

# OUTSIDE

California Surf Museum



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Brandt Hill - Surfing East Timor



PRESERVING OUR SURFING HERITAGE • SINCE 1986

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#### MISSION STATEMENT

The California Surf Museum serves as an international repository and resource center on the lifestyle sport of surfing by capturing, preserving, and chronicling its art, culture and heritage for the education and enjoyment of current and future generations.

## A Message from our President

# How Much Has Surfing Given

**A**s members of the special tribe known as “Surfers”, we are some of the luckiest people on the planet.

When you support the California Surf Museum you are supporting everything surfing stands for. This special museum not only helps preserve, protect and enhance the rich culture of surfing, it reminds us of what the whole lifestyle is about – this lifestyle that has made us all richer in so many ways.



There is so much going on at the CSM - I only have the space to touch on a few highlights here. Check out our website at [surfmuseum.org](http://surfmuseum.org) consistently - things are always moving like the ocean. We are re-mounting our Permanent Collection: **A Short History of the Surfboard** section of the Museum, which provides an overview of surf history and highlights some of the Museum's best archival surfboards. Our Surf Art, **Exploring California's Coastal Culture** exhibit has broken all attendance records and been covered in a lot of media.

We continued our surf film series, our “**Talk Story**” presentations, and our liaison with the community of San Diego museums. Every event we do gives the tribe the opportunity to gather, and to talk story.

We have also increased our outreach to the larger surf community. We have begun a relationship with the Surf Industry Members Association (SIMA), and continued to build our collection of surfboards and artifacts.

Please keep in mind that each and every one of these efforts, from collections to events, and from exhibits to preservation, requires funding and manpower. There is no doubt that the California Surf Museum needs and appreciates anything you can do, or give, to help. More importantly, of the many institutions and efforts you can support, this is one that “gives back” for all the experiences and opportunities that have made YOU a surfer. You know what that means.

We hope you will continue to support our efforts. Remember you can donate in many ways: with your talent, treasure or time. By doing so your contribution enriches the entire world of surfing. **We look forward to many more great programs in 2026, and hope to see you at any, or all of them!**

Much Aloha,  
Danny Quisenberry  
President, California Surf Museum



## Board of Directors Spotlight

### From Farm Roots to the Lineup: Meet Louise Balma Our New Vice President

**O**ur new Vice President has been selected for 2026. Louise Balma—one of our dynamic board members and a longtime force in surf and action sports culture—has stepped into the role with energy, experience, and a whole lot of stoke.

#### **Some people are raised by the land. Some are shaped by the sea. Louise? Both.**

Growing up in a traditional Italian farming family in Southern California, Louise learned early what it means to work hard, stay grounded, and show up. Farming life doesn't leave much room for shortcuts—and that mindset stuck.

But not far from those fields was the ocean.

She found surfing in high school, and like so many of us, that first real connection changed everything. What started as something new quickly became something essential.

And she didn't stop there.  
When the wind picked up—windsurfing.  
When the crew called—outrigger canoe paddling.  
When winter rolled in—snowboarding.

Different conditions, different boards... same instinct: GO.

#### **Right Place, Right Time—and Making It Happen**

Louise's career dropped her right into the middle of action sports as it was exploding onto the global stage.

With 25 years in marketing, promotions, and events—including time with TransWorld Media—she wasn't just watching it happen... She was part of what made it happen. Surf. Skate. Snow.

The athletes, the brands, the stories. Louise helped bring that energy to life and out into the world. She knows firsthand that surf culture isn't just about waves—it's about creativity, community, and a certain way of moving through life.

#### **Builder by Nature**

Before and alongside all that, Louise spent 15 years in architecture—designing and managing projects ranging from restaurants to custom homes to commercial spaces. She still maintains her architecture license, which makes a lot of sense.

Because whether it's a space, a brand, or a community—you've got to know how to build it.

**Idea → plan → execution → done right.  
She's wired for that.**



#### **Local Roots, Real Impact**

Louise doesn't just love coastal communities—she helps shape them.

As a current Planning Commissioner for the City of Oceanside, she's part of the team thinking through how a place grows while still keeping what makes it special.

Kind of like reading a lineup—timing, flow, and knowing what's coming next.

#### **Farm Life Meets Surf Life**

These days, Louise and her husband Larry have been together for 41 years married for 36 and live on a 25-acre avocado farm in Oceanside.

It's a life that feels full circle.

Dirt under your feet. Salt in your hair. Work during the day. Ocean when it calls.

Simple. Grounded. Real.

#### **Exactly Who You Want on the Team**

Louise brings something special to the California Surf Museum.

She's lived surf culture from the inside—through industry, community, and lifestyle. She understands where it's been and has a sharp eye for where it's going.

And maybe most importantly? She shows up.

With ideas. With energy. With a willingness to jump in and help make things happen.

As we celebrate 40 years of honoring surfing's rich and enduring culture, Louise steps into her role as Vice President with clarity, purpose, and forward momentum. We are proud to welcome her as a thoughtful, grounded, and dynamic leader for our ever-growing program and Board.

## Celebrating the Legends Who Built Skateboarding

Every great sport has its pioneers. The people who saw possibilities no one else could imagine.

The builders. The innovators. The photographers. The artists. The competitors. The risk-takers.

In skateboarding, they are known as **Silver Skaters**.

Surf Museum's, the Silver Skater Award honors the extraordinary individuals whose lifetime contributions shaped skateboarding into the global culture it is today. These are the men and women whose ideas, creativity, and determination forever changed the ride.

Long before skateboarding became an Olympic sport or a worldwide industry, these pioneers were inventing new tricks, designing better boards, capturing iconic photographs, founding legendary companies, organizing competitions, and creating a culture built on imagination, independence, and innovation. They didn't just participate in skateboarding—they defined it.

The Silver Skater Award celebrates far more than accomplishments. It recognizes character, influence, and lasting impact. Each recipient represents a chapter in skateboarding's remarkable history and a legacy that continues to inspire every generation that follows.

Now in its third year, the Silver Skater has become one of skateboarding's most meaningful honors. More than an awards ceremony, it is an annual gathering where legends reunite, lifelong friendships are renewed, stories are shared, and the pioneers who built the sport receive the recognition they have earned.

For many of the honorees, the greatest achievement isn't a trophy or a headline—it's seeing the sport they helped create continue to thrive around the world. Their influence can be found in every skatepark, every board design, every young skater pushing their limits, and every community brought together by a shared passion.

As the California Surf Museum celebrates its 40th anniversary, the Silver Skater stands as a powerful reminder that history is made by people. By honoring these remarkable individuals while they can still tell their stories, the Museum ensures that the spirit, innovation, and legacy of skateboarding's pioneers will continue to inspire generations to come.

Because before there were champions, there were visionaries. Before there were medals, there were dreamers. And before skateboarding became a global phenomenon, there were the legends we now proudly call Silver Skater.



Brian Logan and Jim Kempton - 2025 Silver Skater Award Ceremony



The 2024 Silver Skater honorees from left: Frank Nasworthy, Curt Stevenson for his father Larry Stevenson, Herbie Fletcher, Tom "Wart" Craig, Michael Mel and Dean Torrance.



The 2025 Silver Skater honorees Randy Lewis, Joey Cabell, Linda Benson, Jim Ganzer, Ed Economy, the Carrasco Brothers: Richy, Rene, and David.

# Meet the 2026 Silver Skaters



## Kathy Bomeisler

### Leading the Way for Women on Four Wheels.

Kathy Bomeisler was one of the standout women competitors of the 1970s, representing Logan Earth Ski with skill, determination, and consistency. Regularly finishing among the top three in competitions, Kathy helped elevate women's skateboarding during a pivotal era and inspired countless young women to step onto a skateboard and compete with confidence.



## Curt Lindgren

### The Trick Pioneer Who Changed the Game.

Innovation has always been at the heart of Curt Lindgren's skateboarding legacy. Widely recognized as the first skateboarder to master an early version of the Kick Flip, Curt helped redefine what was possible on four wheels. As a standout member of the California Freeform team, his smooth, technical freestyle riding captivated audiences and paved the way for generations of freestyle skaters.



## Nathan Pratt

### Z-Boy. Shaper. Innovator. Legend.

A true original, Nathan Pratt helped define Southern California's skate and surf culture from the very beginning. As a legendary Z-Boy, accomplished surfer, respected shaper, founder of Horizon's West Surfboards, and co-founder of Z-Cult Skates, Nathan's creativity and entrepreneurial spirit have left an enduring mark on both sports. His lifelong passion continues to inspire riders who value style, craftsmanship, and authenticity.



## Steve Sherman

### Fast Lines. Deep Bowls. Lasting Legacy.

Steve Sherman built his reputation as one of the versatile riders of skateboarding's golden era. As a member of the iconic Gordon & Smith (G&S) team, he excelled in both slalom and pool riding, demonstrating the speed, style, and adaptability that defined the progression of the sport during the 1970s. His contributions helped establish G&S as one of skateboarding's legendary brands.



## Lance Smith

### Capturing Skateboarding's Soul—On the Board and Behind the Lens.

For more than five decades, Lance Smith has lived and documented skateboarding from every angle. A surfer, skateboarder, and accomplished photographer. He has been immersed in skate culture since 1975. His lens has captured many of the sport's defining moments while his own passion for riding has made him a respected figure in the skateboarding community.



## Mike Williams

### The Speed, Precision, and Innovation Behind Gullwing Trucks.

Mike Williams was one of the premier slalom racers of the 1970s, carving fast, precise lines at the legendary La Costa courses that helped define competitive skateboarding. Beyond competition, Mike forever changed the sport as co-founder of Gullwing Trucks, creating equipment that became a favorite among generations of skateboarders and helped push performance to new heights.



# The History of the A.R. Gurrey Jr. Photo Competition

The California surf museum's education committee came up with the idea of a surf-themed photography competition for middle and high school students to encourage creative and marketable skills related to photography. This competition carries the name of A. R. Gurrey, Jr. (1874 – c.1927), the first person to photograph surfers in the early 20th century.

Students were invited to participate by entering this competition with an original photograph to be reviewed by a panel of judges in one of six categories. Working with Justin Moodie, the teacher of the photography class at Oceanside High School, they developed six topics for which students could submit photos.



Justin Moodie

With support from Kiwanis Oceanside Pacific and GoPro.



2024 Best of Show winner Apollo Vita Bennet shown with his winning photo.



Photo of Duke Kahanamoku c.1909-1910 by A.R.Gurrey Jr.



2023 Best of Show winner Jesus Montano Perez shown with his winning photo "Display."



Fisher Rosete - First Place: Surf Action - Grade 8, Valley Middle School "King Tide Timing" shot at Terramar Beach

## 4th Annual A.R. Gurrey JR. Photography Competition

The California Surf Museum Education Committee's 4th Annual A. R. Gurrey, Jr. Photo Competition for middle and high school students drew 268 submissions from 170 students at 12 high schools in San Diego and Orange counties.

It was not an easy job for judges to narrow down so many outstanding photographs to the winners in six different categories.

The 21 students receiving Honorary Mention, Second Place, First Place and Best of Show were all invited to the surf museum for the awards presentation — many brought a couple generations of family members.

Also among the 120 attending were high school photo teachers and the Mayor of Oceanside, Esther Sanchez.

The California Surf Museum thanks you from the bottom of our hearts for your support.

Come by and see the fabulous photos these students have on display.

Learn more about the 4th Annual AR Gurrey Photo Contest by going to our website or use the QR to link directly to the story.



Best of show winner Ethan Thoresen (Oceanside HS) with Jim Kempton with his winning photo: "Still Standing".

# Making Waves 2026

**O**n May 9, CSM was proud to celebrate the team of Victoria Duprat and her mother, Valerie, as stars of our 2026 Making Waves exhibit. A standing-room-only crowd packed the museum floor, as event chairman Joe Willix introduced the two and presented a colorful video of their entwined lives.

Moderator Abby Seaver coaxed interesting stories from both Victoria and Valerie, and took questions from the audience.

Victoria, a willowy-tall, laser-focused 17-year-old has been making waves since she discovered an inner competitive spirit as a pre-teen. Everyone surfs in her family, but Victoria has taken her passion to another level, and has sampled challenging waves all over the world.

Poised and confident, Victoria had some solid advice for the young girls in the audience: "Enter a lot of contests. Skills come from experience. You will make a lot of friends, and possibly find coaches and sponsors."

Valerie Duprat, founder of Mere-Made Surfboards, made young Victoria her very first board, and has been shaping ever since. Valerie holds a doctorate in Biochemistry and gradually discovered she had a knack for shaping when she began repairing dings.



Said Valerie: "My daughter is actually making me improve a lot as a shaper because it is a constant R&D cycle. She surfs the newest board and gives me feedback. It pretty much keeps me on my toes."

The evening concluded on an exciting note: Valerie generously donated four Mere-Made boards to be raffled for CSM, and also included a custom-made board to a lucky winner.

CSM looks forward to following the careers of both these talented Making Waves women!

Read more about Valerie and Victoria Duprat on the CSM website. Use the QR code to link to the story.



# 40th Anniversary Party

**T**he exhibit floor filled up quickly on Sunday, March 29 as members old and new and board members past and present turned out to celebrate CSM's first 40 years. Six of the original founders were in attendance: Mike Cates, June Chocheles, Kevin Kinnear, Parry Payne, Jane Schmauss, and Ian Urquhart, and each expressed a fond memory of the trials faced when getting the California Surf Museum under way.



This year's event honored artist Wade Koniakowsky, who was one of the featured artists in CSM's recent collaboration with the Oceanside Museum of Art. Over the years, Wade visually captured many magic moments here at CSM and his stunning portraits of pioneer surfers line our walls. Wade has participated front and center in many of our Galas, where the on-site painting he creates is then auctioned off to the highest bidder. CSM is fortunate and grateful to have such an acclaimed artist as a partner.

Read more about our 40th Anniversary Party on the CSM website. Use the QR code to link to the story.



# The California Surf Museum is deeply honored that Bing Copland selected our venue for his 90th birthday celebration.

**A**t 90 he is still sharp, funny, and humble - much like he has always been. Among the many things Bing was known for was working with Dick Brewer to create the Pipeliner (the first board to be designed for a specific spot), supporting the Campbell brothers with their groundbreaking Bonzers (the first tri-fin surfboards, and being one of the few early brands that made the evolution into the shortboard era.

Something many surfers probably don't know is that Bing was among the first crew who rode Waimua, along with legends Greg Noll, Billy Stang, and Mickey Munoz.

The evening was a celebration not just of Bing but of his era, his style, and his impact on the culture.

photos by Lance Smith.





## Don Hansen | 1936-2026



Born in the Midwest and raised with a strong work ethic, 18-year-old Don Hansen came out to California, discovered surfing, and built one of the most respected surf establishments from the ground up. Armed with a “customer-first” philosophy and decisive entrepreneurial and marketing savvy, Don capably guided Hansen Surfboards into its sixth decade. Generations of surfers, skaters, skiers, and other athletes counted on the Hansen label for top-quality, innovative equipment. Don’s ability to attract and work well with others was evident in the constant stream of talented shapers he employed. In addition, he helped launch the careers of Mike Doyle, Rusty Miller, Linda Benson, Margo Godfrey, LJ Richards, and Cheer Critchlow.

Although he seemed to be a very laid-back individual, Hansen was rarely idle: In high school he was an all-state football player who lettered in four sports, a cowboy, expert skier, and world record-setting skydiver. According to historian Matt Warshaw, Hansen, due to his many skills, sense of adventure, and open nature, was “often the most interesting person in any room he happened to be in.”

An excellent surfer, gifted shaper, and trend-setting leader of the mid-60s signature models, Don was CSM’s Silver Surfer in 2019, a title he shared with Tom Curren and Lisa Andersen. Don passed away at his home in Cardiff on March 28. He will be remembered for his love of adventure, his many acts of kindness, a sharp sense of humor, his mentorship, and his rock-solid dedication to family.

## Jean-Pierre “The Fly” Van Swae | 1942 – 2026



The surfing world lost a true original in April when Jean-Pierre Van Swae finished making his last board and kicked out. He started working for Wardy Surfboards in 1961, and throughout the 1960s and early 1970s he contributed his shaping, glassing and woodworking skills to Hobie and Del Cannon Surfboards. By the mid-1970s he was making surfboards under his own label, Fly International Surfboards, in Capistrano Beach on a street now named after him, The Fly Way. Fly loved crafting objects out of wood, including surfboard fins, tailblocks, and canoe paddles. He was a world-class story and joke teller and anyone who ever spent time with him will never forget his tales of evading Marines at Trestles and hi-jinks at San Onofre. Always friendly and willing to ‘talk story’, Fly and his spirit will live on. As he often said, “Ahwoooo!”

- Tribute submitted by longtime friend, Rick Wilson

## Hank Byzak | 1949 – 2026



One of the great traditional craftsmen, Hank Byzak, a board builder whose life was spent building some of the finest handshaped surfboards on earth, quietly carved out a legacy not through hype or mass production, but refined, gorgeous designs made one by one. Throughout his career, Hank built boards for Greg Noll, Joel Tudor, and Channin Surfboards, where he worked in the infamous factory on the hill. A handful of iconic labels were produced there at the time, especially Joel Tudor’s first label “Hank was the go-to ninja for so many of my label designs,” Joel Tudor said, in tribute to his late friend. Born in Brooklyn, NY, and later shaped by early experiences learning to surf in California, Byzak found surfing early in life — and it became far more than something he loved. It became his craft, his career, and his way of leaving something beautiful behind in the world.



## LOOK WHO IS... Dropping In

artwork: John Lamb

### Lauren Brown

Visiting from Maryland, retired Archivist Lauren Brown casually stated that CSM is his favorite museum on the planet, and he never misses a chance to stop in when he's on the left coast. "You have the perfect welcoming vibe, your staff is friendly and informed, and your exhibits are beautifully done. There is a lot of good energy here, and everyone feels it. It makes me wish I had learned to surf!"



### Bob Pearson Night May 6

CSM member Jim Parsons (far R) was on hand to welcome his longtime buddies Brian Bartle (L) and shaper Bob Pearson (C). Jim, who was recovering from a serious car crash, had this to say: "Bob and I went to different high schools in the San Francisco Bay area, and we often swam against each other at various school meets. We were good swimmers and friendly rivals. After high school we both ended up moving to Santa Cruz, where we surfed together from time to time. He became a fantastic shaper and I honed my surfing skills and managed a ranch. He and Brian and I haven't seen each other in dozens of years, so this was a happy reunion for the three of us."

### Brandt Hill

#### Introducing Surfing to East Timor

On a warm summer day in 2025, retired Australian Army helicopter pilot Brandt Hill visited CSM and was impressed with the surfing history on display. Upon chatting with the staff on hand, he asked if we had ever heard about surfing in East Timor. We shook our heads – Indonesia – yes! East Timor – not so much....



He promised us a story and pictures when he returned home from his vacation. This is what he shared.

Read the full story of Brandt, Matty and the rest of his team introducing surfing to East Timor. Visit the CSM website or use the QR code to link to the story.



## Christina Harmes

Christina Harmes is a great granddaughter of Olympic champion swimmer Johnny Weissmuller. Now residing in Carlsbad, Christina stopped by CSM for the first time in November and was surprised to learn about her great-grandad's connections with the early surfing pioneers, both in Hawaii and in California. "I didn't know my connection to the legendary Johnny Weissmuller until fairly recently," she shared, "but I have been a swimmer and competed in contests since I can remember. When I got older, I got interested in surfing, and also became a lifeguard. Now I know why."

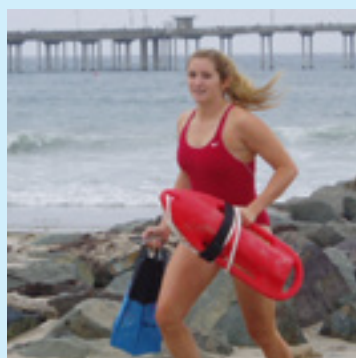
Read the full story in Christina's own words on the CSM website. Use the QR code to link to the story.



Christina was treated to a tour of the Collections room, and was shown this image of Johnny standing next to Duke Kahanamoku in a vintage panoramic photo of Olympic swimming trials in Indianapolis, 1924.



Johnny Weissmuller and Duke Kahanamoku at the 1924 Paris Olympics  
photo: Bettman Collection



Christina passed the rigorous test and became the only female lifeguard in Ocean Beach in 2009.



Christina age 4, competing on the Poway swim team

## Umeke Hawaiian Cultural Organization and California Surf Museum Celebrate Hawaiian Surfing Heritage



The crew of "He'e Nalu: Surfboard Shaping and Riding." From L: Workshop leader and westside waterman Kaliko Kahoonei (holding his daughter Maluhia), CSM Historian Jane Schmauss, Sophia Uribe (Chief Operating Officer of Native Like Water) and Christa Lim, from 'Umeke, a Hawaiian cultural preservation organization.

**On May 10, 2026, Umeke Hawaiian Cultural Organization partnered with the California Surf Museum for Mālama Pono Weekend, offering a hands-on cultural experience celebrating the Hawaiian origins of surfing.**

Facilitated by Kaliko Kahoonei, participants crafted traditional Hawaiian handplanes, or Pā Po'o, while learning about the history and cultural significance of he'e nalu (wave riding). Through woodworking, storytelling, and cultural instruction, attendees discovered how surfing has long been an integral part of Hawaiian life, connecting people to the ocean, community, and ancestral traditions.

The workshop complemented the California Surf Museum's exhibit, Surfriding: Hawaiian Royalty's Gift to the World, giving visitors a deeper understanding of surfing's roots and the enduring legacy of Native Hawaiian culture.

The weekend embodied the spirit of mālama pono—caring for one another, our cultures, and our environment with balance and respect. Participants left not only with handcrafted Pā Po'o boards but also with a renewed appreciation for Hawaiian traditions and ocean stewardship.

Umeke extends a heartfelt mahalo nui loa to Kaliko Kahoonei, the California Surf Museum, cultural practitioners, volunteers, community partners, supporters, and all who participated. Together, we created a meaningful space for connection, learning, and aloha. We hope the seeds planted during Mālama Pono Weekend continue to grow, inspiring future generations to embrace aloha 'āina, aloha i ke kai, and mālama pono.

# Get ready for the California Surf Museums 18th Annual Fundraising Gala

Sunday, November 22nd, 2026,  
from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
at the stunning Seabird Ocean  
Resort and Spa.

The theme of this years Gala is

Breaking the Banks:

## The Big-Wave Pioneers of Cortes Banks

This years honorees brought extraordinary courage,  
preparation, skill, and commitment to Cortes Bank.

Their accomplishments pushed the boundaries  
of big-wave surfing and redefined what the world  
believed was possible.

Together, their stories capture the spirit of Breaking  
the Banks—the ambition to go farther, the determi-  
nation to prepare for the impossible, and the cour-  
age to meet one of the ocean's greatest challenges.



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Honorary Chairs: 2025 Silver Surfers  
Wingnut and Pat O'Connell

## 2026 Honoree recipients of the California Surf Museum's Silver Surfer Lifetime Achievement Award

**Brad Gerlach • Greg Long • Mike Parsons • Justine Dupont**

