NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2020 VOL II

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

The fight for women's suffrage (the right to vote in political elections) began as early as the 1820s. Many women were involved in important social issues for years, including the anti-slavery movement and temperance (abstinence from alcohol). Women leading the charge for suffrage strongly believed they should have their voice heard via the ballot box. But the right to vote was a hard won battle which took nearly 100 years to win.

While men argued that women were not capable of such a responsbility, The Equal Suffrage Club posed this question in 1896: Are women competent to vote? In some cases they are not. Neither are many men who for years have enjoyed the franchise.

On August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving American women the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

But did you know that the State of California gave women that very right nine years earlier? On October 10, 1911, California Proposition 4, the Women's Suffrage Amendment, was approved by a narrow margin. (Not everyone was included, however, as Native Americans were not allowed to vote until the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924.)

There was a move to require women voters to give their age at registration. But opponents of the age requirement argued that women "found it difficult to secure employment as they advanced in years." The new law merely required a statement that either he or she was over 21 years of age.

In Oceanside, the first woman to register was Ada C. Martin in January of 1912. The Oceanside Blade reported that "Mrs. Martin readily gave her age, remarking that she had no cause to be ashamed of it. She gave her affiliation as with the Socialist party."

Oceanside women voted for the first time in April of 1912. Two elections were held, one for the school board and one for City Trustees. The city clerk reported that out of 173 votes, "about forty were women" and the election board was comprised of both men and women.

In September of 1912 the County Clerk reported 7,719 women had registered to vote in San Diego and months later the number had risen to 10,000.

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Visit our website: OceansideHistoricalSociety.org
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Do you have history questions?
Email us at info@OceansideHistoricalSociety.org

The gated entrance to the San Luis Rey Pioneer Cemetery. Please see the following page for important information.

Office Closed and History Walks on Hiatus

Our Office is closed until further notice. Our Downtown History Walks are on hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Website Updated

Take a moment to visit our website as we have added a considerable amount of new content including several oral histories from long time residents. You can read about the history of our harbor, the first pier, and other items of interest. We've also added an early map from about 1913. For those wanting to do a self-guided history walk, you can download a map that will take you to several historic buildings and homes.

www.OceansideHistoricalSociety.org

Dues Increase and New Membership Levels

You may notice that we have recently made a dues increase. We have not raised our membership dues for nearly ten years. We still have a very affordable annual membership fee but have also added additonal levels for those who may wish to support us on another level.

NEW MEMBERS

Anne Speraw

Marva Bledsoe

Gloria Carranza - Upgraded to Life Member

Welcome and thank you

for your support!

To Our Members from the Oceanside Historical Society President Kristi Hawthorne Regarding the San Luis Rey Pioneer Cemetery

As you may know, the Oceanside Unified School District is the legal trustee of the San Luis Rey Pioneer Cemetery. OUSD requested that its Facilities Advisory (7/11) Committee review the San Luis Rey Pioneer cemetery and provided a recommendation that the Board transfer the Cemetery to the Oceanside Historical Society. The Board agreed that the Oceanside Historical Society has been very generous in expending its time and money in caring for the Cemetery for several decades and would be a great steward for the property moving forward.

The Public Health and Safety Code allows only certain entities to own public cemeteries in California. Specifically, it requires that the ownership entity be formed with the purpose of operating a cemetery. Therefore, in order for the School District to transfer the Cemetery to the Society, we need to amend our bylaw which detail the purpose of our organization to include operation of a cemetery. In order to change our bylaws, we need to have an election by our members to allow this amendment.

Our members will receive a ballot by mail very soon and we ask that as many members as possible participate in this imporant issue. It is our goal to be the legal trustee of this historic cemetery to preserve and care for it. Thank you.

WOMEN'S SUFFERAGE (Continued from page 1)

Women found a variety of causes for which to contribute and champion. The Oceanside Womans Club was formed in 1918 and the Oceanside-Carlsbad Business and Professional Women club in about 1927.

In 1949 Marie Nolan was the first woman to run for the Oceanside city council. Nolan had been active in "civic affairs and veterans' work" and served as president of the American Legion auxiliary for two terms. Her council run was unsuccessful, but in 1952 Mary Keith Marcus was the first woman elected to the Oceanside City Council. The Oceanside Chapter of Business and Professional Women endorsed and campaigned for Marcus.

Lucy Chavez, was the first Latino woman elected in 1976, and would later be the first female Deputy Mayor. Other women elected to the Oceanside City Council are: Melba Bishop in 1980; Nancy York in 1990; Colleen O'Harra in 1992; Carol McCauley and Betty Harding in 1994; Esther Sanchez in 2000 and Shari Mackin in 2005.

In addition, women elected as City Clerks were Irene Duehren, 1972 and Barbara Riegel Wayne, 1980. Elected City Treasurers include Hulda Settle, 1956; Irene Duehren, 1987; and Rosemary Jones in 1992.

MRS. KEITH MARCUS
. . . . Oceanside's first councilwoman

City Councilmember Lucy Chavez in 1980

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

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND CHECK THE LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE CIRCLE: NEW MEMBER RENEWING MEMBER

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State & Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

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____ Individual $25.00

____ Family/Dual $50.00

____ Friend $75.00

____ Benefactor $150.00

____ Patron $250.00

____ Life Member $500.00

____ Bronze $750.00

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