



*President's Message*

***Happy Spring! "Hope" is beginning to spring forth . . . Like wildflowers in our Secret Park***

As you know, because of Covid we are still not able to meet together in City facilities. Although this situation isn't what anyone prefers, we are in full agreement with the City's position on this. It makes sense to take all necessary precautions during this very challenging pandemic.

Until we can meet again in person, we hope you are enjoying our on-line "Lunch and Learn" programs. We also want to let you know that the majority of our officers and board members have graciously accepted staying on for another year in our current positions. Nonetheless, we welcome and will entertain any volunteers or nominees who would like to join our Board. There are always opportunities, whether your passion is historical research, civic education or City beautification. If you are interested in signing on, email [solanabeachhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:solanabeachhistoricalsociety@gmail.com).

Speaking of history, I recently made what I consider an astounding discovery. Join my exploration — take a stroll on the beach heading south from Fletcher Cove and look up. See that stretch of bluff that is devoid of any construction? I have often wondered why? No condominiums? How can this be? Well, while clipping old newspaper articles for our digitization project I came across the answer in the following article from "The Coast Dispatch" on June 23, 1982, submitted by our first Mayor Margaret Schlesinger, an avid member and supporter of SBC&HS. (We miss you Margaret!)

Hmmmm? This was a mystery to me. I am a Solana Beach native and had never heard of or seen this park. I asked others; no one seemed to know anything about it. So, I reached out to Kirk Wenger, Solana Beach Parks and Recreation Director. See page 4 for his response.

***I'm pleased to be on list of 'kooks'***

Thank you, Bill Gabriel! Thank you for including me in your list of "environmental elitists" and "town council kooks." (R.S.V.P., June 12)

The people you mentioned spend many hours attending and testifying at public hearings, serving on boards and commissions, being involved in planning and executing community activities, such as Fiesta del Sol, and serving as advocates for the interests of Solana Beach. I am pleased to be a part of this group.

In trying to think of some contribution Bill Gabriel has made to Solana Beach, it occurred to me that many residents may not be aware that Bill

Gabriel and the Surf Song Homeowners' Association are responsible for providing and maintaining a one-acre bluff park for the use of "we the people."

This park and the access to it were given by the developers of Surf Song and Las Brisas condominium projects, with a bit of encouragement from the California Coastal Commission, as a condition for development and were opened to the public in late 1979 over the vehement and bitter objections of Bill Gabriel and "his ilk."

The park is approached by a public stairway on the south side of the

Solana Beach county beach parking lot near the lifeguard station and a public path along the bluff in front of Las Brisas condominiums.

Through the efforts of some Solana Beach people, who pressed for the enforcement of Coastal Commission conditions, the community now has a public park which recently won an award for design.

Let's show our appreciation for this park by making use of it for picnicking, romping with the children, contemplating the sunset and watching the whales.

Thank you, Bill Gabriel!

**Margaret Schlesinger  
Solana Beach**

*Michele Stribling*

## Solana Beach Steps Up for Our Western Monarchs

City Council last week agreed to take the “Mayors’ Monarch Pledge,” a [challenge sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation](#) to promote the development of pollinator habitats and eliminate practices that are harmful to endangered monarch butterflies.



As reported [March 6 by the San Diego Union Tribune](#), “Western monarch numbers have been steadily dropping for decades, from 1.2 million in 1997 to 30,000 in 2019, but the most recent results from the 24th [Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count](#) are staggering — just 1,914 butterflies total, down from the millions that used to migrate from the Pacific Northwest and Central California to overwinter along the coast from Mendocino in Northern California to Ensenada in Baja California . . . [A]fter wildfire ripped through the area around . . . Butterfly Town, USA,

in the midst of traditional migration season . . . **not a single monarch was found in Pacific Grove**, a tourist mecca for people who came to marvel at the swarms of Western monarchs that congregate during the winter, clinging to eucalyptus and pine branches to find protection from the cold and wind.”

The full article, [linked here](#), outlines several steps we can take to try to rebuild the Western monarch population, starting by providing the habitat they need to lay eggs, feed caterpillars, and protect chrysalises. Your SeaWeeders, teamed with the City’s Climate Action Commission (CAC), are here to help! Here’s how:

- **Plant NATIVE milkweed.\*** Rather than the showy stuff at big-box retailers. [Here’s why](#). With the CAC, we are planning a “drive-through” event to distribute organic, native milkweed seed and seedlings on the morning of April 24 at the Boys & Girls Club, Lomas Santa Fe Drive, west parking area. Watch for details.
- **Plant lots of native nectar flowers, too**, so your butterflies have food to sip. Consider Yarrows, California lilac (Ceanothus), Salvias, and Monkeyflower (Mimulus). With the CAC and other local partners, we are developing a guide to for (nearly) year-round support of our local pollinators.
- **Don’t use pesticides or herbicides.** They are toxic to caterpillars; the aphids that might flock to your milkweed aren’t. [Email to request non-toxic insect repellent and weed-killer](#) recipes you can make at home.

\*Asclepias Albicans - Whitestem Milkweed, Asclepias Californica -California, Milkweed, Asclepias Eriocarpa - Indian/Woollypod Milkweed, Asclepias Erosa - Desert Milkweed, Asclepias Fascicularis - Narrowleaf Milkweed, Asclepias Subulata - Rush Milkweed. (Source: Monarch and Friends)

### *Scholarships available for college-bound students, including returning adults*

The Society will again offer three \$1,000.00 college scholarships to graduating seniors who live within Solana Beach city limits, or re-entering adult students planning to attend a four-year college, community college, or technical school. Scholarships are awarded based on the community service, grade point average and financial need of the applicant. Applicants may reapply multiple times in succeeding years. [Click here](#) for the application, also available in high school counseling offices. The application deadline is May 31, 2021.

## *How about cooking without gas?*

The City of Solana Beach's recent Electrification Workshop reviewed several options for replacing aging gas-fueled home appliances with more efficient, all-electric heaters/air conditioners, water heaters and cooktops. The goal is to reduce related greenhouse gas emissions and advance achievement of the City's Climate Action goals for 2035:

- Reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by 50% from the 2010 baseline
- Ensure 100% of electricity used in city comes from renewable sources.

[Click here to view a recording](#) of the full session.

Society Civic Affairs Chair and Corresponding Secretary Cindi Clemons attended and decided to experiment with an induction cooktop, taking advantage of a free loaner program offered to residents. Here's her report:

*Induction cooktops and ranges heat cooking vessels — your pots, pans, and other cookware — through electrical induction. How does induction work? Instead of using thermal conduction, such as the open flame from a gas stove or a coiled electric heating element, induction uses an electronically controlled coil of metal inside a glass cooktop. When you turn an induction stove on, current flows through the coil, creating a magnetic field directly around it, and heat is generated within the cooking vessel itself. This is why you must use cookware with magnetic, induction-ready materials, such as stainless steel, with an induction cooktop.*

*I plugged the borrowed unit into a 120v electric outlet near my range and cooked a variety of meals — soups, omelets, scrambled eggs, halibut in a lemon sauce, and pot roast in a red wine sauce. Each of the dishes turned out better than any of the same I have prepared over the years on gas or electric ranges.*

*Raising and lowering the temperature was fast and precise. The on and off response of the unit was instant according to whether I was placing the pot on or taking it off. Everything I prepared cooked more evenly and quickly, I think because of the transfer of heat to cookware. There was also a timer that turned the unit off when the cooking time was up. The cooktop is ceramic glass, making it very easy to clean with just a damp cloth and bit of detergent. The controls are all digital and flush to the unit for added easy clean up.*

*I also learned that induction cooking is healthier and safer than other methods. You may not know it, but gas stoves emit nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide into your house. Not good for you and not good for the environment. Also, because there is no open flame the unit cools very quickly. There is no possibility of a gas leak or line leakage.*

*As you can see, I learned a lot about this new efficient, healthy and climate-friendly way of cooking and you can too! To borrow a unit and large pot contact Shawna McGarry of our Climate Action Commission at [cooktoploaner@gmail.com](mailto:cooktoploaner@gmail.com).*



***Hoping we can soon revisit our “Secret” Park (President’s Message, continued)***



*Yes that park still exists. The area is managed and maintained by the Surf Song Condominiums, and the public can access the area via the stairs from the Fletcher Cove Park parking lot. I believe there was an agreement between the County and the [condo] builder to maintain a public access beach overlook area. However, the stairs have been closed for several months due to a bluff failure and a construction project on the condos south of Fletcher Cove Park.*

Kirk provided these pictures of the park and its normal access area. Wouldn't it be nice, in the near future, if we could "show our appreciation for this park by making use of it for picnicking, romping with the children, contemplating the sunset and watching the whales" . . .



**in memory of Margaret.**

**Feeling a little wobbly? Master your Matter of Balance with at-home classes**

After the past year, we're all out of whack. If you've found yourself feeling a little dizzy or fearing of falling, we've got a free, online class for you — Nine sessions, two hours each, over nine weeks in May and June.

Interested? Contact the class lead at [kristineschindler7@gmail.com](mailto:kristineschindler7@gmail.com) or 858-205-3383.

Spaces are limited. [Click here to learn more about this proven program.](#)

***Welcome new and renewing members***

*James Bushnell, James and Nancy Byrne, Irene Isabelle de Watteville, Virginia Grigg, Devon Hedding, Gordon Johns, Linette Page, Chris and Sandy Wakeham, Tina and Joe Zucker*

***Replay our recent virtual meetings***

Recordings of our February meeting with historian Maria Garcia and our March session on organic recycling with EDCO are available on the News & Events section of our Society website

[solanabeachcivichistoricalociety.org](http://solanabeachcivichistoricalociety.org)



***The Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society is a non-profit charitable corporation [501 (c)(3)]***

***Visit our [website](#)***

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