....School Issues
- Anne Frank..... Archive & Historian
Group 6 Chair
- Cindalee Hall.....Community Issues
- Jim Hall At Large
- Doug Kinn Annual Party
- Rhonda Kinn..... Annual Party
- Charlotte Mazarik.....Community Issues
- Carol Olson.....Walkways
- Bo Powell.....Group 1 Chair
- Chris Reed..... Invasive Plants
- Verna RollingerLand Use
- Lorna Shaw.....Web Site and Group 2 Chair
- Ben Teschner..... At Large
- Mary Lou Teschner..... Party Committee
- Kurt Topic..... Group 3 Co-Chair
- Dave WalkerTraffic Issues & Group 3 Co-Chair
- John WalkerTreasurer
- Robin Walker Design Review & Planning
- Grant Wetzel Open Space
- Marian Whitney Distribution
- Dorothea YellottPathways

Honorary Members

Recognized for long-term service and commitment to Temple Hills.
Bill Parrish
Estelle Warner

Liaison

Linda Brown..... League of Women Voters
Jeanette Merrilees North Laguna

The Coordinating Committee

Comprised of those with major responsibilities who may meet on an emergency basis.

Neighborhood Groups

Temple Hills is broken into six neighborhood areas. Group Leaders focus on issues and problems if and when they occur.



Fall 2009

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

This is a special appeal to join with us. We write to encourage you to contribute dues for next year. Your past support has been important and meaningful to the presence of THCA, and we very much need and appreciate your continuing support.

As we head into our 38th year, we have been open to the interests and needs of residents in our area. We are an organization of volunteers willing to lend a hand. On a regular basis over these years, we have published a newsletter on a steady basis and it now is one of the oldest civic papers in Laguna. We now have a web site at www.lagunatemplehills.com and we sponsor an annual meeting and party. We encourage neighborhood socials. We have backed successful efforts to underground utilities in the area and to solve neighborhood problems. We seek to implement aspects of the planning we laid out years ago. We desire to build community spirit and cooperation among neighbors. We seek to preserve and enhance our unique neighborhood and city with the qualities that make them stand out in Southern California. Annual dues are \$20 per household (as they have always been since our founding), but any lesser or greater amount is appreciated.

Send your contribution to THCA, P.O. Box 4913, Laguna Beach, CA 92652. We hope to hear from you soon. We are counting on you. Please join with us.

— The Steering Committee

We have been trying to keep our records up to date. Thanks to those of you who kindly provided emails and telephone numbers. We would appreciate your letting us know if your contact information or that of neighbors should be updated. You can use the coupon below.

THCA 2010 MEMBERSHIP COUPON

Membership in the Temple Hills Community Association is Laguna's best bargain! Annual dues are \$20 per household (any lesser or greater amount is appreciated). Newsletters are mailed to every home in Temple Hills.

NAME (Please print) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

**Please mail this coupon with your check for \$20 to
THCA, P. O. Box 4913, Laguna Beach, CA 92652**

If you are interested in volunteering, please call 497-2218.

THCA Support for Inner Greenbelt Acquisition

Nearly 40 years ago, Laguna Beach was able to purchase and open Main Beach and to rebuff a measure to permit high-rise buildings in town. Soon thereafter the City purchased lands we then called Sycamore Hills that had been planned for a couple thousand homes in Laguna Canyon where the Dilly Preserve now stands. Twenty years ago, 8000 to 10,000 Lagunans walked out to the Dilly Preserve to protest a project to build 3,000 homes in Laguna Canyon. The result was a City agreement with the Irvine Company to buy the land. A year later we passed a bond initiative to raise \$20 million to help fund those lands that are now conserved as wilderness parks. It was a major step toward consolidating the Laguna Greenbelt that we are so proud of and fortunate to have around Laguna Beach.

In recent years, we have turned our attention to acquisition and conservations of privately owned open space lands in the canyons and hillsides in what we now call the Inner Greenbelt. In Temple Hills, these lands would include Rimrock Canyon and Park Canyon, areas that THCA set out to acquire and conserve as open space nearly 35 years ago. With conservation buyers we have tried to purchase those lands to ensure that they remain open space.

THCA is involved with the Laguna Coalition, and our representatives include Bob Borthwick, Charlotte Masarik and Ron Chilcote, At its October meeting, the Coalition agreed to explore the possibility that bond funds could be allocated toward the continuing efforts to consolidate open space in Laguna. A subcommittee was formed, and it unanimously agreed to consider a proposal to study the possibility of a bond initiative. It would be an effort to examine carefully whether there is broad support and how to carry out a successful campaign. We must raise \$32,500 for the study in the next few weeks through several organizations in town. The Laguna Greenbelt has taken the lead and pledged \$6000 toward this effort. There has been positive response from four other organizations as well, and we hope that they will join in this effort.

The THCA Steering Committee was polled, and 28 members responded affirmatively that we should allocate \$2000 and challenge both Top of the World Neighborhood Association and the South Laguna Civic Association to match our pledge. There were no negative responses.

We will keep you informed of the initiative in the months ahead.

— Ron Chilcote ☘

View Blockage on Lower Temple Hills Drive

This is a concern about the view blockage from a public road caused by the bougainvillea growing too tall adjacent to Temple Hills Drive. This view blockage from a public road impacts those living in Temple Hills and Top of the World area who by necessity use Temple Hills Dr. That is well over a thousand trips a day.

Based on both the City and the Coastal Act policies, the public viewshed should be protected from a public

road. The bougainvillea planted by the Catholic Church should be trained to grow downhill on their property, not out of control, covering the fence blocking the driver's view of the ocean.

My correspondence with the City reveals the following:

On September 14, City Councilmember Verna Rollinger asked City Manager Ken Frank: "Who is responsible for the bougainvillea that is blocking the view of the ocean on Temple Hills Drive where we put in the new sidewalk and guardrail? How do we get it trimmed to restore the view?"

On September 15, Ken Frank asked his staff if bougainvillea "is in accord with the approved landscape plan for St. Catherine Church."

On September 18, City Engineer Steve May responded: "Our DR approval for the sidewalk did not include any landscaping. We didn't put up that expensive, beautiful fence to have it covered with bougainvillea. The church planted those. I don't know whether it was part of, or in violation of, their approved DR plans."

On September 19, Director of Community Development John Montgomery replied that "The church's approved DR landscape plans do show bougainvillea plants along their property line next to the fence."

— Carolyn Wood

[To date the problem is not resolved but THCA is trying to reach the church to ask that the vegetation be cut back to restore the view.] ☘

HEATING
Over 50 Years in Laguna Beach
**Andrus Plumbing &
Air Conditioning, Inc.**

494-8096

License #249778
855 Glenneyre Street, Laguna Beach
Visit Our Retail Store

JOE BAKER, D.M.D.
DENTISTRY

31655 Pacific Coast Highway
Laguna Beach, CA 92677

Phone (949) 499-8155



Honoree Stu Saffer and Gebe at the Annual Meeting and Party. Story on page 1 and more photos next issue!

Your Ad Here!

ADVERTISING RATES
Basic ad size: 2-1/2" x 2"

Rates: 1x \$25
2x \$45
3x \$60

Please supply correctly sized camera-ready art. Contact 497-2218 or mail request to THCA.

The Stand
238 Thalia St.

8 Homemade Soups

FREE Samples
Lots of Parking

Take-Charge Living
How to Recast Your Role in Life...
One Scene At A Time
by Marion Frances Jacobs, Ph.D.

Available as a book, CD or
downloadable podcast

marionjacobs@cox.net
phone 949/275-1449
www.takechargeliving.com