



Marina del Rey Historical Society



Volume 3, Issue 3 ~ September, October, November, December 2014

TRIBUTE!

The Marina del Rey Historical Society's (MdrHS) inaugural TRIBUTE! dinner gala was Friday, October 24, 2014. It was held at the Shores apartment community on their outdoor patio and honored Jerry B. Epstein, community leader, whose vision was instrumental in the development of Marina del Rey. Mr. Epstein has been involved in the development, construction, and management of real estate, primarily in the planning, financing, construction and management of multiple-dwelling apartment complexes. He is best known for his role among the founders of Marina del Rey, California, the largest pleasure boat harbor community in the United States.

The event was attended by dignitaries Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, 4th District and Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2nd District.

A delicious, Mediterranean gourmet, buffet dinner was catered by Cafe del Rey and entertainment was provided by, guitarist, Vadim Brunell.

Following the dinner, there was a presentation ceremony honoring Jerry Epstein who received a framed scroll from the County of Los Angeles.

The Epsteins also received a special leather bound "TRIBUTE!" book of personally written letters and notes



(l-r) Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Jerry B. Epstein, Patricia Epstein, Supervisor Don Knabe and Willie Hjorth, President, co-Founder MdrHS

from friends, business professionals and Marina residents attributing 50+ years of

their dedication to the enhancement of Marina del Rey. 🌊



Lovely 2 acre park/courtyard/patio, inside the Shores apartment complex, was the perfect setting for the TRIBUTE! event..



Reception Committee:
(l-r) Barbara Slavin and Rikki Barker, Directors, MdrHS;
Cris Clark, Volunteer

TRIBUTE!

(Continued)



TRIBUTE! attendees: Greg Wenger, Co-Founder MdRHS; Mimi Wenger; Debbie Talbot, Principal Real Property Agent, Community & Marketing Services Division, Dept. of Beaches and Harbors; Steve Curran, MdR Yacht Broker



Patricia Younis, CPM, The Bridge Group; Director, MdRHS



Janet Zaldua, President and CEO, MdR Convention and Visitors Bureau

Year-End Report

by Willie Hjorth

President, Marina del Rey Historical Society

The year 2014 was very productive for the Marina del Rey Historical Society (MdRHS).

Our pictorial history book, "IMAGES OF AMERICA - MARINA DEL REY" was published on September 8, 2014, after a year of research and writing. It has been very well received by the public and will remain available for purchase at the Fisherman's Village Gallery and can also be purchased on our website, www.marinadelreyhistoricalsociety.org, through PayPal, or by calling 310.822.9344.

The Marina del Rey Historical Society Gallery at Fisherman's Village (13737 Fiji Way, C-3) celebrated its first anniversary on December 1, 2014. Volunteer Site Manager, Howard Wenger, has developed a books/photographs/artifacts store with evolving emphasis on pictorial history displays. Retail sales of books, prints, souvenirs, clothing with MdRHS logo, and Marina history DVDs bring in store-sustaining income. Volunteers are needed to assist Howard.

TRIBUTE! is the title name of the Society's major fund-raising event. In October, the Society honored long-time Marina developer, Jerry B. Epstein, whose dedicated efforts in the early 1960s

resulted in funding for construction of the detached breakwater to protect the Marina waters from storm surge. The Marina del Rey Historical Society is grateful to Mr. Epstein, David O. Levine, Shores, Cafe del Rey and the many table sponsors who supported the major fund-raising success. The Society's financial base was appreciatively enhanced by the hugely supportive turnout.

The Society's board of officers, directors and advisors has grown to seventeen members, all volunteer, bringing multiple areas of expertise needed to achieve our goals of data collection and recording, and ultimately to develop a user-friendly historical Marina database and resource center for educational purposes.

Website construction continues to be the challenge. We now have the entire collection of Dinghy Magazines scanned but yet to be indexed. Many of our historical photographs can be seen on the website. Our newsletters remain to be reentered after the website was cyber attacked a few months ago. Our Society does need website data input experts to optimize our site.

Oral histories have been video/audio recorded by MdRHS Board member, Patrick Reynolds, the publisher of the

Mariner Magazine, and interviewer Tom Leweck, long time Marina sailor-writer. Board member David Maury recruited Mort Bloom, legendary United States Yacht Racing Union (USYRU) rules and sailing guru, for an oral history. USYRU is now U.S. Sailing which currently monitors most aspects of yacht racing in the U.S. MdRHS is honored to have recorded oral histories of sailing/navigation instructor, Paul Miller, of the California Sailing Academy; the Willette family of Hoppyland riding stables; Jerry B. Epstein, Marina del Rey developer of 1950s-1960s to present; Pat Patman, Del Rey Yacht Club, and David Jennings, original 1962 developer of Mystic Cove Marina, now Catalina Yacht Anchorage. The Society will present these histories in future DVD formats and on the website.

As MdRHS enters 2015, our books, photographic collections, oral histories, exhibits, and Marina documents will become priceless educational resources of the history of Marina del Rey. Thank you for your belief in our projects and your continued membership support and donations.

April 10, 2015 will be the official 50th birthday of Marina del Rey.

****Let's celebrate!!****

Warehouse Restaurant Celebrated 45th Year

by David Maury

The Warehouse Restaurant is Marina del Rey's oldest restaurant operating continuously with the same name since 1969. Celebrating its 45th in a special recognition event attended by friends and government/business dignitaries was Warehouse founder/creator, Burt Hixson, the man responsible for the legendary design and phenomenal success.

"I think my dream of being in the restaurant business came when I was seven years old, selling lemonade for four cents a glass at a city bus stop," Hixson recalls. Hixson's career as a cameraman filming in over 80 countries led to his fascination with the South Seas. So at age 25, he assembled all the "warehouse" materials to create his vision, i.e., maritime scraps from San Pedro, shipping crates, weathered lumber, old wharf posts, wine and whiskey barrels. Along with exotic bamboo and cane de'cor, his specialty dining experience at the new Marina



Burt Hixson: Straw hat and safari attire were his trademark. Warehouse Restaurant under construction in 1969

harbor became a magnet for celebrities whose pictures line the walls. By 1973 the Warehouse Restaurant had become the hottest ticket in Southern California and the leader in making Marina del Rey eating establishments the most popular and financially successful of the era.

In 1996, Hixson sold the operations of the Marina del Rey Warehouse Restaurant to current operators Lee

and Marti Spencer, who also own the legendary Smoke House restaurant in Burbank.

As a landmark facility, the Warehouse Restaurant maintains much of the original design and flavor of the tropical ambience since its opening. 🌴

Watch the mini-movie of the 45th Warehouse birthday celebration.

<http://youtu.be/cFMXgnapTFk>.

Welcome to Our Newest Board Member

Kelly King ~ Kelly was born and raised in Signal Hill, California but has been a longtime (26 years) Marina del Rey resident.

Kelly graduated from the University of California, Irvine.

He is the General Manager/Dock Master of Villa del Mar Apartments and Marina.

Currently, Kelly is the Chairman of the Board for the LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce.

He also serves as one of the co-chairs to the Marina Affairs Committee, a graduate of the Chamber's Leadership Academy.

King is now the incoming president of the *Marina del Rey Holiday Boat Parade*. 🚤



MdRHS Events in 2015

Following are a few events the Historical Society is planning or will be participating in this year.

Be sure to put these dates on your calendar:

April 11th & 12th

Marina Fest Boat Show, Burton Chace Park

- Three Dog Night Concert

- Talls Ships

- Harbor Tours

April 14th

*SMWYC - Womens Sailing Association
Presentation*

And, save this Special Date ...

July 14th

Speaker **George Drury Smith**

- Original Associate Publisher of
the Argonaut

- Founder of Beyond Baroque (in Venice)



Marina del Rey Historical Society
P.O. Box 9550
Marina del Rey, CA 90295-1950

Stamp

Visit us...

MdR Historical Society Gallery
Fisherman's Village
13737 Fiji Way, Ste. C-3 ~ Marina del Rey



***Sailing in
Marina del Rey***



Photos: Greg Wenger Photography

"If we do not collect, preserve, and digitize the history of Marina del Rey, much will be lost."

Historical Society's Gallery

by Howard Wenger

The Marina del Rey Historical Society was founded September 10, 2007 as a 501(c)3, non-profit organization "to collect and preserve historical documents, artifacts, publications, photographs, data, and information relating to the development of Marina del Rey as exhibits and in retrievable electronic data bases in order to keep the past alive for community pride and to create a unique resource of cultural and educational materials of historic value of Marina del Rey and surrounding areas for access to the public."

Our historical gallery opened its doors, December 1, 2013 in Fisherman's Village, just steps from the Marina lighthouse. We offer an educational history of Marina del Rey, with more than 100 years of historical photos, from swampy marshland, to the creation of the largest personal watercraft marina in the western hemisphere.

Visitors are welcome to view our many

photos and books, or may sit and watch our historical DVDs. Find out how the marina was originally envisioned as a commercial shipping destination, or when the area was a major oilfield, or the amusement park created by a famous TV cowboy, before Disneyland.

Our book, "Images of America-Marina del Rey" is now available. It was a collaboration of our Board of Directors and Arcadia Publishing and will be an opportunity for everyone to get an historical background of our community.

The 50th Anniversary of the dedication of Marina del Rey is April 10, 2015. We plan to be a part of the party and events scheduled for that festive weekend of April 10th, 11th and 12th of 2015

Hours: Tuesday-Friday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Special tours available upon request.

We look forward to sharing the Marina's history with all who visit us. 🌊

Marina del Rey Historical Society Volunteer Staff

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