



Ocean-loving, the Sanchez Art Center Executive Director  
is dedicated to community, environment and art  
An interview-biography with Pacifican Cindy Abbott

Written by Jean Bartlett

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(A Pacifica Historical Society Project)

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Cindy, far right, holds her mom's hand as she and her sisters, Linda (waving) and Donna, enjoy one of many walks along the Pacific Ocean, circa 1960.

When Cindy Lupac was growing up in the quiet, coastal neighborhood of Pacific Palisades, located in the Westside region of the County of Los Angeles, her family's home on Lombard Avenue was the same walking distance to the Pacific Ocean as the home she purchased in West Sharp Park in 1996, when she moved to Pacifica from Southern California. She lives there still.

"I've been blessed most of my life to be in close proximity and view of the ocean's sweeping expanse," Cindy (Lupac) Abbott wrote in the 2024-published Wild Projects original work, *pacificAfuture*.

"It serves as an ongoing reminder of the constancy of nature and that humans are but one part of a larger ecosystem."

Founded by Kim Anno in 2017, Wild Projects ([www.wildprojects.org](http://www.wildprojects.org)) is "a collaborative hub for art, film, music and social practice, and environmental justice projects." In 2019, through her work as Sanchez Art Center Executive Director, Cindy stewarded a project with Wild Projects and Alicia Escott (*The Bureau of Linguistical Reality*) to conduct a town dialogue in Pacifica called "See Change - Creating Space for Fear-Free Conversation About Sea Level Rise."

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"An exhibition was held at Sanchez Art Center, that through photographs, artworks and community-generated neologisms, along with an interactive knitting/weaving space, invited the community to consider how we will adapt," Cindy wrote in *See Change*. "Visitors to the gallery were invited to consider and describe community feelings, concerns, and their relationship to the ocean as part of the hope that we can come together in a positive way to plan for our shared future."

"The ocean has been the constant in my life," Cindy noted in our 2024 interview held at Pacifica's Chit-Chat Café at the Pier, "in good and bad times. Its presence, its constancy, its strength and its power – it is always there. Through my dedication to our environment, I like to think that I am also there for the ocean."

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What makes a person leave their country? The answer to this stretches across continents and time, all beginning — according to Alexander "Sandy" H. Harcourt, British-born American primatologist and Professor Emeritus UC Davis Department of Anthropology, Ecology Graduate Group — with a few hundred courageous individuals who left Africa about 125,000 years ago, subsequently giving rise to today's world population clock, currently striking at 8.2 billion people. In modern times, migration is often the result of political, social, economic and environmental factors.

"My family members came to the United States as a result of chain migration."

Chain migration is a social process. Someone from one country leaves for another country and eventually, a number of family members and friends join them.



"My father was Robert 'Bob' Frank Thomas Lupac," Cindy began, "and he was born on September 18, 1921, in Cicero, Illinois, to Frank Thomas Lupac and Irene (Stamer) Lupac. My grandfather, Grampa Frank Lupac, was born on December 2, 1895, in Chicago, IL. Grampa Lupac's parents, Thomas and Albina Lupac, were both born in what was then called, Bohemia. My great grandfather Thomas immigrated to the U.S. in 1887 and my paternal great grandmother immigrated several years earlier in 1885. They married in 1888.

"Our family has always considered ourselves to be Czechoslovakian. Going back in history, however, Czechoslovakia was a country only from 1918 to 1992, formed from parts of the defeated Austro-Hungarian Empire after World War I."

←Just like her father, Cindy's paternal grandfather, Frank Lupac, served his country, the United States of America, in a global conflict. Here he is pictured wearing his WWI-issued buffalo coat. He was one of the 8,000 U.S. troops sent to Vladivostok, Russia, to guard the eastern terminus of the Trans-Siberian Railway against Bolshevik attacks. Along with passengers, the railway carried Allied military supplies.

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"On my mother's side, I am also Czech," Cindy continued. "My mom was Lillian Darleen (Bogar) Lupac and she was born on December 31, 1922, though there is controversy in the family on the exact day she was born because her Czechoslovakian birth certificate is vague. But she was born in Blatnice, in the South Moravian Region of Czechoslovakia, now the Czech Republic, to Frank and Anezka Bogar (Anezka in English is Agnes). My mother's father had people in his family that moved here and so he came over, and he did what people did back then. He came here first and found work before he brought his family over. He left for the United States in the beginning of December, 1922, right before my mom was born around the end of that month. My mother was a few months shy of 3 before she met her father."

In Vienna, Austria, Cindy's maternal grandfather apprenticed as a shoemaker and his wife was very proud of her husband's artisan skills creating custom-made shoes. Within the family's treasured collection of important family papers, is Frank Bogar's Cobbler Apprenticeship paperwork. When Jed Bogar ("Jed" is grandfather in Czech) moved to the U.S., cobblers more often than not became shoe repair persons. But shoe repair was a good job and he always had work. By the time he was able to buy passage and bring his wife Anezka, his 5-year-old son Frank and his daughter Lillian to Berwyn, IL, where he had settled, they had a home to move into. (Berwyn is just two miles from Cicero.)

"Along with my mom and my uncle, my grandmother came to this country with a sack of goose feathers – at least that is what the family lore says! That was part of your dowry and setting up home, and in this case, goose feathers were for the family pillows, duvet and even a pastry brush, the latter which I still have."



**On September 23, 1945, the Majestic, the flagship of the White Star Line fleet, boarded, along with many other passengers, three members of the Bogar family—Anezka, Frank and Lillian—in Cherbourg, France, and took them all to New York, NY, where they disembarked on September 29, 1945.**

"Both my parents grew up in very middle class families, and like so many, their families struggled through the Depression. As young kids, neither of my parents worked, they got to be kids, but their moms worked during the time when it was more common for the mom to be at home and take care of the

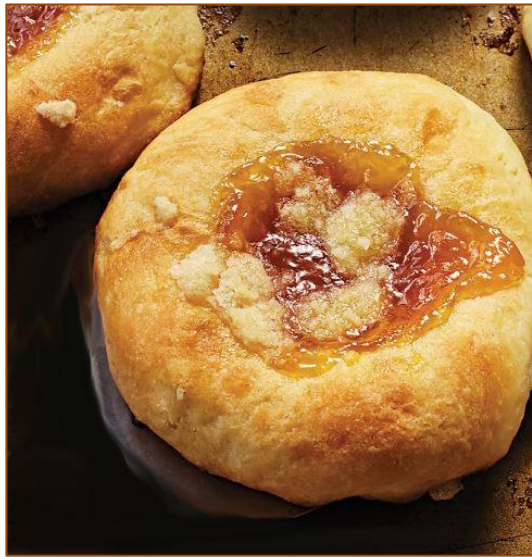
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household's needs. My father's mother Irene did office administrative-type things, such as bookkeeping, and other good jobs for women back then. I have a fabulous old book from when Grandma Irene sold shoes. She worked her entire life. My father's dad had a number of jobs, including working as a kettle man, which means working with liquid substances in a heated container, and later he did chocolate tempering. And of course, both of my mother's parents also worked. My mom's dad, as mentioned, did shoe repair. My mom's mom, my babi, was a good cook, if you like Czech food! She worked at a restaurant known as Old Prague that still exists in the Cicero area. I have memories of Babi making Czech apple strudel. She would lay out dough on the entire kitchen table, roll it out and butter it, and put the fruit on it. It was very delicious and quite a production." ("Babi" is Czech for Grandma.)



"My mom, a wonderful cook, learned many recipes from my grandmother, such as dumplings, and pork roast and sauerkraut. I like the dumplings but not the sauerkraut. My favorite was a pastry dessert called kolache, particularly apricot kolaches."

Kolache—an apricot kolache is pictured at left—are a sweet Czech pastry made of yeast dough. They are flat and generously filled in the middle with fruit, poppy seed, or cream cheese filling. Kolache have a round shape and are about three to four inches in diameter.

"My mom did speak Czech but I only speak a few words. Babi lived with us for a while when I was in junior high, and I would sit with her and she would teach me some words."

"Both of my parents went to J. Sterling Morton High School in Cicero, but with my mother being a year younger, they actually met through a mutual friend. Her name was Mildred, and 'Millie' was my dad's best friend's girlfriend. My dad's best friend was Marshal 'Marsh' Neilsen and Marsh and my dad were best friends since the age of 3.

"As youths, my dad and Marsh joined the Sea Scouts, a specialized nautical unit of scouting."

The Sea Scouts are a program of the Boy Scouts of America. Sea Scout units, called ships, are established all across the country on oceans, rivers, bays and lakes. Through instruction and practice in water safety, Sea Scouting promotes: better citizenship; boating expertise; outdoor, social and service experiences; and knowledge of our maritime heritage. Ranks within the Sea Scouts are: Apprentice, Ordinary, Able and Quartermaster, with its highest rank, the Quartermaster, being the equivalent to the Eagle Scout rank in the Boy Scouts of America. Adult leadership roles include: Assistant Crew Leader, Crew Leader, Assistant Commodore and Commodore.

"My father and Marsh learned all about boating, navigation, engines and camping. They built a canoe together. My father, after his WWII service, headed his own ship, sharing his knowledge and encouraging boys to be good citizens, and he became an Assistant Commodore. Dad and Marsh went through scouts and school together, and both graduated from J. Sterling Morton High School in Cicero in 1939.

"It was the year after my father graduated from high school, that Millie introduced my dad to my mom, which began their enduring and loving relationship. Together, Marsh and Millie – who became Marsh's future wife – and my dating future parents, headed out on adventures together. Marsh had the car, Millie was in the passenger seat and my folks rode in back. They had so much fun."

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**Lillian, high school graduation, 1940.**



**Robert, high school graduation, 1939.**

"There's a sweet story regarding my mom and her high school graduation day, which we, her daughters, didn't hear about until after her death. Her parents never had much money to spare. Yet somehow, when graduation day arrived, she had a new dress to wear underneath her cap and gown. She was so excited."

On September 16, 1942, Robert Lupac joined the United States Coast Guard.

"World War II was in full swing when my dad joined, and before he and Marsh departed for their respective duty, they split a two-dollar bill and for many years, they each carried half of it in their wallets in recognition of their special friendship. My dad was exceptionally mechanical and that aptitude led to his being trained as a Motor Machinist's Mate. He was also sent to additional schools for specialized engine courses.

"My father remained stateside. Being the only child in his family, he chose the Coast Guard so he could potentially not go overseas and end the family lineage! He served along the East Coast in Connecticut, and he also served in the port city of Duluth, Minnesota, along Lake Superior, as well as in Ashtabula, Ohio, which is near Lake Erie. He additionally served in parts of Michigan. These were the days before phones and internet, so he and my mom continued their courtship by letters."



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On March 24, 1945, while Cindy's father was still in the service, he and his love Lillian married in Cicero, IL. They spent their honeymoon in Ashtabula.

Following the end of the Second World War, the Coastguardsman was honorably discharged and he and his wife began married life in North Riverside, IL. In 1946, Bob took a job with American Phenolic Corporation, now Amphenol Corporation.

"The company founder had discovered that insulating plastic was highly effective for radio tube sockets, and expanded its work to support the war effort with the Amphenol Connector. My dad worked as a model maker and production supervisor in the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Program. As a result, in 1954, when one of the founders of Reynolds Industries went to make a deal with Amphenol and subsequently won a bid to manufacture coaxial connectors used by the AEC, my dad's skills were sought out. He was recruited to move to Santa Monica, California, as Plant Production Manager, a position that he began in January of 1955."

Bob came out first to California, to get things set up, and then in June of 1955, Bob, Lillian, their daughter Linda, and Lady, the family dog, moved into their home in Pacific Palisades. A few months after they arrived, the couple welcomed their second daughter, Donna.

In 1956, Bob started his own machine shop, the LinDon Corporation, named after his girls. On April 19, 1958, the couple welcomed their third daughter, Cindy Ann Lupac.

"I was born in Santa Monica at St. John's Hospital and I grew up in Pacific Palisades."



**Bob, with his two youngest daughters, Donna and Cindy, in their Pacific Palisades backyard, circa 1962.**

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"I was fortunate to have really wonderful parents, who have also been a lifelong inspiration. My parents had exceptional integrity, kept friendships throughout their lives, truly loved each other in sickness and in health, and loved their family. Now they were normal people, but they were definitely models of goodness and caring. They celebrated their 70th anniversary on March 24, 2015, and my father died one month later on April 29, 2015. My mother passed on June 7, 2017. I miss them both still.

"My dad was very detail oriented, had an incredible work ethic and was very self-motivated. He was a mechanical engineer who worked mostly for himself. He established another precision milling, drilling and manufacturing shop in 1966, and sold it in 1972. *Lansair* continues to operate today. He could fix anything! I remember he kept my mom's car operating at one point using a coat hanger. He could repair appliances, fix inoperable watches and clocks. Like his great grandfather, he could do his own tailoring. As a manufacturing engineer, his expertise was sought out for troubleshooting production and service issues. He also stuck to his word. As my oldest sister pointed out at his celebration of life, if my dad had made an agreement, which was probably just a handshake agreement, and said, 'This is what it is going to cost you,' even if circumstances changed, it would still be what he had agreed to. Even if it was impactful on our family, moneywise, his word was his word.

"My mom made the ordinary, extraordinary. She did this not with money, but with love, deep caring love, and a sense of joy and fun. She didn't drink alcohol. She would always just say, 'I'm high on life,' and she really was. You couldn't take a walk with her down the street without her being friendly and saying hello to everyone. She was bursting with fun and laughter, even as the days got hard for her with the passing of her husband and increased arthritis pain. And she had elegant hands, they were soft and comforting and throughout my life, through all of life's ups and downs, we'd give each other strength through a squeeze of our hands. I would also say I got some of my activism from her. She would type letters to our local newspaper, *The Palisadian-Post*. It was a wonderful local newspaper. It was weekly and was very important to the town, like the *Pacifica Tribune*. If my mother was irritated about something she would write once a week. She would write to politicians as well. We would say, 'Oh, no, Mom is in the *Post* again!' But it was impressive. She did that up to the end of her life."



Lillian and her girls, Linda, Cindy and Donna, 1959.

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Cindy went to Palisades Elementary School, Paul Revere Junior High School and Palisades High School. She did bike riding as a kid and as a teen she would bike to all the beaches around town with her girlfriends. When Cindy was in elementary school, she and her sister Donna would walk to the cliffs below where they lived and dig rocks out and find crystals. With her middle sister and/or friends, she would hike around the paths and the canyons of her home turf. (By then her sister Linda was in college.) The Bay Theater, in Pacific Palisades, was the place to go to the movies, and Santa Monica was the place to go ice skating on Saturdays. Cindy also gardened. She and Donna planted vegetables.

Cindy's paternal grandfather had played a violin as a child, and won an award, so musicianship was part of her life. Her folks bought an organ which Cindy's big sister Linda learned to play when she was a kid, and then she taught some of what she knew to Cindy.

"I did enjoy playing the organ for a while. I did take flute lessons as well, but I didn't continue with either."

As to her pop music picks, DJ Sam Riddle played the hits out of KHJ in Los Angeles.



"Sam Riddle played rock 'n' roll on AM radio. The first two albums I ever purchased were: Neil Young's 'After the Gold Rush,' and the Beatles' 'White Album.' My first concert, Neil Young—my longtime love still to this day—was at the 'Fabulous' Forum in Inglewood. Five of us piled into a VW Bug to get there. This was 1972 or 1973. I still have my ticket stub, \$7.50. My friends and I also saw Jethro Tull, and Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young at the Forum. I saw the Eagles there as well. The Pretenders, and Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, are my two other longtime favorite groups. I saw Tom Petty in concert many times and am still missing him." (Cindy noted that not long after our beach café interview, she had tickets to a Pretenders concert at San Francisco's Masonic Auditorium.)

←Cindy, 1973, Palisades High School.

Cindy was quiet and introverted as a child, and was often sick. Nothing dramatic, she explained, but she had consistently returning ear problems, which she grew out of, but she was often sick on her birthday or Halloween, or other events, and not being able to go outside shaped her because she read, which was wonderfully satisfying and remains, as she calls it, her great escape.

"My parents were big readers. My dad always bought books at garage sales. He was a garage sale book junkie! He thought if you could buy one book in those days for five cents or a quarter, even if you only got one thing out of reading it, you had to get it."

"I am to this day a big 'Nancy Drew' and 'Anne of Green Gables' fan. I've read every book in the 'Anne of Green Gables' series at least five times, and I think I am up to number 42 in the 'Nancy Drew' series. We had my mom's copy of 'Anne of Green Gables' when I was growing up, and to my delight, my mom played Anne Shirley in her high school play. There is also a book by writer Paul Gallico called 'The Abandoned.' It is a story about a boy who gets hit by a car and gets turned into a cat and he lives a cat's life for a while. It is a fascinating story and I loved the cat thing."



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The "cat thing" is not something she picked up from her family.

"I did not grow up with cats. My family hated cats! I am not the typical person in my family, I'm more quirky, and even they will tell you that," Cindy paused to laugh. "In fact, if a cat got in our yard, my parents would spray it with the hose to get them to leave, much to my dismay. We did have dogs. I like dogs, but I am a cat person. It wasn't until I was grownup and in an apartment on my own that I got my first family members of the feline variety, Perry and Percy. Perry was the first, he was 6 weeks old. My parents were happy that I finally got my cats and they appreciated that they were important to me. Since I couldn't have cats when I was a kid, I wanted a rabbit. They had them at the elementary school fiesta, so I brought one home when my parents were away and it was a Dutch bunny. I was old enough to know what I was doing when I gave it to my mom for Mother's Day! I was 9. My mother was going to rehome it but then Babi, my mom's mom, who was living with us at the time, said, 'But he's really cute.' So we kept him. His name was Chas and he lived in the backyard underneath the avocado tree. He had a nice life. He got chased by dogs a few times, but he was a sweet bunny. Then I had an indoor bunny, a Mini Lop, who was the size of a cat. I got my Mini Lop after I graduated from college and I named him Beldar after Beldar Conehead, a character on Saturday Night Live. My cat family members did not come along until after Beldar's passing."



Cindy is honored to be a cat person and recommends individuals in search of giving a feline a forever home, contact Homeless Cat Network in Belmont: [www.homelesscatnetwork.com](http://www.homelesscatnetwork.com).

←Riley, aka Riley Wiley, Riley Aloysius, Rile-a-Roo and Riles – lived with Cindy and her partner Alex for 10 years before his passing. Their forever friend Riley came to them as a feral cat through Homeless Cat Network.

Cindy was a good student in school. She skipped half of sixth grade and graduated with kids who were a year older.

"I enjoyed school and Miss Janko was a favorite teacher, and I did love our section on Japan. We did things like make clay, and a teapot that I still have. This was all involved in the curriculum. You had the sumi ink (traditional Japanese calligraphy ink) that you would blow through a straw or a reed to create little bamboo things. My not so good artistic moment happened in kindergarten.

I went home very unhappy one day. I have a low singing voice and my teacher, Mrs. Fransen, said girls were only supposed to be sopranos. So she would stand behind me and literally, pull my hair up to get me to sing in a higher key – which I cannot do. My mom did not appreciate that. She had a serious chat with Mrs. Fransen and the hair pulling was not repeated."

When she was 15, Cindy got what she considers her first official job—there were some babysitting jobs before that—when she was hired as a server at the beach concession near her neighborhood.

"I was making \$1.25 an hour, pretty good money for the summer. The owner had four different beach concessions down the canyon below where we grew up. I was at the one further up and within about a month, I was the manager there. I had keys to the place. I would open the building in the morning, make the hamburgers and the hotdogs and all the drinks, and handle the staff. From being a server to being management in a matter of weeks! My pay went up to \$1.75."

Cindy headed off to California State University at Long Beach, now Cal State at Long Beach.

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"I have my degree in psychology, but I never worked in the field. I wanted to be a researcher and a college professor. I wanted to do research into memory and thoughts, so I did a lot of surveys. I like numbers so I am good at math and statistics and algebra. No geometry!"

In her third year of college, Cindy, who notes that she is still somewhat quiet and introverted, challenged herself to take part in sorority "rush" and joined Delta Delta Delta. She enjoyed the challenge and recognized that she was not afraid to believe in herself and the possibilities that life offers, and the things that we can do to create possibilities for others.

"My first donation ever, just out of college, was to TreePeople. It seems early on, I found my life's passion, the environment."

Located in Los Angeles, TreePeople is a nonprofit that was built on the dreams of a teenager more than 50 years ago. Its purpose is to "inspire and support the people of Southern California to come together to plant and care for trees, harvest the rain, and renew depleted landscapes." The organization works with both educators and students to "green our urban spaces and mountains." "We train volunteers on the ground to help build a greener Southern California."

"My belief in doing something to help the Earth, and its occupants, sent me on two Earthwatch expeditions. Now that was a while after college, but it came with my college understanding that challenging myself led to learning how I might make a good difference in this world."

Somewhat out of order from Cindy's immediate steps into the world following college, Earthwatch is nevertheless, a life marker for the path Cindy continues to follow.

Earthwatch is an environmental international organization that connects people with "scientists worldwide to conduct environmental research and empower them with the knowledge they need to conserve the planet."



"Traveling to a South Pacific Island, Fiji, and going to East Africa, Kenya – the experiences I had on these two Earthwatch expeditions were beyond my wildest dreams. Traveling on my own and taking part in scientific research expeditions versus staying at a resort and being pampered, these are not what everyone might want to do, but for me, the experiences were so much more than I could have ever imagined: doing something that could

help increase knowledge about special habitats and creatures; meeting people from all around the world; and actually seeing animals that my dad and I watched on 'Daktari' (a 1966-1969 American family drama series focused on wildlife preservation heroes), and 'Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom' (a television documentary series featuring wildlife and nature which debuted in 1963). I was there to witness: cheetahs

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that 'chirp' to talk to other cheetahs; lions padding by and exhibiting the same behaviors as my own kitties; elephants that somehow snuck up on us – so enormous and magically quiet that until you see them you don't even know they are there; giraffe's with their weird gait running on the African plain; and being in the midst of a herd of zebra. I learned about black rhinos in Kenya (which are critically endangered) and sat next to one in Nanyuki, Kenya, at Ol Pejeta Conservancy.

\* \* \*

While Cindy was attending Cal State at Long Beach, she met Kenneth Abbott through the fraternity and sorority system. They married on May 28, 1983.

"A year younger than me, he was a good person who had some problems. When we met, he was still in school to be an architect. I was going to work while he finished up school. But things changed and after a number of years we divorced."

The couple was together for 10 years.

"He had alcohol issues but when you learn about things in life, that are suddenly a formative part of your life, that's what you do, learn. I needed to learn how to deal with someone in that position and so I did. I went to Al-Anon. I learned to deal with the present, one day at a time and keep going. I have no problems with him and no interest in erasing those memories, the good ones or the hard ones, nor the lessons I learned."

Cindy took a moment to reflect on her three favorite sayings which have been a constant source of guidance. English novelist and poet Mary Ann Evans, known by her pen name George Eliot, is the name behind the first quote.

"George Eliot said, slightly paraphrased, '**It is never too late to become the person you were always meant to be.**' That has always been really fitting for me because you just don't know where you are going to end up. I have had friends that planned their life to a T. I started planning and then I found out, well that doesn't work. You may get divorced. You may get laid off for the seventh time," Cindy grinned, "and you will be a part of a myriad of other things that happen along life's way. You never know where you are going to end up. Did I at some point know that what I am doing today is what I'd be doing? No!"

"Another favorite saying is a quote from one of my college psychology professors. It was 1978 and he had assigned the final project. To learn about the project, you had to go to the library and watch the video he made. After he talked about the project at the end he said, '**And remember, Always Maintain a Positive Attitude.**' That just stuck with me.

"There is so much junk in the world but you can always find something that's good, and when things feel pretty bad in your own life, you can still find something positive. But you have to remind yourself of that. With my college professor, he told us about this project and it had some sort of research and analysis element that we had to do. But he didn't want us to feel intimidated or overwhelmed. He reminded us that you can have fun doing things and not get so sucked into the negativity if you remain positive. I had an old refrigerator that had that up on it for 20 years. Now I just keep it as an easily referenced note.

"My other saying, which is on my bracelet, is: '**Nevertheless, she persisted.**' Perseverance and patience – you always have to keep going."

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Most of Cindy's career has been in department store retail.

"My first department store was Bullock's Department Store, a division of Federated Department Stores at that time in the early 1980s. This was my favorite department store retail job. It was a fabulous place to work; wonderful people. In the department store world at that time, it was very demanding, but people then in department store retail, stayed with their company forever. You could do all kinds of things. I started as a secretary for the Director of Operations at Bullock's. I advanced into a leadership role and developed company business plan strategies. In store operations we did everything from reading securities pieces, to budgeting food services, to helping with new store openings, to orchestrating the completion of expenditure requests resulting in board approval of \$64MM in capital. I worked as a training director and that not only got me over my fear of public speaking, but I found I had a real love of training. To learn about things that are constructive, that help things move forward in a good way, and to teach them, this is very rewarding."

In the field of department store retail, Cindy worked for seven different companies.

"I had very interesting jobs in department store retail, some perhaps a bit too demanding, but what happened to my job after three years at Bullock's was a blue print for the industry. Each time I changed jobs in that industry was due to a merger or takeover. When something happened, they eliminated everybody. 'You've done a great job!' they'd say. 'Good luck!' I've been through a lot of that."

Cindy's next job was with E & S Ring Management Corporation, a family-owned real estate management firm with properties in California and Oregon. As Office Manager her duties included: establishing policies; managing an advertising expense of \$0.5MM; undertaking an innovative marketing program; advancing the planning of income, operating and capital expense for properties; and analyzing financial statements and statistical reports.

When she was offered a job back in department store retail, as Store Operations Director in May of 1990 for May Co., she made the leap and thoroughly enjoyed developing expense, revenue and capital plans for 60 locations totaling \$20MM in expense and \$4.5MM in revenue annually. (May Company later merged with J.W. Robinson, forming Robinson's-May.) Her finance skills were constantly at work, including when she orchestrated the change relative to organization merger, with an eye to customer-facing programs and minimizing waste. Uh-oh, there's that word, "merger." In the mid-1990s, Cindy decided to open her own business. She called it Recycled Style and it came with a mission, to advance reuse and recycling.



"Anything that I sold had to be a funky collectable that was repurposed and still usable, or it had to be made out of at least 10% post-consumer products. I sold business card holders that were early adopters of repurposing mother boards. I sold stationary that was made out of USGS geo maps. I sold jewelry that was made of re-purposed products."

←The shopkeeper, far left, took time off from her shop in 1995 to celebrate her parents' 50th wedding anniversary with her sisters, Donna, center, and Linda, right.

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"My dad was right there to lend a helping hand as I got my shop ready. He hung shelving, laid grassmat as carpeting and installed signage. I did that for two years and earned even more respect for my dad and anyone else who is in business on their own, because I wasn't as disciplined as you need to be, to be successful. I need the driving force of other people counting on me to keep me going."

While still running her shop, Cindy went to work for Broadway Stores, a now former American retailer then based in Southern California.

"After several years, I closed my shop for a reason that I want to mention. I closed my shop because I was violently sexually assaulted – held at gunpoint and sexually assaulted in the shop. It is an important part of my life and it is really important for other people to understand how many women this happens to. You can move on. If you have the strength and the support of people that you know, you are going to be okay. You can find that personal strength to understand that a sexual assault has absolutely nothing to do with you. My sexual assault had to do with a person with a very violent streak who went across the country raping and pillaging women. It was only him."

"Stuff happens in life and you just have to keep going," Cindy underscored. "You just have to dust yourself off, keep a good attitude and move on. You can't let people or things get to you. You have to find what is out there and good, and there is a lot of good out there, and of course, I have my three mantras!"

Cindy was a Senior Planning Analyst for Broadway Stores and left when the chain was dissolved in 1996 as Federated "consolidated the former Broadway, Emporium and Weinstock's stores, along with its own Macy's California and Bullock's chains to form Macy's West." Cindy was hired by Macy's West as Director Margin Planning. This meant developing seasonal merchandise plans for ready-to-wear and home businesses, 36% of total company sales. By the time she worked with Macy's West, R. H. Macy & Co. had merged with Federated Department Stores.

"I moved to Pacifica from Long Beach in 1996, when I was given the job opportunity at Macy's West. How did I discover Pacifica? After I moved here, I was in corporate housing for my first four months, in Sausalito. Nice place to be for a temporary stay. At that time, I thought I was going to take the ferry to work. I did that for a month, but it didn't fit my hours. I spent every weekend driving around different parts of the Bay Area. I thought I was going to settle in Berkeley. I owned my place in Long Beach at the time and the real estate market in Southern California at that point was upside down. What I owned in Southern California was no longer what I paid for it. Up here, things were starting to go up. In Berkeley, everything I looked at was already being outbid. Also, Berkeley, interestingly, was very much like Long Beach to me, in these ways. Both are college towns, and the style of architecture and the timing of when it was built, its vintage buildings, is similar. So I decided, maybe I want to try something new. I drove all over the North Bay and came to Pacifica. A friend of mine suggested that I come here and we went to Linda Mar. For me, the homes I saw were a little too suburban.

"My place in Long Beach was a 1928 Spanish Courtyard Revival. It was built as an apartment building in 1928, it was own your own apartments and we converted it to condominiums, and I did the historic research to turn it into a landmark in the City of Long Beach. It had, and still has, a lot of character."

Tired of corporate housing, Cindy headed back to Pacifica a month later armed with a local realtor. She liked the Vallemar neighborhood, but it was a bit beyond her price range. She looked in Sharp Park.

"Before I walked into the home I have lived in since 1996, I thought, 'I don't think so.' It's pretty nondescript from the outside, but when I walked in, I immediately loved it."

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"My mom always wanted me to move back to the Palisades. Of course I loved our proximity to the ocean and I definitely had a wonderful childhood, but there were always differences with my family from other families in Pacific Palisades.

"My parents were not people of means their entire lives, but they were savers, and so they ended up moving to the Palisades because it was less expensive than Santa Monica where my dad was working. In the Palisades, we went to school with movie star kids, and every kid had their own car, not my lifestyle, but the lifestyle of a good chunk of people in the community.

"I like it here in Pacifica, because it is very laid back. It's not pretentious. Not being pretentious is also why I stayed in Long Beach when I went to college there and I didn't move back home after college. I've been in West Sharp Park now for 28 years. People say, don't you mind the fog? I've never minded the fog here, because our home in the Palisades had fog as well, though yes, it was warmer there. The fog is never an issue for me, nor is the cooler temperature. Sharp Park is great."

Things remained shifting within Macy's. In July of 2000, Cindy became Division Service Manager for Macy's Systems & Technology.

"My job as Division Service Manager was a 24/7 role in those days, with a pager, a Blackberry. So, literally if there were any system issues, that meant whatever you had planned for that day or night, whatever time it was, you had to respond, be on the phone and communicate with people about when would this systems issue be resolved. If there were problems, I would be on the tech calls and then I would get to call the President, or CFO, or Chairman of the Company, and let them know why their stores weren't working – which was really fun. Ha! Ha! There was a Christmas in Union Square that was horrible! I was in the middle of everything working on the fence as service manager, between the tech side and the operations side. We got it fixed, but it was wild! On top of that there were also new systems rollouts, stores to open or stores to close. I did not have a life, other than my work life for many, many years. But it was interesting and often times wonderful, and I enjoyed the people I worked with.

"In 2009, during the Great Recession, Macy's West pretty much dissolved. So, 1,500 of my friends here and over 5,000 employees across the country – their jobs were eliminated because of that." Cindy sighed. "My job was also eliminated.

"One of the first things I did when I moved here was subscribe to the *Pacifica Tribune*. I read it every Wednesday when I came home and it was my delight to do so. I read every story and read the letters to the editor. So while I wasn't involved in the community of Pacifica until late in 2009, when my 24/7 job evaporated, I knew what was happening and what people were doing. When I was unemployed, I decided to go back to school. It was early online education, and I did two certificate programs."

Cindy completed Certificates in Sustainability Leadership from UC Irvine and in Nonprofit Management from the University of Illinois, Chicago. She also got involved in her community as a volunteer.

"The first thing I got involved with was the Pacifica Beach Coalition Advisory and Planning Committee."

The Pacifica Beach Coalition was then a fiscally-sponsored project of the Environmental Family. In 2018, the **Pacifica** Beach Coalition became the **Pacific** Beach Coalition, and in that process became their own ocean conservation nonprofit. If readers are not familiar with the PBC, they are well worth an online look. ([www.pacificbeachcoalition.org](http://www.pacificbeachcoalition.org))

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"My focus was sustainability and the environment. When I read the City was going to roll out one of the first ordinances against disposable waste, I wanted to get involved. How could I help the City figure out disposable waste? I reached out to someone I read a great deal about in the *Pacifica Tribune*, Ian Butler. Ian is a devoted volunteer for the environment, he is very informed and he is a really nice person. He was the perfect connection.

"I got involved with the City on disposable waste and then I got involved with the Pacifica Beach Coalition. I volunteered as a site captain and did cleanups. Eventually I shifted to the Environmental Family."

While Cindy stepped up her volunteerism she also looked for work.



"Nobody would hire me because it was still the Recession. I was trying to get into nonprofits, but most places told me, 'You are way overqualified for what you are applying for,' to which I said, 'I just need a job.'"

Eventually, Cindy was hired part-time as Program Coordinator for Thrive, The Alliance of Nonprofits for San Mateo County.

"I was told, again, that I was overqualified, but Porcia Chen Silverberg, who was then Executive Director of Thrive, and I had such a good rapport that we both said, 'Let's do this.'"

Thrive is a network of more than "200 nonprofit organizations, government entities, foundations, businesses, and community leaders with a shared commitment to strengthening the nonprofit sector, thereby improving the quality of life in San Mateo County."

"While I worked for Thrive, I knew pretty much every nonprofit in the County. We had many different meetings but because of the Recession, we were focusing a lot on working with the County on food security and we were working to help service providers do programs."

At that point, Cindy also volunteered to serve as an Advisory Board Member for the Pacifica Resource Center. She was already familiar with the PRC, having read about the Center in the *Pacifica Tribune* as well as living in close proximity to its Palmetto location.

Established in 1974, PRC's mission is to help stabilize Pacifica families and individuals in need by providing a safety net of food, housing assistance, and other critical services along with advocacy, coaching, information and referral. Additionally they offer youth programs, holiday programs and year-round tax preparation services. Their vision is to "assure the basic needs of every Pacifican are met so that every member of our community has food, shelter, and the opportunity to thrive."

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Cindy served on PRC's Board for several years until she took on a full-time position with Pacific Stroke Association. She learned about Pacific Stroke Association through her work with Thrive, and while she worked for Thrive, she also volunteered with the Association.

"Everybody knows somebody who has had a stroke. I only had to look to my own family. My mom had several TIAs and I thought it was just so important to know about strokes, and similar events, and to help educate people on it – what the signs are, what the resources are." (A TIA is a transient ischemic attack. It is a short period of symptoms similar to those of a stroke. It is caused by a brief blockage of blood flow to the brain, and usually only lasts a few minutes and doesn't cause long-term damage.)

"Why was it important to me to serve on something, as a volunteer, like the Pacifica Resource Center Board or the Pacifica Beach Coalition Advisory and Planning Committee, or other local change makers? Well, the question is who am I going to be, what am I going to be? I spent a lot of time working for big companies and other people, but these are things I can do for the good of the community and that has just become really important to me. Being actively involved in the community – both supporting organizations in town, and being there for our natural resources and making clear to the City what I think is important. In a small town like Pacifica, volunteerism is such a thread of the fabric of this community. If you look at every major thing that has happened here, it was through local volunteers, frequently women, who volunteered and gave their time to better the community. This has become really important to me. I don't have children. So, what do you want to leave behind? Even if nobody remembers you, at least you did something along the way. You did something. You are not just sitting there inactive. You have stood up and given of your time for things that are really important. We are supposed to give back. When I was working, I donated the money I could to the organizations I believe in. At that time, I donated because I had no time to volunteer my time. But later, I didn't have money. I lost everything I had in savings and in retirement from being unemployed for two years. But I could give my time. I'm still standing. You just keeping going and building on what you have learned along the way."

While Cindy was serving on the PRC Board, and working as the Program Director for Pacific Stroke Association, she also said yes to serving as a board member on Pacifica's Environmental Family, continued working as an independent contractor for the President's Council of Skyline College, and became a Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commissioner for the City of Pacifica. While she has been the Executive Director of the Sanchez Art Center, this is a full-time job, since October of 2015, she is still with: Pacifica's Environmental Family, she is the Board President; and is Pacifica's longest serving PB&R Commissioner, serving since March of 2011 and continuing. As to working with the President's Council of Skyline College, she stayed with them for eight years. She began when she worked at Thrive.

"My friend Greg Cochran – who so many Pacificans know and who so many surfers know – was a founding member of the President's Council. The Council is an advisory board to the President of Skyline, which has a fundraising arm. Skyline is a community college, so you have to involve the community in getting their input, on what is important, what programs to have, how you can benefit the community at large. At that time, Greg and other members of Council were starting to plan the Success Summit. The Success Summit was a new idea when I started working with them. The first year and a half was just trying to figure out what they were trying to do. I was still working at Thrive, part-time, so I had two part-time gigs.

"At Thrive, I planned a lot of programs and meetings and conferences, and this was doing something similar. I knew a lot of people in that network at Thrive because they also had this community reach. We were planning on how to hold this Success Summit which is kind of the Northern Peninsula response to the Progress Seminar that the County has always held. That Progress Seminar is more Redwood City County-Seat focused. But this focus was more the North County of San Mateo County, which is often



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treated as the stepchild of the County. How could we bring something to Skyline College which is the hub of Northern San Mateo County?

"I am a planner at heart, for other people, not myself," Cindy smiled. "But for other people, I love to plan! We would phrase questions that were important to the community on either food or housing or transportation. We would then bring together a panel of speakers and have different table conversations and things. Instead of doing a talking head kind of panel, we decided we would ask questions and have people respond to it and then engage together at the tables. The original goal was to have something come out of it and a continued project which was really beyond the capacity of the Council. But as a result of that, I did write the first several grants for shuttles at Skyline College that go from Daly City BART to the campus, and that is an incredible legacy and something that was important to me. I worked with SamTrans, the Transit Authority and with folks at Commute.org to put together their first grant. There was a very dynamic president at Skyline at that time, Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud, and she was quite a force and very supportive in these programs that brought community together, and getting resources for students who couldn't get to college. They could get on BART, but what could you do to get to the college? I wrote the grant and two others, and the program is still going. Dr. Stroud started the Promise Scholars Program and we were doing the funding for that program. Skyline College is full of opportunity and that's what we wanted, outreach to the community at large so you could go to Skyline. It was all about opportunity."

Greg Cochran, who served as a Pacifica PB&R Commissioner, also got Cindy to be a part of that.

"Greg was looking for people. They had open seats and people weren't applying. I never thought of doing anything in local government, and yet here I am, 13 years later, still serving on the Commission. I think except for Greg – who moved to Santa Cruz even though he is still very much involved with Pacifica's Pedro Point Surf Club – I may well have the greatest amount of years as a commissioner, since the Commission was formed."

The purpose of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission is to "recommend and advise City Council in the acquisition, development and maintenance of parks, beaches and other recreational areas, and to encourage the planning and implementation of a comprehensive recreation and human service program which will serve the needs of the residents of Pacifica."

What about Pacifica's Environmental Family, which Cindy has remained fully committed to since August of 2013.

"If you look at the history of Pacifica's Environmental Family in the early days (PEF was founded in the late 1980s and officially incorporated as a volunteer-run nonprofit in 1998), it began with teaching people recycling and starting little neighborhood community gardens. It was Penny Keating and Jeri Flin – and they really started Pacifica's commitment to Earth Day."

*"Jeri worked tirelessly to guide and grow PEF and PBC into the successful organizations they became," the PBC posted online following Jeri's death in March of 2023. "Jeri was a communications expert and coined the slogans, 'No Butts on the Beach' and our longtime motto, 'Pick it up Pacifica.'"*

"Back in those early days, the PBC was strictly volunteers cleaning up Linda Mar Beach," Cindy stated. "Jeri brought in the Environmental Family, 'Let's have them become a nonprofit so they can fiscally sponsor our organization, the PBC.'"

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Currently, the Environmental Family does not have any organizations that they sponsor but they do have organizations that are under their umbrella: Pacifica Shorebird Alliance; Vallemar Conservators; Pacificans for a Scenic Coast; and Coalition of Pacificans for an Updated Plan and Responsible Planning. Please, visit their website, [www.pacificas-environmental-family.org](http://www.pacificas-environmental-family.org).

"There is so much to talk about here, so many extraordinary, educated and involved volunteers," Cindy noted, "too much for me to condense. So, let me tell just one story that is typical of the Environmental Family, where one project, leads to so many wonderful and positive things.

"We have a little group called The Rockaway Stars, and they are doing a long range study on sea stars at the base of Aramai Point, formerly the Rockaway Headlands. They are doing this with the Environmental Family, and the name change came about due to Pacifican Mark Hubbell, with the support of Jonathan Cordero and the Pacifica Historical Society."

Jonathan Cordero, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone and Visiting Scholar in the Spatial Sciences Institute at USC, and a native Californian of Ramaytush Ohlone, Bay Miwok, and Chumash descent, has researched and documented (among many other papers on the original peoples of the San Francisco Peninsula) that in the San Pedro Valley and surrounding area once lived the Aramai tribe who spoke the Ramaytush dialect of the San Francisco Bay Costanoan language.

"As this began, my friend Mark Hubbell, a longtime participant with the PBC and a longtime preservationist for Pacifica's environmental treasures, was telling people where to meet every day to go out and document the sea stars and there was no name for that Point. Through Mark, and with our supporters, we went through the naming body, the Federal Government that names places (the Domestic Names Committee of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names), and it is now called Aramai Point after the native village. That happened within the past five years. The Rockaway Stars works with San Francisco State to document the sea star population there, and we are here in support."

A year and a half ago, PEF saw development popping up in Pacifica and in response, held several programs on open space. One program brought Dr. Charles Lester to Pacifica. Dr. Lester was formerly executive director of the California Coastal Commission.

"Dr. Lester talked about the Coastal Act and why it is good and important. That was just this past January. Then in early March, PEF did a talk in partnership with some other organizations, which featured Rosanna Xia and Gary Griggs. Rosanna is an environmental reporter who reports on the California coast for the *Los Angeles Times*. She talked about our changing California coastline. Gary is Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at UC Santa Cruz and an expert on climate change, sea-level rise and coastal erosion, all of which he spoke on. So our mission at PEF is really an educational mission. We are here for the land and the ocean, and a lot of our programs have been about where we live, on our coast, and trying to avoid development in Pacifica, and to understand we are losing our beaches.

"I am so fortunate that through my job with the Sanchez Art Center, I sometimes take things that are important to me, environmental passions, and do art exhibits about it. To bundle these loves together is beyond delight." (Refer to page 1 of this biography for an example of this bundling.)

It should come as no surprise that Cindy originally came to work with the Sanchez Art Center in 2012, when she volunteered to serve as their Board Treasurer. On October 1, 2015, the volunteer was named Sanchez Art Center's Executive Director, which was, coincidentally, the same day she became President of the Board of PEF. How did Cindy even hear in 2012 that the Sanchez Art Center needed someone with strong financial skills to volunteer as Board Treasurer? It's not as if she was lollygagging.

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As it turns out, Cindy attends the monthly gathering of the Pacifica Collaborative, an umbrella organization made up of individuals working with Pacifica nonprofit and social service agencies, who meet to share updates and ideas, and offer mutual support to "promote collaboration across a wide range of community concerns." Lifelong Pacifican Mary Bier, the Director of the Pacifica Prevention Partnership, a special project of Jefferson Union High School District, and currently serving on Pacifica City Council, is the facilitator of the Pacifica Collaborative.

"At that time, in 2012, Julie Lancelle, another extraordinary Pacifica doer, was the Collaborative's facilitator, and Kathleen Salvia, the then Executive Director of the Sanchez Art Center, since 2006, was at a Collaborative meeting in search of help, and Kathleen just dropped, 'I don't know if anyone knows someone. I am looking for a Board Treasurer for the Art Center.' And I thought, I love numbers, I do budgets all the time, that's been my career in planning. I went up to her afterwards and said, 'Why don't we talk.' Here I am! The rest is history."



**Cindy Abbott, left, and Kathleen Salvia champion the new Sanchez Art Center sign, October, 2015. (Jean Bartlett photo.)**

When Kathleen retired from the Sanchez Art Center in 2015 and Cindy was hired for the job, I interviewed Kathleen and Cindy regarding the change in leadership for the *Pacifica Tribune*, and in that interview, the job as the Art Center's Executive Director was defined. Ensure that the nonprofit organization and its exhibitions, arts education, and affordable studio rental programs are fiscally and structurally sound and that everything the Art Center does is in pursuit of the Center's mission – to create community through art. That includes handling fundraising and income generation, property management, event production and guiding the Center's activities. On that day in 2015, and to this day, Cindy refers to the Sanchez Art Center as a vibrant gathering place.

"This job was a good fit for me from the start. I already knew the budget and the financial position, so I knew what I was dealing with. My operations background has been key in understanding the day-to-day working of everything. A lot of my role is operations planning, organizing, seeing how things are laid out."

The Art Center has three exhibition spaces: the Main Gallery (exhibitions by established and emerging West Coast artists); the West Wing Gallery (Art Guild of Pacifica exhibitions); and the East Wing Gallery (community and multicultural exhibitions by Bay Area organizations and children.)

"With the three galleries we program them all differently. The Art Guild has their programming that they handle on their own. Jerry Barrish, our Artistic Director, he programs in the Main Gallery with generally

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a living single or duo artist, and occasionally, a group show. Staff programs the East Gallery, and that staff is now me. This has become really fun because I have been able to bring shows here with environmental themes, strong shows about women artists and their strengths and positions, and social justice issues. How do I get the artists for my shows? It's a variety, knowing different arts groups and sometimes an arts group will ask us if they can show and we'll vet them, if we think it is something that will be of interest to the community. We vet them because we have limited spots. We don't show things every year, with the exception of the Fog Fest Photography Contest which we do here. I did not create that, Kathleen Salvia did and it has been happening for over 15 years.

"In the East Gallery we are working on an exhibition through Art Guild member Barbara Kibbe, that we are going to host in January called 'Citizen Joy.' It's a project that a friend of Barbara's came up with just talking to people. It seems in these days we live in, we have been trained to vent about everything and that includes venting about government and how life as we know it will not exist without the government that we have. This project, Citizen Joy, is to get people to understand and celebrate the things that we are the beneficiaries of through our government: the fact that we have mailed delivered to us; the fact that we have clean air, though this last one needs a lot of unending dedication.

"One of the recent shows we did in the East Gallery was to display artwork, which came to us through the California Society of Printmakers, which was all about the perils of extractive industries and their damage to the environment.

"We do so much here and frankly have quite a following from San Franciscans and people who live in the East Bay, Marin and the South Bay. Admittedly, there are still far too many Pacificans who don't know we've been here for 25 years!

"We do pretty shows, such as a plein air show, we do thoughtful shows, we do so many different shows because that is what art can do. It creates conversation. You can be looking at a piece and even if you don't like it, or it is a challenging piece, it still gets you to think and to talk and to communicate with people. You see a piece and you think, 'What should I be considering about this work?' I like where art can take you.

"We did another really nice project this year that was 'Art for a More Peaceful and Just Community.' That was a response to the hate crimes and violence that are still happening in town. We held the wonderful 'Leap Into Kindness Sing-A-Long,' earlier this year on Leap Day as part of that program. Because as an arts center, we don't have to just do visual arts, we can do other arts to celebrate. That program was a lot of 1960s and early 1970s songs that were led by Pacificans Pete Shoemaker, Bill Michaelis and Mary Bier, and all three were part of our planning team. It was a beautiful experience. We had the Pacifica School Volunteers do one of their Read Aloud programs that we purchased the books for, and we had people do their read aloud on the theme of kindness and compassion and love. We did that through a grant from the San Mateo County Arts Commission.

"How are we funded? Like most arts organizations, we are funded through our programming. It is earned income through programs. Our studio rentals, our exhibition program fees, art sales, some level of contributed donations between the generosity of individuals, and some level of grant money. But most of our grant money, other than the Arts Commission and a few other things that we've done, has gone to fund the ongoing program, Sanchez Goes to School which we do at Sunset Ridge. We also receive generous funding from the California Arts Council and Atkinson Foundation for this important program that provides in-classroom art lessons to every student in every grade level at Sunset Ridge.

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"And what's the most important thing to know about the Sanchez Art Center? Our address is 1220 Linda Mar Blvd. #B, Pacifica, CA; our phone number is 650-355-1894; and our website is [www.sanchezartcenter.org](http://www.sanchezartcenter.org).

And who is that most important someone who is happy with a quiet mention in this public biography? That would be Alex Bennett.

"We've been partners for over 20 years. He is my love."



**Cindy and Alex celebrate local photographers through the Sanchez Art Center's Fog Fest Photo Contest. The prize winners are exhibited at the art center.**

Cindy, who is additionally involved with the public art and mural subcommittee through the City of Pacifica's Beautification Advisory Committee, celebrates every day what she so loves about Pacifica – its ocean, its open space and its community.

"I do worry we may lose that sense of community. It's not to say that new people moving in are changing that – after all, I was a new person here 28 years ago! But today, people aren't always seeking a permanent or long-term community. If we don't have new Pacifica-dedicated spirits come in, who is going to be that voice?"

"I also have concerns that the City is trying to remove the community voice. Community engagement on important topics is often so scripted with prescribed outcomes that meaningful collaboration no longer occurs. It's been difficult at times to hear some members of City staff say, 'Well, we've heard from the usual people who comment, but we're looking for new voices,' creating the feeling that those who have been engaged in creating this wondrous place – preserving open space, protecting the coastal

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environment, supporting local social services – people who have given countless hours of their personal time, aren't valued. They want to hear less from the people that shaped and formed this fabulous and connected community, to be able to move forward with a vision of Pacifica that doesn't seem to honor it. This really worries me.

"Pacifica is a unique community because of its quiriness, its character, its people and its history, and so many of our residents love being a part of the earth through this beautiful place we live. Our natural beauty, our character, our history and our art – that is what we should build on."



Jean Bartlett is a longtime Bay Area features writer: Pacifica Tribune, Oakland Tribune, San Jose Mercury, San Mateo Times, Portraits & Roots, Marin Independent Journal, Twin City Times, Ross Valley Reporter, Peninsula Progress, Coastal Connections, Bay Area Business Woman and Catholic San Francisco. She is also a former Hallmark Card writer, a produced playwright and a published author.

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