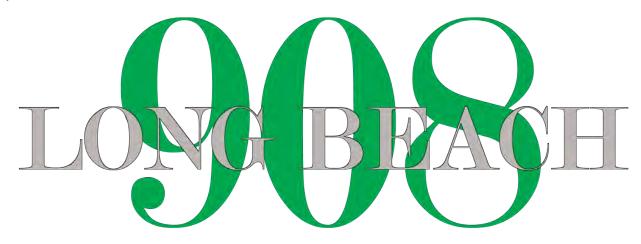
long beach 908 magazine

Coupons on Page 46!

COACHES ISSUE!

...and much more





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magazine

1b908.com

First things first. The absolute worst part about putting this issue together-- about some of East Long Beach's legendary long-time youth sports coaches--- is knowing the well-qualified, well-deserving coaches that I had to leave off due to space. For that I am sorry. If you know of such a coach, feel free to contact me to put on our records for a future issue, because in this town, there are certainly lots of pressworthy individuals.

With that being said, this issue was a true pleasure to put together. The 17 coaches we highlight are exemplary role models, not only to the kids they've been coaching for the last 20-40 years, but also to you and me. These coaches show that "volunteering" and "giving back" doesn't have to be a burden. In fact it should not be something you dread. These men and women are the molders of our youth, but as you'll read, they often get just as much out of each seaon as the kids do.

These coaches definitely deserve a "thank you" for everything they've done for youth sports in our city. Or perhaps, they spark you to thank a coach we did not cover within these pages. I know I personally had a number of youth sports coaches here in East Long Beach who had a big impact in my life. Joe Godsil, Eric Williams, Greg Eddy, and Ted Hollister come to mind, as do about 15 others.

We hope you find this issue inspiring. Please do not forget to support our wonderful local advertisers who not only make this magazine possible, but the East Long Beach community possible. Happy Fall!

> John Grossi Editor/ Publisher



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Sweet Dreams

By Andrea Sampson

What do peanut butter and jelly, red velvet, and pink champagne have in common? These are just a few of the delectable cupcake flavors available at Miss Priss Cupcakes & Such located right here in East Long Beach.

Every morning, Karie Kearny, owner of Miss Priss, walks through the charming screen door and fills a glass case full of 22 fresh-baked cupcake flavors, along with two specialty flavors. She sells cupcakes from every flavor each day through custom orders and walk-in clientele.

Miss Priss Cupcakes & Such opened its screen door six years ago this past May. Karie had been working in real estate for 10 years prior to her cupcake adventure, but she was not satisfied and had a feeling the housing market was getting ready to crash.

Karie had always loved baking and often made cakes for friends' and family parties. It was one of these celebrations that stirred up the thought of a cupcake shop.

"I made cupcakes for my best friend's daughter's sixteenth birthday party," Karie explained. "They were the hit of the party, and the guests kept telling me that I needed to sell them."



Karie couldn't stop thinking about the idea. She did her research, signed her mom on as a business partner, and by May the following year, Miss Priss was open for business. Karie says, "It was a dream come true."

Since then, Miss Priss has become a family affair. Susie Ivy, Karie's mom, can often be found behind the counter welcoming customers, while Karie's daughter Madison frosts the cupcakes.

In addition to the sweet treats, Miss Priss now sells sandwiches featuring Boar's Head meats. Her best seller is the jalapeño tuna, a spicy twist on a classic. Karie is also getting ready to launch Thin Priss, a healthy sandwich and wrap option.

Karie has found that her story inspires people to follow their dreams, and she hopes that her newest adventure, the Living Miss Priss blog, will continue to do so. The blog is a mix of her everyday life adventures and stories about inspirational people following their dreams.

Miss Priss Cupcakes & Such is located at 4131 Norse Way, Long Beach, 90808. The shop is open Tuesday through Sunday and custom orders require a 24-hour notice. You can also find Miss Priss Cupcakes & Such online at www.missprisscupcakes.com and Karie's blog can be found online at www.livingmisspriss.com.

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Beautiful Inside and Out

By Andrea Sampson

Walking through the door at A Place of Our Own is like stepping into an old friend's home. The hair and art salon is warm and welcoming. The stylist's stations are full of vintage charm, the wood-beamed ceilings provide an open airy feeling, and the art and jewelry inspire a creative atmosphere. Over the past five years, owner Debbie Jackobs has turned her salon into a unique retreat. The combination of beauty and art is a perfect match, and the soothing atmosphere has attracted a team of talented stylists and artists.

"A Place of Our Own is a community," stylist Shonia Travis said. Clients take their time chatting and enjoying the scenery and the stylists genuinely like each other. "We are a family in the salon, and we give each other full support in every aspect of life," stylist Ashley Baur House said.

A Place of Our Own offers salon services, art shows, open house events, and workshops. They also feature a variety of jewelry and gifts, which give back to causes such as ALS and human trafficking victims. The community is invited to check out the salon and Arbor Village on Holiday Night, Dec. 4, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. A Place of Our Own is located in Arbor Village at 10655 Los Alamitos Blvd. For more information, please call (714) 287-9665.

Shirley Johns (Resident Artist)

A Place of Our Own is more than hair. It's a place of beauty and art. Shirley Johns adds the art. Her paintings grace the walls of the salon, and she can often be found painting on the front porch overlooking the gardens. Shirley has been a part of the community for many years. She taught art at McGaugh Elementary School in Seal Beach where she helped create the popular Pageant of the Arts program, and she has led workshops at CSULB and various school districts throughout California.

Her partnership with Debbie Jackobs began one morning while Shirley sat having breakfast at Shenandoah. She gazed across the garden at the wide wooden porch and thought, "What a perfect place for an art show." She gave Debbie a call and three weeks later, more than 100 people filled the salon to view her art. That first art show was nearly five years ago.

Shirley's artwork is inspired by travel, food and nature. On Mondays, she likes to sit on the salon's front porch and paint. She has also hosted several workshops and taught many lessons on that porch. The garden inspires her. Shirley paints in watercolors and acrylic and has recently been working with mixed media. She does commissioned pieces in all sizes from large to tiny and her paintings in the salon are available for purchase. This winter, she will host her next show at the salon. For more information about Shirley Johns and her artwork, please call (562) 230-7056.



Briana Pavis (Stylist)

Briana Davis has been cutting hair for nearly a decade, but it wasn't until four years ago that she found a salon she could call home. After working in Belmont Shore for several years, Briana was looking for a change when a client suggested A Place of Our Own. She fell in love the minute she saw the cute and clean salon.

"It was like walking into a scene from Steel Magnolia's," Briana said. "I felt like I belonged here from the start."

Briana has been trained in cutting and color. She specializes in men's hair, but also enjoys doing hair and make-up for special occasions and the bride-to-be. When she's not cutting hair, Briana enjoys working out and hanging with her kitties. At least once a week, she volunteers with the nonprofit organization CatPAWS helping cats get adopted. To schedule an appointment with Briana, please call (562) 716-5234.

Ashley Baur House (Stylist)

Ashley Baur House has always loved hair. Her first clients were her Barbie dolls, so it came as no surprise when she chose her career.

Ashley has been a stylist for 11 years. She studied at Paul Mitchell where she became a color specialist and later attended makeup school at Fred Segal Beauty. She continued on to become a teacher and a

national color educator for Paul Mitchell, which has allowed her to travel around California teaching hairdressers the newest techniques.

What makes Ashley unique is her retro style. She loves all things vintage including the clothes, hats and hair. She even specializes in retro hairstyling, as well as special occasion and wedding styles.

Her gorgeous hairstyles have been seen in magazines and on red carpet events including the Golden Globes for InStyle magazine, Glamour, and the Espy awards.

Ashley has worked at A Place of Our Own for more than two years and can't imagine working anywhere else. "I was attracted to the salon first by its location and the beautiful garden, but that's just it's first appeal," she said. "A Place of Our Own provides a sense of comfort and makes everyone feel like they belong."

In addition to styling hair, Ashley loves teaching and is now offering classes for salon guests featuring a variety of topics. Her next class on November 15 will teach five everyday styles in 15 minutes or less.

Follow Ashley on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ashleybaur.hair or on Instagram at Vintagecolor Hair by Ashley.

To schedule an appointment, please call 562-250-7371.

Shonia Travis (Stylist)

Shonia was sitting on the patio having lunch at Shenandoah when she looked across the garden and saw A Place of Our Own. The quiet, peaceful location drew her in. She finished lunch and walked across the lawn to find Debbie Jackobs, the owner. An hour later she had a new job. For 10 years, Shonia Travis worked on Second Street. "It was a demanding location, and I was always busy," she said. As her own family grew, she sought a calmer location. A Place of Our Own was the perfect fit.

Shonia has been a stylist for 15 years. She was trained at the Tony & Guy Academy, where she learned precision cutting. She also studied color techniques and spent time as an educator for Joico. Shonia is a creative stylist who likes to bring the best out of her clients.

"Hair is a part of your outfit. It completes the look. It tells the world who you are." She's an expert at combining color and cut for that perfect look and can style all types of hair from wild curls to thick and wavy.

Her favorite thing about the salon is the calming environment. "I love that I can offer my clients a relaxing place to get their hair done," she said. In Shonia's free time, she enjoys painting, creating jewelry, and art. She volunteers at Precious Lamp, mentoring moms recovering from homelessness. She also loves spending time with her family. To schedule an appointment with Shonia, please call (562) 335-6599 and follow her on Facebook at ShoniaHair.



Being a stylish, socially responsible, ecofriendly parent is not easy. Even in this age of over-information, it's hard to know whose advice to trust. Luckily there is a new shop in Long Beach that does all the hard work for you – Born Free Boutique. Offering a curated selection of stylish, eco-friendly and socially conscious items for your child, Born Free Boutique is your one-stop-shop for a happy parent, happy child and better world.

Located at 191 Park Ave, where Park crosses 2nd Street in Belmont Shore, Born Free Boutique has a unique selection of children's books, toys, clothes and essentials. Not only do they carry well-known brands like The Honest Company and Aden & Anais, but they also feature items from a different local artisan each month. Previous local artisan features have included Scout Folks, Dex & Bodie and Sidewalk Esther. And for those parents who are on the cutting edge of the trends, Born Free also carries amber beads and Sophie la Girafe – parents, you know what I'm talking about!

Born Free Boutique opened in May 2014 by Marina Hernandez and her husband Fernando. A former elementary school teacher for Long Beach Unified and LAUSD, Hernandez and her husband were inspired to open Born Free Boutique after the birth of their daughter, Luna Mia. "I took a lot of care and time looking for healthy and eco conscious items for my daughter, and I knew that there were many other moms just like me," said Hernandez. "I wanted to create a store where parents can feel confident that what they are buying has been researched and vetted to be healthy, eco-friendly and socially conscious. With each product I buy for the store I always think 'What would I want for my child?""

Hernandez tries to ensure that all the brands carried at Born Free meet three standards – stylish, socially conscious and healthy for baby. She also tries to purchase from brands that are made in the USA, but makes an exception if the brand has an outstanding focus on social responsibility.

Born Free Boutique is not only a shopping destination, but also an entertainment destination for parent and child. Join them on Thursdays at 10:00 AM for story time, or take your child there during regular hours to enjoy the special play area. And if you're there to purchase a gift, don't forget to ask for the adorable – and free! – gift wrapping, customized with recipient or baby's name.

Born Free Boutique is open Monday – Saturday, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm and Sunday, 10:00 am – 4:30 pm. ■

Born Free Boutique Gives Us...

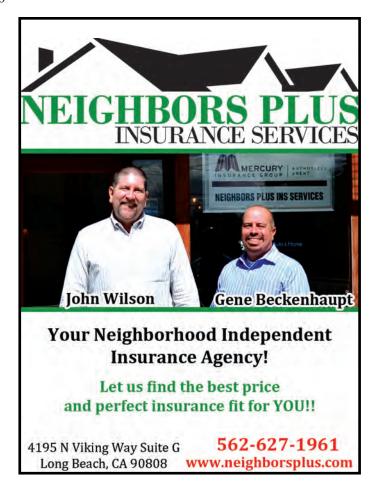
- 4 Tips To Effectively Manage Parenthood While Reducing Your Carbon Footprint
- 1. Be open to different diapering methods. Cloth diapering is arguably the most ecofriendly method. But did you know that Honest Company* makes eco-friendly disposable diapers too? Try a hybrid of cloth at home, eco-friendly disposable on the run.
- 2. **Prepare and store more food than you need.** Prepare and store extra pureed meals in eco-friendly and BPA-free glass containers, like those made by Lifefactory*, which can withstand both freezing and boiling temperatures.
- 3. **Support eco-friendly companies.** With a motto of "Sustainable Play," Plan Toys* has a reforestation program, commitment to a solar powered work environment and eco-friendly packaging. Not to mention their wooden toys are made to last and withstand "toddler play."
- 4. Remember you are not alone! Internet research on sustaining an eco-friendly lifestyle can be quite overwhelming, so reaching out to like-minded parents for advice is essential. Luckily, Long Beach is bursting with networks of mommy groups focused on reaching out, getting out and sharing a common bond. Sites like meetup.com can help you find the right "green" group for you and your little one.
- *All products mentioned are available at Born Free Boutique.

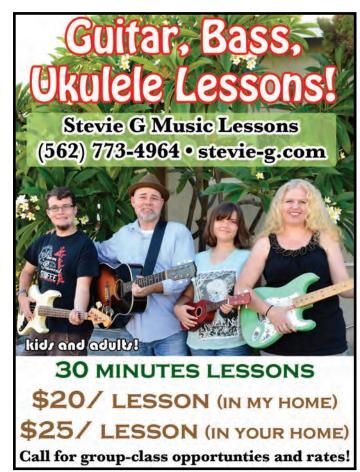
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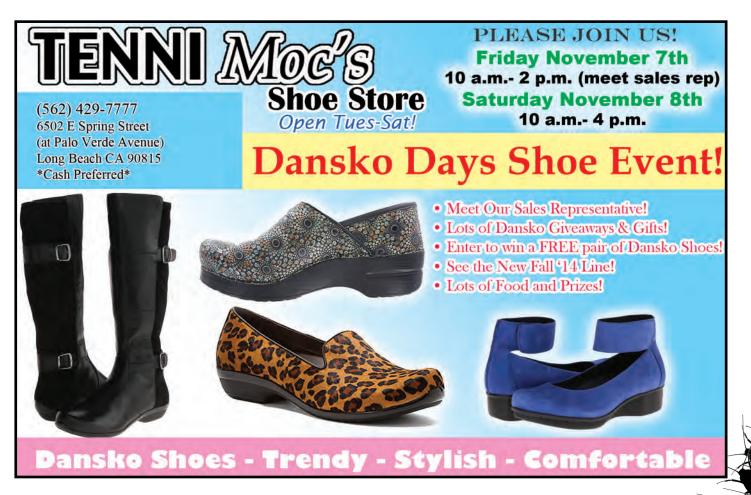












THE COCKROACH INVASION



A local chidren's book for the child in all of us...

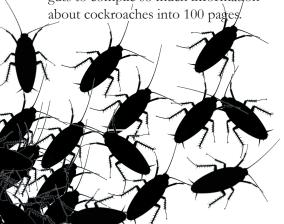
By John Grossi

"Suddenly the students realized what was happening! Kajillians of cock-roaches seemed to be exploding out of the sink drain. UGH! The class went bonkers!"

It's called *The Cockroach Invasion*, and it's one of the most unique and fascinating children's books I've ever picked up.

The best part is, it's a true story... children's nonfiction. The invasion happened over 20 years ago to local 90808 author Dr. Sherry L. Meinberg, as she taught her 3rd graders at an inner city Long Beach school—we won't tell you which one—we don't want to gross you out because they have cockroaches!

However, if you give this book a read, chances are you'll come to a deeper understanding about cockroaches. Meinberg doesn't try to convince you that they're not gross, rather you learn to accept the cockroach as a creature that is really just trying to avoid humans, not haunt us! You'll also learn a whole lot of interesting facts you've probably never known because no one before Sherry Meinberg has had the guts to compile so much information about cockroaches into 100 pages.





Meinberg says she wrote the book originally for readers between 3rd and 6th grade. She feels the subject matter is so interesting, new, and unlike other books that everyone-- including reluctant readers-- will be entranced. Interestingly, some of her best response has come from adult readers who are stunned by how much they learn while flipping through the easy read.

Chapter 2 is the "The Invasion." When the cockroaches first invade the classroom, the boys go around stomping on them while the girls sit on their desks shouting directions. Sherry assured me that most adults are squirmier around cockroaches than kids are when I shamefully admitted that I would be up on the desk with the girls.

Top Left: *The American Cockroach* by Morgan Martinez, age 9, 90808

In the book, just as in real life, the teacher harnesses the children's excitement over the cockroaches to trick them into a long, fun, scientific, learning experience. The kids must learn everything there is to know about cockroaches so that they can uncover why thousands of them shot out of the sink into the third grade classroom, and no other classroom in the school.

Meinberg places learning and mystery side-by-side beautifully, giving the readers no choice but to connect the dots in their own heads as they figure out with the class what cockroaches are and why they invaded. With Halloween right around the corner, *The Cockroach Invasion* is the perfect book for parents and kids to read together. I guarantee you it's not the type of science you've ever learned before.

Sherry Meinberg spent over fifty years as an educator in Long Beach (teacher, librarian, professor, and supervisor of student teachers). She now teaches the world through her books which have won 97 awards to date!

The Cockroach Invasion can be found online via any internet book store (Amazon, Barnes and Noble, etc.) and sells between \$8 and \$12 depending on what you find. If you and/or your child is looking for a spark to ignite the love for science, reading, or learning, give this thrilling children's nonfiction book a try. You'll be supporting a local 90808 author along the way!

Middle: Cockroach by Elliot Navabian, age 10 Top Right: The Maderia Cockroach by Ashley Martinez, age 9, 90808

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Engineering Fun Learning By Anabelle Dwyer

While classrooms are a major part of a child's educational development, we have to ask ourselves, "How do we connect real world learning experiences outside the classroom to what kids have learned in school?" Ask Two Bit Circus, an engineering entertainment company focused on developing inventors, designers, and creators of the future.

In an effort to introduce education in the most exciting way possible, Two Bit Circus is launching STEAM Carnival, a carnival reimagined with lasers, fire, and robots! Debuting next door to Downtown LB at CRAFTED at the Port of LA, STEAM Carnival runs from 11 am to 7 pm on October 25 and 26th, 2014. This unique, high-energy event will feature tech-infused game attractions and carnival-inspired entertainment to thrill, amuse, and reinvent the way we learn and play.

But why STEAM? STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math -- the evolution of the STEM learning movement. Through the integration of art, it's possible to engage children not previously interested in math or science. Love fashion design? How about creating a wearable electronics fashion piece that incorporates circuits and LED lights? Passionate about music? Learn how to program a robot to play an original composition. STEAM Carnival leverages the child's artistic interests in music, fashion, and/or games to create new learning pathways and inspire a new generation of learners.

In fact, all STEAM disciples practice the creative process. Consider what engineers, scientists, musicians, mathematicians, fashion designers, and artists have in common. Each of these professionals uses a combination of engineering practices and the artistic design process to solve problems, organize ideas, test, revise, and produce innovative final creations. STEAM Carnival shines a spotlight on developing a strong, creative STEAM identity and shows children how these disciplines connect with one another.



Inspiration for STEAM Carnival came from the alarming observation that kids across America continue to be widely uninterested in growing STEM fields such as engineering and science. Intimidation, fear, and real world disconnect are all factors that contribute to the shortage. Two Bit Circus realized that amongst many obstacles, STEM had a branding problem, and with STEM-related jobs projected to grow by 17% over the next 10 years, they created a solution. That solution is STEAM Carnival.

Two Bit Circus specifically chose the Port of LA for its dedication to STEAM learning and job development initiatives in and around the Long Beach and San Pedro areas. The Port provides many local jobs and is key to Long Beach's industry development. However, if younger generations continue to be uninterested in STEM disciplines, we run the risk of not having enough eligible candidates to continue to improve and grow our community. STEAM Carnival seeks to provide the spark that will ignite not just children's curiosity in STEAM, but most importantly, their enthusiastic pursuit of STEAM disciplines in the future.

To join the fun, purchase tickets at: www.steamcarnival.com

for you and your family to attend this month's STEAM Carnival. Use promo code: 908MAG for \$5 off every ticket you purchase. We hope to see you there!

The End of An Era Soccer City and Embroidery



By John Grossi

Few families have had as big an impact on the youth sports scene in Long Beach as the Albertsons over the past 30 years. John opened Soccer City in 1984 after having been involved with AYSO, LBYSO, and Long Beach Soccer Club and realizing there was no store dedicated to soccer in Long Beach. The goal back then was to create an old-fashioned, country- style store where locals not only could get quality equipment but enjoy a community hub for all-things local soccer.

For the first 10 years that's exactly what Soccer City was. The store outgrew its first location on Woodruff and Spring and moved a couple of lots down and into the same strip mall where it stands today. At Soccer City, kids and coaches have always been the priority, and I know I'm one of thousands harboring warm childhood memories of being fitted for new shin guards, cleats, and a soccer ball each season before the beginning of soccer practice.

In its early years, Soccer City would run game films of the local teams and host coaching clinics to make sure the new and growing sport was taught the right way with correct fundamentals. Though the coaching clinics have stopped, the concept has not. Each year a fresh batch of moms and dads find themselves turning to the Albertsons for guidance on a coaching approach that will benefit their youngsters.

What the large contingent of long-time East Long Beach customers may not realize about the refreshingly friendly and honest Albertsons is how many obstacles their small business has overcome - the first being when World Cup came to Los Angeles in 1994. Though some were predicting that the influx of soccer greats would soon make John rich, he knew better. As soccer grew in popularity, the big box corporate sporting goods stores began carrying the niche equipment on which Soccer City had once held a monopoly. Add in the internet, and by the late 1990's John watched his close-knit group of 14 independent soccer store owners between San Diego and San Francisco forced to close shop one-by-one.

John knew he had to reinvent his flagship store; and in 1994, invested his entire retirement savings to purchase an expensive embroidery machine. That was when the store front facing Woodruff added the words "and Embroidery" to the longstanding "Soccer City" sign. Adding embroidery to his business services was the best decision John ever made, and over the last decade has become its mainstay.

By far the most grueling obstacle John has had to overcome was the passing of daughter Tiffany, for years the face of Soccer City. On the board of numerous local leagues and adored by the East Long Beach soccer community, the shop was Tiffany's passion. John recalls the tragic day of her funeral. Expecting about 50 friends and family to attend, the family was overwhelmed when a line extended outside the church, demonstrating the many whose lives she had touched.

Shortly after Tiffany's death, John's wife also died. With the onset of the recession, John was forced to let go all of his employees and bring in daughter Stephany to help out for a "few months" that soon turned into 10 years. Stephany has become the new face and respect of Soccer City, working side-by-side with her dad.







This year, the 30th Anniversary of the store, John and Stephany have decided to sell their East Long Beach landmark. Business is good, but John in his 70's is getting tired of arriving each morning at 8 and sometimes staying to 8 in the evening when embroidery orders are backed up. Stephany too is ready to move on.

"This business needs some young, fresh, blood to keep its stature in the community to the bar that Tiffany set," laughs John, "I'm getting too old." It's a bittersweet announcement for us locals who have depended on the trustworthy Albertsons for so many years. John and his offspring have exemplified every good connotation of the term "family business."

Soccer City will stay open until a buyer is found and the transition complete. The Albertsons' hope is that a revived Soccer City continues to service the community for years to come. The new owners will be equipped with a large East Long Beach clientele that craves old-fashioned human-to-human interaction. They will certainly have big shoes to fill...Luckily the location is one that has a long history of finding the shoe that fits.



Teamwork, Dedication, and Success... All in a Row

By Jake Armstrong

Every sports fan has heard the old saying, "There's no 'I' in team." However, in most sports, there is a team member who can transcend this notion; a superstar who can put the team on his/her back and carry them to a win. Rowing is not most sports. For a rowing crew to succeed, every member of the team must remain in sync. The crew must be a unit, working together to propel their shell to victory. The synergy that is so evident when watching a crew work is perhaps the reason rowing has become one of the fastest growing sports in the United States.

With Long Beach's legendary sense of community, as well as its history of athletic success, it comes as no surprise that Long Beach Junior Crew is so successful. LBJC is a coed rowing program in Long Beach, whose competitive team is made up of local high school students from grades 9-12. The program, which is coming up on its 30-year anniversary, has become one of the most successful rowing programs in the country. Just 3 months ago, at the U.S. Rowing National Championship, LBJC's Men's Varsity 8+ won the gold medal, while Women's lightweight 8+ and lightweight 4+ each won the bronze medal.

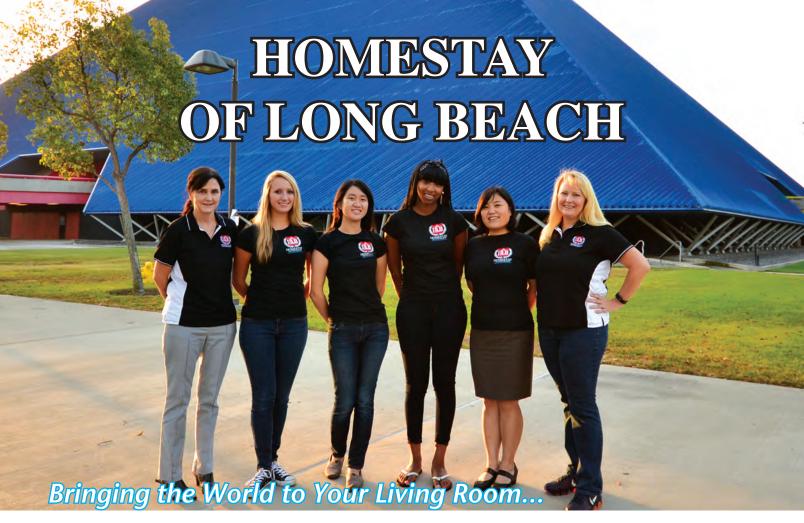
Although the team gets to travel throughout the United States for races, team members are also afforded the luxury of frequently racing right here in Long Beach. LBJC holds many races throughout the year at Long Beach Marine Stadium, the first man-made rowing course in the United States. This historic venue was created in order to host the rowing events for the 1932 Summer Olympics. Now 82 years later, Long Beach Junior Crew holds its Cal Cup

Regatta and the renowned two-day Long Beach Junior Invitational in April at the stadium, a hallowed location where it seems fitting for such a successful program to compete.

With a staff that includes 2012 Olympic rowers like Peter Graves, and Olympian Alfredo Montenegro, who was recognized as Coach of the Year by the Junior Rowing Coaches' Conference, LBJC students are receiving the best training possible. The coaching staff is not only skilled, but due to their proven track record and recognized achievements, these coaches also serve as excellent role models for students in all areas of life. For Long Beach Junior Crew, the focus is about more than just rowing. It's about teamwork, and being the best you can be. The LBJC program not only promotes a family-like mentality, it promotes responsibility, dedication, and perseverance. Consequently, LBJC alumni have gone on to attend some of the most prestigious colleges in the country (Princeton, Stanford, UC Berkeley, University of Washington, University of Wisconsin, George Washington, and the U.S. Naval Academy, to name a few).

Anyone interested in becoming part of a crew team is invited to to join throughout the year. Or, for beginners, LBJC strongly recommends participating in one of their summer, winter, or spring Learn-To-Row Camps for ages 12-18, which is where most of their crew members start out!

There is a concept in the military called "unit cohesion," which is defined as "the bonding together and commitment of a unit to each other and their mission, despite mission stress." This is a powerful concept, which epitomizes unity, dedication, and above all, teamwork. There is no sport in the world which embodies unit cohesion more than rowing, and there is no finer example of these concepts in action than at Long Beach Junior Crew.



Homestay of Long Beach By John Grossi

Kimberly McClure and her daughter Mikaela used to travel the world. Now the world travels to them.

In the last eight years, 60 students from all over the world have walked through the mother-daughter duo's doors near Studebaker and Willow to become part of the 90815 family—one semester at a time. Their company, Homestay of Long Beach, serves CSULB and LBCC students from around the globe. And what started as an easy way to make some extra money during the recession has transformed into a full-time passion for Kimberly.

Homestay of Long Beach connects foreign exchange students in need of living quarters with welcoming families in the area. Everyone in East Long Beach is eligible to apply to host a student based on their offer of a prime location within one bus ride of both CSULB and LBCC. Kimberly loves being director of the program because every time she matches a visiting student with a local family, she is creating a win-win scenario for both sides of the exchange.

Most students want to stay in homes rather than dorms or apartments because it gives them a chance to practice their English language skills through talking to natives. Homestay also gives students the comfortable family setting they crave while studying a hemisphere away from their own families. Host families in Long Beach receive a compensation that generally comes out to around \$800 a month, which covers their expenses in providing a clean room, a student-prepared breakfast (cereal is standard), and homemade sitdown dinner each night for the student. In the experience of most host families, the intangible benefits of homestay quickly come to surpass the business exchange of food and lodging for a

modest compensation. It is customary that in many cultures the student guests come bearing gifts for their host. It has become standard in Long Beach for the guests to leave their hosts having formed a life-long friendship. Often the result of forming such meaningful friendships and familial relationships is that students and families keep in touch for many years following the semester stay, communicating through the internet and planning/completing physical visits to the student's home country or reunions back here in Long Beach.

Homestay of Long Beach recognizes and embraces the variety of unique family units in Long Beach; they have and will pair up students with a variety of hosts. One common demographic who have benefited from the program are empty-nesters, with the story of Tim and Marsha Mercer serving as a perfect example.

The Mercers admit that when they first signed up for Kimberly's program



the primary incentive was for financial compensation to help them weather the recession. Based on their initial experience, however, they became hooked; and today continue to shelter students each semester because of the intellectual stimulation and incredible joy the program has brought them.

With their kids grown and moved away, it's nice to have young movement and liveliness around the house. "We like it because it's sort of like having grand-kids around the house," Tim explains, "and the students like it for the same reason. They really like becoming part of the family."

Tim and Marsha have a house full of funny stories and great memories from the program. Marsha loves how impressed her Chinese students were with the variety in her cooking. "They were constantly taking photos and sending pictures home to their friends and family showing off the unique meals I would serve!" Tim especially enjoyed teaching one of his students how to drive so she could pass her license test—which is directly transferable to China (but a lot cheaper here!).



Both agree that the best part of the program is engaging in long, unplanned talks after dinner where the hosts and guests get to share, laugh, and explore each others' cultures that are so very different. You can guarantee that every student who comes through a house in Long Beach is going to go home with a totally different view of what America is all about. The whole program cultivates a habit of recognizing other humans as individuals and erasing stereotypes held by both parties involved. At the end of each student's stay the families often laugh about the expectations they once had, but cry as they watch their students drive to the airport.

Kimberly at Homestay of Long Beach is here to connect any interested residents of the 908' to these amazing, hardworking, responsible, global students. Students generally either stay for a 6-week visit, or a 3-month semester. Students arrive year-round and come from all over the world... sometimes even from other parts of the U.S.

Most study at college, but some are also athletes in training. They range from high school to collegiate to future Olympians. Kimberly hosted one female speed-skater in training who went on to make the 2014 Olympic team for the Netherlands.

For the students, a semester spent studying abroad can be one of the most memorable times in their life, but you rarely hear people talk about the reverse side of that. The families hosting these students experience almost as much of a culture clash as their guest students. Just ask Kimberly and her daughter about this flip side. Before launching Homestay of Long Beach, mother and/or daughter adventurers had traveled to 27 different countries. Now they see the world come in through their own living room door and sitting at their dining room table.

When Kimberly and Mikaela set out to travel now, it is no longer just to see the world. Now they journey to visit "family" members from semesters past. It is amazing for Kimberly to think that though her clan now stretches across 22 countries, each student still holds a special place in their hearts for a house near El Dorado Park in Long Beach. A house they will forever call home.

*This Fall 2014 and Winter 2015 is the perfect time to give homestay a try! Kimberly has close to 80 students looking for placements near CSULB.

If you want to welcome the international community to our Long Beach community and learn more about the program, please contact Kimberly at the information below!

Take Me Out to the Ball Game... Al Huntley

By Andrea Sampson

Fresh cut grass, bright white pants and soft leather gloves. Snack shack treats, sunflower seeds and dugout chants. The crack of the bat, grass-stained knees, and a cloud of dust as the players slide home. Cheers bursting from the bleachers. Little League.

Youth baseball is a cherished pastime for children and adults all over America, but especially here in Long Beach. Scores of kids come out every season to learn how to catch, throw and hit, but all of this couldn't happen without dedicated coaches like Al Huntley.

Huntley, a Long Beach native, grew up with a love for baseball. As an adult he played in every recreation league that he could find. "I played five nights a week," Huntley said. "Slow-pitch, fast-pitch, it didn't matter. I just wanted to play."

His first coaching experience began with Kiwanis in 1972, where he coached for three years before moving to Long Beach Little League. Every weeknight, after working a full day for The Long Beach Gas Company, he would show up to the ball field ready to coach, and the kids were there ready to play. "I enjoy teaching them," he said. "When you take the time to teach them the right way, the light goes on and they get it."

Over the years, Huntley watched a lot of lights go on. His kids could probably light a major league stadium, and several of them have. Chase Utley from the Philadelphia Phillies; Sean Burroughs, a first-round draft pick in 1998 for the San Diego Padres; and Zach Wilson, who plays for the New York Yankees minor league team are just a few of the out-



standing players who have run the bases under Huntley's guidance.

During his 40 years of coaching, Huntley saw some amazing catches and incredible plays, but the highlight of his coaching career was helping the all-star team to the Little League World Series, twice. "I had always wanted to go, but I wasn't sure I'd ever get there," he said. "It was a dream come true. I could die happy now."

Huntley helped Larry Lewis and Jeff Burroughs with 1992 and 1993 all-star teams which were the back-to-back World Series champions. "We are the only team in America to ever have backto-back World Series wins," Huntley said.

Huntley still lives in Long Beach and sits on the board for Long Beach Little League. He is a father to four daughters, who all played softball. After years of coaching baseball, Al finally had the opportunity to coach one of his own when his grandson Oliver VanBuskirk came up through the Little League program. Oliver went on to hit the walk-off home run to win the 2008 Pony League World Series while Grandpa sat on the sidelines cheering him on.

Huntley has volunteered countless hours on the ball field, and in 2011, he received the Tom and Georgie Gleason Award for his service to youth sports.

Shortly after my interview with Huntley, I ran into an old friend who played at Long Beach Little League in the early 90s, and I asked if he knew Al Huntley. "Of course, everyone knew him. I still remember his long white mustache and deep voice," he said. "Whenever he would watch us play, he would stop and give us some helpful tip or a word of encouragement."

Al Huntley is one of Long Beach's all-star coaches. ■









Exemplary Confidence... Rod Petkovic

By John Grossi

The terms "Millikan Soccer," "Dominance," and "Rod Petkovic" are synonymous. That's because Rod Petkovic is not only one of the most successful coaches in CIF history, he's also the only soccer coach Millikan has ever had. Since the start of its program in 1982, Millikan is the only team in Southern California to be rated in the CIF's top 10 for 32 years straight.

Rod's specialty is his unique style of motivation; he exudes confidence and demands hard work. He also requires that he and the kids have fun every day. "If one of us is not having a good time playing soccer, then nothing we do is going to work." Out of the many captivating and sometimes hilarious stories Rod tells about his 32 years on the field, some of the best exemplify the confidence that he rubs off on his team.

When Rod first got to Millikan, he coached girls' track. That first year he fielded a motley mixture of girls who excelled in P.E. The group of misfits got whomped 117-5 in their first meet against Poly. When the season ended he looked his team in the eye and said, "Ladies, if you give me your summer, we'll win a league championship."

The next year they won league, beating Poly by 22 points in the final.

When starting up the boys' soccer program, Rod was still coaching both boys' and girls' track and cross-country. For two years he coached all five teams and went 10/10 in winning Moore League Championships. As the sport of soccer grew, however, he dedicated his full-time efforts to that program.



Petkovic's soccer program has made it to the CIF finals four times and won three championships. His motivational approach to soccer is similar to that for track: a demand for hard work and confidence.

Petkovic recalls one year the schedule dealt his team a late-season matchup vs. Los Al High School. Millikan was 12-0 on the season and Los Al was 14-0. The newspapers ran multiple articles about how tough Los Al was as a team. For the first time that season he sensed his players' confidence wavering. He had to do something - and in classic Petkovic style, that something was out of the ordinary.

"The day before the game at practice I told my kids that I didn't order the bus to Los Al. They all looked at me in shock and started pleading with me."

He told the kids that they didn't need a bus to beat Los Al. He said that the next day they were going to leave Millikan early, jog all the way to Los Al, beat the other team, and then jog back. That's

exactly what they did to a 1-0 finish.

For how serious Petkovic's success has been, his personality is fun-loving and humorous. He says you have to know how to have fun if you want to motivate teenage boys. Every time it rains, instead of canceling practice, they wear trashbagponchos and go on fun runs. "Never underestimate the joy teenage boys gets out of sliding in the mud," says Rod.

Petkovic is one of the only coaches in CIF who doesn't charge his players money to play. "I don't want parents' money because parents don't play for me." Rod leads his team through fundraising activities including car washes, etc., but no money ever comes out of pocket... a rarity for youth sports today.

Rod's almost 80% career win-percentage proves his soccer savvy. However, probably his biggest benefit to the kids is what he teaches them by example. A positive attitude and confidence in yourself go a long way.

At Home at Heartwell... Julie Johnson

By John Grossi

Julie Johnson, a native of Manhattan Beach and proud product of the AYSO soccer program herself, has become an inspiring example of why soccer is such a popular youth sport in East Long Beach. A couple of days after signing up her oldest daughter for peewee in 1999, Johnson received a call from the league asking if she would coach due to a shortage in her daughter's division. She happily agreed, then hung up the phone and began to freak out, remembering she had a new-born baby and toddler she needed to take care of during practice times!

She and the league worked out a deal by which Julie's best friend's daughter was added to the soccer team, making it convenient for the friend to babysit while Johnson coached. Since then, Julie hasn't stopped coaching AYSO at Heartwell Park at least two nights a week, with games on Saturdays.

Having coached her own three children (who are now 21, 19, and 16) through AYSO, as well as the children of multiple friends, Johnson is also a league referee and serves on its board of directors. She has coached every age group in every season: you name it - fall, Spring Select, and All-stars, and often juggles at least two teams a season.

Julie says she really loves the AYSO mentality of teaching the fundamentals of the game and making sure that every kid plays. Johnson thrives on teaching her girls a competitive nature, and seeing them mature on and off the field. "You see them grow from 4-year-olds to young women sometimes and it is really cool



to develop a friendship with the kids' families just through sports."

Besides her love for soccer, friendship is a big reason Julie isn't quite ready to give up her cleats and ball bag. So many of her own friendships and those of her children have come from the AYSO connection that she couldn't imagine not seeing these great teammates of the neighborhood every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Especially in recent years, she has enjoyed getting back in touch or being recognized by former players who are now becoming young men and women in the community.

At Costco where Julie and her husband both work, she recently interviewed a prospective employee only to find out she was a former player from way back when! It happens all over the city, at Heartwell Park or in restaurants. "They'll either have played on one of my teams or recognize me from playing on the opposing team."

Julie is humble about all the time she has given to AYSO soccer. "I like it... It keeps me out there running with the kids so that's good for me." Whether AYSO is a child's final destination or whether they go on to play club, high school, and college, almost every child in Long Beach gets their start at a park like Heartwell with a coach like Julie.

Humble though she may be, her impact is recognized by those who know her or whose child has played on one of her teams. One parent had to do some bragging for her. "She works a full-time job, has a husband and three kids of her own, and still gets to the field three times a week just to teach other parents' kids the fundamentals of the game." It's a selfless act, an inspiration, and an explanation of the talent that ends up years later in East Long Beach high schools.

Molder of Men Trainer of Champions Marshall Thompson

By Jake Armstrong

As a young sports lover growing up in Rosemead, CA, Millikan's Marshall Thompson decided his life's mission would be to become a coach. In his early 20's, he began to fulfill his mission, becoming the assistant coach for the Millard High School wrestling team in Utah. After stints as head coach at multiple high schools around the country (Utah, Snowflake AZ, and even our own Long Beach Wilson), Marshall finally settled into Millikan High School, where he has established an unprecedented number of achievements over the past 24 years.

From a very young age, Marshall realized he had a passion for sports. Like most coaches, Marshall is a tremendous competitor, and throughout middle school, he played any sport he could in order to satisfy that competitive drive. "I loved soccer, and if Mark Keppel High School had a team, I'd have probably played that as well. Instead, I chose football, which ultimately led me to wrestling during high school," he says. Considering the amount of people Marshall has coached and mentored over the years, we're quite thankful that Marshall chose the football route.

Since starting his coaching career at Millard High School in Utah 40 years ago, Marshall has helped hundreds of boys not only hone their wrestling skills, but also develop into respectful young men. Some of his most memorable seasons were the 11 years back at his alma mater Mark Keppel High, where he churned out some of his best career wrestlers.



He explained his philosophy on coaching, stating, "I coach the kids to win, and I'm very competitive, but that's all secondary. When it comes down to it, my goal is to give the kids an experience... the experience to learn from the sport, to learn dedication and perseverance. Above all, I want them to experience a sense of family."

This experience that Marshall is talking about permeates throughout the boys' lives, with the vast majority of the Millikan Wrestling Team achieving very high marks in school. What is especially impressive about the impact that Marshall has on the lives of those he mentors is the fact that on top of it all, he does what he is supposed to as a coach: he wins.

Coach Thompson is the most successful wrestling coach in the history of Long Beach high schools, with over 700 wins

and 14 Moore League titles in his 24 years at Millikan. Further, he is the only Moore League coach to win four total CIF-SS team titles. Though the list of the Millikan Rams' legendary accomplishments is endless, Marshall says his 2010 year is especially memorable. He was extremely proud of his boys, who not only won the CIF championship, but also went undefeated in duels for the entire season.

On the wall of the Millikan wrestling room it says: "We are a team. Like a family, we support each other, and work together.... We have the heart to train hard and always compete to win. We train to be champions." This quote is not just the motto of Millikan wrestling, it is fully embodied by Coach Thompson, a father of six himself. He's the benchmark – not only for coaches everywhere, but for all role models and mentors who aim to better the character of those they teach.

Proud of her Girls...

Eleanor Dystra

By Jonathan Murrietta

For 38 years, Valley Christian High School was the place that coaching legend Eleanor Dykstra called home. Best known for coaching Valley Christian's girls' basketball team, many games stick out in Dykstra's mind. But one game in particular always comes back into memory—the Southern California Regional Finals in 1995.

Valley Christian was supposed to play Santa Ynez at Cal State Fullerton on a Saturday. A terrific rainstorm, however, prevented Santa Ynez from getting to the game. CIF rescheduled the game for Tuesday at Mayfair High School. "The place was jam packed," Dykstra recalls. "The stands were overflowing."

Santa Ynez was the favorite. They had beaten Valley Christian the year before in the second round. Now, the rival teams were playing for a spot in the State Championship game. The lead went back and forth, their two inside players evenly matched. Valley Christian ended up winning the high scoring game. The atmosphere in the Mayfair High School gym was electric.

"I reflect on that game a lot," said Dykstra.

Valley Christian's Jodi Parriott, who played on the winning '95 squad, went on to play college basketball for USC's women's team. "She would have to go down in history as one of Valley Christian's best players ever," Dykstra said. Jodi's sister Kari played basketball for Long Beach State with Penny Toler, who now is the general manager of the Los Angeles Sparks, a WNBA professional basketball team.



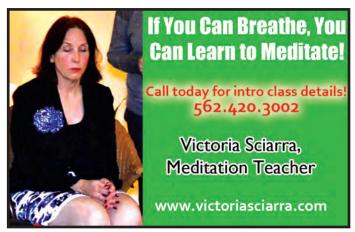
Perhaps most rewarding for Dykstra as a coach was seeing her girls enjoy opportunities for success on the bigger stage. Dykstra grew up on the cutting edge of Title Nine, an amendment signed into law that gave equal opportunities to women in athletics. Before Title Nine, women didn't play interscholastically. When schools became compliant to Title Nine, it gave opportunities for women to play.

"We had terrific female athletes at Valley Christian, but going to play for college on a scholarship wasn't even on their radar," Dykstra said.

Dykstra's girls have gone on to lead successful lives on and off the court. It was always important for Dykstra to develop all her players—the talented prodigies who wanted to play college ball, as well as the players just wanting to get better and looking for a little fun.

Dykstra credits her husband Bob for his tremendous support over her long coaching career. Her son Rick now coaches the JV boys' basketball team at Valley Christian. Her daughter played basketball at Valley Christian and was a softball player at Azusa Pacific University. Dykstra retired from Valley Christian in 2009.

These days, she enjoys playing golf with her lady friends at least once a week and finds relaxation in tending to her garden. She finds no greater joy than watching her grandchildren participate in school sports and activities. After all, once a coach, always a coach.



Live Like Klaus... Klaus Barth (1949-2006)

By Andrea Sampson

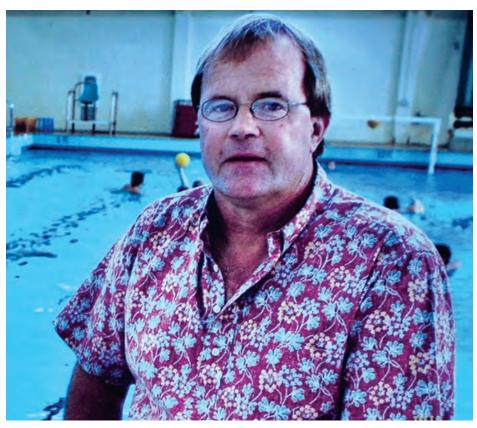
"You Can Do It."
For 32 years, those words echoed through the Belmont Pool, the Wilson natatorium, and the pool deck at CSULB, and they continue to echo in the hearts of thousands of swimmers, soccer players, water polo players, students, and parents all over Long Beach.

Klaus Barth is the most legendary aquatics coach in Long Beach. His can-do attitude and unstoppable spirit has made him unforgettable.

Barth was born in Germany. He was an athlete from a very young age, an all-city soccer player and a seven-time German record holder for the breaststroke. After competing in the 1968 Olympics for West Germany, Barth was recruited to swim for CSULB. This was his opportunity to afford a University education.

He arrived in Long Beach knowing only a few words of English, but managed to earn a degree and fall in love, all while helping the CSULB swim team win numerous awards. After marrying his college sweetheart, Shari Barth, his first teaching job was at Lakewood High School. He coached soccer and swim at Lakewood for seven years, until he moved to Wilson in 1983.

Barth spent his days working with the varsity water polo and swim teams and teaching general PE to hundreds of teens. His evenings were spent coaching younger swimmers at several different swim clubs, including Shore Aquatics and Seal Beach Swim. He also made time for his wife and three children who were growing up in the Naples neighborhood. Barth coached many record-breaking swimmers and award-winning teams,



but what made him special is the way he coached the kids who weren't the all-stars. All of Barth's kids felt like winners. He gave them time, acknowledged them and taught them that it didn't matter how fast they could swim or how hard they could throw the ball, what mattered was how hard they tried.

"He never cut a kid from his team," says his wife, Shari. "As long as they tried, he would find a spot for them."

He encouraged kids to do their best and to give their all, and he led by example. In 1983, Barth competed in his first Ironman competition and came in 15th place. He was determined to do better. In 1986, he received fourth, coming in behind three hall of fame triathletes. He later earned two championships in the masters division.

This determination continued to lead his life, even after being diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme, the most aggressive type of brain tumor. The doctors gave him six months to live but he told them, I'm going to break your records. Cancer is going to have to keep up with me, because I'm not waiting for it."

Barth continued to coach, laugh, love, swim and inspire through 13 rounds of chemotherapy and two brain surgeries. After battling cancer for six years, Barth, 57, passed away in October 2006.

Barth's family, Kristin and Chi Kredell, Brianne Barth and Garrit Barth continue to run Shore Aquatics, and they do it with the same can-do spirit that their father possessed. A foundation to benefit cancer research and a scholarship fund has also been created in his memory.

The importance of perseverance was a lesson he always taught his students. "They don't have to be the best swimmer or have the best grades to receive the scholarship," Shari said. "But they need to try their hardest despite challenges."

Barth lived life to the fullest. He is remembered for his boisterous sense of humor, his positive attitude and his unstoppable spirit. His outlook on life inspired the phrase "Live Like Klaus," which can be seen on the bumpers of cars all over town. For Barth, coaching wasn't just about what happens on a field or in the water, it was about living life always knowing, "You Can Do It!"





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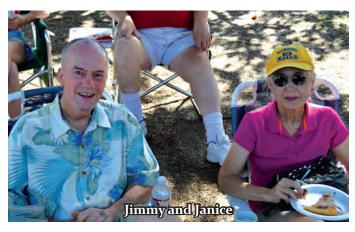
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In a Field of His Own... Bob Fitzpatrick

By Jonathan Murrietta

Three o'clock. Bob Fitzpatrick punches out from the post office and rushes to the practice field. He can't wait to get to St. Joseph's Elementary School, where he coaches football, basketball, baseball and softball – as a volunteer.

That was in the '50s – and that was just the start. Ever since, Fitzpatrick has been inspiring, teaching, and coaching countless kids.

An all-city basketball player at Wilson High, Fitzpatrick himself went on to play ball in the service. As part of the Army's 11th airborne division, Fitzpatrick traveled Europe, at one time playing a basketball tournament behind the Iron Curtain in Germany in 1958. "I was a built-in employee as I ran the gym in the service," Fitzpatrick said.

After military discharge, Fitzpatrick worked for the postal service, but really wanted to coach. Once offered the coaching position at St. Joseph's he never looked back. While coaching during the day, Bob earned a BA in Recreation with a coaching minor in 1976 from Cal State Long Beach, which he attended on the G.I. Bill.

Bob credits wife Joan for helping him to continue coaching as he completed his college courses. "I couldn't have done it without her support," Fitzpatrick said. She got a "PHT," Putting Hubby Through, as she ran the snack shack and helped with fundraising."

A plethora of star athletes came through St. Joseph's as young kids in the '70s—all coached by Bob Fitzpatrick. There was



Tim DeRuyter, who at present is head football coach at Fresno State. Bob Ctvrtlik, an Olympic gold medalist in volleyball and Wilson High graduate, was Fitzpatrick's quarterback in 1973 at St. Joseph's. Frank Spina, owner of Salco Landscaping, played ball under Fitzpatrick as a child. Now Bob helps Frank coach flag football at St. Joseph's.

Fitzpatrick was a legend at St. Joseph's, carrying its youth flag football team to a Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Championship in 1974. He left his coaching duties mid-season when an opportunity came to head the CYO in Los Angeles. While there, Bob scheduled over 450 games a week for 175 schools, earning employee of the year from the archdiocese of Los Angeles along the way—the only employee of the year award that has ever been given out!

Off the court and field, Bob and Joan started their own business, University Trophies and Awards Inc. at Clark and Spring streets – now owned by youngest son, Shawn. Daughter Coleen serves as executive administrative assistant to the president of Long Beach State.

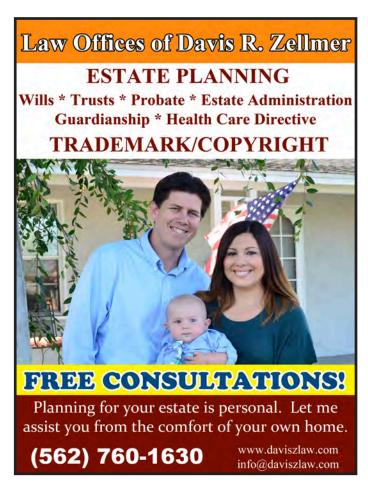
After 23 years of service, Fitzpatrick retired from the CYO in 1999 and returned to his coaching roots. He coached St. Joseph's flag football squad to another CYO Championship in 2006, the first group to go all the way since his original championship team in 1974.

Besides receiving numerous honors for coaching, like induction into the CYO Hall of Fame and Century Club of Long Beach honors, Bob Fitzpatrick's picture hung on the wall at Legends Sports Bar when Gene Rotondo owned the restaurant. Fitzpatrick had coached Rotondo.

Fitzpatrick's coaching career has come full circle as he continues to volunteer coach for St. Joseph's flag football team. The school's Fitz Field is named after the coaching legend. He still loves teaching these kids the fundamentals.

Like a little kid himself, he says, "I can't wait to get to practice today." ■







Coaching through it all... Lisa Beato

By John Grossi

Over the last 20 years, it's hard to tell which has been a more positive force: Lisa Beato's impact on coaching, or coaching's impact on Lisa Beato.

This season, she's set to become the head JV coach for the Millikan baseball team...the first woman to hold such a position. For twenty years, since her first son Brett started tee ball, she's dedicated her life to teaching kids how to give their best effort and spark a passion for the game. Unfortunately most people now recognize her because of the tragic death of her younger son Brian, who was hit by a car and killed in June 2012.

Brian was a sophomore at Millikan and had just finished his first year starting on the Varsity team when the accident occurred. Lisa was devastated by the unexplainable loss. Nine months later, her husband died. The only coping mechanism that has worked for Lisa at all was to keep on coaching. She continued to coach the travel ball team on which Brian had always played with his friends and has not stopped since.

"It's definitely nice to have that constant of going to the diamond," Lisa says, "Just about everything else changes when your family of four suddenly becomes a family of two."

For twenty years Lisa Beato has coached multiple teams, often at the same time, at East Long Beach Pony, Heartwell Pony, Millikan High, and the Long Beach Bullets club team.

When Lisa grew up in Connecticut, she was a high school letterman, playing volleyball, basketball, and soccer. Baseball, however, has always been her biggest passion. More specifically, the Red Sox.



"That's been one of my biggest obstacles at Millikan so far... I'll be wearing red for the Red Sox and people will think I'm with Lakewood," laughs Lisa!

Growing up watching the Sox games, and learning to love baseball strategy, is why Lisa still spends so much time on the field. When asked why she liked coaching she admits, "it's always been the same reason. Just an absolute huge passion for the game. I love it."

The long-time American Airlines employee has had the same schedule for two decades. She wakes up at 2:30 a.m., drives to LAX, works from 4 a.m. to noon, then heads home...straight to the diamond. The cool thing about working for an airline is the free travel. Recently, with some of her past players like Matt Duffy, JP Crawford, and Josh Frye making it to the big leagues, Lisa has been using some of her employee miles to fly out and watch them play.

For Lisa coaching is most rewarding because she gets to see kids grow up right in front of her eyes. The gratitude they show makes it worth all the time and effort. She keeps in touch with a ton of former players via phone and social media, and so appreciates how supportive her teams have been before and after Brian's accident.

"With all I've been through, it's funny that sometimes the simplest benefits of coaching have the biggest impact. You have no idea how much it means to me when some kid I haven't seen for years shoots me a text just because the Red Sox hit a walk-off home run or something."

In one of her first off-season tournaments this year, she took her Millikan team to a tournament at Western. "Western was the last tournament Brian played. It was the last time he crossed home plate." She definitely got a little emotional as she caught sight of the field, but pulled it together and focused on coaching. As she did, she felt something being given to her that could only be attributed to baseball, the sport she loves. Being back there on that field, she finally felt some closure about her son.

The Shops at Arbor Village - The 10600 Block of Los Alamitos Blvd.



Motivating Parent Turned Coaching Great... Louie Silva

By Jonathan Murrietta

Long Beach Pop Warner Football coach Louie Silva has inspired many kids over his 30-year career. It all started when Silva played softball at El Dorado Park. His son, Louie Jr., who was 7 years old at the time, saw other kids playing football and wanted to join in on the action. Silva signed his son up for the team and soon became known as a motivating force on the field. Even though Silva was just a parent out there, kids on the team respected him.

"They listened to me more than the coaches," Silva said.

It snowballed after that. The following year, Silva became the football team's head coach. From Los Altos, he went on to coach for the West Long Beach Little League and at Heartwell Park's Pony Little League, earning championships in both baseball programs. Four years ago, Silva was elected president of Long Beach Pop Warner Football. He now manages six teams and three squads of cheerleading. Silva coaches the Jr. Pee Wees and a Sunday adult baseball league. Some of the players on the adult team when Silva coached they were kids.

"They're still hanging with me," Silva said. "They want me to be their coach because I am a good motivator."

Louie Silva is known for his caring and inspiring demeanor off the field as well. He regularly provides transportation for kids who struggle to make it to practice. He transports them from all over Long



Beach, including downtown, where Silva said a lot of single parents appreciate his hard work and dedication to helping their kids stay out of trouble.

"He changes a lot of lives," said Silva's son Louis Jr, who coaches the league's Pee Wee team. "He keeps a lot of kids in school and out of gangs by letting them come play football for him."

Silva is a motivator on the field, but also a good disciplinarian. His players can't come onto the practice field unless all of their homework is finished. If a player forgets to bring protective gear to practice, he/she can forget about practicing that day. It's that simple under Coach Silva.

That's what parents in Long Beach love about Silva. His care and concern both on and off the field are admirable. That's why for 30 years, parents have flocked to Silva to coach their kids.

Silva came to Long Beach from Mexico in 1968. He got a job with Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems, working as a mechanic and technician on aircraft carriers. He retired in 2004, and now dedicates his time to coaching and managing the Long Beach Pop Warner League.

Many kids who grew up to be star athletes went through Silva's program, including Trevon Trejo who now plays at Syracuse, Chris Leachman at Alabama A&M, and San Diego Chargers rookie safety Alden Darby, who played at Arizona State before being drafted by the NFL. Darby came back to give a motivating pep talk to Silva's Pop Warner boys, encouraging the 10-year-olds that, with enough effort, they can one day be successful too.





Playing the whole game... John Treece

By John Grossi

John Treece has coached just about everyone, everywhere in Long Beach, in every sport, for over 40 years. You may know him as "Verne."

"The problem is that I'm horrible with names," laughs the good-natured Treece, "One day one of my former players called me Verne and I called him Verne back, and it just kind of stuck." From then on he's called everyone Verne and everyone's called him Verne.

He started coaching when he was 21 years old at St. Hedwig's in Los Al. Though at it his whole life, he's quick to clarify that coaching has never been a job...literally or figuratively. Coaching is a hobby, a passion, and a joy. Treece worked at the Press Telegram for 30 years before starting a pool-man business, from which he retired in 2011.

His favorite sport is baseball, which he's coached at Los Al, St. John Bosco, Cerritos College, St. Anthony, Wilson, Long Beach Pony, and American Legion. Now at Millikan, Treece is an assistant to head coach Scott Glasser—a former player of Verne's in Pony league. Treece has seen dozens of his former players make it into MLB, and almost everyone in the Long Beach baseball community has played for or against the legend.

While always coaching baseball at the high school level, raising a family with wife Darlene, and working a full-time job, Verne also volunteered at Holy Innocents and St. Cornelius parochial schools for 30 years, coaching 5th through 8th graders in basketball and football ... whatever was needed. He laughs about the year Jason Kapono played on his 8th grade squad. "Yeah, we were pretty good that year."



Verne is humble and doesn't like to pat himself on the back too much, but he has thousands of stories from coaching youth sports that range from the 70's to last year. I enjoyed hearing about his days coaching at Whaley Pony before they used professional team names. Instead of the "Yankees" each of the teams was sponsored by a local business, and he managed the "Pizza Eateries."

When I asked him what he likes most about coaching, Verne looked at me with a smile and said, "What do I like about coaching? Everything!"

He likes meeting people, watching the kids grow, and reconnecting when they come back to coach themselves. He likes seeing a kid that he doesn't expect to play much, work the hardest and become the best on the team. He likes seeing the improvement in a high school kid between freshman and senior year. He really likes the camaraderie among coaches. "Some of my best friends are guys I met

through coaching. It's just a bunch of great people out here," says Verne.

The most important thing he teaches kids is to play the whole game. "Don't take off one play, or one throw, or one second of running. However long the game is, dedicate that whole time to being your best." His philosophy carries over to practice as well.

"I always say practice doesn't make perfect. Perfect practice makes perfect."

Verne credits his long-standing, well-received style of coaching to his own college coach at Cerritos, Wally Kincaid, who Verne says was the best coach ever.

This much is certain, you can't really be sure you're playing a baseball game in Long Beach unless you look over and see Verne somewhere sitting on a bucket. He preaches, "playing the whole game." He practices, "coaching your whole life."







Pictures

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Seeing the Big Picture... Lorene Morgan

By John Grossi

Anyone who knows Long Beach girls' basketball knows Lorene Morgan. She's been among the elite area coaches for the past 26 years. Last year Lorene cemented her legacy when Millikan brought home her first CIF Championship. And though she credits the girls who came together to form the season of their lives, she also tips her hat to every girl who has ever worn blue and gold for one of her teams.

Everything with Lorene has always been big picture. That's why she's dedicated so much of her time to helping out young women every morning, year-round to building their confidence and work ethic. She's turned down numerous higher profile coaching jobs for college and high school in order to achieve her personal goals of building something real and tangible with the Millikan Girls' Basketball program. Winning the CIF Championship was definitely part of it... you cannot discount her desire as a competitor, but more important is what she wanted to build at Millikan off the court.

Coach Morgan wants to make sure that every single girl who goes through her program can go to college, and more-over—if they want to—can find a spot on the basketball team. In the last decade 95%-98% of her players have gone on to attend college, and if you talk to her, you get the feeling she won't stop till that number is 100%.

"On the court everyone knows that I teach work ethic. We press the ball full court and out-try our opponents." Lorene's real plan is for that hard-work ethic to transfer over to non-basketball



skills. "Some things, like going to college and getting ready for a career, are just so much more important than basketball."

Lorene herself is living proof of that concept. A highly touted high school point guard, she attended Long Beach State and played basketball for two years before quitting the team to pursue interests she thought would better prepare her for the future. Morgan was highly involved in student government and her sorority; and she graduated with high honors as a political sciences major. Her senior year at CSULB, Lorene was student body president.

Her college experiences left Lorene well-prepared to become the successful Long Beach real estate agent she has been for the past 28 years. While continuing as an agent with Coldwell Banker, Morgan has taught P.E. at Millikan for 20 years, adding the position of Athletic Director in the past two years.

Coaching at Millikan began when Morgan started helping out her former coach as a friend. A few years later, she was unexpectedly asked to become head coach, a position she has since never left.

Lorene credits the amazing amount of time dedicated by her assistant coaches Kevin Kearns and John Perry-- between the 2 of them they have 30 years with the Millikan Lady Ram Basketball Program, which has made her job immensely easier. The other factor that makes it "easy" for Morgan to spend so much of her time coaching are the great kids who come through her program.

"I may be biased, but I think my kids are really good kids." Lorene loves watching "her kids" grow from 13- and 14-year-old girls into mature young women by the time they graduate. When they go onto become productive members of the community, Morgan's big picture plan really comes full circle.

"Could some of these kids have gone a different direction or a negative direction with their life? Absolutely. Every kid can. The point is that they dedicated themselves to this program and they grew up to become really good, positive people. To know that I'm even a small part of that makes it all worth it for me."

Answering the Call to Coach... Glenn Leckie

By John Grossi

Like many dads, Glenn Leckie got into coaching youth sports because his kids were playing. He began coaching with the Long Beach CBL (Catholic Baseball League) 21 years ago, when daughter Brianna started tee ball, and he continued until son Cory stopped playing baseball 12 years ago. However, unlike most dads, Glenn has continued to dedicate time to the league for another decade, running with no direct ties to the league except for a position on the board of directors (which has evolved into league president as of 2010) and a love for youth sports.

"I strongly care about youth sports [in seeing] that it doesn't get ruined," says Leckie. Specifically he cares that a one-sport year-round mentality doesn't take over children's lives at such a young age. Leckie hopes to cultivate an environment where kids can play and develop skills in all of the sports they like, while still leaving plenty of time to participate in other activities besides sports. That's how it was when Glenn grew up. He played baseball, basketball, football, and volleyball; and believes he learned a great deal from each.

One way Glenn encourages kids to play multiple sports is by coaching multiple sports himself. In 2000 he was asked to coach the girls' basketball team at St. Cornelius (where both his children attended school), and since that year he has coached between one and three teams every season for three seasons per year. If the school asks, he volunteers. He has coached boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' volleyball, and boys' football, in addition to his yearly baseball teams.



With so much time dedicated to coaching, I asked him what his favorite memories were, or what he loved about coaching. He immediately brought up a thank you card he got last year from one of the girls he coached for a number of years saying he was the best coach she'd ever had and one of the best influences on her life in or out of sports.

"That's why I coach, for experiences not records," Leckie says. "It doesn't matter how bad your day was, once you're with the kids for ten minutes at practice you forget everything. Seeing a six year-old get his first-ever base hit and crack a big ole smile on his face... it's impossible not to smile along with the kid."

Leckie hopes he can teach kids important life lessons through the little things he says every day. By nature he's not a yeller, but at the end of every practice he asks the kids, "Did you try your hardest today, and do you want to come back tomorrow?" If the answer is yes to both

questions, "Then they did their job that day, and so did I."

In games, Glenn wants kids to be graceful winners and losers. He never tries to blow a team out big if he's already winning. If his team loses, he teaches them to take it in stride. You have to get used to losing in your life and not letting it affect you.

Glenn has worked for the phone company (now Verizon) in Long Beach since college. He and his wife got married at St. Cornelius and he is happy to dedicate his time there and plans to continue well into the future. For all of the work he puts in, his favorite payback is simply hearing the name by which people greet him. Coach. "I love it," says Glenn, "When I think about it, I've been called Coach more than I've been called anything else in my life. It's simple but it's a sign of respect. When someone calls me Coach, I know I'm doing something right."

Growing Local Hockey Talent... Sandy Gasseau

By Ryin Amador

Hockey is the lifeblood that fuels the country of Canada. It is believed that on August 9, 1988, Canada exported its greatest natural resource to Southern California - in the form of Wayne Gretzky, thereby creating a hockey revolution here. Although Gretzky was monumental to the expansion of hockey in southern California, there have been others who have continued the effort by helping young Americans grow into gifted and talented hockey players - one of them being Sandy Gasseau. Gasseau has coached young athletes for over 15 years. And more importantly, has helped create a fun and stable atmosphere for young players looking to enhance their skills in the sport they love.

Sandy Gasseau was born on September 15, 1970 in Gaspesie, Quebec, a city about 403 miles northeast of Quebec City on the Atlantic coast. Sandy grew up in a small town named Carleton where he learned how to skate as a young boy. The Gasseau family eats and breathes hockey, which is why Sandy's father built an outdoor hockey rink for him and two brothers to enjoy the sport about which Dad was so passionate. Sandy would eventually leave Carleton to enjoy a promising hockey career that included a Centennial Cup berth in the British Columbia Junior Hockey League, an NCAA Final Four trip with St. Cloud State University, and multiple championships in the East Coast Hockey League (ECHL) with the San Diego Gulls.

At the age of 29, Sandy decided to hang up his skates and help others pursue their dreams of someday becoming a profes-



sional hockey player. From 1999 until today, Sandy has helped hundreds of aspiring youth hockey players reach their full potential, including current NHL players Beau Bennet (Pittsburgh Penguins), Emerson Etem (Anaheim Ducks), Matt Nieto (San Jose Sharks), and Jason Zucker (Minnesota Wild). Although most coaches dream of their players one day playing at the highest level, Sandy is more concerned with the development and growth of his players. He's always made sure not to get too caught up in the American mentality of "winning at all cost."

Instead, Sandy has kept his focus on the aspect of fundamentals and teamwork. He's made sure to keep his coaching techniques "fun" and "simple." And although winning isn't everything, Sandy's core principles have created a formula for success. Sandy's teams have now reached Nationals for eight consecutive years, and won three championships, five silver medals, and one bronze. Currently, Sandy coaches three youth teams and the Los Alamitos High School team. He is

excited for all of his teams' chances for future success. And with his Bantam AAA team just recently winning a tournament in Vancouver, it doesn't sound like his enthusiasm is too farfetched.

In between all of Sandy's hockey success as a player and coach, he has been blessed with a family of his own. In 2007, Sandy married Véronique, who works as a real estate agent for Keller Williams Pacific Estates. Together they are raising two beautiful children, a sixyear-old daughter and a four-year-old son. It is no surprise that both children play hockey, with Sandy coaching his daughter's team. When not at Lakewood Ice coaching or practicing, the family likes to take bike rides to the beach and eat at favorite restaurant La Creperie on 2nd Street. When asked if his children might be the next superstars of the family, Sandy chuckles and replies, "As long as they're having fun and continue to love the sport, that's all that matters." But judging from Sandy's professional and personal resume, it's quite clear that fun and success go hand in hand.

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30 Years and Running... Ed Hauck

By John Grossi

Ed Hauck has been teaching English and coaching runners in Long Beach for 30 years. The New Jersey native explains that for him, "Sports and coaching is just kind of in the blood." Ed played football and ran track in high school; he also ran track for all four years of college at Bloomsburg State in Pennsylvania. Ed dates his coaching origins back to teaching younger kids to swim as a 12-year-old at the YMCA. He even coached while a student teacher in Rhode Island.

When Ed got his first job in Long Beach at Bancroft Middle School, he immediately became the assistant track coach and by his 3rd year had become head coach. When Mr. Hauck got a teaching job at Wilson in 1987, Coach Hauck was not far behind. The track coach, Jim Arquilla, needed help with sprints and hurdles – which happened to be Ed's specialty. That 2-3 days per week assistant coaching job was soon expanded to include coaching the JV football-coaching team.

In 1993, Hauck was offered the head coaching job for Wilson Girls' Cross Country and he has held that position ever since. Two years later he also added head coach of the Boys' Varsity Track team to his work-load. Coach Hauck explains that learning to coach Cross Country presented quite a challenge at first. He had always been a sprinter, so long-distance technique was new to him. He remembers calling on friends old and new from Long Beach to Rhode Island, looking for advice on how to best teach the unique sport.

The time and dedication Coach Hauck put into figuring out Cross Country comes as no surprise. Providing the best



and most up-to-date information to his runners is a constant mission for Hauck. He still attends at least one coaching clinic per season in an effort to always offer fresh ideas to his runners. "You may sit there for 55 minutes out of the hour listening to the same old stuff you've always heard, but it's worth it if you can find that five-minute segment that is brand new that your kids will love."

Coach Hauck loves coaching because it gives him a chance to see kids outside of the classroom environment. He gets to see kids who are motivated and have a drive to achieve their individual best, but also turn out to root for their team. Motivation is key in running and while some kids come ready to go on day one, others need Coach Hauck to trigger their interest in the sport. "My job is to find that intrinsic button that makes each runner want to better themselves... they can all handle it physically," explains Hauck.

Being a track and cross country coach certainly keeps Ed in shape physically as well. Over the summer he runs with them almost every day.... Sometime as far as from Wilson to Heartwell Park and back! During the year, his assistants CJ Brewer and Casey McCombs do most of the running, but Coach Hauck rides his bike alongside the team, giving motivation and encouragement where needed.

Coach Hauck loves living in Long Beach and is awed by the amount of athletic talent to be found in such a small, concentrated area. Children Katie and Bobby raised in Long Beach both still live here. Coach Hauck thinks he loves coaching most because his students get to see him in a different light. When they walk into his room they see pictures of 30 years of teams hanging on his wall. When they see him outside running, laughing, and encouraging his team, he becomes more than just a guy in a bungalow. Without a doubt, his years of English teaching are one with his years of coaching. "I've never had trouble with discipline in my classroom," he says. His kids respect him, not because of the many championships he's won, or the world-class athletes he's coached, but because to his students he's just like them... a hard-worker, an athlete, and a human.







A Skate on Every Foot and a Skating Dress with Bling... Jacqueline Palmore

By Jennifer Newton

It may be 98 degrees outside, but at The Rinks - Lakewood ICE it looks and feels like winter. Bundled in her "The Rinks" jacket and black athletic pants, Jacqui Palmore, the figure skating manager, looks like a delicate snow princess, but skates with the determination of an athlete as she teaches two young boys dressed in hockey gear the basics of skating.

For almost 40 years, Palmore has skated, competed and coached some of Southern California's most promising figure skaters. She loves that the sport is ever changing and says that she has learned so much more than figure skating during her time on the ice.

"I wish everyone could experience the joy of ice skating," said Palmore. "Our goal, and the goal of the NHL Ducks and the whole Rinks organization, is 'A skate on every foot and a jersey on every back." To which I'd like to add, and a skating dress with bling!"

Palmore tells the story of how she coached a very special 3-year-old. When they started, Palmore would have to tuck the girl's baby blanket in her jacket to coax her onto the ice. Fast-forward to 11 years later and the student is competing in Vienna, Austria at her first international competition. Palmore has had a dozen such experiences. She coached student Courtney Donovan, who was the Adult US National Figure Skating Champion three years in a row; and co-taught (along with Coaches Sondra Holmes and Tim



Tourtellot at Lakewood ICE) one of the top 10 skaters from Poland and one of the top three from Norway.

"Whether a skater steps on the ice only once or they step on and never stop, I am determined to ensure they feel special and that they are a part of something bigger," said Palmore.

It all started with a childhood birthday party at Glacier Falls in Anaheim. Palmore got on the ice and, as she says, never got off. For nine years she trained and competed under Coach Dorian Shields Valles, whom she credits with instilling in her the desire to be the best that she can be on any given day.

"[Coach Valles] taught me to give every aspect of my life the same determination and discipline I had on the ice," said Palmore. "I have taken that determination with me throughout my years coaching and managing The Rinks figure skating department. And I am determined to give new skaters the same possibilities I had growing up by making sure their

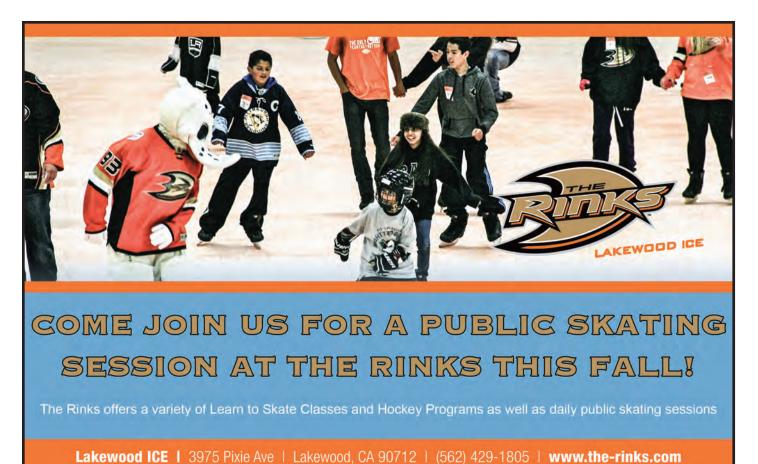
experience at Lakewood ICE is a memorable one."

Palmore joined the The Rinks – Lakewood ICE in March of 2002, when it was still known as Glacial Garden Skating Arena; and began managing the figure skating department in 2005. Though she lives in Newport Beach (a 50-mile round trip to Lakewood ICE), she says she wouldn't teach anywhere else!

"We have a tight-knit group here with decades of experience. It is important as a coach to surround yourself with great coaches. I never want to stop learning or being challenged as a coach," said Palmore.

That one fateful birthday party set Palmore's life on new trajectory. And she is so grateful for it. "I cannot express enough gratitude for how that one birthday party my mother gave me has changed and blessed my life in so many ways," said Palmore. It would not be a stretch to say that Palmore's students feel the same about her.





Conquering Life's Bunkers... Richard McBride

By John Grossi

Since 2007, coaching the Wilson High golf team has literally given Richard McBride life. "After my wife passed away coaching has saved me. It gets me up each morning and excited for the day."

It's nice to see McBride reap the benefits from a passion that he has devoted so much time to over the course of his illustrious life. Everyone around the course affectionately calls the retired dentist "Doc," a tribute to his helpful, wise, and influential nature. It's clear that the kids like listening to Doc just as much as he likes coaching them. He's certainly not new to teaching kids how to play a sport.

McBride grew up near 10th St. and Temple Ave. in Long Beach. At St. Matthew's in Junior High, when his basketball coach had a heart attack, the young athlete became the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade player-coach while just a 6th grader. "I was the point guard so it was the natural move," says McBride. At St Anthony's while attending and playing Varsity basketball, he also coached the girls' team, a position he held even after he graduated and attended Loyola University.

When transplanted to Chicago for Dental School, for four years he coached Junior High Basketball there too. Throughout his 42-year dental practice he coached on and off while his five kids and eleven grandkids played youth sports at the different leagues, courses, and schools in Long Beach.

Though Doc's first love was definitely basketball, golf is the sport that turned out to be his best and favorite later in life. He's always felt indebted to the



Wilson golf team for giving him a start back when McBride was in high school at St. Anthony's which had no golf team. The young McBride would always be at Recreation Golf Course practicing by his lonesome when one day the Wilson head coach invited him to join the Wilson team for free. Although he wasn't allowed to play in matches (since he didn't attend the school), he got to be a part of the team, practice every day, and learn to progress his game to the next level.

Doc played four years of golf at Loyola University and two years on the All 8th Army golf team while stationed in Korea. He was an original member of Old Ranch Country Club when it opened in 1967, and joined Virginia Country Club for a stint during the 70's. He has always loved teaching his friends, his family and their friends - golf lessons all over Long Beach. However, when it came time for him to dedicate major time again to the sport as a retiree, it made the most sense for Doc to go back to Big Rec golf course and pay back the Wilson program for everything it gave him as a youngster.

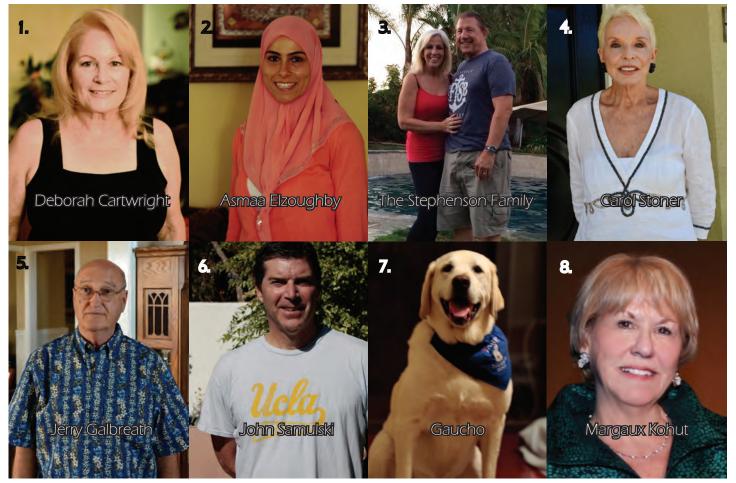
Doc coaches all levels and both boys and girls, depending on the year and season. However, no matter what his official position is year-to-year, the one thing

that doesn't change is his specialty... the sand trap. Doe takes pride in that aspect of his coaching. "It doesn't matter who you are, you come see me when you're in the trap."

Technically, he focuses on getting kids to "throw the sand to the hole." However, more important than mechanics is attitude. "That's why golf is absolutely the best teacher of life," says Doc, "If you think you're going to hit a bad shot, you will. Golf teaches you that if you want to be successful, your thoughts have to be positive."

McBride tries to get his players to connect the lessons they learn in golf to life, because if a kid can learn to control him or herself through the ups and downs of golf, other things in life will be easier. Hopefully, his students can ultimately learn to turn bad situations into blessings. That's Doc's whole concept with the sand trap. Changing students' mentality over four years until they realize, it doesn't matter what conventional wisdom says about a situation... it's what each person individually makes out of it. When Doc's wife passed, his life was in a bunker... he turned to coaching and his passion for teaching kids, to salvage par in his own life.

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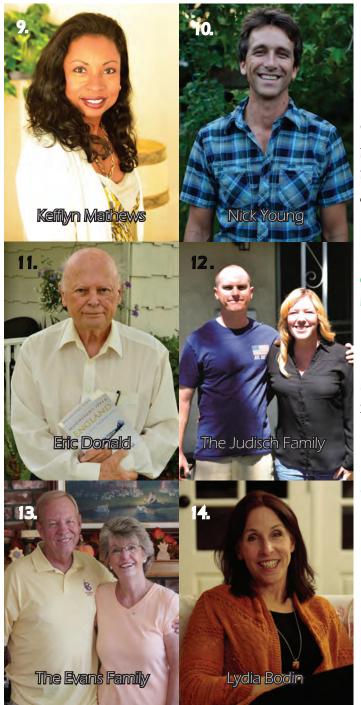
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Cultivating a Generation of Ponies... Viiav

Vijay Pillai

By Jonathan Murrietta

It was the last at bat for the East Long Beach Shetland Indians. The 4, 5 and 6-year-olds playing for the championship were down 9 runs in the final inning. Suddenly, the Indians started coming back, getting runs and making the game closer. Amazingly, they got within 1 run but the next batter hit a ground ball right back to the pitcher.

"I thought we were done at that point," said Coach Vijay Pillai.

The pitcher made the throw to first to close out the game, but the first baseman dropped the ball and the tying run had reached base. Again, the next batter hit right to the pitcher for an easy out, but the pitcher threw the ball over the first baseman's head. Kids were being waved in—the Indians pulled off an incredible victory to win the championship game. "That's one game I'll never forget," Pillai said. "It was fun to be a part of that game."

That was a couple of years ago. But Pillai's journey as a coach began in 2003 when he agreed to help a friend coach at Heartwell Park's Plaza Little League. In 2004 he moved down the street to coach for East Long Beach Pony Baseball. As a kid, Pillai came through the East Long Beach school district. He went to Mark Twain Elementary, then Hughes Middle School and eventually Poly High School. He played soccer throughout his youth. Pillai credits his elementary school's recreation supervisor, Rosie Miller, as the person who made him want



to give back to the community through recreation and sports.

This year, Pillai is once again coaching the fall ball 5- and 6-year-old Shetland division for East Long Beach Pony as well as 8u and 10u travel ball teams. He also is the girls volleyball coach at Gompers K-8 School just down the street from Heartwell Park.

Pillai admits there is no greater satisfaction than seeing the kids he once coached

grow up to be high school ball players. Many of the kids who came through Pillai's program are now at the top of their game playing for local high schools including Poly, Millikan, and Wilson high schools.

"I try to sit in the

middle at high school games because often, I come to cheer on players from both teams I once coached in pony league," Pillai said. "I am rooting for the kids, the kids I know, the kids I've coached."

Pillai has indeed made a difference in the lives of many kids in East Long Beach through his coaching, mentoring, and encouragement.







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