

Gallery Reception Benefits OSO



International Youth Find an Ocean In Common



Support OSO with Birdies for Charity

odyssey NEWS

OSO Collaborates with NOAA's Science On a Sphere

The global ocean currents chart that is hanging on the wall in the OSO ecology classroom was designed by OSO Education Coordinator Laura Barnes to help teach OSO students about the transportation of marine debris in the ocean environment. The very same chart is being used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's education program, Science on a Sphere (NOAASOS). NOAASOS has integrated OSO's chart as part of an animated 3 dimensional global education project that is being used in more than 12 countries and 70 locations worldwide.

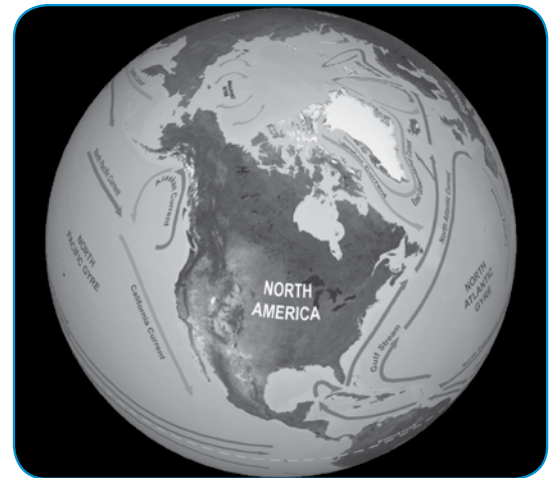
In order to create the chart, a high quality world map image was needed. Laura contacted Rick Kohrs at the University of Wisconsin Space Science and Engineering Center (SSEC) to inquire about a satellite image of the earth. The SSEC's primary function is to receive, manage and distribute geophysical data and to develop software to visualize and manipulate these data for use by researcher and operational meteorologists all over

the world, including those at NOAA. Coincidentally, Rick had been looking for the exact visual aid that Laura was working on and the two made a deal; the University of Wisconsin SSEC would provide a global satellite image to OSO for free in exchange for permission to use the completed currents chart.

Rick showed the chart to NOAASOS's Beth Russel who adapted it to the Science on a Sphere project. NOAASOS is a three dimensional visual display that can show dynamic, animated images of the atmosphere, oceans and land of a planet and is used as a unique, effective teaching tool in museums and other public education facilities. NOAASOS is currently being used in over 70 locations worldwide including the UK, Mexico, Taiwan, Denmark, Finland, Canada, Korea, France, China and 50 locations in the United States.

Thanks to Rick Kohrs of the SSEC and Beth Russel from NOAASOS, for their help in developing the chart and

OSO's global currents chart adapted for NOAA's Science on a Sphere project.



for helping part of the OSO curriculum find a much wider audience.

To learn more about NOAASOS please visit http://sos.noaa.gov/datasets/Ocean/ocean_conveyor_belt.html ♦



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R Blitzer Gallery Reception Supports OSO

On December 2, the R Blitzer Art Gallery on Santa Cruz' west side was beautifully adorned with ocean-inspired art and crowded with people who paid \$5 each to support ocean-oriented organizations, including O'Neill Sea Odyssey. The gallery is the result of the inspiration, hard work, and dedication of Rob Blitzer, who helped raise a family on the central coast with his wife, OSO Board member Donna Blitzer and spent a productive career in the insurance business. OSO thanks Rob and Donna for their efforts, and their support. ♦



Some Encouraging Results

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

In 2005, Dan Haifley told us of a conversation he had had with Gus Gregory, a neighbor of Sea Odyssey who had published a book about the harbor which had raised funds for OSO, and the idea he had raised was simple; why not survey older youth who had been through the program several years earlier, to see what they learned?

It was a great idea. But, actually undertaking that idea would not be not so simple. For one thing, privacy laws prevent the Sea Odyssey program from finding out where OSO alumni wind up in high school. Plus, many families move. In addition, school populations shift. You get the idea.

In the face of all these challenges Lauren Hanneman, a long time OSO instructor and a graduate student of environmental studies, chose to pick up

the task of undertaking the study.

One result that Lauren has found as she sifts through her data is this: younger children, ages 9-12, have a better ability to absorb complex concepts relating to watershed stewardship and ocean protection than do adults, or even older children.

The reason is easy to understand: the older children get, the more they are burdened with responsibilities and the less they take on about the world around them. We have said this before but it bears repeating: environmental stewardship must be taught at a young age.

We look forward to the final results of Lauren's study next year, and we thank you for supporting our mission. ♦

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10th Annual Adam Webster Memorial Fund Event a Huge Success

BY TOM AND JUDY WEBSTER
CO-FOUNDERS, ADAM WEBSTER
MEMORIAL FUND

On Saturday, October 22nd, we hosted the 10th Annual Adam Webster Memorial Fund Silent Auction and Dinner at the Santa Cruz Yacht Club. For the first time in the history of this event, it was a complete sell-out with a waiting list.

The guests were also treated to an amazing, gourmet, five-course meal created by Brian Woods of Johnny's Harborside.

An event like this cannot happen without the support of volunteers and donors. We would like to thank Sheri and Jeff Moise of Johnny's Harborside, their Executive Chef Brian Woods and staff for their time and culinary expertise; Dick Swank of Swank Farms in Hollister for donating all of the fruits and vegetables, The Seaside Company for the dinner wine. Silent Auction items were donated by: Nick Tarshey of Diamond Supply Co; Smith's China; Shampoo Chez; Rose Brancatelli of Lavish Salon; Karl Ruhne; Peggy Poindexter; Linda Rochin; Chaminade; Convention Plaza Hotel;

The Hind Quarter; Aloha Island Grill; Kuumbwa Jazz Center; Joseph A Bank; Johnny's Harborside and Chef Brian Woods; Sue H. Wilson; Chardonnay II; Santa Cruz Paddle Board Company; Barghetto Winery; O'Neill Surf Shop; and last but certainly not least, Photographer Diane Rejman.

Volunteers who helped set the stage for the event were: Steve and Ann Niemann; Lynette and Lorenzo Rota; and Hank Cureton and Barbara Karleen. Finally, we would like to thank the folks from the O'Neill Sea Odyssey: Dan Haifley, Adam Steckley, and Laura Barnes.

We would also like to thank the Santa Cruz Yacht Club, Club Members, and the general public who support this event by buying tickets and participating. Many of you have been coming to this dinner every year. Your support is truly appreciated and we look forward to seeing you next year.

This year we had our first corporate sponsor; the Santa Cruz County Bank for which we are very grateful. In addition, we would like to give a special thanks to the employees of Systems Studies for their very generous donation. We are honored that you would choose the Adam Webster Memorial Fund to be the recipient of your generosity.

This was our biggest year yet. Thanks to all of your kindness, we raised approximately \$8,500.00 which will fund 56 students and their aides with a specialized version of the OSO program. ♦

Leave a Legacy For Youth and the Ocean

Have 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. 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, or fill out the form at right and mail it to us. ♦

Leave a Legacy For Youth and the Ocean

- 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

Our Ocean Backyard: After 9/11, International Youth Find An Ocean In Common



Noura Al-Jurdi

BY DAN HAIFLEY,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When she boarded a plane in her native Persian Gulf nation of Qatar destined for California's Channel Islands, Noura Al-Jurdi probably didn't know what to expect from the two-week ocean camp that was waiting there for her and other youth from around the globe. It wouldn't be your typical summer outing.

But when I attended the closing ceremony in late July, 2011 for that program, known as Ocean for Life, it was instantly clear that this was a

transformative experience for these kids. It was a scene as emotional as any graduation: exhilaration, inspiration, and regret they might not see each other again.

"We are not connected by blood, but by love, friendship and caring," Noura said in a video produced for the ceremony. "We learned lots of things in these two weeks—the problems the ocean is facing, how it is going to affect us, about the animals and plants that live in it."

Ocean for Life arose from the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001. In the days that followed, Dan Basta, head of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, penned a tribute to four public school students from Washington, D.C., their teachers, and National Geographic Society staff that had departed for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary for an ocean science camp. They were on the airplane that crashed into the Pentagon.

Nearly 10 years later, the mission of those lost explorers has been retrieved from the ashes. It's now carried by young people from the world over who've formed a bond with each other, and with an ocean that unites them.

"We also learned about different cultures at the camp," said Noura. "We learned that a white pen cannot write on a white paper or a black pen on black paper. All different colors make a better picture. We need each other."

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under whose umbrella national marine sanctuaries are run, Ocean for Life "brings together students of diverse backgrounds and cultures to discover marine science, conservation, and how the ocean connects us all.

Educationally rigorous, its curriculum is based on the results of two, two-week pilot programs done in 2009. The first group of students, representing Armenia, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Lebanon, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, and the United States, began their experience in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary learning about coral reefs, fisheries, and efforts to protect sea grass and mangrove trees.

They did this through snorkeling, kayak trips, visits to research centers and interactive presentations by ocean experts.

It made an impact on Noura Al-Jurdi, who said to her companions. "I don't want to say goodbye or I miss you...rather I am saying we will meet again. Through Ocean for Life we made each other a promise to leave the world a better place than we found it."

These friends now continue the journey that began on that September day in 2001.

A modified version of this column appeared in the Santa Cruz Sentinel on October 15, 2011. ♦

Gault School Parents, Woodies On the Wharf Pitch In for OSO

The Gault School Parent Teacher Alliance has donated nearly \$800 to OSO, representing 5% of the proceeds from the auction at their last fundraiser. Also many thanks to the organizers of the annual Woodies on the (Santa Cruz) Wharf event, which showcases classic, restored surf wagons. OSO received a nice \$1,000 gift. Thank you to all the volunteers who put on these events! ♦

For Golfers, Birdies Are a Great Way to Support OSO



You can participate in "Birdies for Charity," a fun way to support O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO)'s free, ocean-going youth science program

by pledging an amount per birdie now at the AT&T Pebble Beach golf tournament in February, 2012.

100% of collected pledges go directly to OSO, plus the Monterey Peninsula Foundation will provide a 15% match. To pledge funds, go to <https://birdies.attbgolf.com/give.php>, click on "Pledge your favorite charity," then enter O'Neill Sea Odyssey.

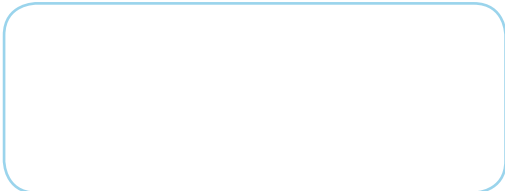
You can also guess the number of birdies scored and win prizes—including airline tickets and a Florida golf package—if you guess correctly. Use the pledge form at <https://birdies.attbgolf.com/pdfs/2011-b4c-pledge-form.pdf>. ♦



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OSO Advisor Scott Kennedy: *A Champion for Peace & Justice*

BY DAN HAIFLEY, OSO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Scott Kennedy, a Middle East peace activist, former Santa Cruz Mayor and City Councilmember as well as a long-time religious and community leader, passed on November 19, 2011 at the age of 62. His untimely death was a blow to many, including myself. Among his many passions, he was a strong advocate for OSO and a member of our Advisory Board.

When I first began my work as a community organizer in 1978, Scott Kennedy was a mentor to me and everyone who worked in the anti-nuclear and peace movement that operated out of the Resource Center for Nonviolence in Santa Cruz.

I grew to respect his style and I paid close attention to his heartfelt critiques of my work. By the early 1980s, the local peace movement diverged for awhile, and he and I worked in different components of it.

But a few years later, I found my way back to the Resource Center as I became

the first staff person for Save Our Shores, which had a small office there. A few years later, after years of prodding from friends, Scott sought and won a seat on the Santa Cruz City Council, where he ultimately served for 14 years.

It was during my years at Save Our Shores that Scott and I developed a stronger bond. He provided me with a sense of how a community organizer can navigate the world with confidence and make a difference. As I travelled the state in my environmental work, I would frequently ask him for advice, and he was generous in providing it.

When O'Neill Sea Odyssey formed its Advisory Board, Scott readily agreed to serve. He reached out to his friends and colleagues on behalf of OSO.

I wish to offer condolences to Scott's family, and his very wide international circle of friends. The accomplishments of Scott's life will be felt for generations. ♦

Joyce Anderson Produces New Video About OSO

Local video producer Joyce Anderson has produced a segment of her "Inside Santa Cruz" series about O'Neill Sea Odyssey. The 29 minute long episode runs on Community Television and provides a detailed look at OSO's on-the-water ecology and biology lessons. ♦

AT&T Pebble Beach Golf Tournament Seeking Volunteers

For several years, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation has supported OSO and other charities both through direct grants and through its popular Birdies for Charity program (see accompanying article). A fun way to support the tournament and to participate in the excitement is to volunteer. A volunteer application can be found at <http://www.attpbgolf.com/tournament/volunteers.php>. ♦