

NEWS

For Immediate Release

Contact: SB Chamber, 562.799.0179
Ruth Harrell, Director of Operations
E: director@sealbeachchamber.org

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Seal Beach Thanksgiving Dinner!

Seal Beach, Calif. (October 21st, 2009) – Change does come to traditions, and with some things persistence is the key to success. The Seal Beach community has had a long history, since 1979 of having a special celebration for those in town who don't have anyone to spend Thanksgiving with. Several members of the business community, including historic chairs Virginia Fairman and Joan Wolfelt came together with the Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce and several locations to produce the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

Born out of a desire to thank residents and shoppers for their patronage, the businesses of Seal Beach dug not only into their hearts, but their wallets as well. For years, a core group of volunteers and donors had made it happen. From gallons of juice to the fresh baked pies provided every year by LOTE and others, it is an event focused on giving back. “We just wanted a place to have the community come together. From the fun of the night of the turkey carving at my house to the planning and finally the smiles and singing on Thanksgiving, it is just a joy,” said Joan Wolfelt, who has co-chaired the event informally for the last decade.

Joining the team are Bryan Hardwick of Seacoast Grace Church and Shirley Broussard of the Swarm Christian Fellowship. These two dynamic leaders are ready to take the event to a new level, and are careful to keep to the values and history of the event. Bryan commented, “We really feel that Seal Beach is a community that is blessed with strong fellowship and camaraderie, this really comes out in the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. We make a point that no one is turned away, but please make reservations because seating is limited.” One of the things that makes this event so special is the added transportation provided at no cost for those needing it to the event. Be sure to let us know if you need to be picked up. (who provides?)

Barbara Wellington has spent many years coordinating the volunteers needed to produce the event. With a team of about twenty, there are plenty of jobs both the day of and prior to. She is working with Shirley this year and volunteering and donation opportunities also abound, so be sure to contact Shirley at (562)422-7658 to know what is needed.

Finally, as for the last thirty this year's free Seal Beach Thanksgiving dinner will be at St. Anne's church on 10th Street with seating beginning at 11 am with entertainment and the dinner served at noon. There is only one seating, so make your reservations. We certainly all have something to be thankful for in Seal Beach and one of those things is this event. Thank you to all of our historic volunteers and donors, we can't wait to see you.

For more information and to make reservations to the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, contact Bryan Hardwick at 562-431-2624 or via email at bryan@seacoastgrace.org