On January 22 the FRIENDS sponsored a beautiful memorial for John M Olguin. The event was a joyous celebration of John’s life, his many works and his wonderful family. The tent was overflowing with friends, colleagues and well-wishers. CMA’s photographer, Gary Florin, decorated the walls with pictures depicting the stages of John’s life. These pictures, along with the loving and often humorous eulogies, were a fitting tribute to a man who spent his life teaching the value of caring for our oceans. John worked tirelessly to make San Pedro a better place in which to live. He rarely met a charity or fundraiser he didn’t like. If your name was in his notebook, you could be sure that you’d be asked to donate to his favorite causes. I’d like to thank FRIENDS and all those who gave generously to make this memorial happen. It was an outstanding event.

A special thanks to Sherry Ruffer and Linda Ayers who work so hard to publish Fins and Tales. The special edition they put together to celebrate John’s life was stunning.

The fall docent tours have ended and our spring program begins soon. Our touring docents do an excellent job and are to be commended. The docents are some of our most visible volunteers because they are in and out of the Aquarium and on the beach in the spring. Kudos to all of our wonderful volunteers in Education, the Aquatic Nursery, the Exploration Center, the feeders, the Board of Directors and all the other volunteers who work behind the scenes. You may not see these volunteers as often, but they are working very hard to keep all of CMA’s programs funded and available to the public.

It’s very important for all volunteers to record volunteer hours. The Volunteer Information Center (VIC) is in the Volunteer Lounge. All volunteers should have a pin number to use when checking in. There’s a clipboard available on the wall for those without a pin number or who wish to record their hours manually. A minimum of 72 hours is needed to qualify for a complimentary dinner for the Awards Banquet in June. Volunteer hours are very important to FRIENDS as well. These hours are used when writing grants in order to obtain funds to run our programs. Please make the time to record your hours before you leave the Aquarium.

CMA’s Volunteer Steering Committee is open to all volunteers. The Committee meets on the first Monday of each month, except for July and September. We meet in the Multipurpose Room at 9:30am. CMA Director Mike Schaadt gives a detailed report on current and upcoming events. You’ll hear from volunteers who work on specific projects that pertain to CMA and all volunteers. If you’re interested, please join us.

As I sit here at my computer, I’m listening to the news of the devastation in Japan. Living in California, we’re all aware of the destruction of earthquakes. Working and volunteering at the Aquarium, we’ve learned what a tsunami can do. It’s hard for me to watch and wrap my mind around the damage that occurs when these two phenomena collide. The lives of the people in Japan have been changed forever. Please keep them in your thoughts. The road to recovery is going to be very long.
CMA Director's Message

Mike Schaadt, CMA Director

Accreditation: Meeting and Exceeding Professional Standards

It should be no surprise to volunteers of CMA to read that we’re accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA); however, the actual process of accreditation may come as a surprise. An accreditation cycle is five years, and 2010 was the end of CMA’s second cycle. We’re now undergoing the process of being accredited for another five years, and I’d like to take this opportunity to explain the process.

First, about a year before the cycle ends, CMA senior staff begin having monthly and eventually weekly meetings to review the current year’s accreditation standards (standards are updated by AZA every year). After reviewing changes, CMA staff begin reviewing and filling out the AZA accreditation questionnaire. This questionnaire has various sections that correspond to all aspects of CMA, including: animal collection, veterinary care, conservation, education and interpretation, research, governing authority (including the City of Los Angeles and FCMA), staff, support organization, finance, physical facilities, safety/security and guest services. The completed questionnaire and the associated supporting materials are hundreds of electronic pages in length.

Once completed and electronically submitted to AZA, the questionnaire is reviewed by the AZA Accreditation Commission, composed of professionals from other accredited aquariums and zoos. Shortly after the questionnaire is submitted, a team of two peer inspectors spends two days at CMA reviewing each point of the questionnaire and interviewing CMA staff, FCMA staff and FCMA Board members. At the conclusion of the inspection, the inspectors submit a list of concerns and points of particular achievements.

This year, CMA’s list of concerns included the categories of fish-food preparation, veterinary care, non-public area housekeeping and a couple of safety issues. Most of the concerns were dealt with, either during the inspection or within the following two-week period. Those concerns not immediately addressed due to the time that will be required for implementation have been planned and scheduled. A written response to the list of concerns, complete with supporting documentation and pictures, was sent to AZA two weeks after the inspection.

The points of particular achievement included recognition of the highly motivated staff, the excellent health of the animals, the great support of FCMA, the encouragement of scientific curiosity, especially in students, the presence of an extensive library with a professional librarian, the strong education programs with a disproportionately large school children visitation, the successful financial model, the collaborative posture rather than a competitive one in relating with colleague aquariums and zoos even in close proximity, and the outstanding research program that includes long-standing projects like studying grunion and research work that results in submission to peer reviewed journals. The next step in the accreditation process is for the CMA Director to appear before the Accreditation Commission at their scheduled meeting in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to update progress and answer questions about the list of concerns. Upon conclusion of the meeting, the Commission will vote to approve, deny or table CMA’s request for accreditation. If tabled, CMA will have six months to make further progress on addressing the concerns of the Commission, after which the CMA Director will appear before them in person at their next meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, to again answer questions.*

The AZA accreditation process is thorough and exhausting. Each cycle results in the standards becoming more rigorous. All the hard work put into receiving AZA accreditation is well worth it, since CMA visitors, volunteers, members and supporters deserve to be assured that CMA is meeting or exceeding established professional standards in the aquarium and zoo profession.

* Late note: CMA’s accreditation was approved at the March 19 meeting in Chattanooga.

New Roster

Replacing the “green book”, the new Staff/FCMA/Volunteer Directory was revised December 2010 and has been distributed electronically. If you didn’t receive a copy, please contact Floyd Anderson at 310-548-7562 x229.

The new electronic format allows for immediate corrections and updates. Volunteers inactive for over one year are not listed.
Sam Domancich 1929-2011
A delightful man, talented writer and beloved husband of our own Jackie Domancich. Sam passed away in January. Sam was an English teacher, a child welfare and attendance counselor for LAUSD and a writer for the Daily Breeze. His articles reminisced about San Pedro, and he authored a book, “Hit the Line”, chronicling one hundred years of football at San Pedro High School.

Anthony “Tony” Dean 1946 – 2011
Tony, Fort MacArthur’s “Soldier of the Year” in 1966, supervisor at Texaco in Wilmington, boater, biker, pilot and avid volunteer at the Marine Mammal Care Center; friend of mine and beloved husband of Callie Dean and nephew of Jackie Domancich.

Good News: ★
Volunteers Larry and Tami Kittiver found an article in The Daily Beast (yes, really – I checked): shark fin soup may be banned in California. The legislature has proposed a bill to end the sale and possession of shark fins. Shark-finning is a hideous practice of cutting off the fins of live sharks, leaving them to sink and drown. For SOUP?!!

Great News: ★★
The Pacific gray whales head south annually to Baja, giving birth in the warm waters of San Ignacio Lagoon, then head back north to the Arctic Bering and Chukchi seas. The cow/calf count this year was substantially higher than the past two years. I’m hoping to have a full report, with pictures, of this year’s CMA Baja trip in the next Fins & Tales.

And Even Better: ★★★
Major kudos to Paula Moore, FRIENDS Executive Director, and her staff, volunteers and CMA staff for producing “The Celebration of the Century” for John Olguin at CMA on January 22. It was an incredible tribute to the life and loves of an indomitable spirit who fulfilled his dreams. Words for this have been used up – enjoy Gary Florin’s pictures! (Pg.4)
“The Celebration of the Century”
for John Olguin
at CMA, January 22, 2011
The following letter appeared in Letters to the Editor, *Daily Breeze*, January 31, 2011:

**Fitting tribute to John Olguin**

A remarkable event took place Jan. 22 at Cabrillo Beach in San Pedro. About 1,000 “close friends” gathered for a public memorial celebrating the life of John Olguin, who passed away Jan. 1 at the age of 89. A large tent, erected in front of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, was the site of the afternoon’s “formal” activities.

After opening remarks by Aquarium Director Mike Schaadt and FRIENDS of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Executive Director Paula Moore, an incredible lineup of speakers came up to tell stories, mostly lighthearted, about this remarkable man.

Dignitaries included County Supervisor Don Knabe, Councilwoman Janice Hahn, Assembly members Bonnie Lowenthal and Warren Furutani and Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Geraldine Knatz. Representatives of many of the organizations John originated or supported also gave short remembrances, including Beacon House, Cabrillo Beach Boosters and Polar Bears, Cabrillo Whalewatch/American Cetacean Society, Salvation Army, Rotary Club of San Pedro, Shawl House and the Warner Grand Theatre/Grand Vision Foundation.

Final speakers included members of the Olguin Family. (Brother Albert could be a stand-up comedian!) Participants then spilled out to the beach, following the San Pedro High marching band, to view the L.A. city fireboat water display and the tall ship Exy Johnson’s change of watch ceremony and to view the L.A. city lifeguard rescue boat named after San Pedro’s most famous lifeguard, the John M. Olguin. After numerous activities at the Aquarium, the wonderful day was capped off by a sunset fireworks display on Cabrillo Beach.

As a member of the FRIENDS of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Board of Directors, and on behalf of a thousand others, I’d like to thank Paula Moore and her FCMA staff for putting together and coordinating this extraordinary event. Thanks also to the many CMA staff members and representatives from all the organizations that John touched for giving of their time and resources.

What a fitting tribute to a man known and loved by so many.

Mike Masinter
San Pedro
Spring has sprung in the CMA Gift Shop. Jean has been to the Los Angeles and Las Vegas Gift Shows and has found wonderful new inventory to delight your eyes. The biggest find has been CMA custom plush dolphins and sea turtles with our logo and *Cabrillo Marine Aquarium* embroidered on their backs. These will be great souvenirs for children of all ages and will retail for under $10.

To celebrate whalewatching season, look for two new lines of whale items. Aspen Imaging presents nine styles of whale magnets, key chains, note cards and journals, all customized with our name and logo. Bungalow 360, a totally green company, makes canvas messenger bags, satchels, wallets and cotton scarves (made in Yucaipa). Designs feature whales, dolphins, sea horses, sea turtles and hummingbirds.

Presco International (Boca Raton, FL) has shipped us a new line of sterling silver aquatic jewelry. Some of these sea horse, octopus and sea turtle pendants include semi-precious stones. New DVDs have arrived, including instructive Eyewitness series of Fish, Sharks and Oceans.

So come into the shop and check out the new inventory for spring. Remember, FRIENDS receive a 20% discount off all regular-priced items!

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**OFF THE WALL**

Nancy Cook, Programs

(Visit the bioluminescent display near the moon jelly exhibit for the answers to this quiz. Cheaters may peek at the answers below.)

1. Animals can "light up" in various ways. Most marine organisms produce light with organs called photophores which are used mainly to attract a meal and confuse _____ _______.

2. Krill: The intense blue light emitted by its ten downward-facing photophores help this schooling organism to maintain contact with the group during ________ _________ at night.

3. Microplankton: Dinoflagellates are one-celled plants that form red patches on water called ___ _____ when they occur in sufficient numbers. They cause breaking waves and boat wakes to ____ at night.

4. Jellyfish: It responds to disturbances such as collisions with other organisms by exuding a blue luminous _____ over most of its body.

5. Brittle star: The sides and undersurface of its arms produce a greenish luminescence. It may ____ ____ a glowing arm to distract a potential predator.

**Answers**

1. their enemies 2. upward migration 3. “red tides” glow 4. slime 5. cast off
FRIENDS of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (FCMA) will host the annual Grand Grunion Gala on Saturday evening, May 21, 2011, at the DoubleTree Hotel, located at 2800 Via Cabrillo Marina, San Pedro, CA. More than 350 guests including business and community leaders, scientists, public officials and educators will attend the black-tie affair. The non-profit’s largest fundraiser benefits the Aquarium’s educational programs, exhibits and displays, and raises over $200,000 annually. This year’s Gala will feature live and silent auctions offering opportunities for great getaways, entertainment, dining, unique adventures, fine art and more. The Aquarium will relocate for this exceptional evening at the Gala’s new venue. This year, attendees will come together to celebrate honorees:

**Dr. Ralph Appy**

**John M. Olguin Marine Environment Award**

Dr. Ralph Appy is a longtime friend of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, resident in the community and recently retired as Director of Environmental Management for the Port of Los Angeles. This past summer, FRIENDS of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium was pleased to welcome Dr. Appy as a new member of the distinguished board of directors. Appy has dedicated himself to the community, serving as President of the Board of Directors for Southern California Academy of Sciences. He has also served on the boards of International Association of Ports & Harbors, San Pedro Bay Port Technologies Development Center Corp., HAIC, ITEP Global Environmental Science Academy, San Pedro Youth Coalition and Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. Dr. Appy has been active with the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) in San Pedro since 1991 as coach, referee and Regional Commissioner. He resides in Rancho Palos Verdes with his wife, Teresa. They have two sons, David and Michael, both accomplished in the sciences. His extensive background in marine science and commitment to the ecological sustainability of the environment and community make Ralph an exceptional Gala honoree!

**SA Recycling**

**Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Leadership Award**

SA Recycling, a world leader in the metal recycling and processing industry, is being honored for its longstanding commitment to environmental best-management practices and community leadership. SA Recycling is recognized as an industry leader in metal recycling, operating more than 40 facilities in the southwestern United States. The Terminal Island facility has been serving the southern California area since 1967. It incorporates state-of-the-art storm water treatment and dust control systems. In 2009, the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce recognized SA Recycling with the Business of the Year award. The company sponsors Aquarium programs and actively supports community environmental efforts.

Individual tickets are $175 per person and sponsorship packages are available. For more information about ads, auction donations, event tickets and volunteering, please call (310) 548-2031 or email gala@cmaqua.org.

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**Notes from the Library**

There are great things going on in the Virginia Reid Moore Marine Research Library. Librarian Cecily Thomas is continually “kicking it up a notch”, innovating activities for all ages and CMA-related interests. The FCMA Book Club, currently featuring Stieg Larsson’s Millennium Trilogy, meets in the Library the last Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

There is Press Friends, a community service group formed by high school students with the purpose of mentoring elementary school kids to start writing and publishing their own school newspapers. In January, FCMA and the Library hosted two Press Friends sessions of 25 students each, from four elementary schools. Our junior docents took them on a tour of the Aquarium. Each student chose an animal to write about, including their visual observations. The resulting publication, *CMA Kid News*, can be enjoyed in the Library.

Cecily scouts and orders new books each month, again for all ages and CMA-related interests. The Library is a living part of CMA. Stop in, enjoy the ambiance, research something you’ve been wondering about – bring Cecily a chocolate and make a friend for life.
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**April 2011**

- 2 Native Garden Workday/Beach Cleanup 8–10am
- 5 Meet the Grunion • 8pm*
- 10 Weekend Tidepool Walk 8:30–10am
- 15 Rinkes Scholarships applications available • Volunteer/Staff Lounge
- 16 Weekend Tidepool Walk 1–2:30pm
- 17 Walk Cabrillo 1–3pm
- 17 Young Scientists Symposium • 4–7pm • Reservations • 310-548-7562 x204
- 19 Meet the Grunion 8pm*
- 23 Earth Day 8am–3pm:
  - Cabrillo Beach cleanup • Outer Beach 8–10am
  - Earth Day Fair • CMA Courtyard • 10am–3pm
  - Includes book signing by author Joel Harper (“All the Way to the Ocean”) • 10am
  - CMA Earth Day Poster awards announced
- 26 ACS Book Club • Library • 7–9pm • Steig Larsson’s “The Girl who Played With Fire”
- 26 ACS Monthly Speaker Series • 7:30pm • John M. Olguin Auditorium
- 29 Summer Docent applications due
- 30 Channel Islands Adventure: Santa Cruz Island • 8am–5pm • Board in Ventura
  See website or call 310-548-7562 for reservations • Fee

**May 2011**

- 5 Meet the Grunion • 8pm*
- 7 Native Garden Workday/Beach Cleanup • 8–10am
- 7 Channel Islands Adventure: Anacapa Island • 8:30am–4pm • Board in Oxnard
  See website or call 310-548-7562 for reservations • Fee
- 14 Endangered Species Day 11am–12noon
- 19 Meet the Grunion 8pm*
- 21 **Grand Grunion Gala** • DoubleTree Hotel • 6pm
  See announcement in this issue for additional information
- 24 ACS Book Club • Library • 7–9pm • Steig Larsson’s “The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet’s Nest”
- 31 ACS Monthly Speaker Series • 7:30pm • John M. Olguin Auditorium

*Meet the Grunion – Aquarium will open at 8pm. The Grunion Program begins at 9pm in the John M. Olguin Auditorium. Dress warmly and bring a blanket to sit on and a flashlight.