

February 2024

HARBOUR LIGHT

The Original Magazine for the people of Huntington Harbour

Volume LIV

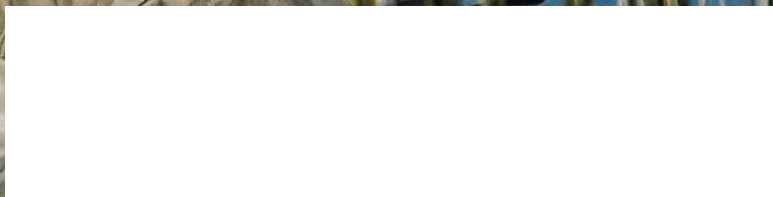
Our 54th Year in the Harbour

No. 1

Welcome 2024!



Photo by Tammy Asaki



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HARBOUR LIGHT

For and about the PEOPLE of
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Published by Dorothy Ralphs

Volume LIV Number 1
February 2024

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On the Cover

Cover photo courtesy of Photographer
Tammy Asaki.

HARBOUR LIGHT Magazine is published for the people of Huntington Harbour. If you live in the Harbour and aren't receiving a copy by mail, please let us know. Address: Harbour Light Magazine, 16458 Bolsa Chica Street Box #507, Huntington Beach, CA 92649. Phone: (310) 874-2033, e-mail: harbourlightmagazine@gmail.com.

Harbour Rod & Reel Club

by Paul W Haase, President of the Harbour Rod and Reel Club



The swordfish just over 273 lbs.. It was caught off of Catalina Island.

Recently I had the honor to weight in a big Swordfish for Angler Leo Cassini, store manager at Melton Tackle in Anaheim. He was fishing Solo from a 24-foot Thresher center console "Ruby", when he hooked the big swordfish. The fish was so big that Leo had to call in a friend, who was fishing in the area, to assist him with the gaffing and hauling the fish into the boat.

The owners of the boat, Jim and Lorie Buchannon, met us at the dock at the Huntington Harbour Yacht Club and we began the process of hoisting the fish out of his boat using the crane. The fish weighed 273 pounds, 3 ounces after gill and bleeding. Leo was deep drop fishing on the front side of Catalina in 900 ft. of water. The line used was 80 lb. test mono.

Our club, The Harbour Rod & Reel Club, maintains a IFGA Certified weigh station to give all angler the opportunity to have their catches weighed and recorded for possible competitions and world record considerations.

Jim and Julie Buchannon are members of the Huntington Harbour Rod & Reel Club, a family oriented competitive fishing club. The club promotes competitive fishing events, educational seminars, annual awards and perpetual trophies. The club also promotes conservation through The Coastal Conservation Agency of California and other local agencies. The club also sponsors an annual fishing trip for at-risk inner-city children.

Our Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month at the Huntington Harbour Yacht club beginning at 6:30 PM with dinner and the speaker starting at 7:00 PM. For more information about the Club, visit our website at HRRConline.com/Membership or email us at: HarbourRodAndReelClub@gmail.com or phone Paul Haase (714) 402-1456.

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April 2024 issue is March 4th**

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Or mail them to: Harbour Light Magazine,
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Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee

by Lauren Claus, HHPC Chairman

To all HHPC members and to our community I want to thank you for making 2023 such an amazing and successful year. Our 61st year! Admiralty, Islander, Marina Windjammer, Sandpiper, Seal Beach and Trinidad are our 6 Groups, totaling over 250 members.

We were honored to receive proceeds from Mayor Tony Strickland's Mayor's Ball held on November 17th at the Hilton Waterfront Beach Resort in Huntington Beach! We received \$11,500 to help fund our Youth Music Education Programs. Thank you, Mayor Strickland!

The 61st Annual Boat Parade was fantastic this year; 60 Parade Boaters led by Grand Marshal Weikko Wirta. For those of you who missed it... you can go to our website HHBoatParade.org and watch our Livestream now on YouTube. Parade boaters were rewarded with an early sign-up raffle; and all received a Simple Green stuffed bag, Mother's Bag, a Cape Marine boat mat, the infamous wallet card, and a chance to win a beautiful trophy. Congratulations to the Sweepstakes winner, the Huntington Harbour Yacht Club. Sunday night was just as amazing as Saturday night because of our new 2-day participation \$500 raffles. We had fun making a Facebook Livestream event, which was a drawing for these raffles; this can also be viewed on our website. Thank you to our GM, Weikko Wirta, Parade Captain, Paul Haase, Boat Parade Chairs, Madeline Fields, Jeff Silver and their Committee; with an extra special thank you goes to our new office manager, Penny Arroyo, who had exceptional computer skills needed by the Boat Parade Committee.

The Cruise of Lights® had six successful nights despite the rain on December 21. A big thank you to our CORE team comprised of Craig Ferguson, Casey McKeon, Ryker Barthold, Erik Peterson, Kathy Andrews, Patty Reilly, Marlene Nielsen, Kim Weddon, and Lolly McHardy, and special thanks to Mike Novak, Sheree Novak, and Pam Myers for Trinidad night. Kudos to Madeline Fields and her expertise and our new Office Manager, Penny Arroyo, for jumping in feet first! Thank you, Jill Wicke and Karen Ridout, for a great job as Cruise of Lights® office chairs. Our HHPC Juniors were a tremendous help when we had gaps in the office and parking lots. Thank you to our Group chairs and their ability to pull their members together on their assigned nights—a big hug for Coralie Prince, who



L to R: Jeannie Gibson, Lyn Semeta, Jackie Wirta and Lauren Claus on the Grand Marshal Boat.

put together six nights of entertainment from local schools. Huntington Beach High School, Los Alamitos High School, Marina High School, and Marine View Middle School were participating schools.

In December we presented over \$15,500 to 17 of our local schools to support their music programs.

January and February bring us our opportunities to usher for youth concerts, Sounds Around the Globe and Step Afrika at the Barclay Theater and Grade 5 concerts at Segerstrom Concert Hall. We are excited to continue our support of the

Orange County Youth Symphony in the coming months.

Our Grand Marshal Celebration will be held on April 13, 2024. Join us as we celebrate another wonderful and successful year for the Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee. Keep up with all our latest news on Facebook at [cruiseoflights hhpc](https://www.facebook.com/cruiseoflights hhpc) or Instagram at [@cruiseoflights](https://www.instagram.com/cruiseoflights). For more information or how to join one of the six Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Groups, call our office in the Huntington Harbour Place at (714) 840-7542.

We have many to thank but the success of our HH Boat Parade depends on the efficiency and dedication of the wonderful volunteers who keep us safe on the water.

With a special thanks to Andrew Hard from Freedom Boat Club for providing 3 boats with skippers.

Parade Captains

Paul Haase

Night Captains

Calvin Free
Erik Peterson
Jim Miller
Scott Coler

Casey McKeon
Jeff Silver
Larry Overton

Lieutenants

Andrew Deal
Briana Juarez
Chris Cole
Gavin Day
Kenny Menard
Mike Hoffman
Rebecca Meyer

Andrew Hard
Casey Sell
Ed John
Jacob Lange
Kent Kreutziger
Mike Marsh

Skippers

Ami Kreutzinger
Cody Cozart
David Theil
Dorie Chandler
Robin Silver
Tony Williams

Beth Ceballos
Corrin Hoffman
Dennis Deal
Isabel Deal
Tony McCabe

Loaner Boats

Brad Willingham	Donny Orr
Jeff Silver	Patty Reilly
Paul Haase	Scott Campbell
Scott Coler	

Boat Parade Committee

CHAIRMANS

Jeff Silver	Madeline Fields
-------------	-----------------

COMMITTEE

Charmaine Rood	Dawn Lentz
Debbie Edwards	Deborah Fairon
Jim Rood	Jennafer Kaplan
Kim Weddon	Lolly McHardy
Nikki Richards	Patty Reilly
Robert Sebring	Robertta Swain
Robin Gray-Hite	Roxanne Talley
Sharon Larson	

Thank You All!

61st Annual Huntington Harbour Boat Parade

By Madeline Fields, Boat Parade Chair (photo courtesy of Gus Martinez, www.gmtzphotography.com)

Who loves a parade... WE DO! And what a wonderful parade it was! The 61st Annual Huntington Harbour Boat Parade was another awesomely epic parade, all because of our wonderful Parade Boaters. With our Grand Marshal Weikko Wirta at the helm, we had 60 boats entertaining the spectators, looking incredible and sounding loud with our theme "The Power of Music". Everything went off perfectly and it was a blast!

The Parade is presented by the all-volunteer Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee, almost 300 local Harbour members, supporting youth music education programs of the Philharmonic Society of Orange County.

This was a good year for the Kevin and Barbara Patz family; for the past 8 years they have entered their 30-foot, 2-prop, Skipjack, but it broke down and they thought they wouldn't be able to join in the parade this year. Their young daughters pointed out that they still had a little whaler to participate with, and that they did! They took their patriotic Christmas decorations from the big boat and put them on the small 13-foot whaler named "Mini". They won both "Award of Excellence" and \$500 for the 2-day participation "Little Boat" contest raffle.

Another "Award of Excellence" winner and a crowd pleaser was the Marina High School 28-foot Viking boat. This was their fifth year in the Parade with 'no power just oars', helmed by a young freshman crew rowing their hearts out! The dragon's head was made and decorated with rope LED lights that coordinate with the tail; all lights blinked in unison. The shields were light boxes with rope lights surrounding them, and they corresponded with the oar lights; all stunningly beautiful!

Sweepstakes winner was the Huntington Harbour Yacht Club entry, a 58-foot Tiara. "Big Bucks" was covered in warm white



"Best First Time Entry" winner "Shark Whisper" by Eric Johnson.

lights with an array of illuminated musical notes floating through the night sky along with the club's signature piano keys, while Santa played a giant illuminated guitar on the bow.

This Parade was enjoyed by all and was a great kick-off for the Harbour holiday season!



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2023 Boat Parade & Home Decorating Winners

Huntington Harbour Boat Parade Winners

Sweepstakes.....	#3 “Big Bucks” by Huntington Harbour Yacht Club, Dean Oliver & Dawn Simone-Lentz
Best Tribute to Theme	#14 “Sea Cat III” by Hoang Family & VinylRock Band
Most Beautiful	#12 “America Jane” by Russell & Jodee Turk
Judges Special Trophy	#26 “Adios” by Rod & Susi Ondatje
Best Tribute to the Holiday Season.....	#25 “Striper” by Steve Shimahara
Most Religious.....	#27 “Fish Tales” by Jon Stevenson
Best Display of Originality	#15 by Terry Reed
Best Animation	#40 by Chris Hand & Jennifer Sims
Most Traditional.....	#19 “Ohana” by Brian & Tammy Ross
Most Effective Use of Lights	#6 “Hooligan IV” The Butterfly Boat by Ron & Joanne Foland Family
Design Excellence.....	#36 “Seacup” by Mike & Jill McClaran
Most Whimsical.....	#9 “Terri Ann” by Don & Terri Jordan
Most Contemporary	#5 “All Bite” by Anderson Family
Best Commercial	#39 “Can’t Sea Me” SeaLegs Christmas by Alicia & Josh Cox
Best First Time Entry.....	#17 “Shark Whisper” by Eric Johnson
Best Yacht Club	#22 “FinTastic” by Sea Gate Yacht Club, Robin Clark & Chris Johnson-Pasqua
Award of Excellence	#42 “Mini” by Kevin & Barbara Patz
Award of Excellence	#55 “Valhalla” Viking Boat by Marina High School
Award of Excellence	#21 “Sol Delight” by Blaine & Gina Stolpestad
People’s Choice, Facebook	#15 by Terry Reed



#21 “Sol Delight” by Blaine & Gina Stolpestad



#15 by Terry Reed

photos by Gus Martinez Photography, www.gmtzphotography.com

Waterfront Home Winners

Sweepstakes.....	Frank & Donna De Gelas
Best Tribute to Theme	Tom & Mary Griley
Most Beautiful	Mary & Paul LaBahn
Judges Special Trophy	Roxanne & Andy Talley
Best Tribute to the Holiday Season.....	Jeanie Gibson
Most Religious.....	Salib Family
HGPC Special Award	Alan Dauger
Award of Excellence	John & Nicolette Kubeck
Award of Excellence	Greg & Jane Kriesel
Award of Excellence	Diane & Ernie Quijada
Award of Excellence	Claus Family
People’s Choice, Facebook	Claus Family

Waterfront Condo/Townhome Winners

Sweepstakes.....	Seabridge Condos, Lolly McHardy
Best Tribute to Theme	Robert Gallucci
Best Group Entry	Mount, Poelma, Curnutte, Prince, Ulrich, Rumfola

Off-Water Home Winners

Sweepstakes.....	Rey & Mary Ann Frlekin Family
Best Tribute to Theme	Crowley Family
Most Beautiful	Robin & Steve Stong
Judges Special Trophy	Michael Rudolph
Best Tribute to the Holiday Season.....	Do Family
Most Religious.....	Alan & Margie Armstrong
Award of Excellence	Wicke Family
Award of Excellence	Chick Family
HGPC Special.....	Leslie Shaffer & Richard Litsinger
HGPC Special.....	Jardine Family
HGPC Special.....	Fields Family
People’s Choice, Facebook	Frlekin Family



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Resolving to Improve Your Financial Health (or, Good vs. Bad Debt)

How are you doing with your New Year resolutions? Along with the usual “lose weight” and “exercise more” variety, many folks resolve to improve their financial health which often includes reducing their debt. However, not all debt is the same so how do you know what is “good” and “bad” debt?

The simple answer is that good debt is borrowing to enhance your future net worth or personal prospects. A home mortgage falls in this category since, over time, home values tend to appreciate (in the meantime you have the roof over your head to keep off the rain!).

Borrowing to pay for higher education might also be considered good debt but with a caveat. If the degree being financed doesn’t lead to a job that will generate enough income to pay back the loan (plus interest!), then the education debt moves into the “bad” range.

Likewise, small business loans, if used wisely, can be considered good debt. These funds can be used to add staff or production capacity, implement a marketing or sales plan, or in other ways to raise the value of the company. Of course, if the money is not deployed wisely or if the projects invested in don’t bear fruit, then we can retroactively say it was bad debt. Almost a third of small businesses fail to survive their first two years, so startup money is more likely than not to eventually fall into the bad debt category. A side note: proceed with caution when investing in startups!

There are numerous examples of bad debt, but the one we can control most is buying luxury items that we don’t need. For example, buying an 80-inch TV to replace our 70-inch TV or a very expensive car that

also happens to be a gas guzzler both fall into this bad debt category. If you really want or need those things, it’s better to save for them and avoid the interest rate charges. Another (potentially) problematic drain on your financial health are those second homes on the lakefront, desert golf course, or mountaintop that not only put you in debt, but also incur annual maintenance costs. Careful planning prior to this purchase ensures that it’s a source of joy and not stress.

How do you know when you have too much debt? The Debt.org website suggests that if your monthly debt payments come to more than 43% of your monthly income, it becomes a red flag to potential lenders. For instance, you may not be able to get a mortgage or car loan if your debt ratio exceeds that amount.

For those that find themselves in this unhappy situation, there are a variety of debt consolidation options that can help people who are deeply in bad debt. However, much like losing weight and exercising more, these strategies require discipline. They only work if the would-be consolidator is resolute about paying off the consolidated debt on time each month and can control spending going forward (to not add to the credit card balances they’re trying to pay off).

Whatever your New Year resolutions, it always helps to have a plan to reach them and if your resolutions includes improving your financial health, be sure your plan includes the debt side of your balance sheet (good and bad!), too.

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HHPC: Admiralty

by Charmaine Rood



The Harbour season began with the 61st Annual Boat Parade which thanks our neighbors for decorating their homes for the Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee's 61st Annual Cruise of Lights® Fundraiser.


The Admiralty Group volunteers were stationed for the Cruise of Lights® at the following locations: The Mall; Grace Holdaway, Roxanne Talley & Niki

Rood, The HH Yacht Club: Jackie Sands, Barbara Larson, Alan Ishii, Erin Ishii and Leah Ishii, Cruise Commentator on the Kristina: Matt Nadelson.


April 13 is the Grand Marshal Event. The event thanks the 2023 Commodore Weikko Wirta and welcomes the 2024 Grand Marshal. The event is held at the Huntington Harbour Yacht Club. Please plan on attending this lovely event. The

Grand Marshal for the 62nd Boat Parade will be announced.

Are you interested in joining the smallest, and oldest, of the HHPC groups? Our size does not stop us from being a creatively effective group with a focus on achieving our goals and normally exceeding expectations. Call Jackie Sands (714) 791-8716




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HHPc: Islanders

by Cristi Ulrich

On New Years Day 2024, many Islanders are home watching the Rose Parade and, of course, football. We are grateful to 2023 for all our hard work for the Orange County Philharmonic and overall, a successful year! We celebrated December with a spectacular Boat Parade with about 60 boats! The entire Harbour and its boats were decked out in support of our theme and community. The 2023 theme, "The Power of Music... Celebrating 61 years" was a huge success. Thank you to our Islander 2023 Grand Marshall, Weikko Wirta for orchestrating a magnificent weekend loaded with music and lights.

Once again, we hosted The Huntington Harbour Cruise of Lights. Several commercial yachts escorted 1000's of viewers for a tour of our Harbour. The money raised supports Music programs for school aged children throughout Orange County. It is our largest fund raiser and a glorious event. It is lovely to see all the crowds enjoying the Holiday lights in Huntington Harbour. We, as volunteers, are thrilled to support this fabulous week!

During the year, many ladies from all over Orange County come together



with events and fund raisers to support music programs for the children in its communities. It is a fabulous organization and very necessary for all our kids. The Huntington Harbour Philharmonic is alive and very active with 6 groups giving time, money, and energy to support music! The Islanders are honored to be a part of this. We are a very large and active group, and we are blessed to be a part of this, working hard and through our social events, great friends. Join us in 2024 for another year of music, hard work and so much fun!



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HHPC: Sandpipers

by Lolly McHardy



Sandpiper's at Christmas/Holiday dinner.

Sandpipers had great holidays but now it's time to get back to our yearly activities and welcome in the new year.

Our first meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18th at the home of Nicole Stewart. Her husband Warren will be making his famous chili.

We had a wonderful turnout for our Sandpiper Christmas holiday dinner at

Deborah Fairon's clubhouse.

Sandpipers had fun working the Cruise of Lights on Friday, December 22nd.

We have 4 dates to help with ushering this year, with our first one on Wednesday, January 17th at Irvine Barclays theater.

At our February meeting, we will be welcoming 3 Staff members from the Orange County Philharmonic Society.

Courtney McKinnon who is the Manager of Volunteer and Education services, Katherine Yang head of Education and Mark Saville. They will give us a presentation of what the Philharmonic does and is about.

We welcome two new members, Kelly Gates and Michelle Brennan.

HHPC: Trinidad

by Evelyn Zohlen



Craig Ferguson receives 35 year HHPC service pin

This year is off to a great start for Trinidad and the HHPC, but before we rush into 2024, I'd be remiss if I didn't pause to celebrate our successful 2023 Cruise of Lights and the Boat Parade. Trinidad members we out in full force volunteering for both and having a lot of fun, too. We celebrated a couple of member milestones during the holidays with Craig Ferguson receiving well deserved recognition for 35 years of membership and service in our Philharmonic community. Several of our members also gathered to celebrate Pam Reider's birthday (Age?



Tricia Pratto, Sheree Novak, Patty Reilly and Madeline Field hat tip to Pam Reider's (center) birthday.

CONFIDENTIAL) at Pamela's High Tea in Old World. Good food and fun hats were enjoyed by all!

January brought another favorite service opportunity as we volunteered as ushers for performances for Orange County 5th (the Orange County Youth Orchestra performing at the Segerstrom Concert Hall) and 6th grader (Step Afrika! Dance company performing at the Barclay's Theater) students. It's a gift to see the wonder and joy these students experience at the performances (for many, the first time they've seen live music like

this) and a reminder of the importance of our fundraising efforts.

We have several other ushering opportunities this spring and a wide variety of social activities planned, too. Join us! We'd love to have you as part of our fun group of hardworking volunteers. We meet the third Thursday of every month and the lovely Ellen Martin (elleninhuntington@yahoo.com) would be happy to share more information about our group with you.

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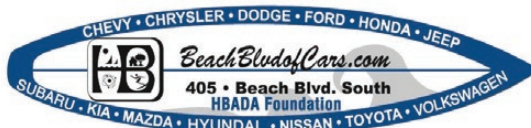
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HHPC: Marina Windjammer

by Pamela Barthold



Marina Windjammers volunteering at the Cruise of Lights®.

The 61st annual Cruise of Lights® was a wonderful success! Thank you to our Grand Marshal Weikko Wirta for leading the way! Thank you to all that worked so hard to create a great experience for our guests. A special thank you to Marina Windjammer's Cruise of Lights® chair Jill Wicke, Boat Parade Chair Roberta Swain for your hard work and dedication. Thank you, Coralie Prince, for organizing all the student musicians to play at the Yacht Club and entertain our guests. Thank you, Karen Ridout and Jill Wicke, for your countless hours working at the

Huntington Harbour office prior to the Cruise of Lights® event manning the phones as you guided guests on purchasing tickets and answering questions about the upcoming event.

A special thank you to the Marina Windjammers and your family members who braved the worst rain in 20 years with the added feature of a lighting storm on your volunteer night. Thank you, Barbara Sentell, son, Matt Sentell, and grandson River; Maria West, Jill Wicke, Karen Ridout, Coralie Prince, Todd Swain, Pamela Barthold, and son,

Tytus Barthold, and Scott Fernbach for helping our guests park and find their way through the maze of lines at the Mall and the Yacht Club. Roberta Swain was a great narrator on one of our boats. A special thank you to Ryker Barthold and his girlfriend, Candy for being on the Core Team that to ensure all the boats arrived and sailed away safely and in a timely manner. Our Marina Windjammers truly created a magical experience for all the guests who braved the storm to experience our fabulous Harbour lights and decorations for the Holidays.



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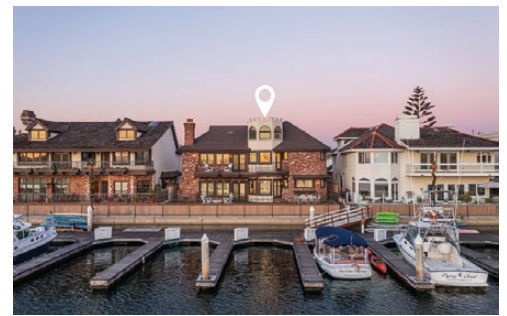
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Huntington Harbour Yacht Club

by Maria Antos, Commodore



Members having a great time at the New Year's Eve Casino night.

Ahoy and a belated Happy 2024 from Huntington Harbour Yacht Club. Our winter season included a variety of traditional events with large membership participation. In November we held our annual HHYC Commodore's Ball, with the installation ceremony for our 59th Commodore, Maria Antos, along with her elected and appointed 2024 Board of Directors. We enjoyed formal dining followed by dancing to the music of a local favorite band, Party Jones.

Club volunteers participated in the 2023 "Power of Music" Christmas Boat parade on December 9-10. Our entry featured Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus waving to the crowds, with Guitar and Lightening Bolt figures in holiday lights and music featuring the AC/DC rock band. We were honored to win the Sweepstakes trophy awarded by the Philharmonic Committee that Sunday morning on the patio adjacent to our club.

On one Friday evening before Christmas the members in our Commodore's Lounge were given a special treat by spontaneous holiday music played on our upstairs piano by one of our long time members, Jackie Demos. We brought in 2024 with fun-filled Casino Night New Year's Eve party. Members dressed in Roaring 20's attire and enjoyed dancing to a live band, a variety of tasty food stations, and two balloon drops.

As mentioned above, the 2024 HHYC leadership team is in place and working hard on events for the year. Our Fleet Captain, Dawn Lentz, is preparing for up to 8 weekend cruises for our members to local harbors, including Los Alamitos, Long Beach, Avalon, Two Harbors, and Newport Beach. Rear Commodore Steve Parsons is filling our events calendar with

both the normal set of annual holiday parties/celebrations, as well as a few new surprise activities.

Vice Commodore Barry Menzel is organizing several Open Houses throughout the year to provide the neighboring areas with the opportunity to tour the club and consider membership in HHYC. He is also focused on continuing to provide the membership with a highly qualified service staff for bar and restaurant operations. Facility improvements are

underway, including a new sound system and upgrades to our Kitchen facilities. Commodore Maria Antos is overseeing all of these activities, and has plans for more community outreach during her year as Commodore.

As a reminder, we continue to be open to the public for breakfast from 10 am - 1 pm each Sunday. For information on membership or facility rental see our website at HHYC.org or call our office at (562) 592-2186.

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Sea Belles of the Huntington Harbour Yacht Club

by Cindy Barlow, Ships Hailer



Gift Card Exchange: Satisfied Shoppers, Surprised Sea Belles, or Stealing Suspects?



Captain Anne Crowley installing the 2024 Sea Belles Board.

Sea Belle Maria Antos has gone up the HHYC Flag as 2021 Fleet Captain, 2022 Rear Commodore, and 2023 Vice Commodore. Maria used her time and talents to turn ordinary events, such as the Birthday Dinner/Dance that she coordinated every month in 2022 as Rear Commodore, into very special ones. She has enhanced the ambiance of events through the use of elegant, festive decor. Maria was sworn in as HHYC's 2024 Commodore, and so far this year, members have enjoyed a variety of great events. Congratulations to 2024 Commodore Maria Antos! Also, HHYC installed a few more Sea Belles into various positions for 2024. New HHYC Directors Donna Carlow and Barbara Kramer joined long time Directors Katie Fortier and Beverly McGuire. Dawn Lentz became HHYC's 2024 Fleet Captain, while Eve

Jordan ended her term as HHYC's 2023 Commodore and became the Jr. Staff Commodore for 2024. Congratulations, ladies!

During the Sea Belles' November Luncheon, travel author Chris Epting shared a variety of fascinating facts about Huntington Beach and Southern California as detailed in his many books. The December Sea Belles Luncheon was filled with fun and laughter, as we played the Game of Stolen Gift Cards where dozens of gift cards from many different merchants rapidly exchanged hands until they were no longer eligible to be stolen. Also in December, Captain Anne Crowley thanked the 2023 Board for their service and uninstalled them, and welcomed and installed the 2024 Board. Congratulations and thank you to the members of the new 2024 Sea Belles

Board: Anne Crowley, Captain; Karen Branoff, First Mate; Margie Armstrong, Keeper of the Log; Shirley Wallace, Purser; Katie Fortier, Cruise Director; Barbara Kramer, Navigator; Cindy Barlow, Ships Hailer; Wendy Watts, Ships Store; and Judy Cassidy, Parliamentarian. Congratulations and thank you to our Standing Committee Chairs for 2024: Donna Carlow, Hospitality; Maria Antos, Reservations; and Barbara Blodgett, Social.

Ladies, if you enjoy fun luncheons with a special presentation, you would enjoy Sea Belles. Either call or stop by HHYC for more information on membership. We're located on the main channel of Huntington Harbour, next to the Fire Station on Warner, just East of PCH. We'd be glad to welcome you aboard!

Huntington Harbour Yacht Club Bridge Group

by Mary Lund



The bridge group from the Huntington Harbour Yacht Club had a wonderful party at Mary and Dwayne Lund's home on Humboldt Island.



The home was beautifully decorated for Christmas. The evening featured a delicious catered Mediterranean kabob dinner with all the sides that was enjoyed

by all. The meal was followed by an exciting Bridge game of 3 tables. Please give us a call if you would like to join us for Bridge at (714) 337-9750, Mary.

Flying Dutchman, Guild of Segerstrom Center for the Arts

by Susan Qaqundah

What a lovely day we spent at the Ronald Reagan Library, Sunday November 19. It was perfect weather and we had a perfect tour and a perfect lunch. We splurged at the beautiful gift shop and walked the lovely grounds. Some of us visited the Holocaust museum. All in all, we had a perfect day.

Our next activity was going to the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club on December 15 to watch the Newport Boat Parade. This was a joint activity with the Cabaret Chapter and again, it was a successful and fun activity.

Thank you to all who brought toys for our "Toys for Tots" drive. We filled the car with all sorts of toys that would make any child happy.

We are looking forward to our next event soon.



At the Ronald Reagan Library.

Trinidad Ladies Club

by Susan Qaqundah



Having a good time at the holiday party, Richard and Carrie Wexler, Steven and Debbie Cervantes, Gary and Sharon Young, Elissa and Mark Griffith.



Gary Young and Bob Bates, the chosen "snowmen" after being decorated by their friends.

In the spirit of friendship and neighborhood togetherness, Trinidad Ladies Club celebrated the holidays with a party...of course!

The evening was full of great conversation and laughter creating a very

nice close to a year of making our island a better place to live and share with our families. Gary Young and Bob Bates were the chosen Snow"men" to be dressed up by their so called friends. Gary Young and his team were the winners.

Trinidad Ladies Club will welcome the new year with an open house at the warm and welcoming home of Candy Cloud in January. We would love to have you join our group.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley

by Laura Portier



Moving truck ready to load.



A big "thank you" to Shawn Wood and his Student Movers team for volunteering to move our Piano.

At Boys & Girls Clubs of Huntington Valley's ClubHouse Academy, children all get a chance to shine. There are more than 50 classes offered each week, including piano, guitar, dance, acting, karate, and gymnastics. At showcases and performances held throughout the year, hundreds of Club members each have a moment in the spotlight to share their growing talents, earned through hard work and practice each week.

Recently, members of the community came together to help grow ClubHouse Academy's piano program. A generous donor offered their piano to the Club, but to accept the donation, the Club would have to move the piano. Shawn

Wood from The Student Movers quickly volunteered to have his team move the very heavy donation free of charge to help more kids at the Club have access to piano classes.

The Club appreciates this great support of our performing arts programs, which make such a big difference to the kids in our community. Many children describe ClubHouse Academy as their "home away from home" and a place they feel like they can truly be themselves.

What's great about ClubHouse Academy is that it helps bridge the gap between expensive elite training academies and recreation programs.

Our goal is to make high-quality arts education and fitness experiences accessible to all families and help kids have fun doing what they love. Regardless of whether a child is destined to become a performing arts professional like some of our alumni or just wants to have fun after school, ClubHouse Academy classes can help every child explore their creativity, develop lifelong healthy habits, and inspire lifelong love for the arts.

If you'd like to learn more about the programs available for your child or grandchild at the ClubHouse Academy, visit clubhouseacademy.com. We know there is a class your child will love!



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Walking the Runway, Assistance League Huntington Beach

by Cathy Werblin



Some of the models and behind the scenes helpers.

It may not be New York, London, Milan or Paris, but the fashion shows put on by members of the Assistance League of Huntington Beach have a certain charm all their own.

And while the ALHB runways may not attract the biggest names in haute couture, the ladies at the Rancho Del Rey Mobile Home Estates, the local Lutheran church and other nearby venues, say they love the events and often purchase outfits right off the models.

ALHB has been offering the fashion shows to local organizations for about eight years and this year presented three events. Committee members said about six models are used for each show, which also require dressers behind the scenes helping with jewelry, other accessories, and helping models in and out of garments.

Models walking the runway compile outfits for the fashion shows from the thrift shop and can choose anything from the Boutique, from Retro or from the regular stock. Outfits tend to be seasonal, and often the glittery, sparkly numbers

are big hits with audiences.

In addition to just plain fun, the fashion shows are a marketing tool used by the committee to get the ALHB name out to the community. Committee Chairman Doris Kennedy said she takes about five minutes at the start of the show to tell the audiences who and what ALHB is. Often audiences aren't familiar with the organization and the fashion shows are a good way to spread the word about donating to the thrift shop, shopping in the thrift shop, or becoming a member of ALHB.

Everything worn by the models on fashion show day is for sale and often committee members bring similar items from the thrift shop to sell at events. Audiences are astonished at the items available in the thrift shop, and the shows generally bring in between \$500 to \$1,000 each, plus good PR.

In January a local art association rented the upstairs meeting room for a fashion show, and the audience will be able to shop downstairs after the show.

All members are invited to participate

in the shows and models are all shapes and sizes. Additionally, committee members are anxious to bring shows into the community and love doing the gigs for any organization that asks. If you know of an organization that would like to schedule a fashion show with us please contact us at: assistanceleaguehb@aol.com

Looking for other ways to support Assistance League of Huntington Beach:

- Donate to and shop at our Thrift Shop – 8071 Slater Ave., (Corner of Slater and Beach)
- Shop and Donate: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Saturday 11 am – 3 pm
- Donate Monday, Thursday & Friday 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Become a member and join us as volunteers. To get more information email: membership@assistanceleaguehb.com
- Donate directly to Assistance League on our website: www.ALHB.org

Please follow us on Facebook or Instagram.



Ladies at the Landmark Living Fashion Show.



Mecee duties at the Rancho Del Ray show.

La Familia

by Karen Branoff



La Familia President, Anne Crowley delivering the toys to Orangewood.



Our monthly meet at Rodrigos.

La Familia supports the Orangewood Children and Family Center by providing funds for much needed items and outings. As of our last meeting Orangewood Children and Family Center had 60 children living there. The number of children varies monthly. The revenue for each event that we hold, our dues, and private donations go directly to fund the needs of the home.

Every month the board, including La Casa president, Tim Branoff, meet at Orangewood to discuss how our reserves are to be spent. There are many requests from the residents and we support as many as we can. We try to focus on educational pursuits and essential item requests.

Recently La Casa/La Familia paid for Amazon Fire and tablets for preschoolers, Aquarium of the Pacific field trip, roller skates for the recreation department. Ice skating and K1 field trips for 16 year olds, Monster Jam and Sofi outings, a Big Bear snow day for 30 kids, Tea party.

On March 17th, we are planning our annual FUN-raiser St Patrick's Day Party at the home of Anne and Dave Crowley. Every year, we hold this event and enjoy the usual fixin's of corned beef, cabbage and all the Irish dishes we can imagine. Let us know if you would like to attend as a guest.

The Winter Wonderland event in December was a success that brought in \$10,000 with over 100 attendees. This is a scaled-down version of the Christmas Tree Wonderland of the past, but just as fun. We enjoy a nice meal, live raffles and a silent auction. Plan to come this next holiday season if you can. We also collected toys and delivered them during the holidays.

Coming up later in the year, Rudy of the Original Pizza, will once again sponsor a dinner and auction event, this is one of our biggest fundraising events. There will be a lot of great raffle prizes and a delicious dinner. This event is open to anyone who would like to attend. We also plan an evening at the races, one of our funnest events of the year.

La Familia is a very low-key group that doesn't require doing anything except joining in on the fun events that we hold.

La Familia usually meets monthly on the second Monday of the month at Rodrigos (www.rodrigis.com) because they have generously agreed to donate a portion of our bill back to La Familia (and we all enjoy their lunches!). The annual dues for La Familia are super low.

We also accept donations! Send your donations to: La Familia, Eve Jordan, 16066 Mariner Drive, HB 92649.



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Anglers of Huntington Harbour

by Kathy Bayless



Anglers of Huntington Harbour Officers and Committee Chairs at the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers.

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

Friday evening December 1st, Anglers of Huntington Harbour met at the Huntington Harbour Village Clubhouse for the organizations Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. Each of the Anglers brought one of their favorite appetizers or desserts to be enjoyed by all as they conducted their business and discussed

the upcoming Installation, Awards and Appreciation Banquet at Sebastiani's January 27th. 2023 President Rob Sebring announced the results of the 2024 election and Tim Branoff was elected President, Michelle Brenner 1st Vice President/Fundraising, Steve Larippa 2nd Vice President/Kids Fishing Trip, Bob Hetzler Treasurer, Kathy Bayless Secretary and Pam Myers Parliamentarian. Sharon

Dorris is the 2024 Co-Treasurer, and the 2024 Committee Chairs include Linda Axel Membership, Terri Feterik Corresponding Secretary, Lara Anderson Roster and Flyers, Mike Myers Bulletin, Paty Reilly Photographer, Bob Hetzler Conservation/Education and Trophy Chair, Jo Andrews Hospitality, Kathy Bayless Publicity and Susan Qaqundah Telephone. Anglers in attendance who were celebrating November and December birthdays included Kathy Bayless, Dave Fell, Jackie Demos, Pam Myers and Madeline Fields.

Upcoming Events

In 2024 the Anglers of Huntington Harbour are celebrating their 60th year in the Harbour and have many exciting social, fishing, and philanthropic activities planned. If you live in the Harbour and would like to be considered for one of the Angler's open membership positions and attend one of our upcoming activities, please call membership chair Linda Axel at (714) 325-6111 for more information.

Huntington Beach Mayor's Ball



The Mayor presenting a \$11,500 check to the Bolsa Chica Conservancy.



Philharmonic members accepting the \$11,500 donation from the Mayor.

Mayors Ball Raised Significant Money For Local Charities

Mayor Tony Strickland raised a significant amount of money from his HB Mayor's Ball that took place on November 17. One of Strickland's last actions as Mayor was to deliver two \$11,500 checks to local Huntington Beach charities.

The first charitable organization to receive the contribution was the Bolsa

Chica Conservancy. The Conservancy provides services that connect through community involvement and leadership in hands-on restoration and education in wetland science, coastal ecology and environmental sustainability.

The second charitable organization which received an \$11,500 check was the Huntington Harbour Philharmonic. This committee supports an extensive array of

music education programs that are offered at no charge to all public and private schools in Orange County.

Mayor Strickland said that the two organizations do so much to help the quality of life for Huntington Beach residents. "It was a pleasure and honor to help raise funds for these wonderful organizations," said Tony Strickland.

Huntington Harbour Art Association

by Doreen Hill

Every December the Board welcomes new members at an "Ornament Exchange" party. Two of our new members, Brooke Oftedal and Ping Chao, were able to attend. Marsha Hendler was the hostess with co-hostesses being the Fiber Arts group-Needles and Friends. It is always a fun time with one item 'stolen' the most and one person usually being 'stolen from' the most. A decorated wine container won for most stolen item and three members tied for items stolen from them; Susan Qaquandah, Susie Harris, and Elaine Murphy.

Our president, Carrol Wolf, displayed her watercolors at the Central Library and hosted a meet the artist the first two Saturdays in December.

Our first luncheon of the year will be at the Huntington Beach Assistance League January 25th and will feature a recycled fashion show from items at the retail store and modeled by volunteers. Lunch will be catered by The Corner Bakery. The Assistance League store at 8071 Slater, Huntington Beach is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 11 to 3. Donation items are always welcome in the back area from 10:30 to noon most days.

At our May 14th, Spring "Show and Tell" luncheon the drawing for the charity quilt "Walking In Sunshine" will take place. (Winner need not be present). Created by the talented Marsha Hendler, Pat McKenna, Kathleen Moore and Linda Sackin. Proceeds of the ticket sales go toward student scholarships.



Members, (some old, some new) at the Annual December Ornament Exchange party.

Contact Pat McKenna (714) 655-3284 or Barbara Larson (714) 642-1582 for tickets at 6 for \$5.

Mark your calendars for our Huntington Beach Art Center's "Centered on the Center" January 27-March 16, 2024. The show features about 200 artists in the community.

Considering joining HHAA? We have a Fine Arts group "Painting Pals"

that meet Tuesdays (email Bea Tamo at beatriztamo@gmail.com), a Fiber Arts group that meets on Monday afternoons (email Janet Johnson at janetjohnson535@yahoo.com), excursions for all throughout the year and social events. For more information contact Membership chair Jean Erstling (714)614-1901 or email her at Ljerstling@gmail.com.

Sea Isle Garden Club

by Lolly McHardy

Sea Isle Garden members had great holidays and are now ready to start the new year!

Our December meeting and Luncheon was held at the festively decorated home of Marsha Hendler catered by Buon Gusto with a delicious Bread pudding by Caron Mount. Members had fun exchanging and stealing gifts. Edinger pathways are now completed and they look great.

Programs for 2024 are as follows:

- 1/10 - Hidden Talents Ceramic Studio, followed by lunch
- 2/14 - Huntington Beach Tree Society
- 3/13 - Shipley Nature Center
- 4/10 - Installation luncheon



Members at Holiday Luncheon!

Seagate Yacht Club

by Michael Dix



SGYC Officers on opening day.

Seagate Yacht Club in 3 words... FUN FILLED 2023

From simple get-togethers like themed Happy Hours, to elaborate hosted events like the Summer Festival; from Duffy cruises to Brunch or Dinner, or Catalina trips and ocean-going cruises, SGYC had loads of fun this past year, both on the water and off.

BEST YACHT CLUB

SGYC once again produced a trophy winning entry into the Huntington Harbour Boat Parade, earning the right to carry the “Best Yacht Club” banner throughout the route on the 2nd night.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

1 million revelers in Times Square celebrated NYE with us, as SGYC set their party clock to Eastern Standard time in a Denim & Diamonds themed extravaganza.

ACTION PACKED CALENDAR

2024 will rocket out of the gates with a New Member Brunch, quickly followed by a full slate of on and off water activities, including, well, it’s easier if you just check out our new website at SeagateYachtClub.com, then consider joining the Seagate Yacht Club sometime soon!



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Huntington Harbour Garden Club

by Doreen Hill



Front Row: Marian Galanis, Pearl Holmes, Gayle Wayne, Pam Smart – Back Row: Kelly Mandic, Janet Johnson, Lara Anderson, Connie Mandic, Susan Qaqundah, Kay Sullivan, Robin Gray-Hite, Doreen Hill, Karen Branoff

Members enjoyed a Christmas Luncheon, at the home of Gayle Wayne, complete with a ham from Beef Palace, pickled cauliflower from our November speaker from Master Food Preservers and several side dishes made by the talented chefs of the group. A friendly Holiday Centerpiece competition ensued. The anonymous votes for first, second and third place favorites amidst the various creative centerpieces brought by unidentified members were tallied. Gayle Wayne placed first, Pam Smart second, and Lara Anderson third. Gift certificates to Hobby Lobby were awarded. Gayle had made a red and green quilted table mat to give away. Numbers were given out and the lucky winner was Robin Gray-Hite.

The luncheon commenced and lively conversations were had. A great beginning to the holiday season!

Looking forward to the January 2024 program of growing a vegetable garden presented by a U.C.C.E. Master Gardener, as well as, an excursion to The Secret Garden in Huntington Beach Central Park after our meeting in February. March is a St. Patrick's Day themed luncheon

at Connie Mandic's (a tradition now) with container gardening the subject discussed by another speaker from U.C.C.E Master Gardeners.

Come join us on the third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. Call Connie Mandic membership chair at (714) 719-7274 for more information.



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