

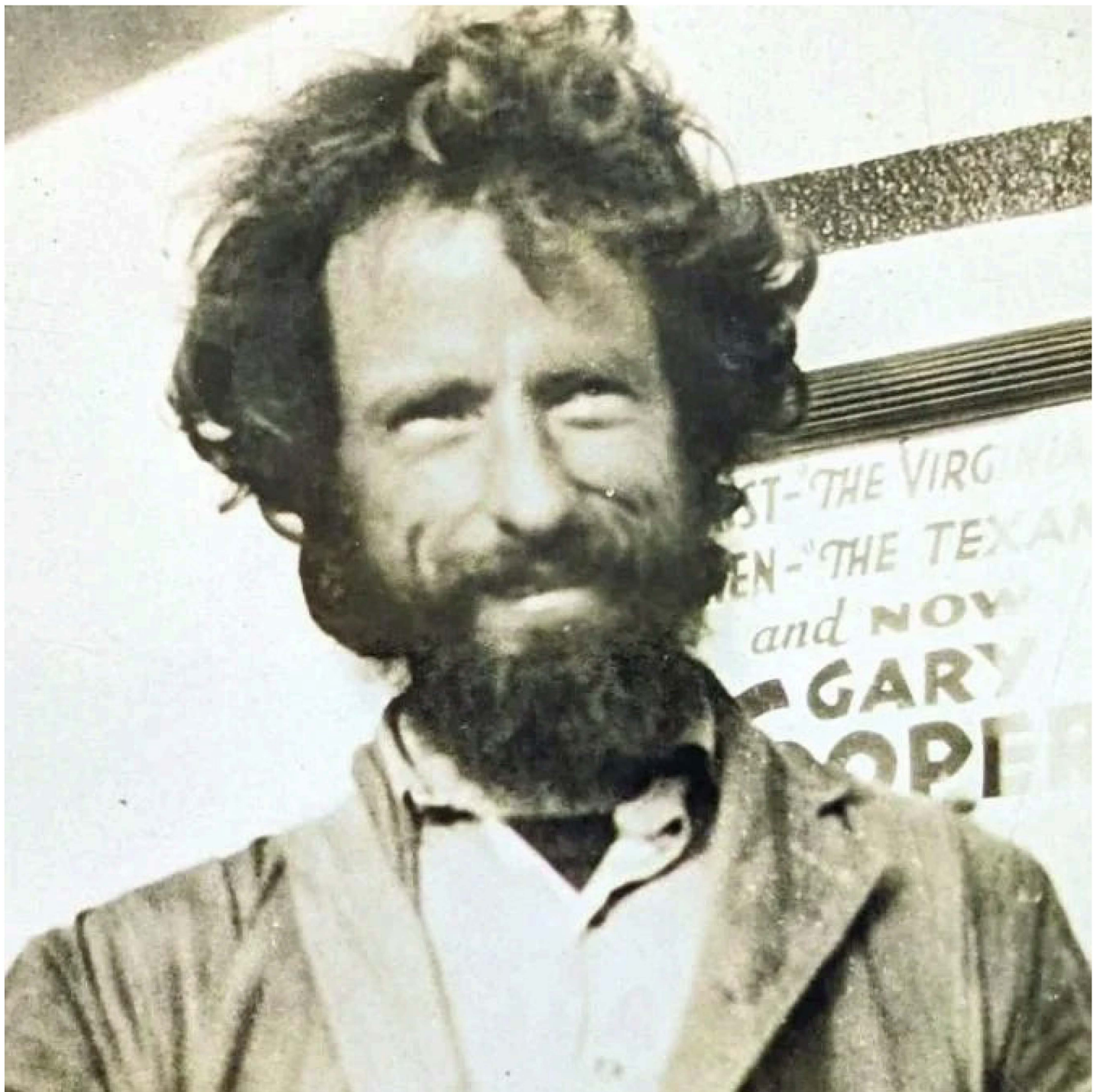
https://www.lagunabeachindy.com/town\_crier/town-crier-week-of-april-11/article\_da3a0f69-6a3a-4dd9-bb6c-7bcc8475463d.html

# Town Crier: Week of April 11

By LB Indy Staff  
Apr 11, 2025

							
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

## The Great Dane: Eiler Larsen's Life Before Laguna



Eiler Larsen in Asheville, N.C. in 1936.

(Photo courtesy of Laguna Beach Historical Society)

Join the Laguna Beach Historical Society for a discussion of Eiler Larsen's life before he came to Laguna and became the city's official Greeter.

Mills Kelly is a recently retired professor of history at George Mason University who is writing a biography of Larsen. His research has taken him up and down the East Coast and to Germany and Denmark as he pieces together the complex life of one of Laguna's best-known residents.

Larsen came to the United States as an immigrant from Denmark in September 1916. In 1917, he became an American citizen and enlisted in the army to fight in World War 1. His military service left him disabled, but his disability did not prevent him from becoming the first person to hike the Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia, a feat he completed over six years between 1930 and 1936.

Larsen was well-known on the East Coast as a hiker and a philosopher of the happiness that can be found in nature. Along the way, he acquired many nicknames: The Great Dane, The Rose of Wall Street, The Smiler, and the Apostle of Happiness.

A Q&A session will follow the presentation, during which attendees can learn more about the man we know as the Laguna Greeter.

### **Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach Announces 2025 Summer Camp Programs**

The Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach, also serving Saddleback Valley, is excited to announce its 2025 Summer Camp Program, which will run from June 16 through Aug. 15. Designed to provide enriching, adventure-filled experiences, the camps offer a dynamic range of activities that promote personal growth, social development, and a love of learning in a safe and supportive environment.

Camps will be held at four locations: Laguna Beach: Canyon Enrichment Center, 1085 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach, serving grades K–12. Bluebird Enrichment Center, 1470 Temple Terrace, Laguna Beach, serving grades K–5. Saddleback Valley: Oxford Prep Saddleback Valley, 22882 Loumont Drive, Lake Forest. Serving grades K–5 and 6–8. Camp dates: June 16 to Aug. 1. And Mountain View Branch, 24551 Raymond Way, Lake Forest, serving grades K-6, camp dates: June 16 to Aug. 8.

Additionally, Specialty Camps held at the Canyon Enrichment Center in Laguna Beach will include Basketball Camp, Art Camp, Action-Packed Adventure Camp and Skateboarding Camp. The Club is also offering field trips to Disneyland, Wild Rivers, and Knott's Berry Farm. Families are encouraged to register early to secure a spot. Visit [bgclagunabeach.org/register](https://bgclagunabeach.org/register) or call 949-494-2535 for enrollment.

### **Free Nonprofit Financial & Estate Literacy Workshop for 55 plus at the Susi Q**

Financial & Estate Literacy (FEL) is hosting a 2025 spring financial workshop at the Susi Q, located at 380 Third Street, beginning on Friday, April 18, at 1 p.m. FEL's "It's Your Money & Estate" nonprofit workshops are geared toward those 55-plus and offer the series at no charge to participants throughout Orange County.

The six-week, 90-minute public workshop covers tax planning, financial planning, medical care planning, investments and equity and fixed-income investing. FEL's second track covers estate law changes, health care and power of attorney, wills and trusts, retirement asset planning, charitable giving and estate administration.

Guest speakers present on a different topic each week and are vetted volunteer industry experts with a fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of participants. Kote has regularly moderated the popular sessions at the Susi Q. The organization does not collect contact information from attendees.

The award-winning workshops are appropriate for both experienced investors and novices. A virtual webinar option is available for those who cannot attend in person. At the opening session, all attendees will receive a complimentary 22-page "It's Your Money" financial planning workbook. Participants can register online or call 949-715-8105 for more information. Visit [itsyourmoneyandestate.org](https://itsyourmoneyandestate.org) for a full schedule of Orange County's 2025 workshop dates and locations.

### **Mind Your Brain: Strategies for Cognitive Health**

Ben Allen, Educational Specialist, Alzheimer's Orange County, will present Mind Your Brain, a free 90-minute interactive workshop based on the latest research from the Cleveland Clinic at the Susi Q on April 22 from 2 to 4 p.m. Visit [thesusiq.org](https://thesusiq.org) for more information.

### **Laguna Beach Library Accepting Submissions for its 27th Annual John Gardiner Community Poetry Contest**

The library has announced a call for submissions for its 27th Annual John Gardiner Community Poetry Contest. This year's theme is World of Wonders. Entries will be accepted from April 1 to 30. Judging will happen in May, and a poetry reading featuring the 2025 winners will take place on June 7 at 11 a.m. Prizes for \$100 gift certificates will be awarded in five age categories.

Entrants may submit one unpublished poem with the theme “World of Wonders.” The submitted poem must be no more than 25 lines of text with a limit of 230 words. Entrants should submit the poem within the body of an email to Laguna Beach Library at [ocpl.lagunabeach@occr.ocgov.com](mailto:ocpl.lagunabeach@occr.ocgov.com). Include the following information: Name, phone number and grade level or “adult.”

### **The Rotary Route: South County Walk for Mental Wellness.**

Rotary Clubs across South Orange County are joining forces to promote mental health awareness with The Rotary Route: South County Walk for Mental Wellness, a community event set for Sunday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Outlets at San Clemente.

This walk invites participants of all ages—including adults, children, and even furry friends—to walk between 1K and 5K in support of mental wellness. The event aims to raise awareness about mental health issues, reduce stigma, and encourage open conversations about mental well-being while providing valuable resources to those in need.

Funds raised will be distributed as grants to local nonprofit organizations focused on mental wellness initiatives in South Orange County. Organizations interested in applying for a grant can visit [tinyurl.com/2r56ezzd](https://tinyurl.com/2r56ezzd).

The event is part of a larger regional effort, as Rotary Clubs in Long Beach and Whittier will also be hosting mental wellness walks on Saturday, May 3—all coinciding with Mental Health Awareness Month.

### **Laguna Beach Students Host Walk to Support Global Clean Water Efforts**

Laguna Beach High School students are leading efforts to bring clean water to underserved communities around the world through the Walking for Water Initiative, a program under the nonprofit Wisdom Spring. Their work has already funded 55 water wells in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, and India, transforming lives through access to safe drinking water.

On Saturday, April 19, from 12 to 3 p.m., the students will host their annual Walking for Water Fundraiser at the Laguna Beach High School Track. This family-friendly event will feature an Easter Egg Hunt, Silent Auction, live music by KX FM, food by Tacos & Company, and handmade shea butter from Ghana. Donors contributing \$25 or more will receive a custom youth-designed t-shirt.

Proceeds will support ongoing water and education initiatives in Africa and India. All are welcome to attend and support the cause.

For more information, visit [wisdomspring.org](http://wisdomspring.org) or contact Susan Hough at [susanhough@wisdomspring.org](mailto:susanhough@wisdomspring.org).

### **Laguna Beach Business Club April Speaker: Fire Chief Niko King**

The Laguna Beach Business Club's April 17 speaker is Chief Niko King of the Laguna Beach Fire Department. The LBBC holds monthly breakfast meetings starting at 7:30 a.m. hosting speakers that discuss topics valuable to achieving personal and professional success.

Club meetings begin with a buffet breakfast and brief networking roundtable. Meetings are hosted at Nirvana Kitchen + Pantry, 303 Broadway St., #101, Laguna Beach, CA 92651. Non-members are welcome. The non-member guest fee is \$30.00 payable by Venmo or cash/check payable to the Laguna Beach Business Club the day of the meeting. Space is limited. Guests be sure you receive RSVP confirmation. *For more information about the LBBC or to register to attend the meeting please either visit [lagunabeachbusinessclub.com](http://lagunabeachbusinessclub.com), or [Info@LagunaBeachBusinessClub.com](mailto:Info@LagunaBeachBusinessClub.com).*

### **Sing Along with LagunaTunes**

The LagunaTunes Community Chorus invites the public to a Spring Singalong at the Susi Q on Wednesday, April 16. Singing begins at 4 p.m. with refreshments at 3:30 p.m. All ages are welcome to this free event. Song sheets will be provided with the words to 16 of the most requested singalong songs. Registration is required. Call 949-715-8105 or visit [thesusi.org](http://thesusi.org) to register. The Susi Q is located at 380 Third Street, Laguna Beach.