



*Historical Society of
Long Beach*

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For Immediate Release

The 16th Annual Historical Cemetery Tour: Where Every Plot Has a Story and the Dead Do Tell Tales

Presented by the Historical Society of Long Beach

Saturday, October 29, 2011

**Tickets On Sale from 8 a.m. until Noon
Presentations Continuously from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.**

**Long Beach Municipal & Sunnyside Cemeteries
1095 Willow (between Orange and California)**

HSLB proudly presents its *monumental* 16th annual historical tour of the two oldest cemeteries in Long Beach. This year we commemorate several important centennial anniversaries – the Port, the first transcontinental flight, women's voting rights in California, the Long Beach Day Nursery, and the formation of the Long Beach Water Department.



The Cemetery Tour is a unique, engaging, educational, and entertaining daytime family event. Amid 20,000 tombstones, guests visit ten selected graves to hear firsthand narratives of those at rest. Tales of crime, tragedy, and scandal abound as these dearly departed return for one last stand. Glimpses of early customs, attitudes, and culture provide insights into bygone eras. The stories are the mosaic that is our civic history. This year's tour includes eleven graveside presentations, one more than in past years.

Every script is researched by an HSLB historian using our distinctive archives, newspaper accounts, and primary sources. Graveside presentations are dramatized by actors in authentic period costumes, all by award-winning costume designer Donna Fritsche of the Long Beach Playhouse. Actors are directed by Denis McCourt of the Long Beach Shakespeare Company (soon to be of the Long Beach Playhouse, as well). He is also founder of the Public Theater of Long Beach. Under Denis's direction, these stories transcend simple narrative to become compelling "living history".

Tickets can only be purchased on the day of the event at Sunnyside Cemetery (1095 Willow Ave.) from 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon.

Visitors are free to wander the grounds at their leisure or to create their own routes and itineraries using the map and performance timetables included in the program. Guided tours are also available, departing each hour, on the hour, from 9 a.m. through noon. A complete tour lasts between two and three hours.

A free hot dog and hamburger lunch is available from 11:30 until 1:30, and snacks and drinks are available for purchase throughout the day.

This event is family-friendly. It is a walking tour in a park-like setting, with some uneven ground. The day often starts cool and then turns warmer. For visitors' comfort, we recommend walking shoes, as well as sweaters and jackets which can be removed as the day warms up. There is some parking inside Sunnyside Cemetery and plenty of parking on surrounding streets.



Prices:

General admission - \$18

HSLB members - \$12

Students 12-18 - \$5

Children 11 and under are free

Look for discount coupons during the month of October in local papers and websites, including the Press Telegram, PressTelegram.com, the Signal Tribune, the Grunion Gazette, lbreport.com, the Long Beach Post (lbpost.com), and at www.hslb.org.

The Cemetery Tour is the signature fundraising event of the Historical Society of Long Beach, a non-profit organization. Those who would like to volunteer for or learn more about this event should visit www.hslb.org or call HSLB at 562.424.2220.

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∞ This Year's Graveside Stories ∞

On the Municipal Cemetery Side

Amelia Bixby married into one of the city's best known families. Her life brought great loss and sorrow, but also joy and accomplishment. Hear her reminiscences of life in the Bixby lane.

In an era of narrowly defined gender roles and fewer rights for women, *Cora Morgan* was an early advocate for equal rights for women, starting with the right to vote. Hear about her "boisterous" ways as she raised children and consciousness in early Long Beach.

Edward and Nina Jackson were early leaders in the city. Owners of a local drugstore, Nina made sauces for their soda fountain while Edward concocted a remedy for fleas. Hear about her family band and the political hot topic that was before the Water Commission during his term on its board.

Frank Dean O'Neal was a soldier in the Civil War. He came to Long Beach and found success in a small business. His biggest surprise might've been discovering that 33 years after he died his story was memorialized in the *Press Telegram*, courtesy of columnist Tim Grobaty.

On the Sunnyside Cemetery Side

Do you believe in Karma? You might after you hear the story of *Jennie and John Rodgers*. Find out what "Mean Jennie" did to John, her long-suffering husband. Could fate have finally caught up with her on the day of his funeral?

Glen Clark was a tobacconist and a port commissioner. During his tenure, oil was discovered in the port. Decisions before the commission could mean millions for the city – or not. Money and competing interests of the city, the oil developers and the state made for interesting times in the mid-1930s.

Ethel K. Broadwick craved excitement. She found it in the air as one of the wing walkers who performed stunts in the air above the pike. She and her husband worked with early aviation pioneers until one day when Ethel's luck ran out.

Tome and Nobu Hamade's combined lives spanned 1877 to 1996 – nearly 120 years of changes in California and the U.S. When they got married, there were nearly 6000 miles between them with Tome in Montana and Nobu in Japan.

Francisca Sanchez fled Mexico during its Revolution. In Long Beach, she found the quieter life she craved. Hear her story about what life was like for her and other Latinos here in Long Beach during the early part of the 20th century.

Minnie Gwyn came to Long Beach in the early 1900s. She lived through the boom years of the 1920s and when the Great Depression hit, she was part of women who made clothes and household linens for FDR's New Deal. She raised four children, one whose legacy lives on in the work she did with youth.

Ethel and Walter Case made great contributions to the city -Walter as a reporter and editor for some of the city's earliest newspapers, and Ethel for her work with the Long Beach Playhouse. While he wrote histories of the city, she brought theater to its people.