



*Save the Date*

Adam Webster  
Memorial Fund  
Benefit Dinner  
Oct. 23



Leave a Legacy  
for Youth and  
the Ocean



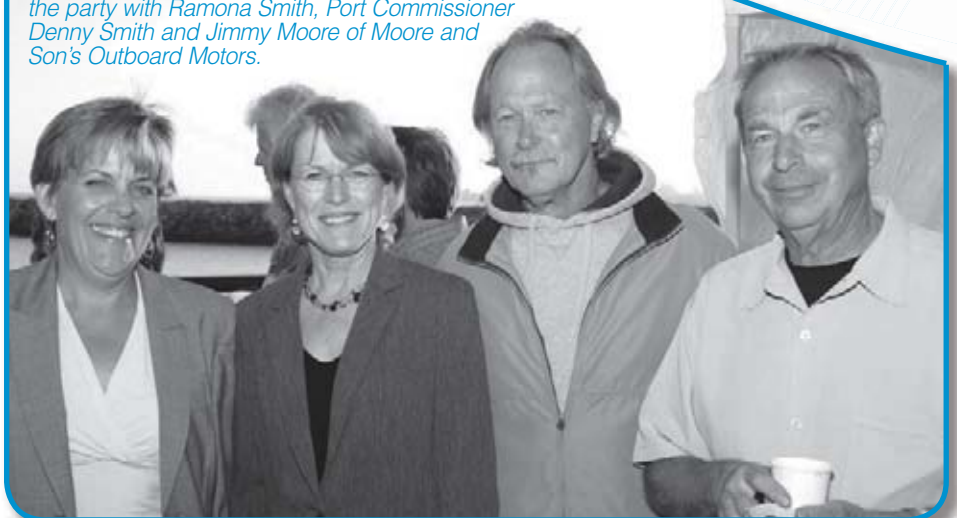
Gray Whale Lagoon

# odyssey NEWS

## Taste of the Harbor 2010— A Great Party for a Worthy Cause

Over 300 people participated in the third annual “Taste of the Harbor,” on Thursday, September 9 to benefit O’Neill Sea Odyssey. Hosted by Intero Real Estate Services at the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor, the event involved a raffle, live music by local artists DANJUMA & ONOLA, and food and wine were provided by harbor area restaurants and local wineries. In addition to the event’s volunteers, donors and sponsors, O’Neill Sea Odyssey would like to thank Denny Smith, Pat O’Neill, Jimmy Moore, Celeste Basuino-Alvarez, and Rod Fehr for their generous response to a special fund pitch initiated by Smith’s generosity at the event. ♦

*Our new Port District Director Lisa Ekers enjoyed the party with Ramona Smith, Port Commissioner Denny Smith and Jimmy Moore of Moore and Son’s Outboard Motors.*



*Gino Blefari with Debra Frey, our generous hostess for Taste of the Harbor.*



*TOTH guests were entertained by the beautiful Te Hau Nui Hula Dance Company.*



*Tom Bradley, our site plan volunteer surveying his handiwork.*



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(Accumulated giving)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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### ADAM WEBSTER MEMORIAL FUND

Webster Powell PC  
**IN MEMORY OF BETTY WEBSTER**  
Kevin Webster & JE Lazansky-Webster

### DANIEL MOTTA MEMORIAL FUND

Anonymous

### IN-KIND

Cruzio  
Team O'Neill

## Roll Your IRA to OSO

**W**ould you like to leave a lasting gift for children and the ocean? This year you can roll over your IRA up to \$100,000 to O'Neill Sea Odyssey without it being counted as income to you; a great opportunity for you and for area youth! Please call Dan Haifley at (831) 465-9390 for more details. ♦



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## A Commitment to Science and Youth



BY JACK O'NEILL  
& BRIDGET O'NEILL,  
CO-CHAIR/FOUNDER  
AND CHAIR, O'NEILL  
SEA ODYSSEY BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS

In mid-July the government of Canada committed \$600,000 to support science and technology camps for youth across its northern region in hopes of inspiring them to pursue careers in the sciences. The funding from the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency will allow Actua,

a non-profit organization, to continue running science and technology camps in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory. The program's goal is to introduce youth to career opportunities by encouraging them to believe in themselves and their ability to conduct scientific work.

While the work that the non-profit Actua does is slightly different than what O'Neill Sea Odyssey does, we found this commitment by our neighbor to the north to be an inspired and worthwhile investment in their youth, who will be their leaders tomorrow. We believe that it makes sense to spark an interest in science early in a child's life, where it can make a significant impression before that child begins to form plans for her or his educational and career path in the future. We also would draw a comparison to environmental education which, after all, is based in science.

An organization known as Joint Venture/Silicon Valley did a study in 1999 that found that low-income youth are less likely to be encouraged to

become involved in their communities: to volunteer, vote, or to engage in environmental practices. Only 30% of youth said they experience a caring neighborhood; 24% have access to positive role models, and 15% felt valued by their community. Yet, 69% act on their convictions and stand up for their beliefs. Therefore, over two-thirds of these youth could become environmental and community stewards. O'Neill Sea Odyssey targets these kids for empowerment by giving them the tools for meaningful community engagement and self-reliance.

While OSO has an impact among the youth that we are able to serve, a lot more can be done. A long-term commitment to environmental science education is a wise and prudent investment. By investing \$600,000 to support existing programs in just one region, Canada has provided a model for how it can be done, region by region, state by state. It is, after all, our future. ♦

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**Kathryn D. Sullivan**, Ph.D., President/CEO, COSI Columbus; NASA Astronaut

**Mark Tracy**, Santa Cruz County Sheriff-Coroner (ret.)

## Leave a Legacy For Youth and the Ocean

**H**ave you considered leaving a lasting contribution by naming OSO's permanent fund at the Community Foundation for Santa Cruz County in your estate plan? You can leave a legacy and reap some significant financial benefits. Those options include: a beneficiary designation in your retirement account, gifts from a will of living trust, an annuity that will provide you with lifetime income, gifts of real estate, or charitable lead trusts.

OSO provides a vital service by giving the next generation the skills and tools needed to protect our ocean from multiple threats, while meeting their scholastic goals. Yet, schools have come to depend not only on our free, ocean-going field program, but also on the curriculum at our virtual learning center at [www.oneillseaodyssey.org](http://www.oneillseaodyssey.org). Teachers, especially from lower-income schools, use OSO curriculum to meet mandated education standards using ocean concepts, something not usually found in textbooks. If you are interested, please contact Dan Haifley at (831) 465-9390 or at [dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org](mailto:dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org), or fill out the form below and mail it to us. ♦

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*Adam Webster Fund Dinner*

October 23, 2010

- I have named OSO in my estate plan (we will contact you relative to recognition)
- I would like to talk to someone about a gift to OSO in my estate plan
- I wish to learn more about the OSO/Community Foundation's gift annuity program
- I would like the recommended language for including OSO in my estate plan

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (day): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (evening): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to OSO, 2222 East Cliff Drive, Suite 222; Santa Cruz, CA 95062

## The Team O'Neill Catamaran—A Perfect Learning Platform

**I**n 1983, Jack and Tim O'Neill travelled to Sand City, nestled among the sand dunes just north of Monterey, to retrieve an unfinished sailing catamaran they had just purchased. After months of renovation at the able hands of Joel Woods at the Santa Cruz Harbor, it launched on an improbable journey that led to its primary uses today: an ocean-going classroom for the O'Neill Sea Odyssey program, and public and private sailing charters.

65 feet long and 28 feet wide, the boat was most conspicuously used in the 1980s for Jack O'Neill's hot air balloon. The mast would be tabernacled, or moved aside, in order



to accommodate a balloon. Over the years the Team O'Neill sailed far and wide and by the mid 1990s, began to take part in Jack's experiments to take youth onto Monterey Bay to learn about

the marine environment.

Today, about 85% of the boat's use is for the non-profit O'Neill Sea Odyssey, 194 community centers and school classes were served in the 2009-2010 school year. O'Neill Yacht Charters, the private company headed by Tim, takes thousands of people out for casual sailing adventures during "public charters", where the public can purchase individual tickets, or "private charters" for groups to rent the whole boat (up to 49 passengers) for weddings, special events, or memorials. Learn more about the Team O'Neill and its crew at [www.oneillyachtcharters.com](http://www.oneillyachtcharters.com) ♦

## Gray Whale Lagoon

BY DAN HAIFLEY,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

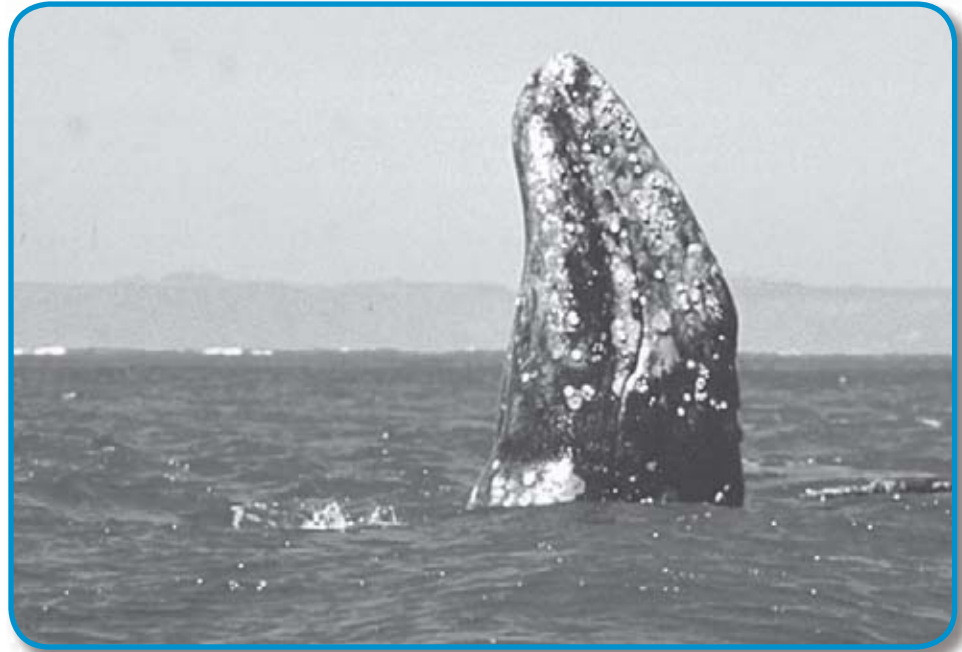
Along with coastal inlets at Laguna Guerrero Negro, Laguna Ojo de Liebre and Magdalena Bay, it lies at the southern end of the whales' 6,000-mile migratory route extending along the West Coast north to the Chukchi Sea off northwest Alaska.

San Ignacio's lagoon is 16 miles long, four miles wide and hosts whales each February, though their numbers have declined since 2007. A gray whale can grow to 52 feet long and weigh up to 35 tons. Newborn calves are born live at around 15 feet and 1,500 pounds, and grow as they nurse on mother's milk that is more than 50 percent fat.

Though today it's a popular destination described in Doug Thompson's book "Whales: Touching the Mystery," the lagoon was once slated for a salt recovery plant. Jodi Frediani and Gabrielle Stocker each told me the story.

"As we were waiting to board our planes from Tijuana to San Ignacio lagoon," Gabrielle told me recently, "I noticed that several of the people returning from the lagoon were wearing Natural Resources Defense Council hats, so I went up to one and asked if they were with NRDC. Indeed they were, and had been there to celebrate 10 years since the victory against a proposed salt plant at the lagoon."

Two stories converge to create today's whale-watching industry there. One is about the campaign against a proposal in 2000 for the Mexican government to construct a salt plant in partnership with Mitsubishi Corp.



of Japan. Previous plans had failed to win approval.

While supporters saw an economic development project whose impacts on whales could be mitigated, critics saw engines pumping 6,000 gallons of water from the lagoon each second to evaporation ponds. A mile-long concrete pier in the whale's migratory path would have transported the product to 120 tankers a year.

Opponents of the project included the Grupo de los Cien (Group of 100), an international coalition of writers, artists and scientists led by poet Homero Aridjis, along with his wife Betty. Ultimately, Mexico's president ruled against the project.

Meanwhile, the story of today's whale-watching industry at the lagoon began with a meeting: A gray whale slid alongside fisherman Pachico Mayoral's

wooden fishing boat and he reached out and touched it. An enterprise subsequently grew alongside the area's fishing industry.

Mayoral's family runs one of seven whale-watching operations there, hosting 3,000 people in a three-month season. He recently told Sue Arnold of the California Gray Whale Coalition that this season was the worst in 30 years, and that he is concerned for the whales.

Mayoral's camp is at the site once used by whalers to fry whale blubber when they were hunted in the 1800s. Today, the lagoon hosts a UN World Heritage site, a Mexican biosphere reserve, a whale sanctuary and a migratory bird refuge. It's safe—for now.

*This column appeared in the Santa Cruz Sentinel on June 12, 2010. ♦*

## Adam Webster Memorial Fund Benefit Dinner

Once again, Tom and Judy Webster will hold their annual benefit dinner for the Adam Webster

Memorial Fund of OSO to support the program's work with special needs youth. The event will be Saturday, October 23 at

the Santa Cruz Yacht Club. More details will be available and reservations can be made at [oneillseaodyssey.org](http://oneillseaodyssey.org) ♦



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This year Omega Nu, famous for their Ducky Derby Carnival fundraiser, has purchased a new watershed model table for OSO's ecology station. The old table had been used since 2005 and was so worn and water damaged that it wouldn't have made it through the school year. The table holds our watershed model, which is used to show our students how land based pollution flows into storm drains, creeks and rivers, and finally, to the ocean through the water cycle. Students represent different kinds of pollution, such as trash, oil and pesticides with cake sprinkles, soy sauce and Kool-Aid powder. The students use spray bottles



to represent rain, which washes the 'pollution' into the 'ocean' represented on the watershed model. Needless to say, after years of being caked with Kool-Aid and soy sauce, the table that held our watershed model was ready for retirement.

With a generous grant from Omega Nu, we were able to have a custom table built out of recycled, waterproof materials. The new table is virtually indestructible and we expect it to last for another 10 years and 50,000 students.

Thanks Omega Nu! ♦



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



Thanks to Union Bank for their generous support of OSO. From Left to Right: Celeste Basuino-Alvarez of Union Bank; Jack O'Neill; Bridget O'Neill, OSO Board Chair; and Dan Haifley, OSO Executive Director. ♦