

A Whale of a Day!

By Sigrid Toye / Special to VOICE

THE RETURN OF THE MAGNIFICENT MYSTIC WHALER last Sunday made for a day of celebration! Moored along the harbor's city dock, the 110 foot schooner was a sight to see! With the tall ship's majestic masts and gleaming decks reflecting the glow of the afternoon sun, spectators gathered along the walkways for a closer view. Dockside were rows of chairs, fully occupied, for special guests to enjoy the auspicious occasion.

This much anticipated event was to celebrate the Mystic Whaler's Pacific Ocean Commissioning at the center of the Santa Barbara harbor. The schooner is in the capable hands of Executive Director and Captain, Christine Healy. Standing nearby were Sarah and Roger Chrisman whose dream it was to act on the fact that the Santa Barbara Channel, its ocean, islands, and coastline, are rich in educational treasures from which everyone should benefit. Together they founded the Central Coast Ocean Adventures (CCOA), a foundation committed to making the Channel and experiential education more accessible to the Santa Barbara and Ventura County communities.



Captain Christine Healy

"We are so proud have the Mystic Whaler here in Santa Barbara again to introduce young people to our educational program, 'Sailing Through Time,' exclaimed Roger Chrisman from the tall ship's deck. "We are also grateful to partner with the Maritime Museum and its staff to achieve our mission."

Under the umbrella of the Museum's educational outreach, 4th to 6th grade students experienced "the life of a common sailor at sea as it really is" as described by Richard Henry Dana in his book *Two Years Before The Mast*. During the schooner's stay from October 3rd to 26th over 800 students are having the opportunity to



literally sail through time to the mid-1800's to learn what was involved sailing, navigating, and maintaining a ship of that size without modern navigational aides or modern conveniences ... also minus their cell phones. Yikes!

The Central Coast Ocean Adventure's mission is the experiential teaching of seamanship, teamwork, leadership, and environmental

responsibility. The CCOA Foundation's educational philosophy rests on the fact that practical application and lived experience deepen and strengthen understanding, retention, and appreciation of newly learned concepts. Sailing and navigating a traditionally rigged tall ship such as *Mystic Whaler* intrinsically offers not only applied learning of nautical skills but of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics – or STEM's—academic principles. The challenge of handling such a huge vessel for young people (or those of any age!) is also the perfect medium for social and emotional learning ... mid-1800's style!

At the conclusion of the ceremony, guests walked to the Maritime Museum for a reception and tasty hors d'oeuvres and a selection of wines. Spotted in the crowd was Santa Barbara Mayor Randy Rowse, Council Member Oscar Gutierrez, and a member of Congressman Salud Carbajal's staff. A warm welcome was extended by the museum's Executive Director Greg Gorga who shared, "Sarah and Roger Chrisman's vision provided the opportunity to continue one of the museum's most popular educational programs based on Dana's nautical narrative, summarily ended by an act of nature. It's great to see kids from all over the County climbing aboard a tall ship once again and experiencing the treasures of the ocean, thanks to CCOA and the generosity of the Chrismans."



Greeter Nancy Golden

Photo by Sigrid Toye

Surprise entertainment followed as two of the Chrisman Studio Artists sang a range of melodies,



Photos courtesy of Central Coast Ocean Adventures



SBMM Exec Dir Greg Gorga and Sarah Chrisman



Roger Chrisman

arias, and show tunes to thunderous and appreciative applause. After a few words about the *Mystic Whaler* Roger Chrsiman introduced Captain Christine Healy who regaled her audience with a slide presentation of the *Mystic Whaler's* journey from Mystic, Connecticut through the Panama Canal to its permanent home in the Channel Islands Harbor just to the south.

I have to tell you that Captain Healy's talk was so interesting that I returned the next day for another of her presentations at the Santa Barbara Yacht Club... but that's the subject for another column. Many thanks to the Chrismans and the Maritime Museum for presenting these valuable experiences to our kids here in Santa Barbara County!

Sigrid Toye volunteers for the Breakwater Flag Project. She is on the board of directors of the Maritime Museum and participates in Yacht Club activities. An educational/behavior therapist, Sigrid holds a Ph.D in clinical psychology. She loves all things creative, including her two grown children who are working artists. Send Harbor tips to: Itssigrid@gmail.com



Notice of Funding Availability and Mandatory Application Workshop Community Development Block Grants

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Barbara will be soliciting proposals from eligible applicants for its fiscal year 2024-2025 Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Programs.

A mandatory Application Workshop for CDBG Capital applicants will be held November 9, 2023, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the David Gebhard meeting room at 630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA. In order to submit an application, a representative of each potential applicant organization is required to attend this workshop in its entirety. Attendees of this workshop must be staff that are directly involved in preparing grant submissions.

Applications are due 4:30 p.m. December 7, 2023. NO EXCEPTIONS. Further information can be obtained online or by contacting the Community Development Programs staff at LDrewes@SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

It is the applicant's responsibility to see that their application is complete and submitted online on or before the stated due date and time. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted. Acceptance of application does NOT guarantee funding. See all requirements and process details at <https://santabarbaraca.gov/services/housing-human-services/cdbg-human-services>