

How Sea Odyssey
Influenced My Life



2012-2013: A Record
Year for OSO



Santa Cruz Harbor's
50th Anniversary

odyssey NEWS

How Sea Odyssey Influenced My Life

BY EDGAR LANDEROS



*Edgar O. Landeros is the Youth
Coordinator for Familia Center at
the Beach Flats Community Center,
a program of Community Bridges.*

I have been a part of Familia Center since I was 10 years old. I originally started off as a participant in their after school homework club as well as in their Summer Fun! camp. After I grew out of the program, I obtained my first summer job as an Assistant Summer Youth Leader for the following four summers. I later took on the position of Pantry Coordinator while attending college. Recently I was

promoted to my current position.

Even though I wasn't born in Santa Cruz, I have resided here for the past 25 years. Growing up I attended all of the local schools: Branciforte Elementary, Branciforte Jr. High, and Harbor High. After high school I attended Cabrillo College, and later transferred out to California State University Monterey Bay, CSUMB. I graduated from CSUMB in the spring of 2011 with a degree in Business Administration and a concentration in Entrepreneurship.

Growing up I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in many organized programs as well as sports. One of the programs that had the greatest impact in my life was through Familia Center's Summer Fun! program. The impact that it had on me was through one of their partnerships, the O'Neill Sea Odyssey, OSO, program. It was through this partnership that I got to learn about marine ecology and conservation. I also got to understand how my day-to-day actions affect our local beaches at one point or another. The O'Neill Sea Odyssey program provided me with many wonderful childhood memories and experiences. As part of their educational program,

they take students onboard their Catamaran vessel to sail along the coast of the Monterey Bay. The second component to their program is the classroom component, where they educate students about marine conservation, nautical navigation, and marine ecology.

As a child, I got to experience my first boat ride through their program, O'Neill Sea Odyssey. My first time on the boat was one of my greatest experiences. It was special because it was the first time that I had ever stepped onto a boat, yet alone it was the first time being out on water and away from land. As most of us know, we low-income Latino children aren't always fortunate or privileged and most certainly do not have the means to experience these types of outings that most middle class children get to experience with their parents. Thus, as a child I was very grateful to have had the opportunity to be a participant in such a program. Over the years, I have really seen the value and

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Thank You

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benefits of such a program. As a child I remember being more excited about going on the boat ride than actually participating in the classroom discussion. It wasn't until I got into my late teens that I realized everything made much more sense. At this moment, I really began to appreciate everything we talked about in the classroom discussions and knowledge that the OSO staff shared with us. Such knowledge that I recall learning through the program as a child was as simple as understanding why the ocean was different shades of color at different parts of the world, especially here in the Monterey Bay.

The other topics that I remember hearing as a child were about being more mindful and careful with our trash. I remember having the discussion of learning to make simple lifestyle changes to help protect our oceans and wild life. Such lifestyles were to cut up the six pack rings utilize to package soda cans to help prevent animals from getting stuck in them.

At the same time I remember learning about utilizing reusable water bottles rather than disposable ones. This is done to help diminish the plastic bottles

that flow into our oceans and end up in the trash mounds pushed by the natural gyres. But the discussion that stuck with me since a child was that anything that gets poured down our street drains ends up in our ocean waters. This caught my attention the most because as a child I would see individuals dump trash or car fluids down the street which would then drain into a gutter. At times I remember, not being able to swim in the ocean due to high levels of bacteria, which was caused by human pollution. As a child I didn't quite see the direct correlation, but as an adult I am able to see that the reason for not being able to swim at times was due to the fact of others' actions.

I think that it is great to have programs such as OSO because it educates children at a younger age to be more environmentally conscious. It might not stick with them the first time, but most certainly the second or third time that they are exposed to the program. At least that was my experience. As a result now I am more careful when working on my cars not to spill or to simply clean up afterwards. At the same time I feel that I am a bit more environmentally conscious due to the fact that I try to stay away from too much plastic packaging, use a

reusable water bottle, use alternative transportation when available, and make more eco-friendly decisions when purchasing items.

All in all, I think that if it weren't for my participation in such a program, I would still be making ignorant decisions that would keep on harming our environment. Therefore, I am grateful to have been educated through a fun and educational program to change the bad habits that I had picked up as a child. Hence, I think that we can all benefit from programs like the O'Neill Sea Odyssey. ♦

Ocean Odysseys: Jack O'Neill, Dan Haifley and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

An edited oral history of Save Our Shores and O'Neill Sea Odyssey, as told through the eyes of Jack O'Neill, Bridget O'Neill and Dan Haifley has been published in a 156 page paperback by the University of California Santa Cruz. The book retails for \$7.95. Purchase at www.oneillseaodyssey.org ♦

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Edgar's Story

BY JACK, BRIDGET & TIM O'NEILL



In a first-person narrative in this newsletter, Edgar Landeros, the youth program coordinator for Familia Center and the Beach Flats Community Center in Santa Cruz, describes how the lessons he learned in the O'Neill Sea Odyssey program as a youth stuck with him and even grew as the years passed.

"As a child I remember being more excited about going on the boat ride than actually participating in the classroom discussion," he says. "It wasn't until I got into my late teens that I realized everything made much more sense. At this moment, I really began to appreciate everything we talked about in the classroom discussions and knowledge that the OSO staff shared with us."

We are struck by how closely his statement aligns with the findings by Lauren Hanneman in her study of the impression that OSO continued to have on youth 5-7 years later. The excitement of being on board a boat becomes associated with a very serious subject: ocean science and protection. By doing so, it creates an impression that lasts a lifetime. ♦

Leave a Legacy for Youth and the Ocean

You're part of the reason we're here and you can also be part of the reason we'll be here 100 years from now. Since 1996, O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) has served nearly 75,000 youth with a free, ocean-going science and environment program.

This has been possible in part because you have provided much-needed and deeply appreciated support for OSO's program for area youth. In 2005 OSO's Board of Directors made a commitment to raise funds to ensure our future by establishing a permanent

endowment fund for OSO which is housed at the Community Foundation for Santa Cruz County.

We would like to invite you to help us build a future foundation for our program, for the kids, and for the ocean. You can do this by naming OSO's permanent fund at Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County in your estate plan. There are also many ways to leave a permanent legacy and reap some significant financial benefits before hand, including: a beneficiary designation in your retirement fund or insurance policy, gifts from a will or living trust, an annuity that provides you with lifetime income, gifts of real estate, and charitable trusts.

We would be honored to meet with you to discuss supporting our permanent fund in a way that works best for you. Please contact Dan Haifley at **(831) 465-9390** or at dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org, or fill out the attached form and mail it to us. Thank you! ♦

Enrollment Form

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (day): _____ Telephone (evening): _____

Email: _____

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

2012-2013: Record Number of Students, New Tools, More Community Support

BY OSO STAFF

As of June 30, 2013, O'Neill Sea Odyssey's amazing crew had taught over 5,500 students in 205 classes from central California schools, including classes as far away as Oakland and Grass Valley. Not only did these students engage in lessons in marine biology, ecology and navigation but each of the 205 teacher-led community service projects conducted, positively impacted their schools, neighborhoods and local environment.

Some highlights from the just-concluded school year:

- **Live Samples:** This year OSO integrated live samples into the educational field trip, such as crabs and sea stars, by pulling up crab pots situated in the kelp forest just off Seabright Beach. Following the ecology lesson, the samples were then returned live, to their underwater habitat.

- **New Website:** A new website and online learning center was put to work for our students, their teachers and our supporters at www.oneillseaodyssey.org. Applications for classes to participate

in our program, bus transportation scholarships, and a video on how to prepare for a Sea Odyssey field trip are among the new tools available there. Soon the website will include a visual map of the program's impact of the more than 2,700 classes that have been served since 1996 as well as their community service projects performed to participate in our free program.

- **Seasons in the Sanctuary poster project:** Santa Cruz City Arts coordinator Crystal Birns teamed up with artist Doug Ross to produce the beautiful poster depicting migratory species in the region, to be distributed to 400 OSO classes and the public.

- **Student Survey and Logic Model:** OSO Education Coordinator Laura Barnes began working with Applied Survey Research to revise how program outcomes are measured. This includes the development of a new student survey administered before and after the field trip to measure changes in students' knowledge and intentions to engage in environmentally responsible behaviors.

- **Long Term Study:** San Jose State University master's student and OSO instructor Lauren Hanneman finished her study of OSO's long term impact on students. 261 7-10th grade students participated in an anonymous survey and were sampled from 7 schools fed by elementary schools that used OSO in Santa Cruz, Santa Clara and Monterey Counties. The study found that 75% of students retained knowledge of material taught in the OSO ecology curriculum regarding non-point source pollution.

- **Bus Transportation:** OSO began providing bus transportation funds to lower income schools in 2006 and due to statewide budget cuts, an increasing number have requested assistance. This year alone, OSO spent nearly \$30,000 for transportation for 73 classes and we anticipate spending more next year.

- **Community Support:** OSO's supporters stepped up as never before to support not only our core program, but also a therapeutic education program for special needs youth through the Adam Webster Memorial Fund, special programs such as the Ocean Scholars mentorship program and – a more recent

need – bus transportation between school sites and OSO's facilities at the Santa Cruz Harbor. Popular events such as Taste of the Harbor sponsored by Debra Frey and the Intero Foundation, the Adam Webster Memorial Fund dinner by Tom and Judy Webster, a first annual Lighthouse Lighting event by Jim Thoits and Bill Simpkins and a donor reception hosted by Reed and Tricia Geisreiter were successful. Preliminary figures indicate that gifts to the program totaled \$974,000.

- **Building:** OSO's private tenant spaces were fully occupied, generating a gross of \$108,000, which for the first time since its remodel in 2004, will provide financial support for additional programming. One of these tenants, The Surfrider Foundation – Santa Cruz Chapter, has



furthered their mission of clean ocean water through continued sampling and analyses in their office laboratory. OSO had established environmentally sensitive business practices and has been certified as a Monterey Bay Area Green Business by the City of Santa Cruz since 2010. To date, the solar panels on the OSO Education Center, provided by a grant from the Ludwick Family Foundation, have prevented 28,491 pounds of CO2 from entering the atmosphere.

- **OSO's Endowment:** In 2005 OSO's Board of Directors established a permanent fund at the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County which now has over a quarter of a million dollars, and will grow as supporters provide gifts and include OSO in their estate plans.

Before the end of the calendar year 2013, OSO will serve its 75,000th student. We look forward to celebrating that milestone and many more successes in the coming years. Thank you for your continued support! ♦

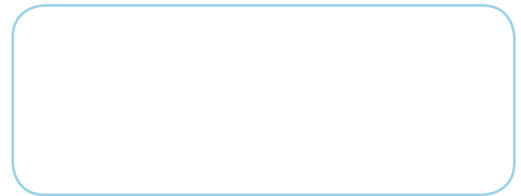




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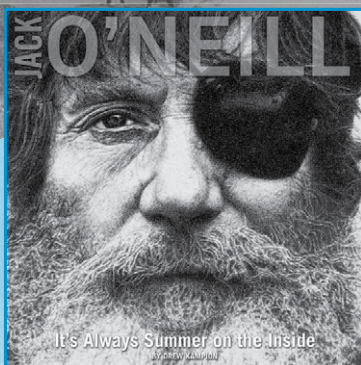


Fall 2013

Our Ocean Backyard

Please go to santacruzsentinel.com to find Dan Haifley's series of columns about the history of the Santa Cruz Harbor in tribute to its 50th Anniversary in 2014. ♦

*Woods Lagoon before the Santa Cruz Harbor, by Les Long.
Courtesy, SC Harbor.*



Autographed Copy of Jack O'Neill: It's Always Summer on the Inside

Full of unique, personal stories and photos of the life and times of Jack O'Neill, this beautiful 250 page coffee table book is a rarity, but when coupled with his autograph...wow. Copies of the signed book are available for \$500 each at www.oneillseaodyssey.org/supporters and come with a letter of authenticity. All proceeds benefit OSO's free marine science education program. Hurry, because there are just a few remaining! ♦