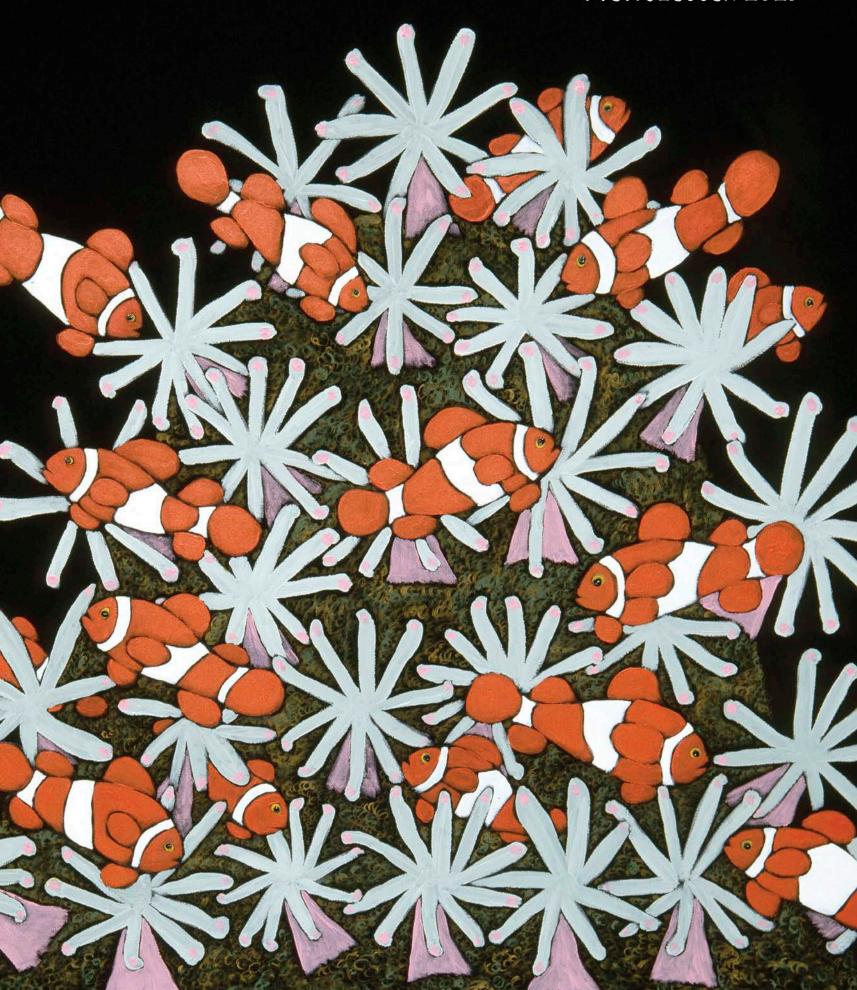
# HEAL THE OCEAN

NEWSLETTER 2021



#### IN AND AROUND HEAL THE OCEAN...

COVID-19 split up our office but not our work. HTO has always maintained a small staff, and most of our work has been done, and is still being done, by our team out in the field. Meet them below!

#### WE CELEBRATE OUR ACTIVE FIELD ADVISORS – HARRY RABIN, RICK MERRIFIELD & MAIRE RADIS!



Harry Rabin has been working with the **State Lands Commission** engineers to plot out the **next oil** well cappings on Summerland Beach (see pp. 10-11). On

other days he gets down in the trenches with County Sheriff Ben Sandu, Andrew Velikanje of Earthcomb, and Brian Borgatello of MarBorg Industries to clear out abandoned homeless camps.



Former Santa Barbara County EHS Director Rick Merrifield has helped HTO take the right road in supporting the Los **Olivos Community Service** District's plan to build a wastewater recycling plant

for the whole community. His engineering talks with LOCSD Board Member Tom Fayram helped us get on the same page, and HTO has agreed to help with community messaging and finding funds to build the project.



joined the HTO **Advisory Board** in 2020 and is HTO's most honorable "Trash Queen." The title was bestowed on

her because Maire and her family voluntarily do massive cleanups every weekend at Santa Claus Lane. Sometimes they remove 200-300 pound of trash a day. Thank you, Maire, for your hands-on help and hard work!

#### WE ARE GREATLY HELPED FROM OTHER QUARTERS, TOO...



Julia Louis-Dreyfus has been our Honorary Event Chair year after year - since our beginnings. She has taken the stage for us, welcoming everyone with her unique, bawdy humor, but also addressing the serious side of HTO work. In addition Julia has been our Imaginary Chair, lending her fabulous name and support to Ghost events,

Stay Home events, and in 2021 she was our "Top Dog" Imaginary Chair. We love and appreciate Julia more we can possibly say.



Heather Hudson is HTO's untiring Event Manager, getting people together every year in HTO gatherings that are creative and fun. She and she has been steadfast at helping HTO since our very first event at QAD in 2005! She has won multiple awards for her films, including *The Women* move this multi-year project forward!

& The Waves, The Women & The Waves 2, and 93 - Letters from Marge.



Nora McNeely Hurley & Michael Hurley

jumped on board when we started working on the Summerland Oil issue and they have stayed with us ever since. During the

capping of leaking wells Nora & Michael help monitor the construction and send us updates and photos that we can use to help the State Lands Commission to monitor what's happening in the ocean. Additionally, Nora's does this while surfing almost every day of the year, silo of her family foundation, the Manitou Fund, has helped pay for outside research and engineering reports that have greatly helped to



Sam Scranton, a legend in Santa Barbara for taking the Santa Barbara Bowl from Old Spanish Days ownership into

the now-mighty Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation (and served as the Foundation's Executive Director for 16 years (1994-2010) came onto the HTO Board after his retirement. After a respite of a few years, Sam has come back into our fold on the HTO Advisory Board this year, and we're glad to have him back!

#### INNER WORKINGS: THE HTO OFFICE CREW



HTO Executive Director Hillary Hauser continues working for clean water, clean beaches, and happy dogs. Her dog Wolfy is King, but Hillary is the lifeblood of HTO and is committed to a clean ocean any way we can get it.



**HTO Operations & Policy Coordinator** Alison Thompson has kept our office going day in and day out. She works on policy issues and assists with HTO programs and projects. She also helps with outreach and coordinating HTO events. Alison is a one-person power

**plant**, literally the glue that holds us together.



Wendy Pelayo, HTO's Operations Intern for 21/2 years, has moved to the Los Angeles area to take a full-time position with an environmental company. While at HTO, Wendy helped us establish our Styrofoam program, and during the pandemic, while

working from her family home in Los Angeles, she also undertook a massive redesign of HTO's website.



Sydni Trigueiro, who came to us through family friends of Harry Rabin, is getting her Bachelor's

degree in Psychology at the University of San Francisco. Sydni helps us with projects, public events, and a bit of research. We are fortunate to have her on the HTO team as our new Operations Intern!



Amy Brex, our trusty bookkeeper, comes in once a week to reconcile our books, usually

working with her adorable dog Punkin on her lap.

#### OUR WINDOW TO THE WORLD..



Without good communication with the world, we'd have no business. Rob Huggins, owner of Graphic Traffic, does all of our printing – the

Newsletters, invitations, the letters and envelopes. Thank you, Rob, for helping us spread the word!



Debbie Bellman, of Bellman Design, is our talented graphic designer who works closely with us to make our illustrative visions come to life. She is the visual

mastermind behind our Newsletters, Event invitations, our Advertisements and all else. She is a creative genius who can take a concept and turn it into a work of art so fast, it makes our heads spin.

#### HEAL THE OCEAN® NEWSLETTER 2021

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Sydni Trigueiro Event Manager Heather Hudson

#### HEAL THE OCEAN®

1430 Chapala Street Santa Barbara CA 93101 P.O. Box 90106 Santa Barbara CA 93190 Phone (805) 965-7570 Fax (805) 962-0651 info@HealtheOcean.org www.HealtheOcean.org

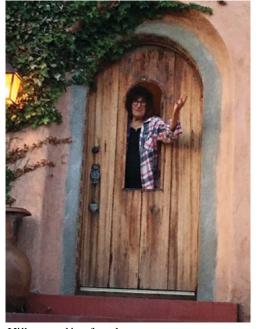
Newsletter Printing & Design WRITING/EDITING:

Hillary Hauser, Alison Thompson PRINTING: Graphic Traffic DESIGN: Debbie Bellman/Bellman Design Printed on recycled paper using organic based tone © Heal the Ocean 2021

#### HI FROM HILLARY

The last time we communicated with you, our wonderful supporters, in the pages of this Annual Newsletter one year ago, we were six months into the COVID-19 pandemic and, like everybody else, were locked down. In that newsletter we emphasized the fact that with nobody on the roads or in airplanes, the skies cleared and there was peace and quiet on Earth.

We were, like everyone else, devastated by the COVID-19 virus and the unfathomable devastation and deaths, which unfortunately still goes on. But in the time of total shutdown, many of us got a glimpse of our Earth without fossil fuel-burning airplanes and cars. Many of us rediscovered nature in our backyards, and we all came to appreciate the parks, trails, and beaches we could safely escape to.



Hillary working from home

At Heal the Ocean, our in-person office shut down. Our Operations & Policy Coordinator Alison Thompson worked in the office solo, with locked doors, and ample hand sanitizers, Clorox wipes, and masks available in case somebody HAD to get in, and I began to work remotely from home.

I found myself able to work better in quiet. Alison ran this organization as if nothing had been stopped. Our Field Advisors continued to work as always - on Summerland oil capping issues (Harry Rabin), on septic-to-sewer issues (Rick Merrifield), and Heather Hudson, our Event Manager, thought of novel ways to fundraise.

We made our biggest political leaps during this time – and also our biggest financial leaps, too.

Heal the Ocean has always been a very small organization with a big bite. You will see on the opposite page ("Around the Office") why this might be so. Please see our back page (p.23) about the astounding legacy we received from Georgia Lee Funsten during this time. Our Annual Events were Imaginary Events for two years in a row (pp. 18-19) and astonishingly, the 2021 "Surf Dog" event brought more funds to us than any event in our 23-year history (!).

We found the Pandemic, as awful as it has been, made it possible for us - and all people - to more regularly and fairly participate in the public process without having to drive or fly to meetings. We at Heal the Ocean salute this change, and we hope this electronic political process stays, so that all of us can participate in the public dialogue easily – which we feel is important as every political power on Earth confronts the disaster of Climate Change.

Technology has allowed us to do better and more work than ever from wherever we are - and we thank you for joining us in this work.

Hillary Hauser Executive Director

#### Thank you, Poehler-Stremel Charitable Trust

HTO once again extends its deep thanks to the Phyllis S. Poehler/Walter E. Stremel Charitable Trust, St. Paul, Minnesota, for the funds to publish this newsletter and to continue our other avenues of outreach. We thank Bill, Pam & Lily Poehler of Santa Barbara (long-time HTO supporters) for their enthusiasm – it means much to us.



#### **COVER PAINTING BY HILLARY HAUSER**

"Clownfishes on Coral," is a 40"x40" acrylic-on-cloth painting from the celebrated collection of "Fantastic Fishes" by HTO Executive Director Hillary Hauser. It is one of many fish paintings she sold in Santa Barbara and Los Angeles galleries pre-HTO days. This cover painting is for sale, with a percentage to benefit Heal the Ocean. Please call Alison at the office to arrange a viewing, or to ask minimum price.

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## HEAL THE OCEAN TO THE RESCUE #1

## HTO TAKES FAST ACTION ON BEACHED BOATS. . . SPLINTERS, NAILS, BATTERIES SPREAD FAR & WIDE



Boat parts, spread into tidepools and along the Montecito beach for miles

#### **CRASHED BOAT #1 - MONTECITO**

Heal the Ocean has recently found itself up to our gunnels with beached boats crashed onto the beach, spreading toxic materials and hazardous debris in the ocean and across beaches, creating a pollution problem.

The first boat hit the beach just below "Graveyards" in Montecito in November 2020. Pulling free of its mooring, this sailboat sat there for weeks. After endless calls for help, HTO Executive Director Hillary Hauser called Brian Borgatello at MarBorg Industries, and asked if HTO could pay to have the wreck removed. With funding from the Johnson Ohana Foundation, the cleanup began. MarBorg workers spread out along the coastline to pick up the splintered debris and forklifts dug beneath tidal rocks to remove engine parts buried in tide pools. After a three day operation, the beach was clean and wreck free.

#### THE PROBLEM

Beached boats on City beaches get a fast response from Santa Barbara Harbor Operations, but when they land on the County side, things are trickier as boat wreckages on County beaches are handled by the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department, which has no response boats. The County does have access to State funding to clean up such mishaps, but it involves days of paperwork and bureaucratic gotta-dos, that takes so long the ocean eats up the boat in the meantime, spreading toxic materials and pieces of boat far and wide.

Heal the Ocean is working to improve coordination between city and county, to prevent these mishaps, which are not only polluting, but time-consuming and *expensive*. Many of the boats that hit the beach are shelters for low- or no-income people, who have no insurance or means of paying for a wreckage. We're working on this problem, too. Boats in the ocean should be navigable so disastrous boat wrecks don't occur.



#### THE SEA EATS UP 51' TRAWLER IN 6 DAYS



Day 1 - Hit the beach



Day 3 - Wheelhouse gone



Day 6 - What's left

During the high winds of May 22, 2021, a 51-foot trawler anchored off the Santa Barbara shoreline in Montecito, cut loose and began drifting down the coast toward Carpinteria. People called looking for help.

The boat hit the beach at Sandyland/Padaro and within six days the ocean ate up the trawler, spreading pollution and boat parts for four miles.

HTO Field Advisor Harry Rabin went to work the moment the boat hit the beach. Working with beach front homeowners, Harry led MarBorg workers to pick up debris by hand.

Once again, MarBorg Industries stepped in to help. Brian Borgatello, president of MarBorg, gathered his heavy equipment, trucks, forklifts, and his crew to tackle the trawler on the beach. The general operation involved crunching the boat up into workable pieces and hauling it away. The trouble with this particular wreck was that it had landed on Sandyland beach on the beach-side of the Union Pacific RR tracks. Figuring out how to get all this heavy equipment over the tracks was the key to getting at the wreckage.

Executive Director Hillary Hauser called our contact at

Union Pacific Railroad and almost immediately we had permission for MarBorg to cross the tracks with heavy equipment during low tide, which fell on Friday, May 28, at 5 a.m. MarBorg needed at least three hours to get down to the sand and pick up the mess – which meant the train schedule had to be delayed while the operation got in and out.

The boat pictures here, all by Harry Rabin, show how fast the sea will eat up a vessel if it's not immediately removed. When Harry arrived at the Sandyland/Carpinteria beach at 5 a.m. Friday morning, he was shocked by what he saw. During the night the ocean had slaughtered the boat, eaten it up, and spread toxic materials and debris up and down the coast for four miles.

Despite the difficulties, the cleanup was done by 4 p.m. that day.

Heal the Ocean thanks Brian Borgatello and MarBorg, and sends huge thanks to **Lupe Valdez of Union Pacific**, and **Javier** Harry Rabin **Sanchez**, manager of track maintenance. We thank the **Padaro homeowners**, who gave us permission to go through their front yards to the beach.



MarBorg at work on beach

Heal the Ocean is at work about the jurisdictional issue with beached boats. We are working to develop a solution to help – to spring into action the moment a boat cuts loose.

Boat photos by Harry Rabin

# HEAL THE OCEAN TO THE RESCUE # 2

## RACING AGAINST TIME & TIDE...

## FAST ACTION REQUIRED!



County sheriffs made sure the camp was abandoned

## HTO CLEARS OUT HOMELESS BEACH CAMP BEFORE HIGH TIDE HITS

An abandoned homeless camp surrounded by trash, bicycle parts, car batteries, a tent, and other offal had become an eyesore on the "Graveyards" beach in Montecito, at the base of the cliff below the Santa Barbara Cemetery. Heal the Ocean got a call about it from a concerned citizen on Thursday, January 7, 2021, who was worried about it all going out to sea.

It took all day Friday to figure out how we could legally do anything about it – one cannot remove a homeless camp in use, even if it's on the beach.

Then, we learned a **King Tide**, the highest and lowest tides of the year, would arrive during the weekend, along with high surf warnings for Monday. Knowing that everything in this camp would soon be swept to sea, **HTO Field Advisor Harry Rabin** alerted **HTO Executive Director Hillary Hauser**, and we went after it.



Harry got the **help of two County sheriffs**, who came to meet him at the site. They inspected the camp and verified it was abandoned, so we got the OK to proceed with cleanup. Meanwhile, Hillary had been frantically calling around (it was a Saturday) – for physical help, and finally, she engaged **Big Green** to come with trucks and workers to do the bagging and hauling.

By sunset, the mess had been loaded into trucks and driven away – less than 48 hours before the high tide hit.



#### **BIG GREEN HEROES**

**BIG GREEN** workers are heroes to us! It was late Saturday when we reached out to this company, and we were told they had been working all day and had gone home already. Nevertheless, the Big Green manager responded to our SOS, and these wonderful workers came *en masse* to help us and kept at it until sundown.

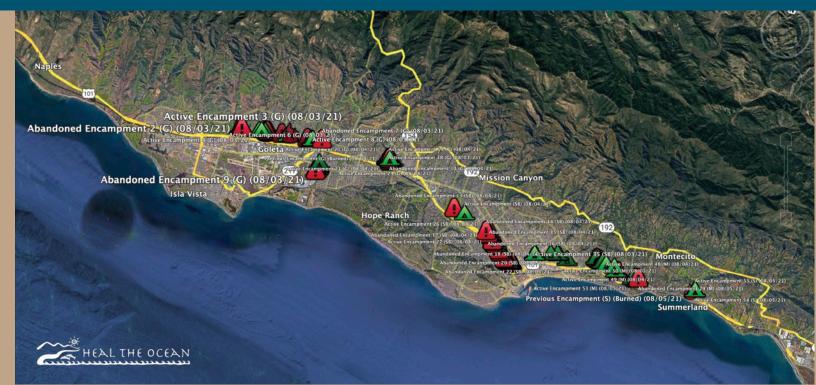


Big Green workers bagged and hauled until dark





## HTO DIVES INTO THE HOMELESS ISSUE AND INTO HOMELESS CLEANUP



Graphic by Harry Rabin/On the Wave Productions

#### HARRY RABIN CREATES INTERACTIVE MAP TO CHART HOMELESS CAMPS

Teal the Ocean has been actively involved in cleaning up abandoned homeless camps in environmentally sensitive areas because the camps often contain trash and human waste that threaten the ocean environment. When the COVID-19 crisis hit the U.S., federal orders went out to leave homeless camps alone, where they are.

The unfortunate reality about this order was the cessation of efforts to get homeless people housed, in buildings with sanitary facilities. And to add to this the existence of firepits in the camps presents a serious fire risk throughout California.

HTO Field Advisor Harry Rabin and his company On the Wave Productions, LLC has been monitoring homeless camps on the South Coast for over two years. In mid-2021 Rabin and his team began a mammoth walking survey of homeless camps on the Santa Barbara South Coast, from Goleta to Summerland. The team included Kylie Van De Wyngaerde, Drake Rabin & Joey Salkiewic, who collected images by drones and made visits to campsites.

The survey produced a GPS interactive map for Heal the Ocean that can be examined for actual campsites. The survey is posted on HTO's website.

In August 2021, the City of Santa Barbara's COVID-19 Homeless Task Force received the HTO survey with a comparison of conditions documented by HTO in February 2021. Rabin's report gave a perspective of current homeless activity, including the estimated homeless populations, estimates of trash, refuse and contamination, as well as numbers of camps active and/or cleaned up or removed. This survey is now widely used by city, county and state agencies such as Cal Trans, in an effort to removed abandoned camps where possible.



Heal the Ocean has also begun work with appropriate officials, sheriff departments and property owners to certify camps are abandoned, and calls in MarBorg Industries to remove abandoned camps.

#### THANK YOU, BEN & BRIAN!

As with so many of our

difficult projects, Brian



Borgatello is always there when we need him – hauling wrecked boats off the beaches, or picking up abandoned homeless camps. Thank you, Brian! And we



Brian Borgatello

the difficult homeless cleanup without the gentle, firm presence of Sheriff Ben Sandu, who talked gently to homeless people and certified the camps were ready to be removed.

could not have done





Before and After Goleta Overpass by Slough

Photo by Ben Sandı





Before and After San Jose Creek

Except where noted, all photos by Harry Rabin/On the Wave Production

#### **CLEANING UP THE CAMPS - BEFORE & AFTER**

Tn July 2021, a large abandoned homeless camp got cleaned at Haskell's Beach near the Bacara Resort. Bacara Resort official Mitch Vargas had Loontacted Santa Barbara County Sheriff Ben Sandu, who is also the Community Resource Deputy for the City of Goleta, who contacted Heal the Ocean, who contacted Brian Borgatello of MarBorg Industries - and finally the most unusual participant of all in this project was a former

resident of the camp, who is now living with a roof over his head, and who now cleans up every piece of junk he can get his hands on.

This is Andrew Velikanje who led the cleanup team to the Haskell's site, but



Sheriff Ben Sandu, Andrew V, & Brian

then got tired of waiting for the cleanup to happen. He bagged it all up himself, leaving an easy pickup for MarBorg a day later.

Andrew came to the project through Hands Across Montecito, the group operating on the "Functional Zero" tactic of getting to know each homeless individual as a person with a story, rather than a



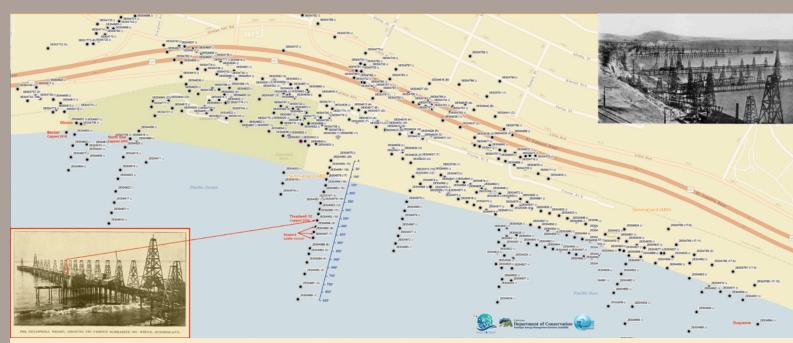
Andrew, cleaning Haskell's camp by himself (Self-photo)

thing to shuffle somewhere else. The group, led by Sharon Byrne, Montecito Association Executive **Director,** has had considerable success housing formerly houseless people living about in the shrubbery of the Montecito community.

Andrew is a Hands Across Montecito protégé, and he now spends his days cleaning up shorelines, roadsides, beaches, the Bird Refuge - and even Highway 154. He has formed a new business, Earthcomb, "For A Cleaner California," which is documented on YouTube. Andrew also is now a Borgatello at Haskell's (photo by Hillary Hauser) licensed Peer Advocate, helping others get off the streets.

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# SUMMERLAND OIL - 4 DOWN, 4 (OR MORE) TO GO



This DOGGR map shows all the wells that were dug in Summerland. Note Treadwell Pier: the red arrows show the next 2 wells that need to be capped there. Harry Rabin is studying that situation with State Lands engineers now. (Graphic by Harry Rabin)

#### IN 2020 - TREADWELL & NORTHSTAR

We had all been captivated by the Curtin Barge the moment it arrived from Long Beach and anchored off the Summerland coast during the week of November 9, 2020. Its first job was to provide a working platform for oilfield divers to cap the notorious Treadwell 10 well, which had been leaking oil for years. When it finished that project, it moved over to cap NorthStar, a very strong leaker on Summerland Beach.

The Curtin Barge was like our shining beacon of hope that we'd finally get a clean beach, free of oil. Funding for the \$3 million operation came from SB 44, authored by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, to provide \$2 million per year for the cleanup of hazards and abandoned wells along the California coast. The State Lands Commission (SLC) straddled two budget years to get the extra funds needed for this project.

#### IN 2021 - OHLSSON 805

Then in August 2021, heavy oil construction equipment made its way back to Summerland to begin the capping of the leaking beach well called Ohlsson 805. The digging took place at night, during very low tide, and the lights, cranes and the oil-filled pit was an eerie sight.

Diver descends to work on Treadwell

### **NEXT UP FOR 2021 - DUQUESNE**

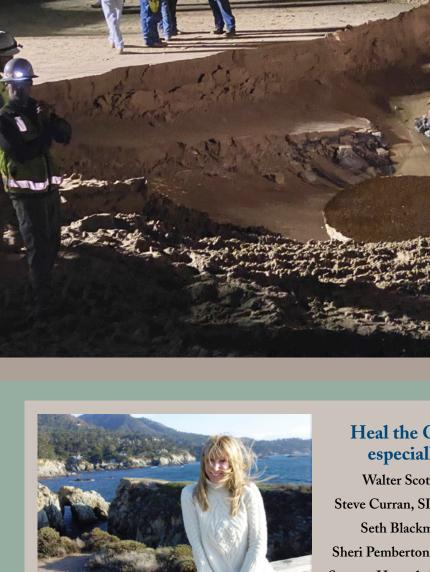
To end the year, SLC contractors will return to Summerland beach December 2-7, 2021, to cap another beach well named Duquesne, in an operation similar to Ohlsson.

> All Photos & Graphics by Harry Rabin/ On the Wave Productions, for Heal the Ocean

#### **FUTURE CLEANUP OPERATIONS**

All during 2021, HTO's Field Advisor Harry Rabin has been engaged by the State Lands Commission (SLC) to continue his monitoring of Rincon Island, where over 50 wells have been capped and all fossil-fuel equipment has been removed. Harry's focus will be on the legacy wells in close proximity to the island, and at the request of SLC, Harry will also do a complete survey and assessment of Rincon Island itself.

In 2022, the SLC plan is to go back to Treadwell, to begin planning for the capping of two other wells seaward of the #10 well capped in November 2020. (Treadwell was a pier, with multiple wells, see Harry Rabin's graphic illustration on the state's Division of Oil Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) map, above).



Exposed top of Ohlsson well, at night



Heal the Ocean thanks HTO Advisory Board member Nora McNeely Hurley, whose Manitou Fund silo made possible all the studies and engineering HTO contributed to get this project off the ground!

### Heal the Ocean would like to especially give thanks to:

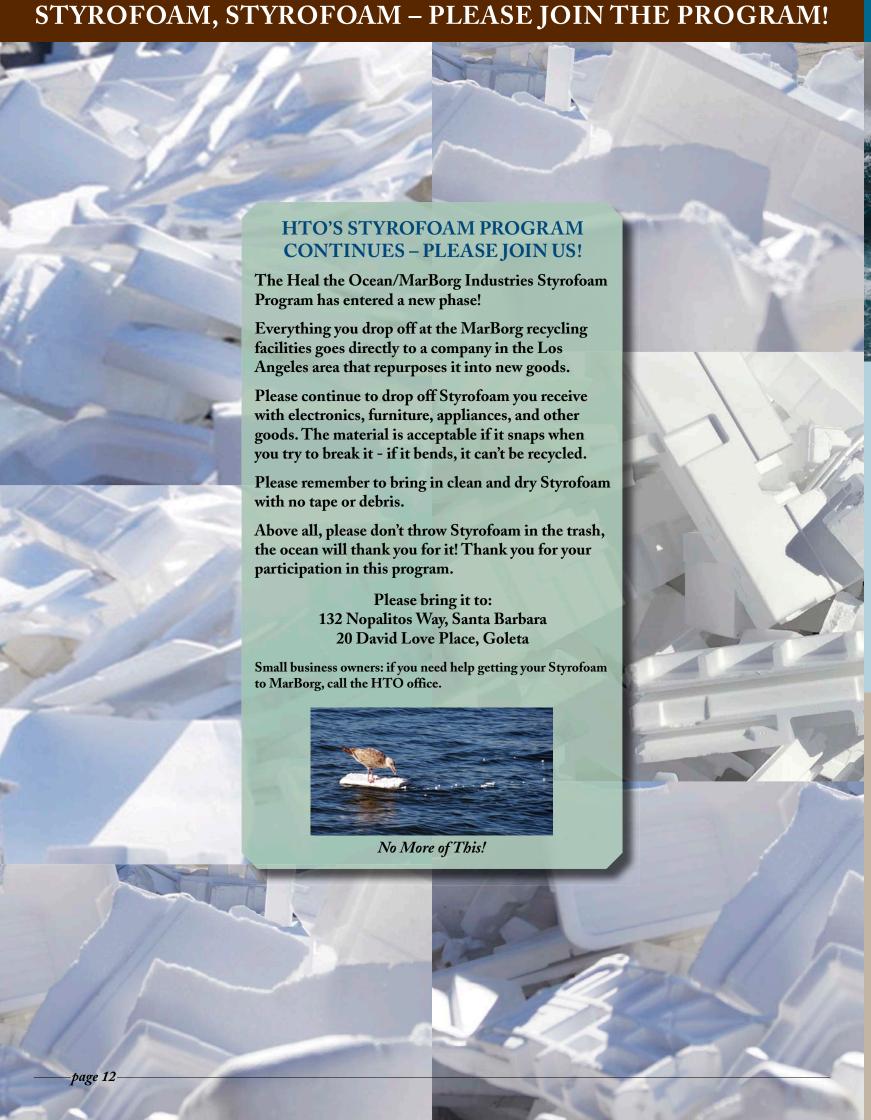
Walter Scott, SLC Project Manager Steve Curran, SLC Petroleum Engineer (ret.) Seth Blackmon, SLC Chief Counsel Sheri Pemberton, SLC Chief, External Affairs Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, author of SB 44 **InterAct Engineering** 

> HTO Executive Director Hillary Hauser & Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson in Summerland the day Treadwell was capped





## SEA LEVEL RISE – ARE WE MOVING FAST ENOUGH?





#### THE OCEAN IS ALREADY COMING IN

As coastal communities in California scramble to come up with plans of action for the **Sea Level Rise (SLR) that is taking place with alarming speed,** Heal the Ocean is contributing to the multitudinous discussions and political process taking place in Santa Barbara County.

HTO's Operations & Policy Coordinator Alison Thompson has been tracking them all: Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Studies, Adaptation Plans and committee meetings for the City of Santa Barbara; Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments, Sea Level Rise Local Coastal Program Amendments and Coastal Resiliency Projects for the County of Santa Barbara; Local Coastal Program Projects and Coastal Hazards Vulnerability and Fiscal Impact Reports for the City of Goleta; Critical Infrastructure at Risk Planning Guidance, Sea Level Rise, as well as Groundwater Briefings and Sea Level Rise in Local Coastal Programs for the California Coastal Commission (CCC).

When the Coastal Commission recently asked Santa Barbara County

to revise its Local Coastal Program Amendment regarding Sea Level Rise, the **County withdrew its application**. One of the changes CCC asked for, which the County objects to, is the **required removal**, **relocation**, **or modification of development should new and/or augmented shoreline protection be required**.

The County believes this unduly limits future options for property owners. HTO believes acting on this now is necessary to take advantage of the recent establishment of a funding mechanism for local governments to buy back vulnerable coastal properties that are threatened by sea level rise. Researchers expect approximately 6.6 feet of sea level rise by 2100 along the coast of California, and HTO believes a "wait and see" attitude is ludicrous – and dangerous. Delaying proactive measures that can be taken now will only lead to further destruction and potentially exorbitant costs for our coast. HTO believes talk is cheap, and that studying and studying this issue while permitting development in the coastal zone is beyond reason.

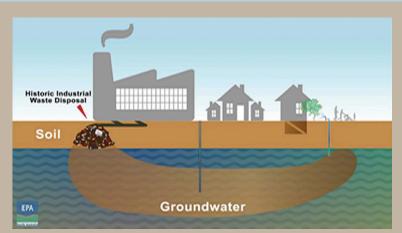
#### SCOPE THE COAST

Heal the Ocean is creating a map that will examine how rising seas can push long-buried toxins to the surface along the California coast. This is an aspect of Sea Level Rise that has been overlooked by almost all California communities – except for the San Francisco Bay Area. In about 15-20 years, this groundwater – along with any toxins it comes into contact with – could well be seeping into basements or underneath houses.

Heal the Ocean has spent years on the issue of cleaning up toxic ground-water beneath the City of Santa Barbara, and now we have launched our Scope the Coast project to address the interaction of sea level rise with contaminated groundwater/soil in the coastal zone of California.

Historically, the California coastal zone was heavily industrialized, but now these areas are residential communities. As the sea level rises, saltwater will mix with the contaminated soils and groundwater of the coastal zone. This mixing will further pollute coastal ocean waters, and rise to the surface, to potentially release contaminants as aerosols.

HTO's Scope the Coast project goal is to work with California State legislators to create legislation that requires coastal communities to



address this concern through policy and regulation of contaminated sites. The first step of the HTO project is to create a map of the California coastal zone using GIS technology with layers for land use, aquifers, monitored wells, sea level rise data, and sewage systems to demonstrate the contamination threat to the coastal zone as the ocean comes in. HTO has hired an expert GIS mapper and began stakeholder meetings in March 2021 on this project. Stay tuned!

## TALKING TRASH

#### OUR ACTIONS EITHER HURT OR HELP - WHICH SHALL WE CHOOSE?





#### THE PROBLEM OF TAKE-OUT – WHAT YOU CAN DO



- When ordering by phone, ask that no plastic utensils, condiments, napkins, etc. be included in the bag (unless you need them and will use them);
- When placing an order by phone, ask for a paper bag, instead of plastic, if available;
- Better yet, ask if you can bring your own container, like a small cardboard box.
- If eating outdoors, please pack your trash out with you. It's what good outdoor adventurers do. Do not overfill a trash receptacle. If it is full, take your trash with you, dispose of it at home!

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, there was an explosion of trash and litter – in the streets, on the beaches, and overflowing from public trash cans. Why?

- One thought: the world and its people are going to ruination, who cares about trash when everything else is going so wrong? Throwing trash around has been seen as an **act of defiance**.
- With restaurants shuttered, take-out dining exploded –
  and with it came the enormous proliferation of plastic bags,
  plastic containers, plastic utensils, little condiment packages
   all of it headed (sort of) to public trash receptacles, which
  easily became overloaded.

Heal the Ocean paid MarBorg Industries for extra trash receptacles at the most frequented County beaches as the problem proliferated. And we still pay. Sometimes it seems it doesn't help – people bring worn household goods, broken beach chairs, children's toys and other inappropriate materials, and throw these things at the base of the receptacles. In one case, someone set fire to the trash bins at a public beach. Defiance? Probably.

And yet, at Heal the Ocean we believe goodness always prevails.

#### MAIRE RADIS - HTO'S "TRASH QUEEN"



HTO Advisory Board member Maire Radis & her family have been cleaning up the messes left every week at the Santa Claus Lane entrance to the beach. We thank her for her selfless dedication to the environment and the ocean.

# HTO DOG BAG PROGRAM ... A HOWLING SUCCESS FOR ANOTHER YEAR

In 2010, when HTO learned that dog bag dispensers would no longer be stocked by Santa Barbara County due to a budget cut, we stepped forward to offer help. We established a partnership with the County wherein HTO raises funds to help restock dog bag dispensers at beaches and parks from Rincon to Jalama. We contribute bags to the City, too. The response to this program has been dog-gone wonderful!



#### YOUR DOG IS A GOOD DOG!

Every dog loves its Human, tries hard to obey while having a little fun and is a good dog by nature. Your dog depends on YOU to make sure other people think he/she is a good dog too. By picking up your doggy bags it helps your dog be a good dog. If you leave poop or bags behind, on the trail or beach or at the park, your dog is embarrassed. Be good to your dog by picking up its waste and disposing it properly; your dog will thank you. So will everyone else. Thank you!



#### BECOME A DOG BAG DISPENSER SPONSOR

A \$60 donation funds 1,500 biodegradable doggy bags. A donation of any amount at any frequency ensures that this program continues. For more information or if you would like to be a regular contributor, please e-mail us at info@healtheocean.org.

Dispensers are available at SB County Parks, Beaches & Open Spaces: Rocky Nook, Oceanview and Jalama Beach parks; Open Spaces: Calle Barquero, Ennisbrook Open Space, Town & Country, University Circle, Rhoads Neighborhood Park. Available SB City Parks: Andrée Clark Bird Refuge, Hidden Valley Park, Hilda Ray Park, Honda Valley Open Space, Laurel Canyon Open Space, Los Robles Park, MacKenzie Park, Orpet Park, Parque de los Niños, Sheffield Open Space, Skofield Park, and Willowglen Park.



If you are interested in sponsoring a dispenser, please call our office 805-965-7570 or email info@healtheocean.org.

Branden, Valerie, and dog Lucky

## THANK YOU, BRANDEN & VAL AROYAN

Branden & Valerie Aroyan have taken on the maintenance of HTO's sponsored dog dispensers. They make sure the dispensers are stocked and clean, and they replace sponsor stickers if worn out or faded. Thank you Branden and Val!

#### WE THANK OUR CORPORATE DISPENSER SPONSORS...



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### THE MANY SIDES OF HTO WORK...

#### HTO INVITED ONTO STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE FOR STATE \$650M WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



The Budget Act of 2021 (Senate Bill 129 and Senate Bill 170) appropriated \$1.55 billion to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in Infrastructure Appropriation. The budget bill specifies that \$650 million is for wastewater projects, with priority given to septic-to-sewer conversions. The funds

are being administered through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF).

HTO Executive Director Hillary Hauser is honored to be on the stakeholder committee now sorting out the Implementation Plan for this \$650M. HTO is hard at work, knocking on doors to inquire about how these funds might be accessed to assist wastewater upgrade and septic-to-sewer projects that remain on our To-Do List.

#### HTO EARNS GREATNONPROFITS BADGE

Heal the Ocean has been named a "2021 Top-Rated Nonprofit" by GreatNonprofits, the leading website for community recommendations of charities and nonprofits. The Top-Rated Nonprofit Award is based on the rating and reviews that Heal the Ocean has received from volunteers, donors, and recipients of HTO's help. We are so honored to have received this badge of support.



#### STOP YOUR JUNK MAIL!

HTO Advisory Board member/Santa Claus Lane beach cleanup "Trash Queen" Maire Radis recently sent a great eco-tip for us to share with you: – how to stop the grocery store junk mail that lands in your mailbox each week. You can call 1-800-437-0479 or go to save.com, scroll to the bottom of the webpage, click delivery options and enter your address to be removed from the Mailer list. Your actions will help save trees and reduce a LOT of water usage.

#### **HOORAY FOR LOS OLIVOS!**

Heal this Ocean is hugely glad to see a recent announcement to the Los Olivos community by LOCSD General Manager Robert Perrault that survey work is now underway for the building of a wastewater plant for the community. The District recently received approval from the State to begin using grant funds to plan out the long-awaited septic-to-sewer conversion project. In October 2021 the LOCSD Board authorized design contractor Stantec to begin preliminary design of the system.

Perrault informed residents that the Stantec team has already begun conducting needed survey work and "will be around town over the coming weeks." HTO salutes Perrault and the LOCSD Board for finally getting into action. We've been up and down on the Los Olivos issue for over 20 years.

#### HTO BEACH CLEANUP KITS AVAILABLE

Large group beach cleanups have been on hold during the

COVID-19 pandemic. Now that we're venturing out a bit more, we want to turn our attention back to beach cleanups – the ocean still needs our help! HTO is again providing Beach Cleanup Kits to any group or person interested in going to work. The kits include sturdy gloves, reusable horse-feed bags, a volunteer HTO t-shirt, and a trash tracking sheet to note down what you find on your cleanup. To schedule a pick up for a cleanup kit, contact the HTO office at (805) 965-7570.

#### **ODDS & ENDS...**

- Heal the Ocean contributes MarBorg roll-off dumpsters and dump fees for cleanup projects around the Santa Barbara South Coast, including Montecito's Beautification Day on November 4, 2021, a community-wide cleanup that resulted in thousands of pounds of trash, garbage and litter being cleared from the Montecito landscape.
- Our illustrious HTO Board director and world-explorer **Jean-Michel Cousteau** published a new childrens' book in April 2021, titled "**Orcas: Spirits of the Seas.**" The 80-page book features the illustrations of prolific French illustrator **Dominique Serafini**, a long-time friend of the Cousteau family.
- We thank **Home Crush Santa Barbara for the great Wine & Design event** they hosted with proceeds benefiting Heal the Ocean. Their beautiful studio on 10 E. Islay St. featured the ocean photography of **Paul Greene**.
- As always, we thank our **1% for the Planet supporters**: Chipper & Kelly Bell/Surfclass.com, Patrick Marr, Hoyt Tarola/Tarola Properties, and Night Lizard Brewing Company.



HTO teammates Alison Thompson & Heather Hudson at the Home Crush event on November 5, 2021

ABOUT Heal the Ocean is a 501(c)3 non-profit focused on upgrading wastewater infrastructure as a way of cleaning up ocean pollution.

HTO We are focused on Santa Barbara County, but our methods are now serving as a model for other coastal communities across the country.

# WE'LL TRADE YOU! BALLOONS FOR AN AIRPLANE



### HTO PROVIDES A SKYWRITER FOR LOMPOC PRISONERS

n Saturday, March 20, 2021, Heal the Ocean sponsored an airplane to fly a large banner over Lompoc Federal Correctional Complex (LFCC) in the morning as a show of support for inmates who endured the COVID-19 pandemic behind bars. The banner read "FCC Prisoners You Are Not Forgotten."

Originally, organizers with the Love Your Inmate group planned to release balloons in the sky in support of inmates at LFCC who had suffered from multiple COVID-19 outbreaks since March 2020. More than 1,000 inmates and staff members at the prison had been infected at the height of the pandemic, and four inmates had passed away. The Love Your Inmate group, organized by Chrissie Rogers, had been working with family members of inmates at LFCC to host the event for the more than 1,000 inmates and staff members at the prison.

At HTO, we received calls from citizens concerned about balloons being released over the landscape, and we felt we had to do *something*, but what? "Heal the Ocean doesn't like to say, 'NO, don't do this!' rather than present an alternative," HTO Executive Director Hillary Hauser said. "Especially since this is a Social Justice issue."

In the HTO office we scratched our heads on this, and finally landed on SKYWRITING. We contacted the Love Your Inmate group and asked if they would cancel the balloons if we hired a skywriter who could blaze a message across the sky. We contacted The Skywriters, LLC, and within a couple of hours, we had **replaced the balloons with a banner in the sky.** 

On Saturday, March 20, 2021, the weather cooperated, and the flight took place at the exact time the inmates were in the outside yard to see it. HTO got thank you letters from one prisoner, who said it "made his day."

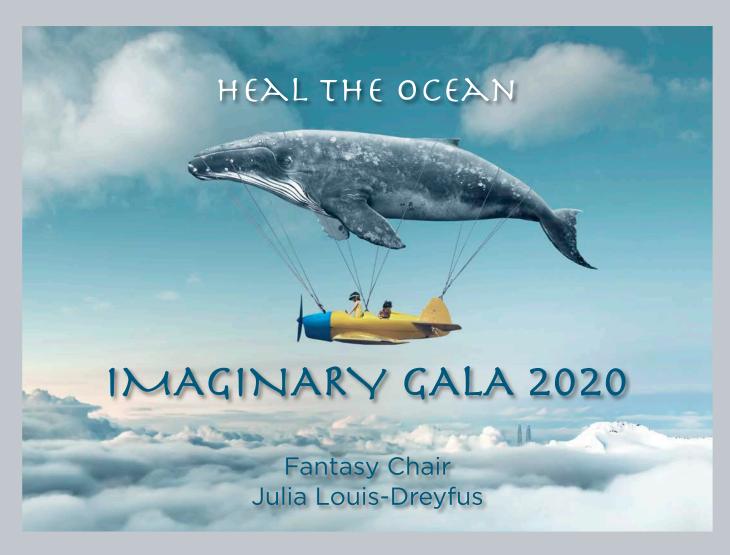


## HTO'S FABULOUS & FAMOUS IMAGINARY EVENTS

FOR 2 YEARS WE COULDN'T MEET IN PERSON... SO WE DREAMED UP SOME ZANY FUN, AND IT ALL HELPS HEAL THE OCEAN

#### THE FLYING WHALE

Our Flying Whale Imaginary format was a huge success! Our seating was infinite and the sky was the limit and we were thrilled so many of you joined us on the flying whale ride!



#### HTO THANKS OUR 2020 IMAGINARY GALA DREAM TEAM SPONSORS!

#### **DREAM TABLE**

Nora McNeely Hurley & Michael Hurley
Tomchin Family Foundation

#### **PHANTOM TABLE**

Thomas & Nancy Crawford
The Roy E. Crummer Foundation
Brad Hall & Julia Louis-Dreyfus
Sam Scranton
in memory of Sherilyn Scranton

#### **UNREAL TABLE**

Just Folk /
Susan Baerwald & Marcy Carsey
Tom & Sheila Cullen
Greg & Elisabeth Fowler/
G.A. Fowler Family

#### **INVISIBLE TABLE**

Larry & Wendy Barels John & Gloria McManus The Radis Family Zog Industries

#### UNBELIEVABLE TABLE

J'Amy Brown
Ani & Monico Casillas/
The Casillas Family
Lee E. Heller
Judge George Eskin (Ret.) &
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
K. Leonard & Melanie Judson

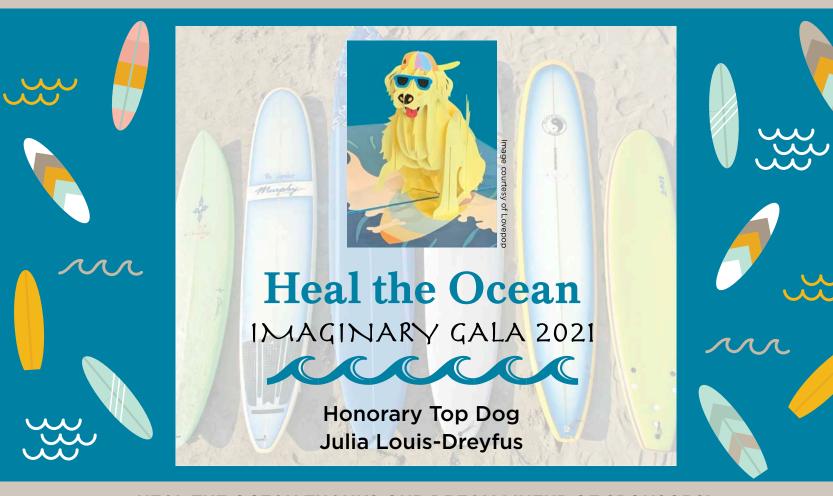
Judith Little
Kenny Loggins
MSM Construction/
Matt McGinn
Francoise Park
Ron & Stacy Pulice/
The Pulice Trust
Peter & Nini Seaman
Patsy Tisch
in memory of Hilary Tisch
Susan Venable & Charles Vinick
Jonathan & Elise Wygant

Dick & Peggy Lamb

#### SURF DOG VISITED US THIS YEAR

For 2021 Heal the Ocean's Top Dog, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, invited us all to catch a wave at our Imaginary Gala. This event brought in over \$200,000 net – the most we've ever made with an event in our 23-year history!

It was an epic ride with Surf Dog!



#### **HEAL THE OCEAN THANKS OUR DREAM LINEUP OF SPONSORS!**

#### **RHINO CHASER**

Nora McNeely Hurley & Michael Hurley

#### **BIG GUN**

Brynn & Charles Crowe
Dan & Rae Emmett
Abby Turin & Jon Gans
Julia Louis-Dreyfus & Brad Hall
Sam Scranton
in memory of Sherilyn Scranton
Tomchin Family Foundation

#### **FUNSHAPE**

Thomas & Nancy Crawford
The Roy E. Crummer Foundation
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G.A. Fowler Family Foundation
The Radis Family

#### HYBRID

Tom & Sheila Cullen

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BigSpeak Inc.
Johnson Ohana Foundation
Jay & Talia Roston
Susan Baerwald & Marcy Carsey/
Just Folk

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J'Amy Brown
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with special thanks to Charla Brown
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Tisha Ford
John & Gloria McManus
Steve & Blair Raber
Melissa Riparetti-Stepien &

Christian Stepien

Patsy Tisch
Zog Industries
Austin Lampson/
Homeowners Financial Group

#### **HAND PLANE**

Gordon Auchincloss & Belita Ong
Lee Parker Bacon
Terri Carlson, MD
Ani Casillas/The Casillas Family
Thomas Dabney
Susan Eng-Denbaars &
Steve Denbaars
Judith Little
Kenny Loggins
Evan Turpin
Susan Venable & Charles Vinick

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## With Deep Appreciation

Heal the Ocean sends its sincere thanks to these contributors who have helped assure the success of our campaign for a clean and healthy ocean. This roster records donations from 9/9/2020 - 11/16/2021, which, for some donors, includes multiple contributions. If your name has been omitted, we sincerely apologize and ask that you please call (805) 965-7570 so that we can correct our records.

**Undisclosed** Amount

Georgia Funsten Revocable Trust

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#### \$30,000-\$40,000

Nora McNeely Hurley & Michael Hurley Tomchin Family Foundation

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> John K. Venable, III Chuck Vinson

Paul Turpin

In Memory of...

Heal the Ocean cherishes each and

every one of our members, and we are

sad when we lose those who are dear

to us. We thank those who have sent

donations in memory of loved ones

who have left us. We are honored to

memorialize the following people in

the donation pages of this newsletter.

Genay Andre

Wes Bortolazzo

Gayle Tower Brinkenhoff

Eric Brown

Joshua Canning

Maxine Knight Clark

Lisa Coffin

Christopher Cutler

Timothy Cutler

Mike deGruy

Ron Fairbanks

David Fry

Georgia Funsten

Prof. James Tait Goodrich, MD/PhD

Laddie Handelman

Marjorie Hawksworth

Justin Herzberg

Agnes B. Kline & Ford G. Kline

Cindy Klinger

Frank Louda

Billy B. McIntosh

Cynthia Mobraaten

Hughes Morton

Charles Neubauer

Robert Perry Sr.

Carlos H. Reynales

Peter Michael Ryan

John Scheuermann

Sherilyn Scranton

Dan Sutherland

Doug & Yvonne Wilcox Brandon Yates

The memory of these wonderful people lives on in our hearts as we work for the ocean they loved.



Dion Lyman, Wally Millicah &

Greg Benton, Danny Paulin &

Robbins, Michael McDonnell,

Refugio Bob, Hope Ranch Rick,

Steve Wood, Jack Schuyler, and

Rod Lock

#### BACK COVER ART BY BILL POEHLER

David Klinger

in memory of Cindy Klinger

"Goleta Slough at the Bike Path" is from an oil painting by Bill Poehler, whose work has been exhibited in Goleta Valley and Santa Barbara art association shows. Poehler describes it as a view looking east from where the bike path and the Goleta Beach bridge meet. "It was a chilly, calm day as I stood there under a tree that was taken out when they rebuilt the bridge. A beautiful day," he writes.

### HONORING SPECIAL PEOPLE...



## GEORGIA LEE FUNSTEN (1926-2019)



Thank you for including Heal the Ocean in your legacy. You have made all the difference.

Photo by Benyapa Bakewell

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#### Heal the Ocean

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