# HEAL THE OCEAN

NEWSLETTER 2023



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

There are lots of changes in the HTO wheelhouse, with great I new talent coming straight from universities and world travels. Throughout the pages of this newsletter you will see the results of their work - it's an exciting time!



Jasmin Tupy has joined the HTO team as **Operations Manager**, a big job that keeps us up and running. She is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara where she earned degrees in both Communication and Art. (Her artistic talent can be seen on page 26.) While at UCSB, Jasmin served as president of Isla Vista Trading Post, an organization which recirculates clothing to keep textile waste out of landfills. (See page 27.) She is an avid surfer and hiker, as well as an exhibited artist.

**Alison Thompson** former Operations Coordinator for HTO, has flown away to Yale School of Environment, where she is working on her Masters - but the wonderful news is that Alison is staying with us in an advisory position, as Policy and Operations Consultant. And we seek her advice often!



Drake Rabin has joined the HTO

team as an Operations Assistant while

attending Santa Barbara Community



College studying Global Studies and International Relations. His hobbies include any sport, especially both kinds of football, and spending time with friends and family. Drake Rabin Sofia Cavaness is temporarily joining the HTO team as Office Assistant until she flies off to Italy and starts grad school later this



Sofia Cavaness



Heather Hudson remains at our helm as HTO Event Manager, a position she has taken on year after year with her trademark, irrepressible good cheer. Not only was our 2022 Imaginary Event the most successful fundraiser in our history, but Heather now has a bright young team that helps her cook up fun community activities all over

Santa Barbara throughout the year. Heather Hudson Heather surfs almost every day of

the year, too - mainly at her beloved Rincon.

Amy Brex keeps our books and finances straight, and when she's at her desk, you will always find her adorable dog **Punkin** sitting in her lap.



Amy Brex and Punkin



Harry Rabin receives the NOGI Award for Environment from AUAS President Dan Orr



Harry Rabin, has been appointed Program Director for Heal the Ocean, and is now doing much heavy lifting on managing crashed boats on Santa Barbara beaches, and tracking homeless encampments, among many other projects described in this newsletter. For this work, and for establishing Reef Guardians Hawaii to

monitor and protect Hawaii's reefs, as well as his work for the Whale Sanctuary Project, NOAA, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Harry received the 2022 Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences (AUAS) NOGI Award for Environment.

He was presented the award during the AUAS Banquet in Orlando, Florida, in November 2022. In the underwater/diving world, the NOGI is the most prestigious award anyone can receive. Past NOGI awardees include notable diving pioneers Capt. Jacques-Yves Cousteau and his two sons Jean-Michel and Philippe Cousteau, astronaut/aquanaut Scott Carpenter, Ernest Brooks, Mike deGruy, and a host of other ocean luminaries. HTO Executive Director Hillary Hauser received her NOGI Award for Distinguished Service in 2009.

#### **COVER PHOTO BY HARRY RABIN**



The sun rises on the *Luna Sea*, a derelict vessel that ran aground near Butterfly Beach, Montecito, during the rough weather of February 2023. HTO Program Director Harry Rabin was immediately on the scene, removing gas tanks and other toxic materials before the ocean carried them away, and later brought in MarBorg Industries to pick up the wreck for disposal. Photo by Harry Rabin.

#### HEAL THE OCEAN® NEWSLETTER 2023

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#### HI FROM HILLARY

The rapid pace of developments at Heal the Ocean has made it challenging to keep up with the ever-changing targets of ocean pollution amidst the tumultuous effects of climate change.

The winter storms and heavy rains of 2023 have deposited not only the typical sources of pollution, but also a multitude of unusual items such as crashed boats, washed-out homeless encampments, lobster traps ripped loose by ocean waves, and vast amounts of Styrofoam, all reduced to a pebble-size that is tragically mistaken by birds and sea life as food.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have been able to respond promptly and efficiently to these circumstances. We are able to mobilize our resources with a phone call to MarBorg Industries for roll-off containers, backhoes, workers and trucks to remove the debris. We also call up Andrew Velikanje, our once-



Hillary with 2023 Woman of Achievement Award from Association for Women in Communications (AWC)

homeless folk hero who is now working for HTO with his team of presently-homeless individuals who are paid \$20/hour by HTO, through Andrew, to remove massive quantities of offal from beaches, watersheds, creeks and riverbeds - and also the Los Padres National Forest.

To cope with the accelerating pace of our work, we have made significant internal changes - namely our staff now has heavy lifters aboard. Harry Rabin, a renowned underwater technician (On the Wave Productions) and consummate underwater technician, has joined Heal the Ocean as Program Director, moving into the office to direct cleanups of crashed boats, abandoned homeless camps, Summerland oil wells, and to provide technical support to city and county agencies.

The savvy team in the office - Jasmin Tupy, Drake Rabin & Sofia Cavaness - excel in the world of technology, and create graphics for our E-letters and newsletters but also leverage social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube to promote the important work undertaken by HTO

As a result of all this, HTO is now receiving new memberships, and wonderful new donations are now **coming in nationwide**. It is thrilling to see.

As Executive Director, I have always maintained that environmental groups must be flexible in their courses of action when new problems come up, or when old ones evolve. There's this old joke about environmentalists: 'My mind is made up, don't confuse me with the facts.' Heal the Ocean has finetuned or altered course many times when new information comes in.

These days, the effects of climate change continue to surprise us often. It is doubly important that we readjust our targets, or add new ones. I take immense pride in leading this committed and technologically advanced team. I am grateful for the invaluable support of the younger generation in our office, as well as the exceptional skills of our graphic designer, Debbie Bellman. Debbie possesses the remarkable ability to anticipate my actions before I even take them. As Executive Director of this amazing organization, I find great satisfaction in granting more autonomy to the team. This allows me to concentrate on my primary responsibility, which is closely overseeing HTO's overarching strategy of fostering collaborative partnerships with agencies and elected officials to implement practical and equitable solutions.

My other big job at Heal the Ocean is communication – to you, our treasured supporters and to our local, regional and national representatives. I also continue to write to the public at large about the importance of protecting our oceans.

Thank you for listening. At Heal the Ocean we are also deeply grateful for your support.

Hillary Hauser 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 the late, great Bill Poehler, along with his wife Pam and daughter Lily of Santa Barbara (long-time HTO supporters) for their enthusiasm – it means much to us.

# A COASTAL MAYHEM: FLOOD, HIGH WAVES...& BOATS CRASHING ON THE BEACH

# A FREAK WINTER, OR IS THIS THE NEW (CLIMATE CHANGE) NORM?

The first boat washed ashore September 10, 2022, when an extreme high tide and surf pushed an anchored sailboat onto East Beach, near the foot of the Laguna Creek Channel.

As would become custom, HTO Program Director Harry Rabin was there, working by himself, removing toxic polluting items (fuel, batteries, oil) and relocating them above the tideline. As he worked, he called for help from various agencies including Harbor Patrol, Coast Guard, Patriot Environmental Services, TowboatUS, and more to recruit help and develop a plan of action. The plan called for laborious, time-consuming bureaucracy to get permission to get the wreck off the beach, and finally Harry was able to make the call to Brian Borgatello, president of MarBorg Industries, to get it taken away, with Heal the Ocean guaranteeing payment for the operation.

A week later on September 19, another boat washed up on the same beach and Harry was on the beach at dawn, again removing pollutants from the boat, again calling authorities for permission to get the boat off the beach.

The second week of November 2022, 3 boats broke free of their moorings off East Beach and landed at various places on our coastline, including the East Beach Bathhouse and below "Graveyards," near Butterfly Beach.

- Boat #1 was fortunately intercepted by the Santa Barbara harbor patrol before hitting the shore.
- Boat #2 washed ashore near the East Beach Bathhouse, and was towed back out to sea to be properly secured.
- **Boat #3** ran aground below the Santa Barbara cemetery, and almost hit a homeless camp on the beach. Carson Chevitz, Owner of TowBoatUS Ventura, worked to get the boat off the beach.

By far, the biggest dumping of derelict boats came in on the massive storm that rolled through Santa Barbara in January 2023.

Six (!) boats broke anchor and washed ashore – dumping pollutants, diesel, oil, sewage waste, and sharp, dangerous objects onto the beach.

This being close to the last straw, **HTO re-fired up its Boat Task Force,** a meeting of city, county, and local officials for the purpose of coming up with a solution to this recurring problem.

All photos by Harry Rabin







Irony of ironies, on February 18, 2023, HTO and MarBorg accessed the beach and picked up what remained of the *Luna Sea* (our cover picture), including its 2,000-pound lead keel. They also picked up two more old keels that were exposed during the storm and 15-foothigh surf. But unbelievably, two days after the *Luna Sea* ran aground two 50-gallon gas tanks floated in on each side of the wreck. It was determined that a power boat had also broken free and ran aground just 150 yards west of the *Luna Sea*.

# FOOL'S ANCHORAGE DELIVERED MANY FOOLISH BOATS TO THE BEACH

#### HEAL THE OCEAN CLEANED UP WRECK AFTER WRECK



A casualty from one of Santa Barbara's recent winter storms.

#### Photo by Harry Rabin

#### FOOL'S ANCHORAGE - WHAT IT IS

A long every coastline in the world – including California, and including Santa Barbara – boats of all types can sail anywhere they want, and drop anchor for an afternoon (or evening) soiree. For overnight mooring in Santa Barbara, boats can tie up at visitor slips inside the harbor, and pay an overnight visitors' fee. Boat owners wanting to tie up longer within the harbor area can apply for a mooring permit (from the Waterfront Department), and pay to have a mooring installed for an agreed-upon time. There is no overnight stay, but the boat will be securely attached to the mooring. At the end of the permit period, the vessel leaves, and the mooring is removed. These are the smartest ways to keep a boat safe and secure.

But there are those who don't want to pay. They navigate further east, and in front of East Beach, where the volleyball courts are, **they throw** an anchor into the sand bottom at an area called Fool's Anchorage.

It's called that for a good reason: It is a specific area where boats of specific sizes are legally allowed to anchor year around. In California, not every place or beach allows this. But in Fool's Anchorage, the boats come, stay, and for the most part are not properly anchored. When a storm hits, (too) many of these boats end up on the beach.

These boats tend to be derelict, used as cheap housing, or left empty for long periods of time, and when they hit the beach, they become instant wrecks. They also become **environmental hazards (loaded with gas, batteries, and human waste)** that drift as far as shown at right.

#### CITY VS. COUNTY OCEAN? AN ISSUE OF DRIFTING BOATS.

The drifting of boats from Fool's Anchorage (technically City waters) creates a jurisdictional nightmare when boats enter "County waters" downstream of East Beach headed toward Miramar and Sandyland and other areas. While SB City Harbor Patrol Officer Erik Engebretsen does his best to catch drifting boats, the city Harbor Patrol Boats must remain in or near the harbor in the event of any incident in the harbor. Therefore, a boat drifting into "County waters" has no one to catch it.

In response, **HTO Program Director Harry Rabin rushes to potential crash sites immediately** – usually during early morning hours. While he calls for help from various agencies, Harry single-handedly pulls polluting items off the wreckages and drags everything from gas cans and batteries to metal pieces above the tideline.

After checking for boat ownership and insurance and getting no response, Harry then calls **Brian Borgatello of MarBorg Industries to the scene, to remove the entire wreckage off the beach**. The big jaws of MarBorg's excavating equipment chews up the boat, and hauls it away. In the beginning, Heal the Ocean was paying the full fee for this work (in one case it was \$20,000), but now the city is fully aboard with logistical and financial help, and we are grateful. Sometimes the owner of the vessel chips in, too.

From fall 2022 through winter 2023, over eight derelict boats washed ashore in Santa Barbara County. This cannot keep repeating itself.

#### HTO FORMS BOAT TASK FORCE

To address this situation, **Heal the Ocean has assembled a Boat Task Force** of officials from both county and city agencies. The members of this task force are:

Butch Arnoldi - Santa Barbara County Sheriff Erik Engebretson - Santa Barbara City Harbormaster

Randy Rowse - Santa Barbara Mayor

Das Williams - Santa Barbara County Supervisor

Kadie McShirley - County Supervisors office: Sustainability

Todd Van Epps - California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Harry Rabin - Heal the Ocean Program Director

Carson Shevitz - CEO of Channel Watch Marine Services

Hillary Hauser - Heal the Ocean, Executive Director

Erik Pederson - Santa Barbara County Aquatics Coordinator

Nathan Alldredge - Harbor Patrol Supervisor

Tim Gailey - Santa Barbara County Fire Captain

Paul Ricketson - U.S. Coast Guard, Chief Warrant Officer

Sean P. McGaughan - U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Detachment Supervisor



The boats that cut loose from this unprotected anchorage travel far, and land in places where their wreckages are difficult to access.

Graphic by Harry Rabin

# STORM & STRESS/FLOOD & CLIMATE CHANGE/SEA LEVEL RISE



Miramar Beach at King Tide

Photo by Harry Rabin

Isla Vista cliffs at King Tide

Photos by Jasmin Tupy

#### SEA LEVEL RISE: WHERE THE OCEAN MEETS THE LAND...

Nobody is arguing about the ocean coming in. The effects of sea level rise are becoming increasingly evident. The news media consistently documents houses on sea cliffs collapsing or being condemned, with higher tides entering oceanfront properties.

Heal the Ocean has participated in many multi-jurisdictional meetings to develop "Adaptation Planning" for Sea Level Rise (SLR). Using various predictive maps (NOAA and others), the City of Santa Barbara prepared an Adaptation Plan, so did the County, so did Goleta, so did everybody. The Adaptation Plans basically outline various measures that would be taken if the ocean gets to a certain height, and then when the ocean continues inland other measures would be undertaken.

Heal the Ocean maintains that the planning divisions and building departments of coastal counties and cities are best equipped to address this problem. To mitigate the impact of rising sea levels, **they need to halt the approval of large-(and small)-scale coastal developments.** In other words, don't permit buildings that could be flooded in 20 or 30 years, and then rely on federal funds (FEMA) to clean up the problem.

Many people in Santa Barbara may remember the **infamous** "Light Blue Line" proposal of 2007, which was for a blue line to be artfully painted throughout downtown Santa Barbara with the intent of showing the potential sea level rise in the city as a result of climate change. The project graphically revealed how much of the community would be impacted — sandy beaches gone, coastal habitats lost, neighborhoods wiped out, and transportation corridors flooded.

City leaders ultimately rejected the Light Blue Line project for fear it would impact property values on the "ocean side" of the line. One Santa Barbara opinion columnist stated more succinctly, "the realtors went berserk." What is a house worth if it's underwater? The whole issue went away.

Not too long ago, the City denied two proposed projects, one on an unstable cliffside; the other in a flood zone. The property owners sued the City – and won. When a property can't be built on, it loses significant value (maybe, even, 100%). When an agency reduces the price of a piece of real estate, it's a form of Condemnation called "Taking."

It is ironic that protecting people from the results of Sea Level Rise can end up hurting the Protector. This is an example of a classic Catch-22.\*

\* "Catch-22" is the name of a satirical World War II novel by American author Joseph Heller. The phrase "Catch-22" is described as "a problematic situation for which the only solution is denied by circumstance inherent in the problem or by a rule." It's become a common idiom meaning "a no-win situation" or a "double-bind" of any type.

# THE OCEAN GAME - CAN YOU SAVE YOUR TOWN?

In 2017 a trio of *Los Angeles Times* writers created "The Ocean Game" – a game allowing readers to attempt to save a coastal town from the effects of climate change in eight rounds.

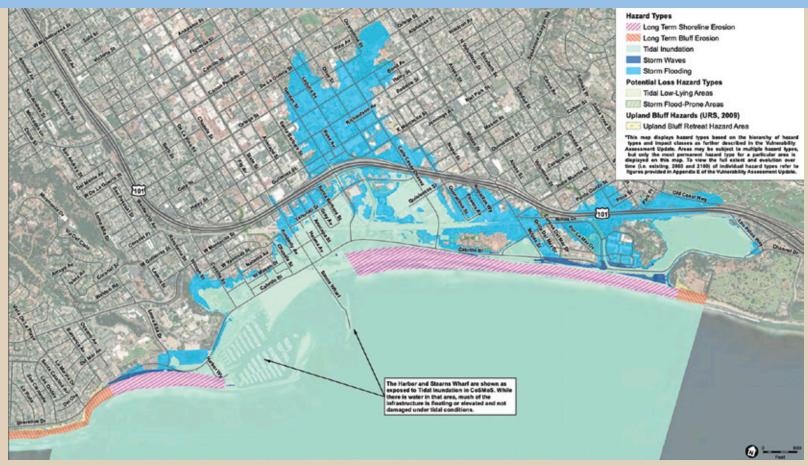


There is a true winning answer. Click here to take the quiz, you might be surprised!

https://www.latimes.com/ projects/la-me-climatechange-ocean-game/

# SCOPE THE COAST – KEEPING TRACK OF POLLUTED GROUNDWATER

## WHEN THE SEA COMES IN... IT WILL RISE THROUGH COASTAL CONTAMINATION



The predictive NOAA map for Santa Barbara's 2100 waterfront shows where the sea will be 70+ years from now - bringing to the surface the potent toxins in the groundwater and surrounding soils.

#### SCOPE THE COAST - WHAT IT IS...

Heal the Ocean has developed a project - Scope the Coast - to provide critically needed information about sea level rise and its potential impact on shallow groundwater and soils along the California coast.

Climate change is causing a rise in sea levels and posing a direct threat to coastal communities worldwide. Adaptation plans are being made – to hold back the sea, waterproof critical infrastructure – or move back from the coastline. Another threat is posed by groundwater and the ocean mixing continuously, back and forth. When the tide goes out, groundwater goes with it, and when the tide comes in, the reverse happens: groundwater rises.

Many coastal communities were once industrialized areas – shipyards, places of commercial loading and unloading of cargo, railroad and other such uses. **Shallow groundwater monitoring has revealed in this water toxic substances** such as Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), toluene PCBs and lead, 1,2-dichloroethane, and other substances dangerous to human health. When groundwater rises to the surface, these toxins can become airborne, and breathed in.

In at least one coastal city (a beach resort town), an apartment complex was built in such an area before this phenomenon was widely known. The residents are now advised to keep their windows open, all the time. Communities like Oakland are now grappling with this issue.

When Heal the Ocean was made aware of this problem we hired a GIS mapper, and over the past few years, we have created **our unique program, Scope the Coast.** Using data from reputable sources such as the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Geological Survey and the California Department of Water Resources, we have created a comprehensive map of monitoring wells within the California coastal zone that exceed pre-defined chemical thresholds. Included in this map are sea level rise projection data, analysis of wells as related to these factors, all with the purpose of developing a prioritized approach to remediate the contaminated groundwater found in these areas.

Heal the Ocean is in discussions with ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute), an American geographic information system (GIS) software company, about ESRI hosting Scope the Coast on its in-house servers so that this information will be easily accessible to all. The ESRI's ARCGIS platform is used by counties, states, federal agencies and private industries, making it the world's leading GIS mapping software.

HTO has shared the Scope the Coast project with the California Department of Toxic Substances, and our ultimate goal is to work with California state legislators to require coastal communities to address groundwater rise through policy and regulation of contaminated sites.



This image shows the existing monitoring wells by which Santa Barbara keeps track of the toxins in its underground aquifers.

#### IDENTIFYING THE FUTURE SO WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT NOW

Within 70 years, Santa Barbara and all coastal communities are going to have to grapple with groundwater pushing to the surface around coastal buildings and residences. VOCs and other toxins in groundwater can become airborne, and hazardous to humans. These coastal communities are gong to have to figure out 1) how to clean up the toxins; 2) relocate people living in the area (i.e., back away from the coast, 3) and most immediately, quit building in these zones.



The San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board is already investigating industrial waterfronts, such as Oakland.

Photo by Chris Boswell/iStock

# HTO'S BLUE-GLOVED HANDS TACKLE MASSIVE BEACH CLEANUPS



Cate Schoolmates tackle Carpinteria Beach, February 2, 2023.

ike many other environmental groups, Heal the Ocean tackles dirty beaches with enthusiastic **L**/volunteers who offer their own two hands (as the Jack Johnson song goes) to make the world a better place – in particular, the beaches.

You can tell HTO workers by their blue gloves, which HTO provides, along with reusable horse-feed bags, for the trash (no plastic here!).

Thanks go to Cate School students who went after Carpinteria State Beach and removed 7 lobster traps, parts of a boat wreck, electric wire, and in all, 390 pounds of trash. What's notable about their project is the list of trash they took note of.



**BEACH CLEANUP CARPINTERIA BEACH** 2/2/2023, 9AM-12PM **10 STUDENTS, 2 TEACHERS** 2 HTO STAFF

L III O SIAI I	
MOST LIKELY TO FIND ITEMS	
Cigarette Butts	19
Food Wrappers	3
Take Out/Away Containers (Plastic)	
Take Out/Away Containers (Foam)	1
Bottle Caps (Plastic)	10
Bottle Caps (Metal)	1
Lids (Plastic)	1
Straws/Stirrers	9
Forks, Knives, Spoons	1
Beverage Bottles (Plastic)	6
Beverage Bottles (Glass)	2
Grocery Bags (Plastic)	1
Other Plastic Bag	4
Paper Bags	3
Cups & Plates (Paper)	4
Cups & Plates (Plastic)	27
Cups & Plates (Foam)	

Fishing Buoys, Pots & Traps Fishing Nets & Pieces Fishing Line (1 yd/m=1 piece) Rope (1 yd/m=1 piece)

PACKAGING MATERIALS 6-pack Holders Other Plastics/Foam Packaging Other Plastic Bottles (oil, bleach, etc.) 2 Strapping Bands Tobacco Packaging/Wrap

PERSONAL HYGIENE Condoms

Dianers Tampons/Tampon Applicator

OTHER TRASH

Appliances (Refrigerators, Washers, etc.) 2 Cigar Tips **Cigarette Lighters Construction Materials** Fireworks

TINY TRASHLESS THAN 2.5CM Foam Pieces **Glass Pieces Plastic Pieces** 

MISCELLANEOUS Foam Mattress Topper (30lb) Tennis Ball

**OVERALL WEIGHT METRICS:** 

280 lbs - 7 Lobster traps 30 lbs - Electrical wire 60 lbs - General trash 20 lbs - Foam mattress

390 lbs - Total debris removed

270 - Pieces of trash picked up



Tim Kirshtner of Clear Water Ways working to remove debris from the beach. Photo by Branden Aroyan

#### **NEW BEACH CLEANUP ITEMS: LOBSTER TRAPS**

his year was extraordinarily challenging **L** because of the winter storms, which brought everything up above to down below - into the ocean, and then into the surf, which coughed up everything onto the beaches. Styrofoam, plastic, car tires, tree limbs and general offal.

Unusual this year: many lobster traps, torn from their buoys, landed on the beaches, too. These traps were a hazard to beach-goers, but also a big financial chagrin to the lobster fleet. **Heal the** Ocean got to work with the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife on an identifying tag program, to help the fishermen recover their traps.

Heal the Ocean thanks the individuals who worked solo, without group organization, notably: Tim Kirshtner of Clear Water Ways, who worked by himself to remove the debris from the beach. Valerie and Branden Aroyan joined Andrew Velikanje of Earthcomb to help. The team cleared most of the debris from Hammonds Beach, filling up a whole 40-yard MarBorg roll-off dumpster.

If you would like to participate in a beach cleanup project, please contact the HTO office (805) 965-7570 for free gloves, reusable bags and a free HTO shirt! All participants can receive official community service hours!

#### **HOW TO: Report Derelict Fishing** Gear (for Santa Barbara)

Lost fishing gear is costly, hazardous to wildlife, and a potential danger to beachgoers. To aid in the recovery of these valuable items, we've developed a step-by-step guide...

- 1. Take a photo that shows the tag and/or buoy
- 2. Take note of the CDFW ID number
- 3. Note of the location (coordinates are helpful!)
- 4. Message Ava of Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara (CFSB) with #1-3.
  - a. DM on Instagram: @cfsb.info
  - b. Email: ava@cfsb.info
  - c. Phone: 8054034811

The information will be passed on to the local fishermen to facilitate retrieval of the lost gear.





If you would like to report lost fishing gear outside of Santa Barbara complete the:

CDFW Lost Fishing Gear Report.

This form can be filled out at:

california-lost-fishing-gearremoval-project/

or call 1-888-491-GEAR





HTO graphic to help fishermen retrieve traps

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

#### ANDREW VELIKANJE -**STAR OF EARTHCOMB** & HELPING THE **HOMELESS**

#### ndrew Velikanje's story is one that fills us with positivity and hope.

Andrew used to reside in a beach camp out near the Bacara Resort, and when Heal the Ocean teamed up with MarBorg Industries to clean it up, we met Andrew. Andrew took us to the exact site. However, since the cleanup crew was unable to return for a few days, Andrew took it upon himself to clean up the area, and did it by himself. When MarBorg arrived later, all they had to do was haul away the trash.

HTO then discovered that Andrew had been cleaning up tons of trash independently. This included the whole shoreline of Lake Cachuma, the roadside of Highway 154, multiple abandoned homeless camps, the Los Padres National Forest, and Rincon Beach among other locations.

### He had already created his business, Earthcomb - and Heal the Ocean hired him. So did Hands Across Montecito,

the highly effective campaign founded by Sharon Byrne, president of the Montecito Association to get homeless individuals the

Andrew Velikanje at work. (QR code to Earthcomb website above.)

help they need. Today, Andrew has a place to call home, a business license, and an office. He brings in homeless individuals to work on a cleanup, and manages them. The workers are paid a wage, funded by HTO.

Andrew has tackled over 32 sites from HTO's documented list of over 96 abandoned encampments – identified in quarterly surveys done by HTO Program Director Harry Rabin and coordinated with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and MarBorg Industries, which consistently sends its team to help where needed. MarBorg also delivers and picks up large roll-off bins to haul the trash and materials away.





Abandoned camps tackled by Earthcomb



GIS Map of the Santa Ynez Riverbed, identifying camp locations. INSET PHOTO: a closeup of one of the camps, captured by a high-powered drone lens.

#### HTO TACKLES SANTA YNEZ RIVERBED

In September 2022 HTO Program Director Harry Rabin received a request for an aerial survey of the homeless camps in the Santa Ynez Riverbed. The request came from City Net Lompoc, which provides services for people experiencing homelessness. Rabin and his son, Drake Rabin, who is an HTO Development Associate, headed to Lompoc and met there with the City Net crew and county sheriff department, then went to work. Keela Potter, Program Supervisor for City Net southern California, was specifically focused on locating and assessing the number of occupants that had reestablished camps in the Riverbed, because her agency had just received federal funding to help the people living in these campsites.



Harry Rabin & HTO Development Associate Drake Rabin.

Harry and Drake launched their high-tech drones, and very quickly covered 2.5 square miles, and documented 26-30 individuals living in 11 encampments in the riverbed. The infrared lenses on their high-tech drones focused on the waste, trash, fire hazards and vehicles parked in the Riverbed. Their timing was propitious: Cachuma had opened its flood gates as part of its steelhead program, and before the water hit, HTO was able to inform local authorities, who cleared all individuals out of harm's way. Unfortunately, there was no time to clean up the trash and debris from these camps, which was washed downstream.

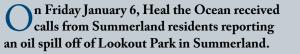


The GPS data, and all information gathered in the survey is posted on an interactive map on Heal the Ocean's website. (See QR code at left.)

# HTO CONTINUES OIL BATTLE IN SUMMERLAND



Aerial views of the oil leak January 3, 2023



HTO Program Director Harry Rabin immediately went to the site, sent up a drone to photograph the spreading horror of oil in the water, then notified the State Lands Commission. Shortly after, a unified command team prepared a response for the leak.

The spill spanned 1.5 to 2 miles long, about 5 miles offshore.

The exact cause of the seepage is being studied by Rabin and various state officials. Rabin has noted that the winter storms and high waves had scoured out the sand from around two beach wellheads that were capped in previous projects funded by the State Lands Commission/SB 44. One wellhead, Olsson, was properly abandoned but the oil that surrounded the pipe during the process was left in the area of excavation as the area was re-buried. Olsson was buried under almost 9 ft. of sand and when the big surf came in, all that buried oil went out to sea.

Harry later discovered that several wellheads in close proximity to Olsson and Becker wellheads were now exposed. All the debris rolling around with the pounding of 15'-20' surf not only exposed the pipes and casings but it also re-awakened them. The winter storm appeared to have fractured and stripped off portions of concrete caps on over 7 wellheads that were previously remediated in 1968.

In those early days of oilfield diving operations, the general procedure was to use a funnel and send concrete down into the well followed by liquid dynamite to blow off the pipe, so what remained was just below the ocean floor. The storms of January 2023 made short work of these old, flimsy methods. Current protocol provides far more protection and lasts

As the remediation of the leaking wells of Summerland continues to grow into a bigger problem, Heal the Ocean is tackling a plan of action with the State Lands Commission – for more funding and faster action.



State unified command team arrives at Lookout Park, Summerland, to survey the January oil spill.

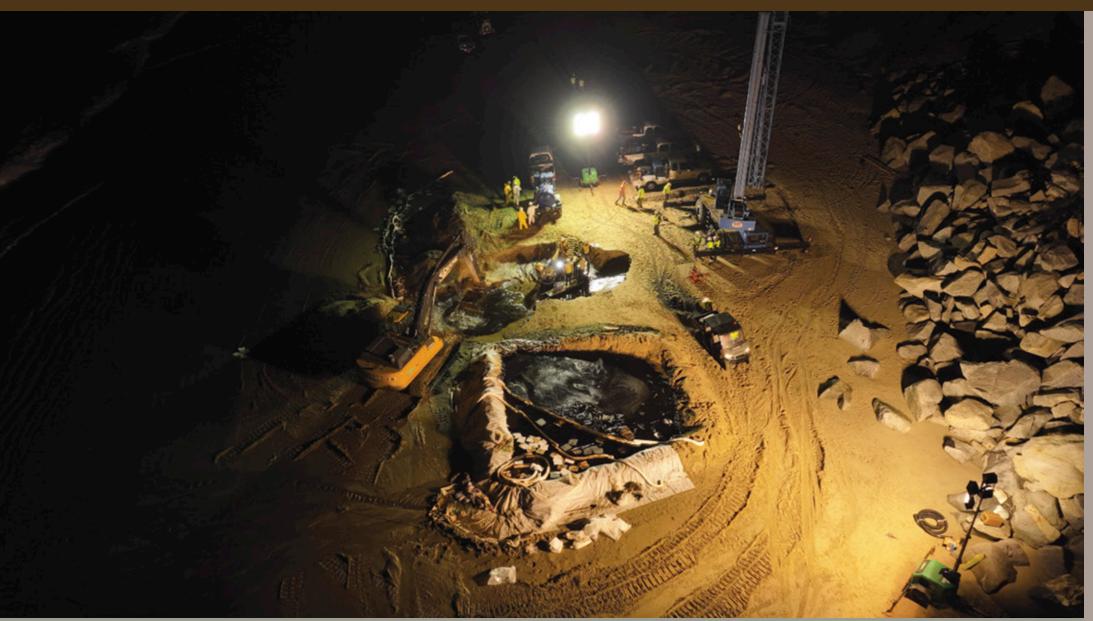
#### "A SHALLOW TEA CUP OF OIL"

It all began in 1897 and carried through into the 1930s "Oil Rush." Wildcatters flocked to Summerland Beach to dig and pump and get the oil any way they could. It's a well-known fact that after these fortune seekers left the area, they simply stuffed rocks and rags down the makeshift wells to plug them up. **Known as "Legacy** Wells," they belong to no one, and are truly the "legacy" and liability of the State of California.

A lesser known fact, told to us by a State Lands Commission oil drilling engineer, is that the pool of oil underneath Summerland coastline is basically "a shallow teacup of oil" - so close to the surface that the wildcatters would stick a steel pipe into the sand, light the end of it, and have an immediate bright candlelight by which they could play ball at night.

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# PLUGGING HOLE AFTER HOLE IN SUMMERLAND



Duquesne Beach Well - Before



Harry Rabin's team corrected CALGEM information about the locations of other leaking wells, including Treadwell 1 & 5, slated for capping in late 2023.



Duquesne Beach Well – After

All photos and graphics by Harry Rabin/On the Wave Productions

#### THE SEVERITY OF THE PROBLEM: A BEACH WELL BEFORE AND AFTER

uquesne, the Summerland Beach oil well capped in December 2021, shows what an excavated oil well site looks like (big, dark and very unfriendly). This well, located at the southeast end of Summerland beach, had a big surprise for everybody: it had been leaking a far greater amount of oil than originally estimated. A large containment area was required to be dug up to hold all the oil and saltwater mix so the oil could be safely skimmed off the top and properly disposed of offsite.

**Heal the Ocean Program Director Harry Rabin was on the job morning to night,** strategizing with the engineers about containment – nobody wanted to see any of this black pool escape into the ocean. HTO thanks every worker who remedied Duquesne. We were told by many of the SLC engineers and workers that beach-goers **thanked them as they went by** – which surprised them, because oil equipment and operations this big on a beach, are usually encountered with protest.

#### NEXT IN LINE

**Up next on the list are Treadwell #1 and Treadwell #5**, two wells aligned on the same Treadwell pier as #10, capped in 2020. SB 44 funding (Jackson) has funded well-capping so far, at the rate of \$1M per year. Sometimes two state budget years have to be combined to pay for one operation (like Treadwell 1 & 5), which is more than \$1M.

While Heal the Ocean continues its collaboration with the State Lands Commission. we are actively seeking state and federal funds for continued capping work – but also for an updated geologic study of the area.

10

# HTO . . . WORKING ON GLOBAL ISSUES LOCALLY



Heal the Ocean has expanded its scope of work since its inception. Initially, our focus was primarily on improving wastewater treatment plants, eliminating septic systems near coastlines, and restoring wetlands and groundwater. However, our efforts now encompass additional activities such as removing abandoned homeless camps from watersheds and clearing wrecked boats from beaches.

We are also **addressing the issue of old leaking wells in Summerland** by capping them, and we are actively mapping the areas where Sea Level Rise is projected to elevate polluted groundwater along the California coastline, posing health risks to coastal residents.

\*Scan any of the QR codes to learn more about each topic.

# HTO CONTINUES BATTLE VS. PLASTIC AND STYROFOAM





#### OLÉ FOR FIESTA - AND BRAVO TO THE HTO & EARTHCOMB CLEANUP CREW!

Everyone loves a good party, and when Santa Barbara's Old Spanish Days (Fiesta!) rolls around every August, the rhetorical "lid" comes off. People celebrate with plastic cups and plates, food vendors provide plastic utensils, and confetti gets thrown everywhere.

HTO contacted the City's Downtown Organization and volunteered Andrew Velikanje and his Earthcomb crew, specifically Joe Pennisi, to work during Fiesta to help maintain the cleanliness of the city streets. Eric Krueger, formerly of the Downtown Organization, scoped out their work at the end of the three-day celebration: "As always, Andrew and his team are killing it... Andrew, great job! HTO, great job!"

Thanks to all the Fiesta-goers who did not litter. *Viva la Earthcomb!* 



Joe Pennisi and Andrew Velikanje cleaning up Santa Barbara after Fiesta weekend

Photo by Jasmin Tupy



#### Photo by Sofia Cavanes

#### STYROFOAM PELLETS AT THE BEACH ARE LETHAL TO SEALIFE

tyrofoam chucked into the trash ends up in a landfill, where it breaks down into little pieces. Styrofoam is made from petroleum therefore it will never decompose or dissolve back into nature. Too much of it escapes into the environment - and becomes lethal to sea life. Fish, turtles and birds mistake it for something to eat. After the recent winter storms (2022-2023), many beach-clean teams ran into scenes like this one - bits of Styrofoam mixed in with driftwood or caught **in tidepools.** It is close to impossible to pick up each and every one of these broken flakes of Styrofoam.

#### HTO STYROFOAM PROGRAM... ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

In 2020 MarBorg Industries & Heal the Ocean joined hands to create a Styrofoam Recycling Program in Santa Barbara – a powerful attack on an exceptionally destructive source of ocean pollution.

Since July 2021, the program has diverted 39,600 lbs. of Styrofoam from the landfill. HTO has contracted with MarBorg Industries to ship the Styrofoam to South Coast Foam Shapes in Moreno Valley where it is made into polystyrene pellets that can be upcycled into housewares,

toys, CD cases, cosmetic containers, and other useful products. This gives Styrofoam another life and diverts it from the Tajiguas landfill.

Heal the Ocean has visited the repurposing plant, to check the process of how Styrofoam is condensed into small blocks. It is a low energy process that uses no heat and produces no fumes. The staff is ecofriendly (and some are surfers!).



HTO Operations Manager Jasmin Tupy visiting South Coast Foam's Moreno Plant, talking with Accounting Specialist David Crawford

YOU CAN DROP OFF YOUR STYROFOAM LOCALLY:

GOLETA 20 David Love Place (Take 101 North, to So. Fairview exit)

DOWNTOWN 132 Nopalitos Way (Lower Milpas area, near Post Office)

# HTO DOGS ARE HOT DOGS... AND THEIR SPONSORS ARE HOT STARS!







To honor their dearly departed pets, Margot Roseman and Hillary Hauser each purchased a dispenser for their late doggies, Minuette and Wolfy, respectively. The two dogs are united in upper Orpet Park, on the Santa Barbara Riviera. The gesture serves as a tribute to their beloved furry friends.

#### HONORING YOUR BELOVED PET

HTO's Doggy Bag program continues on with its successful program of raising funds for supplying doggy bags in County and City parks and open spaces. It has been generously supported by local veterinarians, veterinary hospitals, and businesses, who find it a great way to advertise!

Now, there is something new afoot with the program: pet owners are honoring their recently-departed pets by memorializing them on a dog dispenser. Their pictures are gracing parks, open spaces and trails – most recently, **Jonesy**, **Minuette and Wolfy.** Sponsorships are also honoring living, beloved dogs – like **Brandy & Aiden**, sponsored by their owner, **Susan Petrovich**. And there's **Lucky**, the spunky dog of Miramar Beach, who goes there nearly every day with his owners, **Valerie & Branden Aroyan**. (THANK YOU Val and Branden, for tending the dispensers at the head of Hammond's Trail!)

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



# Sponsored by Susan Petrovich and Brandy & Aidan Macconjunction with HEAL THE OCEAN.

YOUR NAME, PHOTO,

OR LOGO HERE

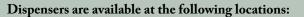




#### BECOME A DOG BAG DISPENSER SPONSOR

As 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.



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















Sofia Cavaness with her family's adored "Ratties" – Mojo & Rascal. The Cavaness family was the first to put HTO on "Auto Pay" via HTO's website Givebox on our donation page. The Givebox method is a simple way to send a designated amount automatically to the HTO office.

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# HEAL THE OCEAN SALUTES THE NEXT GENERATION



"Devereaux" watercolor by Jasmin Tupy

#### A WORD TO THE NEXT GENERATION....

by Hillary Hauser

any have said our young people should be shielded from the tough environmental issues the world is grappling with. After all, isn't this chaotic state of the world a result of the previous generation's actions? How can young minds take in the facts of climate change or other depressing situations mankind has gotten itself into? The biggest question: how can we make a difference? In the face of ocean acidification, what good is a beach cleanup?

As related in my latest book, "Dancing on Waves," I was having this conversation with Vicki Clark, an environmental attorney who is now Executive Director of Trustees for Alaska. "Vicki," I said, "the world is such a mess, are we really doing any good?"

Vicki's answer was simple. "What would it be if we were doing nothing?" she said.

And that's the answer.

Once you see, you can't un-see. Once you see, you do what you can. It gives me great joy – and hope – that savvy young people are actively engaging in environmental work through advocacy and projects, whether it's swapping clothes, using less product, or cleaning a beach. These actions create a ripple effect that does create significant impacts.

A great example of how one small action can reverberate across the world is Greta Thunberg. At the age of 15 she began facing off with the Swedish Parliament to demand stronger action on climate change by holding up a sign reading *Skolstrejk för klimatet* (School Strike for Climate). She kept it up year after year, until legislators – countries – began to listen, and laws and regulations began to change about limiting fossil fuels.

At 20 years old Greta is the youngest *Time* Person of the Year and is included on the Forbes list of The World's 100 Most Powerful Women (2019). She has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022. She has demonstrated that **no individual can be deemed insignificant when it comes to making a positive impact.** 

Young adults have the ability to generate global attention and media coverage about issues they care about. Not all of us can be Greta Thunberg, and what we do may seem imperfect. But little by little, developing habits and developing projects, no matter how small, become a message to those around us, and helps everyone get on board to help our precious Earth.

Heal the Ocean salutes every young person who is doing something to show they understand, and that they care.

#### IMPERFECT ENVIRONMENTALISM

by Helena Gans

I was standing in the shower, listening to music and thinking about the new outfit I wanted to buy and the color I wanted to paint my nails. I let my thoughts drift, losing track of time. Piercing the cozy enclosure of my shower, an ear splitting, though familiar, scream shattered my peace. "Helena, you've been in the shower for twenty minutes! I thought you were an environmentalist!" At first, I was ridiculously annoyed by my mom's criticism, a harsh interruption to my blissful distraction. But as I looked down and became aware of the gallons of water flowing down the drain, I felt like a hypocrite, preaching one thing and practicing another.

For many years, living more sustainably has been one of my biggest goals, and yet I frequently fail to curb my wasteful behavior. Even worse, my work for environmental causes has made me feel like I could sit on my high horse and nag my friends and family about taking care of the environment. And yet there I was, taking preposterously long showers. I realize that my hypocrisy shows itself in a million other ways too. I buy heavily packaged makeup after cleaning up plastic on the beach. I shop at fast fashion stores right after going thrifting. I call oil companies evil while happily jumping on airplanes to travel. I use a plastic coffee cup one day and a glass mason jar the next. While I deeply care about the environment, I fail over and over and over again to match my actions to my values.

A couple months ago, I had a conversation with my aunt, who is both vegan and an animal rights activist. After expressing my own shame about my failings, she offered me this statement:

"it's more effective to have thousands of people who are mostly vegan than one completely perfect vegan." This insight made me think about environmentalism as a whole and helped me understand that each of us re-committing to do our individual best to help the environment may be the best way to make a difference. Changing behavior can be hard, especially when we think it has to be radical and overnight. But we desperately need to shift our culture to be more mindful of our one planet. Even if we all embrace imperfect environmentalism, it still won't be enough to pull us out of the climate crisis. It would, however, help us shift the tide, encouraging more and more people to care, to act and ultimately to demand that large corporations and governments make meaningful changes.

My showers are much shorter these days – and I try to reserve my moments of blissful distraction for beach walks. I have also been better about buying less. But I have completely failed to curb my travel, so I remain a work in process. Still, I am trying not to be paralyzed by the idea of a perfectly sustainable life, and instead keep taking as many steps toward it as possible and then re-committing when I fail.



Helena Gans is a senior at the College Preparatory School in Oakland, California. She lives in San Francisco but spends as much time as possible surfing the Santa Barbara coast. She is an environmentalist in progress.

#### A NEW WAY OF FASHION

by Jasmin Tupy, HTO Operations Manager



Jasmin Tupy

Fast fashion retailers have made their names by giving us cheap pieces that look like designer clothes, but their production techniques have a terrible impact on our environment.

The lifespan of a piece of clothing is extremely short, and most clothing items end up in landfills. Even when people donate clothing to thrift stores, only a few pieces make it to the store and the rest become textile waste.

While at UCSB I became involved with the **Isla Vista Trading Post** - a volunteerbased club which has come up with a new, fun way to expand a wardrobe. **The club**  collects donations of unwanted clothing and recirculates that clothing at their events. Event attendees are able to take three items of clothing for free.

Recirculating gives garments another life and prevents them from being sent to landfills. The IVTP program challenges consumer culture, minimizes textile waste, mitigates the environmental harms of fast fashion, and directly supports underserved communities by providing them with free clothing.

Here are some tips from IVTP: Have a Clothing Swap Party! Ask all of your friends to do some spring cleaning, and have a clothing swap between your friends. Your old clothes will find a new great home; Buy Secondhand! Thrifting is one of the most sustainable ways to expand your closet.

Check out your local thrift store for nice and affordable clothing; **Rent Clothes!**This is a great option, especially for clothes that you will not wear for a long time or often; **Use Online Second-Hand Sites!** Online thrift shopping is great when you are searching for specific items and styles. Try online sites like Poshmark, Mercari, and Depop.

Consider donating your clothes to Isla Vista Trading Post, or any used clothing outlet. A cleaned-out closet feels great and somebody else will love your stuff! What a simple way to do something good for Planet Earth!

To contact IVTP:

Email: ivtradingpost@gmail.com Instagram: @ivtradingpost

Facebook: Isla Vista Trading Post

# AT HEAL THE OCEAN CREATIVITY MIXES WITH FUN...

"This book is an amazing journey, a tender and compelling story of one woman's quest to find herself with the help of the ocean. It is about loss and triumph, an inspiring tale that made me fall in love with the Ocean all over again."

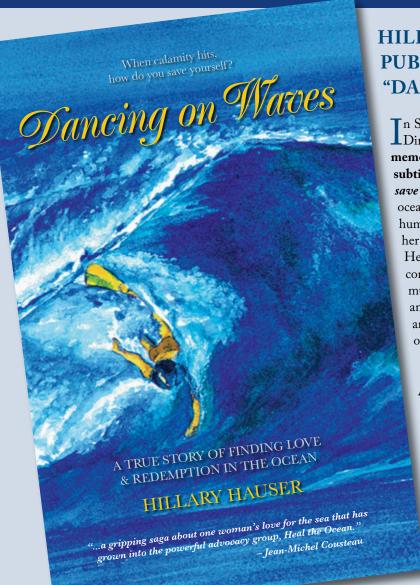
RANDI RABIN, M.A., LMFT

"Dancing with Waves pulls you in like an undertow, a thoughtprovoking page-turner the reader can't put down."

REV. CAROL H. BEHAR, Founder Inner Wellness Center, Santa Barbara

"The eloquent words in Hillary Hauser's book inspire me. The depths of her excitement and commitment to cleaner oceans keep pushing me and many others to achieve more."

- ANNE DOUBILET, Fellow, The Explorers Club Member Women Divers Hall of Fame



#### **HILLARY HAUSER PUBLISHES NEW BOOK** "DANCING ON WAVES"

In September 2022, HTO Executive Director Hillary Hauser published her memoir, "Dancing on Waves", with the subtitle, "When calamity hits, how do you save yourself?" The book is about how the ocean helped her heal from a trio of scary human problems - and then how it inspired her to return the favor – by forming Heal the Ocean. The book intertwines commercial fishermen and classical musicians, underwater vistas and sea animals, hospitals and radiation, literature and metaphor, the beauty of being alone on the beach."

> "A thoughtful memoir that merges personal memories with activist claims about people's responsibilities toward the oceans."

- From Foreword Reviews

Available at Chaucer's Bookstore, Santa Barbara or scan QR code to order online.





James Hawkins, HTO's former policy director joins Hillary at her book signing for "Dancing" at Chaucer's Bookstore in Santa Barbara.



Peggy Oki, renowned ocean artist and activist for whales and other marine mammals, was also at the book signing. Peggy is famed for being the only woman skateboarder during Dogtown and Z Boys days – and her art is on the cover of Hillary's book.

#### OWEN CHEE CREATES NEW HEAL THE OCEAN ART

Teal the Ocean has new cards. If you donate to Heal the Ocean in the name of a friend or relative, we will send this card letting them know your gift has been made in their honor!

The original HTO logo was designed by Chris Wilkinson at our founding in 1998, and Owen Chee has given us a new, colorful, rendition. Owen Chee, 15, is part of Hillary's extended family in San Francisco, where he is going to school, and attending the Idyllwild Arts Academy during the summer.

At the age of 15, Owen has already been recognized in San Francisco art circles for his talent. As an example of his prodigious flair, at the ripe age of 10 Owen made this painting of Hillary's beloved (departed) dog Wolfy. During the summer of 2023 Owen will be studying painting in Florence, Italy.



Owen at age 10 with his painting of Wolfy.



Owen was 12 when he redesigned the original HTO logo for this card.



#### **NEW! HEAL THE OCEAN TOTE BAGS**

By now, it's become common practice for many people to take their own reusable bags to the grocery store. This cuts the waste of paper, the proliferation of plastic, and is a simple practice that helps reduce waste significantly.

On that note, we're excited to share our **new Heal the Ocean tote** bags designs - Nautilus Shell and Fish Print - images found by HTO Operations Manager Jasmin Tupy, who worked them into graphic designs. These tote bags are made with durable fabric, perfect as a reusable grocery bag, for carrying your essentials, or just showing your support for HTO!

Jasmin Tupy displays the new HTO tote bag designs

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# HTO'S TRIP TO THE PAST FANTASTIC... WAS FANTASTIC!



- 2. Jed Hirsch, Eric Peterson, Linda Krop
- 3. Jasmin Tupy, Jean-Michel Cousteau, Heather Hudson
- 4. Brad Hall, Julia Louis-Dreyfus (Hall), Harry Rabin 8. Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Elise & Jonathan Wygant,
- 5. Jim & Jolene Colomy
- 7. Tom White, Yvonne Neumann, Thomas Dabney, Andy Neumann, Darcie Dierenfield
- Brad Hall 9. Drake Rabin, Jonathan Wygant
- 11. James Hawkins, Belle, Elise & Jonathan Wygant
- 12. Tom White with Denny Aaberg &
- Simone Reddingius of The Wrinkled Teenagers 13. Hillary & Gordon Auchincloss
- 14. David & Theresa Dolotta family



This year at Heal the Ocean, Julia Louis-Dreyfus invited us all to journey into the past fantastic at our Imaginary Gala.

#### 2022 IMAGINARY GALA FANTASTIC SPONSORS

#### **SEASTAR**

Jonathan Gans & Abigail Turin Julia Louis-Dreyfus & Brad Hall/ Hall Charitable Trust Nora McNeely Hurley & Michael Hurley

#### **MEDUSAE**

Sam Scranton in memory of Sherilyn Scranton

#### **GIANT SOUID**

Thomas & Nancy Crawford Roy E. Crummer Foundation **Tomchin Family Foundation** 

#### **ECHINODERM**

Tom & Sheila Cullen

#### **GORGONIAN CORAL**

Susan Baerwald & Marcy Carsey/ Just Folk

Tom & Sheila Cullen

David, Theresa & Summer Dolotta/ The Dolotta Family Charitable Foundation The Radis Family

Garland & Brenda Reiter/ Garland and Brenda Reiter Family Foundation

> Jay & Talia Roston/ Pajadoro Family Foundation

Steve Starkey & Olivia Erschen Jonathan & Elise Wygant, Barrett & Catherine Cordero, Ken & Sammi Sterling/Big Speak Inc.

#### CRINOID

Martha Blackwell John & Gloria McManus

#### SAND DOLLAR

Larry & Wendy Barels Ken & Nancy Goldsholl/ The M and M Foundation Frederick C. Herzog III & Marla J. Mercer/ Herzog & Mercer Family Living Trust Gary Larson Ron & Stacy Pulice/Pulice Trust

Blair & Steve Raber Charles & Eileen Read Roxanna & Randy Solakian Ray Link & Jill Taylor Patsy Tisch

#### **PLANKTON**

Gordon Auchincloss & Belita Ong Lee Parker Bacon Phil & Leslie Bernstein/ Bernstein Family Fund John & Caron Berryhill/ Agnes B. Kline Memorial Foundation/ in memory of Agnes B. Kline & Ford G. Kline

Terri Carlson MD Ani Casillas

Thomas Dabney & Darcie Dierenfield Jed Hirsch

> K. Leonard & Melanie Judson Kenny Loggins/ Higher Vision, Inc.

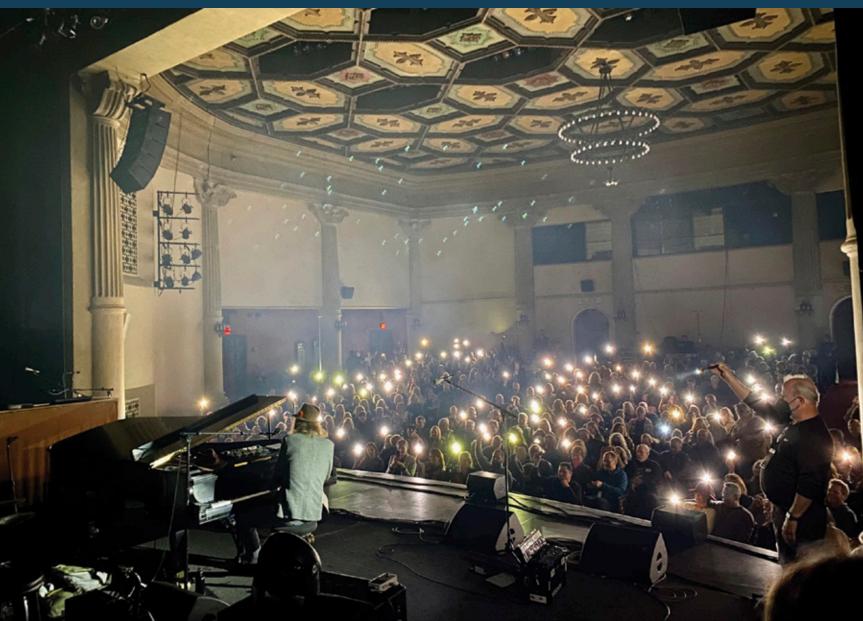
Dwight & Kimberly Lowell Marcia & John Mike Cohen Denise Nelson

Alan & Lisa Parsons

Melissa & Christian Riparetti-Stepien Clayton Clark Verbinski

Alex & Gina Ziegler

# HTO...HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE



At the very beginning of Jack Johnson's concert at the Lobero Theatre, the lights went out. Without missing a beat, Zach Gill carried on at keyboard, accompanied by cell phone lights in the audience.

#### Photo by Branden Aroyan

# JACK JOHNSON

"Meet the Moonlight" is Jack Johnson's 8th studio album. He's on tour throughout Europe during the summer of 2023 to promote this wonderful music, and while he was in Santa Barbara in October 2022, he invited HTO and other environmental groups to participate in his Village Green preceding his concert at the SB Bowl.

#### MEET THE MOONLIGHT WITH JACK

Jack Johnson, in his infinite good will toward everything and everyone, came to Santa Barbara in February 2023 to gift the Santa Barbara's Lobero Theatre with a performance celebrating the venerated theater's 150th Anniversary. His lead bandman Zach Gill (who also has his own band, ALO) opened – and then the lights went out. Without missing

a beat, Jack and his bandmates improvised, played without amps, told stories, beat rhythm on chairs and drums. It was a historic moment no one will soon forget.

Jack had already been in Santa
Barbara a few months before, at the
Santa Barbara Bowl in October 2022
as part of his world tour to promote
his new album Meet the Moonlight.
Jack gives to many non-profits,
including HTO, which took part in
the Village Green before the concert.
HTO's creative staff made "sea
frames" for visitor picture-taking.



Jean-Michel Cousteau, Heather Hudson and Jasmin Tupy in a frame made by HTO team for our table in Jack Johnson's Village Green prior to his evening concert at the SB Bowl

#### HTO IS RECOGNIZED IN WONDERFUL WAYS...

From a polo match, to flags on State Street, and at civic festivals, school and commercial events, Heal the Ocean is recognized or invited to participate. Recently we have received an uptick of contributions from across the country – Georgia, Texas, Delaware among others. Maybe it's because HTO staff has ramped up social media – Instagram, Facebook and all the rest. We also know the expansion of our technology and ability to help on complicated issues is helpful to every city and community in the country, and perhaps our methods are helping others. Whatever the case, we thank everyone for the wonderful recognition coming our way from everywhere!



**Prince Harry and his team** played a polo match to benefit three Santa Barbara non-profits, and HTO was honored to be one of them!

Photo by Hillary Hauser



Our flag went up in August in the State Street Flag Program – which we call a celebration of our birthday, August 28, 1998.



Our HTO team loves events! Here we are at the Santa Barbara Harbor Festival, at a Patagonia event, and a Dos Pueblos Environment Club gathering.







We love hearing how HTO memorabilia shows up everywhere! Here is Monica Todd of Westport, WA, having her morning coffee in a HTO cup.

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# ARTISTS WE LOVE... WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THEIR SUPPORT



**STEPHANIE JAMGOCHIAN** - whose art is featured on the back cover of this issue – is a long-time HTO supporter. We've known her since she arrived in Santa Barbara many



her since she arrived in Santa Barbara many years ago from Montana, and we hired her as a grant writer. She made significant contributions to collaborative projects between the City of SB and HTO, sharing her valuable knowledge on grant writing with us. When she discovered surfing, her passion for the ocean translated into marrying Ken Jamgochian, an ardent surfer. From them came two surfer girls – Sophia and Rebecca, equally ardent surfers. Stephanie's artistic journey took off when she started studying art under the **renowned painter Patricia Chidlaw,** whose influence is evident in Stephanie's work. It's clear how her career has skyrocketed since then.







PEGGY OKI is a LEGEND. She is widely known as the only girl skateboarder in the Dogtown & Z Boys group that were the subject of the legendary film produced and directed by skateboard legend Stacy Peralta. Despite that apparent cement-aggressive persona, Peggy Oki is a quiet nature lover, consummate surfer, passionate lover of the ocean. Her watercolor art is widely known around the world (Heal the Ocean sends thank you notes in letters folded inside her beautiful cards)...and she is hugely recognized for her passionate activism for whales. In 2004, she launched Origami Whales Project to raise awareness, and to protest commercial whaling in Japan,





Norway, and Iceland. She has attended international whaling conferences where she lectures and educates the audience. And in her spare time, she retreats to desert areas to be alone and contemplate life without violence.

Peggy's beautiful cards are now being printed (and sold) by folio press & paperie in Santa Barbara, a wonderful store created by long-time HTO supporters Marlene and Frank Bucy.

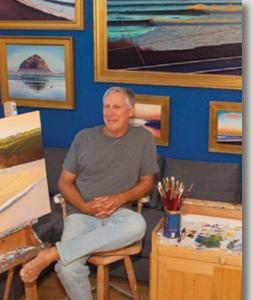




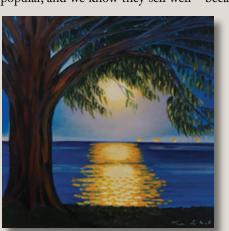
RALPH CLEVENGER is Heal the Ocean's first "Artist in Residence," with his work featured on our website, and in our store, for sale. Growing up in Northern Africa and diving the Mediterranean from seven years old, Clevenger went on to attend Scripps Institute in San Diego, majoring in zoology, and entering the world of undersea photography. Upon joining the



Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, he served as a dedicated instructor for several years, during which his artistic creations gained recognition through features in prestigious publications such as *National Geographic, Smithsonian Books, Audubon*, and various others. We are proud to have this acclaimed artist in our pages.

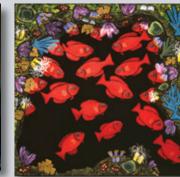


**TOM DEWALT** is a well-loved artist based in Santa Barbara, who creates oil paintings of the ocean in the light of sunset or moonbeams, capturing the essence of the Santa Barbara coastline in various shades of the day. **He is represented by the Sullivan Goss Art Galleries**, and often holds auctions for his paintings, with a portion of proceeds benefiting Heal the Ocean. His paintings are popular, and we know they sell well – because every month we see a percentage of his proceeds!













HILLARY HAUSER – In addition to founding (with Jeff Young) Heal the Ocean in 1998, and continuing as the organization's Executive Director to this day, Hauser has published six books about the sea, as well as numerous articles about underwater adventure for *National Geographic*, the *Los Angeles Times* Sunday Travel section, *Esquire*, *Redbook*, *Geo*, *Readers Digest*, and *The Surfer's Journal*, among others. She is also known for her paintings of Fantastic Fishes. From writing about these fishes for years, she reproduced all the features of the fishes she had been studying. She assembled her own frames, used durable duck cloth to paint on, and using acrylic paints, she produced over 300 pieces that have been exhibited in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, and her paintings now hang all over the world.

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 11/16/2021-6/2/2023, a big span of time that includes the pandemic and other interruptions. For some donors listed here, we have added together all contributions made during this time. 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.

\$300,000

Manitou Fund/ Nora McNeely Hurley

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Morton Family Foundation in memory of Hughes Morton Adam & Kara Rhodes/

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The Frank & Joseph Gila Fund Susan Harris Trip & Lisa Proctor Hawkins/

The Hawkins Foundation Chris Baker & Iodie Ireland/ LOJO Foundation

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The Roberts Bros. Foundation Jay & Talia Roston/Pajadoro Family Foundation

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Martha Blackwell

in honor of Luise Phelps, Peter & Nini Seaman, Dave & Pam Peterson, Bill & Dani Hahn, Bob & Ann Diener, Valeria Hoffman, Art & Heather Tiddens, and Duke Howard Gary Larson

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Nini & Peter Seaman/ STS Foundation Ray Link & Jill Taylor

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in honor of Hillary Hauser

Marlene & Frank Bucy/

James & Julia Burge

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Lee Heller

Sue Irwin

Dylan Gordon

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Paul Greene/Home Crush

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Maureen White

Gayla & Santi Visalli

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Thomas & Barbara Stevens

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Ed & Karen Shiffman

**Justine Schrever** 

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James Aquilina

Talithia Laurain

Susan (Yates) Anderson

in memory of Brandon Yates

Anonymous (5)

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in memory of Eric & Danny

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Robert Else Cinda & Donnelley Erdman in honor of My Parents Who in honor of Dr. Mary Furner Gave me the Beach

Thomas C. Evans Janet Eyre Tomaso & Irene Falzone Danny Fitzgibbons

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in honor of Devon Fitzgibbons

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Kimberly Ford Cath Webb Kathy Gallo Bonnie Muench Marsha McIntire in memory of Richard Ford Teresa McWilliams Tracey Willfong Mark Schildhauer & Judit Muller Design Wendy Foster Joyce Gauvain Sheridan & Laury Wolfe Douglas & Gretchen Murray Dianne Miles Ron & Carole Fox/ in honor of Cory Wolfe James F. Mitchell Eugene Geller Shauna Nep Fox Family Fund in honor of Roe Anne White Galen Wood Cliff & Nicola Ghersen John Monahan in honor of WA Jennifer Freed Emily Nolan Shira & Dr. Mark Musicant Givz.com Galen Wood Carla Frisk Ronald Nye Barbara Greenleaf Vera Nelson Grace Yoon William & Karen Gallivan Ken & Alex Pallev Patricia Guilfoyle Dr. Karin Van Hoek & in honor Heather Hudson Crumn C.S. 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#### HONORING SPECIAL PEOPLE...

#### 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.

Eric Brown

Pat Canning

Jeanette Canter

Sammy Case

Maxine Clark

Christopher Cutler

Tim Cutler

Jack Dawson

Deacon

Richard Ford

Hercules

Steve Issaris

Rick Jorgensen

Agnes B. Kline & Ford G. Kline

Cindy Klinger

Gertrude L. Kutzer (Burke)

Frank Louda

Joanna Newton

Bill Poehler

James Robinson

Jim Ryerson

Brooke & Barbara Sawyer

Sherilyn Scranton

Seventies Santa Barbara

Danny C. Sutherland

Eric Sutherland

John Venable III

Paul Wadley

Bill Wiedenfeld

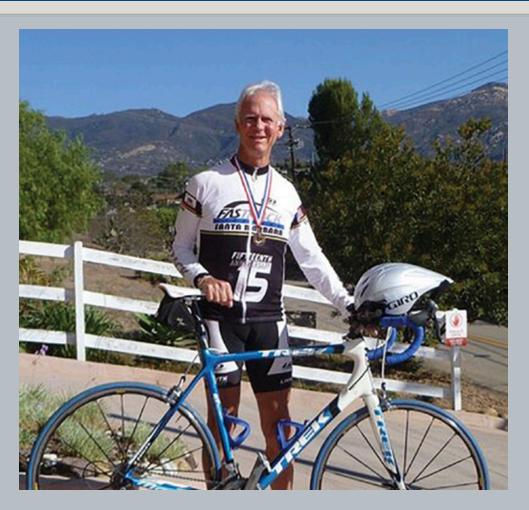
Phil Wilcox

Sonny Wirsing

Wolfy

Brandon Yates

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



# BILL POEHLER (1941-2022)



Bill, you left us too soon. Thank you for being a dear friend to Heal the Ocean and to the rest of Santa Barbara, too.

William ("Bill") Poehler has been a friend to Heal the Ocean for years. He called us up one day and told us about his family foundation, the Poehler-Stremel Charitable Trust in St. Paul, Minnesota, and wanted us to apply for funding. Which we did. Years ago. Every year, he'd send a note to remind us to apply again. In this way, the Poehler-Stremel Charitable Trust has paid for the production of Heal the Ocean's newsletters and E-letters since 2010.

He was an avid bicyclist, belonging to a team of friends who would ride regularly and often. He lived with his beloved wife Pam and daughter Lily, who came with Bill to our events. He was a quiet, unassuming gentleman who painted watercolors (some of which we published) and played music. Bill, Pam, and Lily were instrumental in the campaign to save the San Marcos Foothills. Bill was riding bikes with friends when he struck something in the road, and the resulting accident tragically took his life. We will miss him, and our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Pam, and daughter, Lily.



\* In-Kind

#### BACK COVER ART BY STEPHANIE JAMGOCHIAN

"Lila and Yeshe" is a 30" x 40" framed oil on canvas painting by Stephanie Jamgochian, a local Santa Barbara painter. It is part of a series of ocean and surf-related paintings that Stephanie says shows our connection to the natural world, a place of solace in uncertain times. The beautiful painting is for sale, with a portion that will go to Heal the Ocean. Please call Jasmin at the office for inquiries about the painting.

**Heal the Ocean** P.O. Box 90106 Santa Barbara, CA 93190

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