



FALL 2005

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**ENDLESS SUMMER**

With music and entertainment by the Great Morgani as a festive backdrop, on September 14 Santa Cruz County Bank conducted an art reception and auction to benefit O'Neill Sea Odyssey. The show and auction had a twist: the pieces of art were surfboards, four of which were auctioned off to support the program. More than 20 surfboards are on display through October 31, and the four for auction were longboards from Mitchell Surfboards, GP Surfboards and Strive Surfboards and a shortboard by Surftech named after local pro surfer Peter Mel. Many thanks are due to Jon Henderson, David Mitchell, Nick Palandrani, Bruce Gordon, Rob Bremner, and Surftech for their donations! Thanks are also due to the hard work of Christine Murray, John Rossell, Mary Anne Carson, and auctioneer extraordinaire Jim Strickland.



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Above left: Nick Palandrani, surfboard donor. Pictured above right: Mary Anne Carson, Senior VP; George Gallucci, Board Chair of SCCB; Rob Bremner, Board member of OSO, Dan Haifley, Executive Director of OSO; John Russell, President & CEO of SCCB with daughter Cora.



Above left: Curator Christine Murray & Auctioneer Jim Strickland. Above middle: Dan Haifley & Dave Mitchell. Above right: David Heald, Mary Anne Carson, JJ O'Neill, Jack O'Neill, and John Russell.

## A COMMUNITY EFFORT

*By Jack O'Neill, Chair, O'Neill Sea Odyssey & Bridget O'Neill, O'Neill Sea Odyssey Co-Chair*

While 2005 is shaping up to be a very difficult year for the financial survival of non-profit organizations - in particular outdoor education programs - O'Neill Sea Odyssey will survive by the sheer will of community effort. Let us explain.

Many of the traditional funding sources we have depended on -- family foundations, businesses, and local governments -- have faced financial challenges over the past few years. Earnings for private foundations have declined between 10 and 15%. This has had impacts on the non-profit sector. In August 2005 one prominent organization in Santa Cruz County announced that it was closing its doors, and several more announced they were cutting back. Overall, it has been hard to keep things going.

But, O'Neill Sea Odyssey has stayed afloat, figuratively and literally, because of community support. Here are a few examples of community efforts on our behalf that we saw just this summer:

- **Endless Summer:** Santa Cruz County Bank organized an exhibit of surfboards over several generations, creating a beautiful and historic art display that honors the surf industry in California. Some of the boards were sold at auction, the proceeds benefiting our program (see article). This was a wonderful way for the northern California surf industry and local surfers to support our program.
- **Harbor Book:** Gus Gregory and Joyce Wrenn are both retired, living near the Harbor after having enjoyed successful careers. Having enlisted local photographer Dave Clark, they embarked upon an ambitious undertaking: compose a photo-essay about the Santa Cruz Harbor, turn it into a beautiful book, then distribute and sell it with all proceeds benefiting O'Neill Sea Odyssey.
- **Café El Palomar:** The newly re-opened Café El Palomar raised funds on their opening night in July for O'Neill Sea Odyssey, and they had a beach party to benefit the program on September 24. Leonel and Maria Espinoza, the owners of the Café, have been long-time supporters of the program.

Our program can survive and thrive through the ingenuity, creativity, and entrepreneurship of efforts like those described above. These efforts keep us going. If you would like to help, please contact [dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org](mailto:dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org) .

## UNITED WAY HONORS WEBSTERS AS "COMMUNITY HEROES"

Tom and Judy Webster, longtime OSO volunteers who have spearheaded the Adam Webster Memorial Fund, have been named "Community Heroes" by the Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project and the United Way. They were honored in the category for people who further the goal: "Children with special needs will have access to a full range of educational, social and community opportunities." Jack O'Neill, founder and Chair of the Board of O'Neill Sea Odyssey, was named Community Hero in 2000.

Tom and Judy established the Adam Webster Memorial Fund for O'Neill Sea Odyssey in 1999. Each year, the fund takes 4 classes of cognitively and physically challenged youth for a special O'Neill Sea Odyssey program that emphasizes an experiential rather than an educational focus. Since the death of their son Adam in 1999, Tom and Judy Webster have contributed time, money, and their leadership for this special program. Judy wrote the vision statement for the fund, which reads:

"The vision of the Adam Webster Fund of O'Neill Sea Odyssey is to provide a successful but not purely intellectual or academic learning experience for individuals with special needs in the context of the ocean environment. There won't necessarily always be an academic curriculum, but there will always be a plan. A plan to open the doors of life and living closed by physical, social, intellectual, and emotional barriers.

Special needs individuals may benefit from learning about navigation, but perhaps just as much from feeling the rolling motion of the ocean as the wave movement stimulates a body and a sensory system that has been immobile and confined to a wheelchair for years. It is never known what new experience will create a new learning opportunity, intellectual or social milestone in the special need individual's journey toward opening the next door. A door through which lies development and fulfillment in a life limited in many ways.

Our friends the dolphins know it. In open water they often swim with, and ahead of these individuals almost as if they are leading them to new adventures and protecting them on their journey. We should too. That is our vision."

Those who have used the Adam Webster Fund program include Shared Adventures, Camp Krem, and special needs classes served by the County Office of Education.

**CORRECTION:** In our last newsletter, we listed the District Chief of Staff for State Senator Simitian as "Jennifer Lew". In fact, her name is Michelle Lew. We regret the error.

## PARA LOS NINOS DEL MAR

Para Los Ninos Del Mar means "For the Children of the Sea". It was an apt name for a benefit for O'Neill Sea Odyssey the evening of July 15. Despite an error by the US Post Office, which caused invitations to the event to arrive after the event concluded, 60 people attended the Grand Opening of Café El Palomar. The event, which benefited O'Neill Sea Odyssey, offered a limited opening night menu. Those in attendance included OSO Advisory Board members including retired Santa Cruz Police Chief Steve Belcher, Santa Cruz Mayor Mike Rotkin and State Senator Joe Simitian, and also OSO Board members Nick Petredis, Jack O'Neill and Bridget O'Neill. Café El Palomar owners Maria and Leonel Espinoza worked very hard, with one weeks' notice, to create a wonderful event. Many thanks to volunteers Carli and Stan Stevens, Michele David, Adam Steckley, Cheryl Thompson, Laura Barnes, Chelsea Phillips for their help!



Above: Leonel Espinoza, Jack O'Neill, Maria Espinoza, Pat O'Neill



Above left: Mary Hughes, Senator Joe Simitian, Dan Haifley.



Above right: Mayor Mike Rotkin, Jack O'Neill, Senator Joe Simitian.

## DANIEL MOTTA:

### IN HONOR OF A YOUNG AND SPIRITED LIFE



Daniel Joseph Motta, also known as Danny, passed away after a tragic accident in Davenport on July 29, 2005. He was 16 years old. Daniel was a student at Del Mar High School in San Jose. In a message after his passing, his family said: "Daniel, you are an independent and free spirit, drawing many to you, as you look beyond the surface of those you meet, to see the inner truth, judging no one. Your way with younger children is a

gift." The Motta Family has chosen contributions to our youth education program as a way to honor Daniel's memory and spirit. Daniel touched many people's lives, and his spirit will live on through O'Neill Sea Odyssey's work with youth and the ocean. A parent of one of Daniel's friends said in a remembrance sent to OSO: "He has touched many lives...and he will never be forgotten...and whenever think of him...I will forever smile."

## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS!

**SUPPORTERS** Linda M. Craig / Marianne Adoradio / Aaron Tuttle / C Garth & Mae Dickens / Abraham Livchitz / Elizabeth Pedroza

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**ADAM WEBSTER FUND** Charles M. Webster / Bruce Edwards and Annette Coulon / Susan & Donald Snyder / United Way of Silicon Valley



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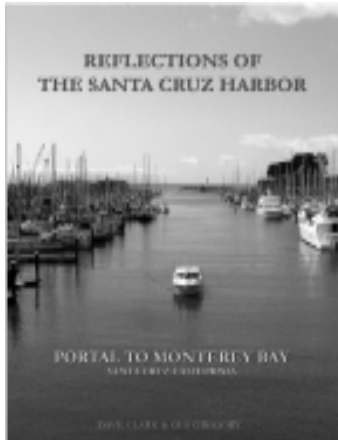
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**FALL 2005**

## HARBOR BOOK ON SALE IN DECEMBER

Harbor neighbor Gus Gregory and local photographer Dave Clark have been working for months on a book project about the Santa Cruz Harbor. The book - due to be released by December 1st - will be a great education tool about the purpose of the Harbor, its economic impact, and its unique role in the region. All net proceeds from the book will benefit O'Neill Sea Odyssey.



### WHERE TO BUY THE BOOK

(by December 1st)

The Capitola Book Café  
Bookshop Santa Cruz  
Santa Cruz Yacht Club  
O'Neill Sea Odyssey

[www.oneillseaodyssey.org](http://www.oneillseaodyssey.org)

### BOOK TALKS

Capitola Book Café  
December 1, 2005 - 7:30 PM

Bookshop Santa Cruz  
January 26, 2006 - 7:30 PM

## A RIVER RUNS TO IT:

### FRIEDA C. FOX FAMILY FOUNDATION FUNDS INNOVATIVE PROGRAM UPSTREAM PAJARO RIVER

In September O'Neill Sea Odyssey received a generous grant from The Frieda C. Fox Family Foundation in support of a newly developed program called A River Runs To It. OSO will work with the San Jose After School Program and Santa Clara Valley Water District to provide a two-day in depth watershed education program to deserving students from San Jose. A River Runs To It will include restoration and watershed studies on the banks of the Uvas Llagas River, which flows to the Pajaro River, and a full day of oceanography studies on the Monterey Bay with the OSO team. Thanks to the Freida Fox Family Foundation for giving OSO the opportunity to provide this special program.

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