



Lively Centennial Celebration Launches La Colonia's Next Century

Our September 10 fiesta to celebrate the founding of Solana Beach's first neighborhood was enjoyed by close to 160 guests

President's Message

Greetings, Happy Fall! Can you believe it? Time does fly by.

I want to thank all of you who joined us for our La Colonia Centennial Celebration. What a wonderful, unifying community event! You could feel the LOVE! It was so wonderful to share the 100 year history of La Colonia and to have the founding families and their descendants share their stories for posterity. We will be archiving and posting parts of these stories on our website along with the historical slideshow. Thanks to our wonderful SBC&HS board members for making this a fabulous success.

It was the biggest event we have hosted in recent years, and could not have been possible without LOTS of help! In addition to those mentioned in this article, thanks to:

- Santa Fe Irrigation District, for their \$250 donation
- EDCO, for providing trash and recycling bins
- Members of our Crafts Group, who created beautiful paper flowers for centerpieces
- Kirk Wenger of the City's Parks and Recreation department, who wrangled extra tables and chairs and provided the excellent sound system
- Boy Scout Troop 782, Teen Volunteers in Action, La Colonia Changers and several husbands and sons for helping set up, serve meals, and clean up after the event.

Michele Stribling

Included were Mayor Lesa Heebner, Deputy Mayor Kristi Becker, Councilmember Kelly Harless, and former Councilmembers Judy Hegenauer, Joe Kellejian, Peter Zahn and Marion Dodson, a member of the first City Council upon incorporation of Solana Beach in 1986. Virginia Garland, SBC&HS president emeritus, and her husband Bob also attended.



A huge birthday cake was supplied by Priscilla Rojo, president of La Colonia Community Foundation, and cookies were provided by nearby Santa Fe Christian School. Tony's Jacal catered, serving up the 75-year-old establishment's signature turkey tacos and enchiladas.



Jalisciense Folklorico Group performers (Photo by Robert McDenzie, Del Mar Times)

Fourth generation resident Lisa Montes, Society historian and Heritage Museum curator — and the lead organizer of the event — remembered that, 30-years ago, Connie Alto encouraged Elba Montes to start Ballet Folklorico Jalisiense in La Colonia. Her charming dancers entertained during the evening. Mariachi Estado de Oro provided music for the dancers and serenaded our guests.

Continued next page

Centennial Celebration, continued



Five generations of Guterrez descendants (photo by Robert McKenzie as published in the Del Mar Times, Sept. 14.

Descendants of many of the first families to settle in La Colonia shared their memories of growing up in the neighborhood and playing along Stevens Creek in what is now La Colonia Park. We taped their testimonials and will soon add them to our website, along with many of the historic family photos residents provided, which were presented in a looping slideshow throughout the evening.

“My great grandfather, Francisco Guterrez ... purchased a lot of the lots here. And he was a great builder, skilled in a lot of building methods. He helped build a lot of the buildings that are still standing here today,” including his own home, remembered attorney Joe Villasenor.

“He was a leader in bringing water to our community, as well.” Francisco had nine children “and those children and their heirs still live here today,” he continued. “We are really proud to continue the tradition and build on the legacy that was established by our forefathers.”

Christine Hernandez Aleman recalled the fight the community launched to preserve the very community center and park where the fiesta was held. “We took many, many, many hours fighting for this with the supervisors in San Diego. It was earmarked for condos, both sides. As kids, we all came here . . . To play baseball. The guys would play football. It was a great place to live and be raised and raise our own. It’s a sacred place for me . . .”

Arthur “Ono” Sentano paid tribute to first-generation resident Robert “Chuckles” Hernandez, whose memories are chronicled in *Early Solana Beach* by Jim Nelson. Chuckles was instrumental in developing the Veterans’ Memorial Wall and courtyard at La Colonia Community Center. Arthur’s daughter Sarah was a 2020 recipient of the Society’s college scholarships.

Teresa Rincon, who with husband Ray now manages Tony’s, remembered elaborate Halloween pranks where neighborhood children would block the streets with old cars. “My Dad would say, ‘Oye! those darn kids! We had to take those old cars out of the road again!’ He didn’t know that I was one of them!” Another Halloween, she recalled, “my dad dressed in a big long coat and just stood in a corner by the restaurant. We thought it was the bogeyman and started throwing rocks at him.”

More than a dozen speakers took the mic as the sun set, sharing stories with common themes:

- **Intertwined families.** “We are all related somehow. All cousins,” several commented.



Robert “Chuckels” Hernandez

Continued next page

- **Strongly shared pride in the community and residents' accomplishments through the generations.**

Many speakers paid tribute to the community's *war veterans*. "My grand nephew who just finished his basic training, I'm looking forward to his picture being up here," said third-generation resident David Huizar, gesturing to the Community Center wall decorated with photos of local veterans. "We are still serving; we are Americans." *As well as its athletes*. "We had great ball players here," Huizar continued. One local team nearly went to the Little League World Series. At Torrey Pines High School, "EG was in charge," remembered Paul Salgado, grandson of Tony Gonzales of Tony's Jacal. "My class of 223, in that Torrey Pines first graduating class I would say the best athletes in the school at that time were from EG."

- **A tradition of sharing and caring for one another** that persists to this day, and will keep La Colonia strong and healthy into the next century. "If somebody didn't have as much, the rest of the family would help. Or the neighbors would help," said David Huizar. "We are all family."

"I want to thank you who have talked about my father this evening, because my dad did so much for the community," remembered Lucy Garcia, whose father Frank "Pancho" Garcia, donated the property where St. Leo's Mission was built and still serves La Colonia. Pancho Garcia converted the front part of his home on the southeast corner of Valley and Genevieve into a grocery store in 1927. Next to the market, he built a cantina. "He also used to hang a sheet between his store and the bar and would charge 10 cents for people to watch Roy Rogers movies."

With 14 children in the family, "We were poor," said Esther Lopez. Don Pancho Garcia, "would give my mom credit, keep a tab for her, at a time when people didn't really do that," she remembered. "And, we used to like it when his freezer gave out, because all his ice cream would melt. So who do you think he would give it to? The family across the street."



Santa parachutes into town

Many La Colonia memories are magical. "In La Colonia," Lisa Montes noted, "Santa didn't come down the chimney, he jumped out of an airplane," and parachuted into the park.

Growing up in Eden Gardens wasn't all fun and games, though. Early residents were farmers and raised chickens and goats. They helped build one another's homes. Many guests recalled attending the segregated "Americanization School," where the children weren't allowed to speak Spanish, even if that was the only language they knew.

Some challenges went all the way to Rome. Dr. Daniel Rameriz, who teaches about American religions at Claremont Graduate University, confirmed that his grandmother Cipriana Gonzales took on the Pope to keep St. Leo's open when the archdiocese of San Diego threatened to close the parish. "There were letters from the Pope's guy in the D.C., the Papal Nuncio, to the Bishop of San Diego, to the Monsignor of Saint James asking about the 'trouble makers.' And Cipriana Gonzales' name was at the top of the list. Well, she won."

Cipriana argued that the church was essential to the community of La Colonia. As essential as a beating heart.

And the beat goes on.



Cipriana Gonzales

Help keep Solana Beach Beautiful!

The SeaWeeders will meet on Saturday, Oct. 9, at 4 p.m. in Gordon John's lovely garden to help thin some iris for redistribution to public and private gardens. If you'd like to join us, please email sbseaweeder@gmail.com for details.

Outdoor, fresh-air volunteer opportunities abound!

- Help us mulch the native garden at the Fire Station. On the morning of Oct. 9, grab a bag of free mulch at the EDCO Bulky Waste Day giveaway at La Colonia Community Center. Drop it by east wall/fence at the fire station.
- Butterfly enthusiasts can help out with at our Monarchs booth at the La Colonia Dia de los Muertos fiesta on October 24.
- Our new member Sandro Alberti is working with the Boys & Girls Club at La Colonia to revitalize El Jardin de los Niños. We'll donate milkweed and nectar plants. Can you donate tools and/or time?

Interested? Email sbseaweeder@gmail.com

Hybrid Holiday Boutique

November 8-11 online; November 13th at
La Colonia Community Center



The ladies of the Craft Group have been working all year to create wonderful items for the Holiday Boutique. They will present their crafts and one-of-a-kind treasures on the e-store online (Mon., November 8 through Thurs., Nov. 11, 2021, 24-hours/day).

The annual Holiday Boutique at La Colonia Community Center is planned for Saturday, November 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We have the usual gifts for the holidays as well as some very interesting art items and stocking stuffers. This Americana quilt will be auctioned at \$5/ticket.

We look forward to seeing all of you! Share a drink and a snack from the Bake Sale on the picnic benches. Save time to peruse the treasures inside, where we plan — fingers crossed — to offer in-person shopping (pending the Covid situation in November).

Membership dues support our scholarships, civic education programs and local landscaping efforts

[Click here to renew your membership](#)

Or send a check to SBC&HS
P. O. Box 504
Solana Beach, CA 92075

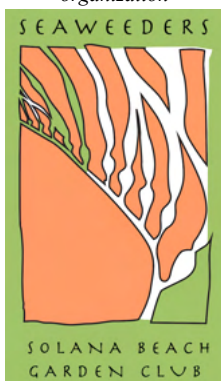
Membership levels:

**\$ 25 Individual \$ 30 Family
\$100 Business \$500 Lifetime**

Welcome September new members Sandro Alberti, Deborah Sweet



501(c)(3) charitable organization



2020-21 Executive Board

President.....Michele Stribling
Vice President.....Judy Hegenauer
Treasurer.....Holly Smith Jones
Recording Secretary.....Karen Grossman
Corresponding Secretary.....Cindi Clemons

Committee Chairs

Civic Affairs.....Cindi Clemons
Communication.....Pat Coad
Crafts Group.....Phyllis Schwartzlose, Pam Dalton
Education.....Pat Coad
Hospitality.....Vacant
Membership.....Betsy Walcott
Historian, Museum Curator.....Lisa Montes
Newsletter.....Kathleen Drummond
Nominations.....JoJo Dodson Bogard
Parliamentarian.....Carol Childs
Programs.....Carol Childs
Scrapbooks.....Nancy Gottfredson
SeaWeeders.....Kathleen Drummond
Website.....Lenore Dale, Kathleen Drummond

SUNDAY-OCTOBER-24-10AM-4PM

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

LA COLONIA DE EDEN GARDENS

FREE ADMISSION-ENTRADA GRATIS

MARIACHIS · BALLET FOLKLORICO GRUPO JALISCIENSE · LOS GRINGOS MUERTOS BAND · SMOOTH GROOVE BAND

ALTARS · BLESSING OF THE ALTARS WITH AZTEC DANCERS · LOS VIEJITOS CLASSIC CAR SHOW · SKATEBOARD DEMONSTRATION BY THE SKATEPARK PROJECT

DEMOSTRACIÓN DE PATINETA CON EL SKATEPARK PROYECTO

FREE CONTESTS · CONCURSOS GRATIS: DOG COSTUME (DISFRACES DE PERROS)

FACE MASK (CUBREBOCAS) · ADULT AND KIDS CATRIN/CATRINA

FOOD AND MERCHANDISE BOOTHS · COMIDA DE VENTA Y PUESTOS DE VENDEDORES

KID'S ACTIVITIES · ACTIVIDADES PARA NIÑOS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO THE LA COLONIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PAGE ON

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM](https://www.facebook.com) OR EMAIL LACOLONIACOMMUNITY@GMAIL.COM

PARKING IS LIMITED. WE ENCOURAGE CARPOOLING, BIKING, WALKING OR TAKING PUBLIC TRANSIT TO THE EVENT. ESTACIONAMIENTO ESTÁ LIMITADO.

LE RECOMENDAMOS VIAJAR EN AUTOMÓVIL COMPARTIDO,

ANDAR EN BICICLETA, CAMINAR O TOMAR TRANSPORTE PÚBLICO AL EVENTO.

FACEMASKS RECOMMENDED · LE RECOMENDAMOS EL USO DE CUBREBOCAS

LA COLONIA PARK, 715 VALLEY AVENUE, SOLANA BEACH

