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Carolyn Livengood: Pacifica Beach Coalition president wins Bay Area's Cox Conserves Heroes award

By Carolyn Livengood
San Mateo County Times columnist
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Lynn Adams, president of the Pacifica Beach Coalition, learned on Oct. 10 that she won the Bay Area's Cox Conserves Heroes award, which means that the coalition is the benefactor of \$10,000 for its efforts to educate and inspire people to end litter, help the ocean, and clean up Pacifica beaches.

The awards program, created by Cox Enterprises and The Trust for Public Land, honors volunteers who create, preserve or enhance the shared outdoor places in our communities and take place in multiple Cox locations across the United States.

Each community is encouraged to nominate eco-friendly volunteers, who are judged by a panel of leaders within the conservation field. The top finalists are profiled on the Cox Conserves Heroes website (www.coxconservesheroes.com) and in local media to urge the public to vote online for their favorite. Finalists are also encouraged to ask their family, friends, and co-workers to vote. The finalist with the most votes is chosen as the Cox Conserves Hero for his or her area.

"Lynn Adams' strong leadership, tireless enthusiasm, and hard work are major reasons why Pacifica's beaches are clean," says the Cox Conserves Heroes website. "She is a powerful advocate for clean oceans to protect marine species, and her passion has inspired thousands to join her quest. She leads PBC's Earth Day activities, which included more than 8,500 volunteers in 2013."

Tom Webber, of 4-H Million Trees, a community service project conceived by his daughter, Laura Webber, a member of the Pacifica 4-H Club, nominated Adams, a Pacifica resident, for the award.

"It was truly an amazing evening, a big win for Pacifica, the Pacifica Beach Coalition, volunteers, schools, and all that the community has done for the environment by picking up trash, gardening, and restoring habitat," Adams wrote in an email. "With all my heart, I thank everyone for their votes, for their participation and volunteerism, and for all their support for the ocean and a better, cleaner world."

Cuban-born virtuoso Rene Izquierdo to perform in Peninsula Guitar Series

Cuban-born guitar virtuoso Rene Izquierdo will perform as part of the acclaimed Peninsula Guitar Series at 7 p.m. Nov. 2 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1600 Santa Lucia Ave., in San Bruno. The doors open at 6:30 p.m.

A Yale-educated classical guitarist, Izquierdo has appeared as a guest soloist and in chamber music concerts throughout the United States, Cuba, and Europe. He has won numerous competitions including the JoAnn Falletta International; Extremadura International; Schadt String; Stotsenberg International; and more guitar competitions.

For tickets -- \$15 for general admission; \$10 for students -- either visit <http://www.peninsulaguitar.com/tickets/> or pay at the concert.

'Taste of South San Francisco' event planned in November

The South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce is presenting its 25th annual culinary delight, "Taste of South San Francisco," from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 7 at the South San Francisco Conference Center, 255 South Airport Blvd., in South San Francisco.

Enjoy this popular food feast showcased by many local food establishments and sponsored by First National Bank of Northern California, Genentech, Kaiser Permanente, and South San Francisco Scavenger Company. Plenty of raffle prizes will also highlight the event.

The cost is \$25 per person or \$250 for a reserved table of 10. For reservations by Nov. 1, sponsorships, and more details or to donate a raffle prize, either visit www.ssfchamber.com, call 650-588-1911, or e-mail Jessica@ssfchamber.com.

Public invited to Jean Weingarten Peninsula Oral School for the Deaf annual gala

The Jean Weingarten Peninsula Oral School for the Deaf in Redwood City is inviting the public to its annual gala -- The Giving Tree -- starting at 5 p.m. Nov. 9 at the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, 5101 Great American Parkway, in Santa Clara.

"The fundraiser has a "Gold Rush" theme and will feature a no-host cocktail reception, dinner with wine, silent and live auctions to benefit the school, and a special Fund-a-Need to provide scholarships for those in need," Executive Director Kathleen Sussman wrote in an email. "A generous anonymous donor will match the event proceeds dollar-for-dollar."

Established in 1967, the not-for-profit school has years of experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing children to listen, think and speak for themselves, and is known worldwide for its cognitive listening and spoken language programs. The programs focus on the development of listening, language, speech and cognitive skills using hearing

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aids and cochlear implants.

Committed to providing a model of excellence in auditory oral education, the school's goal is to help each child develop their fullest potential in order to access mainstream education and integrate into the community at large.

"Our goal is to provide a strong foundation in communication skills, which will allow children the opportunity to return to their neighborhood schools with speech and language skills on par with their hearing peers by first grade," Kyle Greenman, gala donations chairman and the parent of a children attending the school, wrote in an email.

Tickets for the event cost \$150 per person. To buy tickets or to learn more, visit www.deafkidstalk.org or call the school at 650-365-7500. Black tie is optional. Free parking is available behind the hotel or there is limited valet parking at the hotel for \$9.

South San Francisco Police Athletic League Boosters to hold dinner dance

The South San Francisco Police Athletic League Boosters is presenting a Daisy Dukes & Cowboy Dinner Dance on Nov. 15 at the Elks Lodge, 920 Stonegate Drive, in South San Francisco.

A no-host bar opens at 6 p.m. and a buffet dinner follows at 7 p.m. The fundraiser will also feature a raffle, silent auction, and dancing to a disc jockey.

Tickets cost \$40 per person. Make check payable to SSF PAL Boosters and mail to SSF PAL boosters, 33 Arroyo Drive, South San Francisco, CA 94080. Besides you name and phone number, list the number in your party and with whom you wish to sit. The deadline is Nov. 8.

For more details, call Boosters President Judy Bush at 415-990-4142 or email ssfpalboosters@gmail.com.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife holding contest for art on 2013 Upland Game Bird Stamp

The deadline for the art contest being held by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to select the design for the state's 2013 Upland Game Bird Stamp featuring the sooty grouse is Nov. 25.

There is no entry fee for the contest, which that is open to all U.S. residents ages 18 and older. The entries, which will be judged on originality, artistic composition, anatomical accuracy, and suitability for reproduction as a stamp and a print, must include at least one adult sooty grouse.

A panel of experts in the fields of ornithology, conservation, art and printing will do the judging. The winning artist will be chosen during a public judging event, with the date and location being announced later.

An upland bird stamp is required for hunting migratory and resident upland game birds in California, although hunters are no longer required to attach the stamp to their license. CDFW still produces the stamps and mails them to hunters who wish to purchase them by visiting www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/collectorstamps/. Money from the stamp sales must be spent on upland game bird-related conservation projects, education, hunting opportunities and outreach.

For contest details and entry forms, visit www.dfg.ca.gov/upstamp.

Tastes of San Bruno event draws nearly 215 people

The sixth annual Tastes of San Bruno satisfied the appetites of nearly 215 people when the San Bruno Chamber of Commerce hosted the delightful fundraiser on Oct. 1 at the Veterans Memorial Recreation Center in San Bruno.

The culinary cuisine was provided by Big Mouth Burgers, BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, Cabalen, Capuchino High School FEAST (Food Education and Service Training) culinary class, Dickey's Barbecue Pit, Don Pico's Mexican Bistro & Cevicheria, Extreme Pizza, Gluten Free Wife Bakery, Grand Leader Deli, Hooters, Jack's Restaurant & Bar, Made Out of Dough, New York Pizza, Nikken Water, Pasta Pomodoro, Pacificakes Bake Shop, Saji Middle Eastern Restaurant, Shari's Restaurant & Pies, Starbuck's, and West Coast Café.

"Jamie (Monozon, San Bruno Chamber of Commerce CEO) did a very good job," said Lorianne Richardson, executive assistant to the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce CEO, "All the businesses are very excited to show off their creations. A lot of prominent business people are in attendance."

Artichoke Joe's Casino; Corey, Luzaich, de Ghetaldi, Nastari & Riddle, LLP; Recology San Bruno; San Mateo Credit Union; and The Shops at Tanforan were sponsors of the event with the City of San Bruno lending support.

JoyLife Club founders hold inaugural charity ball event

Hosted by JoyLife Club founders Christina and Stephen Cheung, their first Charity Ball held Oct. 4 at Green Hills Country Club in Millbrae featured a delightful evening of dinner, live and silent auctions, a raffle, dancing, and outstanding entertainment.

The event, attended by 250 dignitaries and guests and 30 volunteers, was held to raise funds to benefit cancer survivors.

Christina Cheung, a cancer survivor herself, founded the JoyLife Club -- a Christian-based, nonprofit cancer support group in Millbrae -- in 2009 as a response to the lack of cancer care organizations tailored to Chinese-speaking patients in the Mid-Peninsula area.

Realizing that there is a sense of despair and fear towards cancer, the Cheungs felt that their organization's mission would be to provide comfort, care and professional assistance to help patients and their families face cancer with an optimistic and positive attitude.

Staffed by volunteers, the JoyLife Club also offers free information, educational materials and fun events, such as healthy cooking and an organic farm visit to anyone affected by cancer. Grants and other donations fund the services and activities.

A lovely harp performance by Wine Country Harp started the gala off in grand style.

Cindy Yip, a program manager and disc jockey at Sing Tao Chinese Radio, and John Ford, executive director of the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance, served as masters of ceremonies.

Millbrae Mayor Gina Papan and San Mateo County Supervisor Dave Pine gave opening remarks, followed by Christina Cheung.

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"You may have noticed a butterfly motif in our décor tonight," said Christina Cheung. "I carefully selected the butterfly as a symbol of the journey a cancer patient goes through during the diagnosis and treatment process. Much like a

caterpillar emerging from its pupa and transforming into a butterfly, a cancer patient experiences a life-changing metamorphosis as well. Cancer patients, time and time again, demonstrate a beautiful spirit of resiliency and strength that is truly remarkable."

Violinist Tibor Horvath and pianist Yelena Savchenko, of A Beautiful Violin; coloratura soprano Sherlin Chan and pianist Benny Yu; and ballroom dance performances by Tyler Li and Anjelica Lowe, Matteo Laudati and Katya Sulimov, and Nathaniel Tsiperfal and Sophia Brodsky, of Dance Vita Ballroom headed by Aira Bubnelyte, provided the entertainment enjoyed by all.

Cancer survivors Daisy Li, owner of Moonstar restaurants in San Francisco and Daly City, and Anna Cheung Lin, a Christian, shared their experiences with cancer.

State Sen. Jerry Hill gave a brief talk before conducting an auction. Dancing followed.

City of San Bruno holds beautification awards event

The City of San Bruno Beautification Task Force held its annual Beautification Awards ceremony before a packed audience at the Oct. 8th City Council meeting.

In the Single Family Residence "Curb Appeal" category, first place was won by Maria and Alberto Paredes of 698 Easton Ave.; second, Ivania and Guillermo Quant, 528 Third Ave.; and third, Griselda and Humberto Velasco, 178 Georgia Ave.

Allen Luu, 1620 Hickory Ave. earned first place for Improved Single Family Residence and Gail and Richard Mozzini, 575 Cedar Ave., received second place.

For the Xeriscaping (low water use or drought-resistant landscaping) category, Kamlesh and Ravindra Singh, 3140 Fasman Drive, captured first place; Cheryl and Juper Corpuz, 131 Ross Way, second; and Jacinto Bautista, 180 Sheryl Drive, third.

The first place residential winners were presented a front yard plaque donated by Prudential California Realty, a certificate, and a \$35 check. Second place received a certificate and a \$25 check, and third place was given a certificate and a \$15 check.

Party 4 Less at 496 San Mateo Ave. won the Commercial category and received a certificate.

Special recognition and a certificate were given to the Park Plaza Apartments at 2081 Whitman Way for its renovations that included painting the outside of the building and new landscaping.

In addition, two Special Group projects received recognition and certificates: Skyline College at 3300 College Drive for its public art contributions on the campus, and American Legion Post 409 at 757 San Mateo Ave. for its renovations and beautification.

The American Legion project was the result of a collaborative effort by Rebuilding Together; the San Bruno Professional Firefighters Association; Sears, which donated money; about 40 P.G. & E. volunteers; and two San Bruno residents, Jim Wettstein and Dave Stagnaro.

San Bruno firefighter Chris Wettstein coordinated the project and was the construction captain. Several members of the Post 409 attended the event to thank everyone for their contributions.

"The Beautification Awards, which focus on exterior improvements throughout the city, were created to recognize the efforts of residents, businesses, and groups to improve the quality of life in our community by enhancing the physical and aesthetic environment," said San Bruno Vice Mayor Irene O'Connell, Beautification Task Force chairwoman. "We are particularly proud of the efforts of the San Bruno firefighters and the work they did to improve American Legion Post 409. The BTF members challenge all current and past award winners to submit nominations for next year's awards."

Burlingame Chaplain Leo McArdle honored as Veteran of the Year

Chaplain Leo McArdle, of Burlingame, was very surprised to be honored as Veteran of the Year by state Sen. Jerry Hill when he visited Hill's office on Oct. 9 on the pretext that Hill wanted to discuss veterans issues with him.

McArdle was equally surprised to see several friends in attendance that he is active with in veterans' organizations, and also his niece, Maureen McArdle-Carpenter, who arrived from out-of-state to be at the presentation.

Sheryl Shaffer, host of Veterans Helping Veterans TV, who has known McArdle for 20 years of his 68 years of age, nominated him for the well-deserved award.

"Leo lives a life in service to others, especially through the U.S. Volunteers-America," Shafer wrote in an email. "He is a great volunteer for our vets. Dedicated and a true vet advocate. An example of being in service to others, by thought, action and deeds." McArdle served eight years in the U.S. Army, including seeing action in Vietnam. He then served five years in the Army Reserves, leaving with the rank of sergeant.

After working 25 years as a maintenance engineer at the Westlake Apartments in Daly City, he decided to retire and dedicate his retirement to the veterans of our community.

His myriad activities include working with the Avenue of Flags Committee and Wreaths Across America in support of Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno; coordinating local Scouts and others for the annual Good Turn Gravesite Decoration ceremony when flags are placed on all GGNC gravesites the Saturday before Memorial Day; and serving as a chaplain to provide comfort to veterans and their families, especially during times of loss.

McArdle also serves as chief of staff for honors with the U.S. Volunteers honor guard, and he works with other veterans to pay respect to recently deceased veterans to make sure they are provided the appropriate military honors at their funeral.

In addition, McArdle is involved with the Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS, Disabled American Vets, American Legion, Association of the U.S. Army, and the National Association of Uniformed Services.

If you have any news tips about our county communities, call or fax Carolyn Livengood at 650-355-5533 or e-mail her at: carolynlivengood@sanbrunocable.com.