



Summer 2018 Newsletter

History Talk: Irving Gill, California Architect Saturday August 18 at 10:30 am

Join the Oceanside Public Library and Oceanside Historical Society to welcome preservation architect, Milford Wayne Donaldson for a presentation on famed California architect, Irving Gill.

When: Saturday, August 18, 2018

Time: 10:30 AM

Where: Civic Center Library Community Room

Irving Gill was born in New York in 1871. He came to San Diego in 1893 where he practiced his field. He designed homes and buildings in San Diego as well as Los Angeles, where he later relocated. Gill's architectural style evolved to eliminate ornamentation, with a decidedly modern style. In fact he was considered "one of the first of the moderns" and combined modern with Spanish architecture.

Gill biographer Thomas S. Hines wrote: "In his own lifetime, Gill saw himself and was seen by others as a maverick, an innovator, and a modernist."

His modern and simple designs fell out of favor in the 1920s when the Spanish Revivalist style became popular. Under appreciated and with little work, Gill left Los Angeles and resided in Carlsbad by 1930. However, Los Angeles' loss was Oceanside's gain, as Gill would go on to design a total of five buildings in the city.

The first Gill designed was Oceanside's Fire and Police Station in 1929. Originally, plans were for a larger civic center complex but due to lack of funding, only a portion of it was built. Located on the corner of Pier View Way and Nevada Street, the Fire Station is still in use today, but the building has been modified several times.

Join us to learn more about Irving Gill and his other designs.



The Blade Tribune Building was Gill's last work and is located on Seagaze Drive



The Oceanside City Hall building, now the home of the Oceanside Museum of Art, its a great example of Gill's work.

Election Results

Bringing everyone up to date, the election for our 2018 board members was completed in June. We had a great response by our members and we appreciate all who participated in the election process.

The Executive Board Members are:

President: Kristi Hawthorne

Vice Pres: John Daley

Treasurer: Roni Elsberry

Recording Secretary: Shelley Grichuhin

Corresponding Secretary: Kierstin Rielly

Appointed Board Members:

Ways & Means: Tanisha Garvin

Membership Chair: Janice Ulmer

Development Director: David Nydegger

It is our hope and plan to continue our diligent work in bringing Oceanside's history to the community.

Next History Walks: August 11 and September 8

Our Downtown History Walks for 2018 began in April. History Walks are scheduled for the 2nd Saturday of each month through September. We start at 9:00 am in front of the Oceanside Public Library at 300 N. Coast Highway (look for the plaque of Andrew Jackson Myers.) Walks are moderately paced and take about two hours. Downtown walks are free (donations are always welcomed!) and open to everyone.

We are sorry to hear of the passing of some of our longtime members this year. We send our sympathies to friends and family.

Shirley Childs

Geraldine Martindale

Bobbie Thill

John and Hazel Adams

Ray Worman

Thank you to those who joined as New Life Members:

George & Carolyn Brown

Gigi Gleason

Richard Mohrlock

Paul & Laurie Weitzel

R. Paul Adams

Thank you to Derrick L. Jones for his generous donation.

Thank you to those who renewed their membership:

Tracey Alexander

Chuck & Nancy Anson

Marilyn Austin

Larry Beck

Mary Lou Beltran

Gloria Carranza

Laila Charlson

David Childs

David Clem

John Colaceci

Jerry & Tina Colling

Shelley Combs

Julie Cress

Steve & Kathy Crouthamel

Joanne Derby

Jim & Sharon Douglas

Martha & John Faron

Marti Farris

Richard Forsyth

Katherine Leonard

Gerald & Susan Franklin

Tom & Janice Frankum

Dolores Frazee

Maria Grant

Shirley Grove

Yolanda Gutierrez

Mary Jane Haskell

Edward Heredia

Sam Higley

Gordon & Carolyn Hoard

Melvin & Donald Johnson

John Johnston

Araminta Wordsworth

David Jones

Janet Horakh

Kathleen Justice

Jack & Yvonne Key

Ora Lee Klemme

Kay Klinker

Grace Larsen

Kevin & Evelyn Leahy

John R. Leal

Eileen Lohner-Turk

George & Erlinda Foussat Lopez

Mike Lucas

John & Pamela Lundblad

Charles Nares

Dick & Nancy Nelson

Esther Newman

Billie Nunan

John & Marjorie Oakley

Victor & Sharon Olloqui

Steve & Caran Orme

Alicia Parks

Helen "Suzi" Pere

Bruce Polidori

Lloyd & Vickie Prosser

Howard & Elizabeth Randol

Larry Schallock

Marvin Sippel

James A. Stillman

Charles & Audrey Stokes

Melvin & Ellen Sweet

Morris Trotter

Geoffrey & Darlene Vanden

Heuval

Jackye Willis

Richard & Mary Winn

Stephanie Woodard

Ken Woodward

Downtown Oceanside is getting a facelift!

Multiple buildings are being repurposed and remodeled

The yellow Victorian house at 524 South Coast Highway was originally owned and lived in by the Weitzel family, for whom Weitzel Street in Oceanside is named. Martin and Sarah Weitzel were pioneer residents of Oceanside, coming here in about 1885. The Weitzel's had twelve children, seven of which moved to Oceanside with their parents. One of their adult children, Harry K. Weitzel, served as postmaster and city clerk in the early years of Oceanside. It was later owned by the Peder Larsen family. This house was moved in 1982 to South Hill Street (Coast Highway). The new owners have done some renovations and beautification and it is the new home of the Saint Tropez Bistro.



The First Christian Church congregation is one of the oldest in San Diego County, originating in San Luis Rey in 1875. They built a small church in downtown Oceanside in 1908 but two decades later as the congregation grew, they built a larger church building at 208 South Freeman Street, dedicated on September 30, 1928 at a cost \$35,000. Still an active church, this building was recently painted and renovated.

In 1926, Julius E. Keisker purchased property on Hill Street at Topeka for a new hotel. The Keisker Hotel opened formally in June, 1927 and was a popular spot for autoists traveling through Oceanside on the 101 Highway. Keisker sold the hotel in 1933 but remained in Oceanside. By 1935 Robert and Jessie DeWitt became the owners and the name was subsequently changed to the DeWitt Hotel. Since the early 1950's the name of this historic hotel has been the Dolphin Hotel and a fixture along the 101. Completely renovated and updated, the new owners of this new boutique have cleverly renamed it The Fin.



Brothers Paul and Harold Beck arrived in Oceanside in 1929 from Iowa. Their father had arranged to purchase the local newspaper and merged it with a weekly publication, the Oceanside News, creating the Oceanside Daily Blade Tribune. With this purchase, they became the youngest newspaper publishers in the State of California. Paul Beck was just 24 years old, Harold 26. In 1936 the brothers hired architect Irving Gill to design a new building for their newspaper plant at Tremont and First Street (now Seagaze). Built at a cost of \$10,000, when the Blade-Tribune building was formally opened on November 24, 1936, it was flooded with telegrams and congratulatory flower arrangements which lined the counters, stairway and desks. Covered in stucco for decades, the original façade has been exposed revealing the concrete stamping of the building's name. A restaurant is planned, fittingly called "The Blade."

Oceanside Historical Society
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Oceanside CA 92049-0125

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Membership Application

Please make checks payable to the Oceanside Historical Society and mail to:
OHS, P O Box 125, Oceanside CA 92049-0125

Donations & memberships may be made through our PayPal account via our website at: www.oceansidehistoricalsociety.org

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND CHECK LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

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State & Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

- Individual \$18.00
- Family \$25.00
- Friend \$50.00
- Benefactor \$100.00
- Patron \$200.00
- Life Member \$350.00

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Renewing Member