



Northern California Olympians Newspage

Fall 2008
Volume Twenty Four
Number Three

The Northern California Olympians offer fellowship to members of past and current Olympic teams; coordinate member appearances at youth, community, and corporate events; and support the creation of an active, visible, nationwide and worldwide Olympian organization.

Upcoming Events

Holiday Bash at SF's Buca di Beppo

Join us for copious plates of pasta, lively conversation and grand holiday spirit when we gather for our annual NCO Holiday Party on Monday, December 1st at the inimitable Buca di Beppo in San Francisco beginning at 6:30 p.m. A Board meeting open to all will be held at the restaurant at 6 p.m.

Helen Mendel has graciously organized our dinner for \$30 per person, including guests. Please RSVP to HMendel@aol.com by November 25th and send your check payable to the NCO to 777 Bonita Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

Buca Di Beppo is located at 855 Howard Street (between 4th & 5th St) in San Francisco, (415) 543-7673, www.bucadibeppo.com. Public Parking is located across from the Westfield Mall in the Mission Street Garage.

See you there!

Event Report

Welcoming Home Our Olympians

It was an evening as grand as its setting. 100 Olympians past and present joined by a few hundred more friends,

families, sponsors and fans celebrated the return of our 2008 Olympians and Paralympians on Wednesday, October 1 under the arches at the Sheraton Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Capping the evening was a moving and spectacular highlight film including clips of nearly every Northern California athlete who competed in Beijing and Torino produced by none other than our own *Barbra Higgins* (1984 Fencing).

Supporting the incredible vision and chutzpah of our intrepid dinner creators *Anne Warner Cribbs* (1960 Swimming) and Helen Mendel with E2K visionary Michael Olmstead, were our valued sponsors – Pier 39, Presidio Bank, San Jose Sports Authority, TMG Partners, Washington Mutual, Webcor, NBC 11 and the Mike Bruner Family Foundation which underwrote the cost of all the 2008 athletes' dinners. NBC 11 Sports Anchors Raj Mathai and the lovely Laura Benhke presided over the evening's ceremonies which included several jabs at Raj's height from the statuesque Olympians who took turns at the podium, a Q&A session with six 2008 Olympians, a tribute to our esteemed elder, *Alex Tarecs* (1936 Water Polo) – the world's longest living Olympian, and a surprise presentation to the tireless Ms. Cribbs.

Bravo to all!

Northern California Olympians Shine in China

Take a look! These are the Olympians, coaches and managers born, educated, or trained in northern California (Modesto to Oregon, Nevada to the

coast) who participated in the Summer Olympic Games in Beijing representing the U.S. and the world. We salute you!

Badminton

Howard Bach, San Francisco

Baseball

John Gall, Stanford

Nate Schierholtz, Chabot

Jeff Stevens, Loyola MaryMount

Basketball

Jason Kidd, Cal/Berkeley

Canoe/Kayak

Rami Zur, Cal/Berkeley

Cycling

Levi Leipheimer, Utah

MaryMcConellogu, Santa Clara

Christine Thorburn, Stanford

Fencing

Gerek Meinhardt, Notre Dame

James Williams, Columbia

Gymnastics

Kevin Tan, Penn State

Judo

Sayaka Matsumoto, Cal/Berkeley

Rowing

Mike Altman, Georgetown

David Banks, Stanford

Erin Cafaro, Cal/Berkeley

Scott Gault, Washington

Elliott Hovey, Cal/Berkeley

Elle Logan, Stanford

Lindsay Meyer, Stanford

Wes Peirmarini, Massachusetts

In This Issue

- Letter from our Chair
- Reflections on Beijing
- 2009 Dues Due

Jamie Schroeder, Stanford

Sailing
Austin Sperry, Whittier

Soccer
Nicole Barnhart, Stanford
Rachael Buehler, Stanford
Aly Wagner, Santa Clara

Softball
Vicky Galindo, Cal/Berkeley
Lauren Lappin, Stanford
Jessica Mendoza, Stanford

Swimming
Elaine Breeden, Stanford
Julia Smit, Stanford
Ben Wildman-Tobriner, Stanford
Nathan Adrian, Cal/Berkeley
Natalie Coughlin, Cal/Berkeley
Emily Silver, Cal/Berkeley
Kim Vandenberg, UCLA

Synchro
Janet Culp, Santa Clara
Kate Hooven, Ohio State
Christina Jones, De Anza
Becky Kim, Ohio State
Andrea Nott, De Anza
Annabelle Orme, Diablo Valley
Jill Penner, Ohio State
Kim Probst, San Francisco State

Tennis
Bob Bryan, Stanford
Mike Bryan, Stanford

Track & Field
Shannon Rowbury, Duke, Middle
Distance
Erica McLain, Stanford, Triple Jump
Magdalena Lewy Boulet, Cal/
Oakland, Marathon
Jill Camerena, Stanford, Shot Put
Ian Dobson, Stanford, Middle
Distance
Ryan Hall, Stanford, Marathon
Kristin Heaston, Cal/Berkeley, Shot
Put
Michael Robinson, Stanford, Discus
Grace Upshaw, Cal, Long Jump
Stephanie Brown, Trafton, Discus

Volleyball
Nicole Branagh, Minnesota
Gabe Gardner, Stanford
Kevin Hansen, Stanford
Logan Tom, Stanford
Kerri Walsh, Stanford

Water Polo
Tony Azevedo, Stanford
Layne Beaubien, Stanford

Allison Gregorka, Stanford
Peter Hudnut, Stanford
Heather Petri, Cal/Berkeley
Jessica Steffens, Stanford
Peter Varellas, Stanford
Brenda Villa, Stanford
Elsie Windes, Cal/Berkeley

Coaches
John Rittman, Stanford, Softball
Johnny Dawkins, Stanford, Basketball
Keith McCoy, Stanford, Wrestling
Teri McKeever, Cal, Swimming
Shellie Onstead, Cal, Field Hockey
Mike Teti, Cal, Men's Crew
Laurel Korhotz, Cal Women's Rowing

Reflections on Beijing

Editor's Note: Anne Warner Cribbs (1960 Swimming) and Kimberly Carlisle (1980 Swimming) were honored and excited to travel to Beijing for the Olympic Games. Here is a first-person excerpt of their experience.

Beijing, China. August 19, 2008—
Two days have passed since Anne and I had the privilege of witnessing in the playful, colorful and fast Water Cube Michael Phelps historic, yes, EPIC, accomplishment and Dara Torres' amazing achievement and in one sense, near miss. We were both moved to where words weren't easy to find and when found fell short of describing the depth of our feeling.

Like any major life shift, we noticed in the moments following the conclusion of the relay a suspended sense of time, a surreal recognition that we had witnessed something tremendous, far more significant than medals or records or swimming races or athletic performances. And we knew we needed to give it time to absorb. Anne said that perhaps no one in the Cube that morning or watching around the world would really understand its significance yet.

So in the days since we have been resting from the intensity of the physical and emotional treks to the sports venues to explore more of daily life in Beijing and begin to integrate what we have seen and experienced before returning home. We both fear losing this powerful perspective, this larger sense of life and

living, of global connection, of both the significance of our existence and the insignificance of our existence. China alone gives one this sense, layer on the Olympic Games, and well, the energy is positively Olympic.

Considering the intense production and investment of energy by the Chinese, we don't think the world will see another Olympic Games like this one. The confluence of China's opening and its dictatorial government and their vast resources yielded Games that are beautifully conceived, lavishly implemented (the Birds' Nest and Water Cube alone are astonishing structures and symbols of this intersection of Chinese power and creativity) and highly organized. Yes, each future Games will have its unique flavor and personality lent by its host city and people, but the only other country who could perhaps equal this astonishing manifestation is Dubai – no Third World or Western or democratic country could or even would likely be able to do so.

In our conversations with English-speaking Chinese and a couple of Chinese Americans whom we have met here, what this has meant to ordinary Chinese people and to all those who have visited here is extraordinary – an opportunity to experience perspective, customs, and understanding beyond themselves. In every venue, the Chinese cheered all athletes in addition to their own beloved countrymen. On subways and streets and in plazas and squares, Anne and I were continually moved by the regard the Chinese have for one another – how they tenderly dote on their elders and their children. Seats on buses are reserved for “the elderly, the sick, the disabled and pregnant women.” There is a civility and respect among them and for us that I hadn't noticed as deeply before. Nowhere have I gone here in Beijing at any hour and felt unsafe or disrespected – looked at curiously, yes – at 5' 8" and 10" and blonde, we are positively Amazonian here. Somewhere in the bustle of capitalism and self-realization, we have lost this sensitivity and regard.

We think that no one who has

experienced these Games in any form will return home unchanged.

And so back to the pool.

What is the significance of both Michael's and Dara's accomplishments? What have they enacted that we can be inspired by, learn from and integrate into our own lives? If we witness their achievements as something of "other," then we miss an opportunity. For me I see alignment – of intent, purpose, talent, vision, commitment and an entire supporting cast – at its highest. Yes, Dara goes home with silvers and Michael golds. It's only a difference in metals and a hair of a second going either way (Michael's win in the 100 fly, Dara's "loss" in the 50 free). How will these play out in their lives? In ours? Can we rise above the awards to the expression and the ingredients therein to recognize and honor their – our – journeys equally?

Where within us is our passion? Our commitment? Our belief that nothing is impossible except the stories we tell ourselves? Where are the gifts in the learning if we are experiencing less than what we hoped for? Can we accept them with grace as we move through them? Where is our courage to reach beyond into something greater than we can imagine while conducting daily life, knowing that this is the core of creation? When do we need to breathe and remember to exhale and focus on the start, the next stroke, the touch at the finish? Ah, yes, it's all in the touch, no?

What a beautiful metaphor for living athletics can be.

Editor's Note: If you were in Beijing and would like to send us an article about your experience, please email to kimberlyjcarlisle@gmail.com.

NCO News From our Chairman

Dear Fellow Olympian:

The 2008 Beijing Olympic Games were amazing as were the 2008 Paralympics. China really did go out for a great Olympic Games. The facilities were all first rate, opening and closing ceremonies were tremendous, the stands were full of excited spectators, and even

the sky was blue.

It was a privilege for myself to be a part of Team USA as an Olympic Fencing Coach. Marching in Opening Ceremonies as a coach, 20 years after my last Olympics as an athlete (1988, Seoul, Korea), and coming in with my student, Gerek Meinhardt was a special experience. Gerek was the youngest USA male athlete competing in Beijing, and he was the youngest USA Olympic fencer ever. Several days later, even though he was the youngest competitor in the Men's Foil event by more than four years, he placed 10th, so his future is bright looking towards the 2012 Olympics when he will be in his prime. It was also wonderful to be a part of the USA Fencing Team that won a record six medals in Beijing.

On October 1 at our quadrennial Welcome Home Dinner we greeted nearly 100 Olympians and Paralympians "old" and new and celebrated the Olympic Spirit with a couple hundred friends and fans. Anne Cribbs and Helen Mendel outdid themselves once again creating an elegant and spirited evening at the Sheraton Palace in San Francisco with special tributes to our 2008 athletes, our eldest living Olympian *Alex Tarecs* (1936 Water Polo) and Anne herself – a successful surprise!

We hope to see you to celebrate the Holidays on December 1.

Greg Massialas

Chair, Northern California Olympians
1980 - 1988 Fencing
gmassialas@yahoo.com
415.519.0224

2009 Dues Due

Our database manager, *Starr Walton Hurley* (1964 Alpine Skiing) reminds us that our fiscal year now follows the calendar year (Jan 1-Dec 31). If your name is NOT on the paid 2009 list below, then your 2009 dues are due by December 31, 2008 for the fiscal year of 2009. You may send your check for \$50 (made payable to the Northern California Olympians) to Starr Walton Hurley, 44733 N El Macero Dr., El Macero, CA 95618. PLEASE add your

Olympic Year(s), Sport, medals and your email address and phone number.

Your membership ensures you of a year's worth of news, collegiality, invitations and discounts to special events. If you'd like to join for life, it's \$1000 (25 years at today's membership rate) regardless of when you join, so join young! Have questions or address changes? Email Starr at starrned@msn.com.

2008 NCO Paid Membership

Lee Allen	MaryAnne O'Connor
Peter Arnautoff	Chris Olmstead
Michael Altman	Gus Panagotacos
Rink Babka	Andrew Paulin
Lucy Barnes	June Persson
Brett Baron	Matthew Petri
David Blanchard	Sandra Poulsen
Cheri Blauwet	Susan Preston
Rosie Bonds	Jerome Reitenback
Bev Brockway	Gail Roper
Mike Bruner	Molly Rossiter
Andy Burke	Susan Roy
Willie Cahill	Ann & Gary Sheerer
Kim Carlisle	Russ Silvestri
Robert Cook	Bonnie Simi
Jan Corwin	Thomas Simons
Kelly Crowley	Ivan Smiljanic
Anne Cribbs	Michael Still
James Delaney	Terri Strunck
Melissa Dimino	Raul Tamayo
Edith DuVall	Alex Tarics
Stacy Evans	Margaret Toppel
Al Feuerbach	Ian Turner
Ken Flax	Yoshiriro Uchida
Jeff Float	Tim Vanni
Katrina Radke-Gerry	Ronald Whitney
Dave Gilman	David Williams
Barbara Grassmyer	Susan Woodstra
Eddie Hart	Candice Clark Wozniak
Monica Havelka	Jack Yerman
Courtney Johnson	
Barbara Jordan	2009 NCO Paid Membership
Donald Kane	Amor Adams
Marilyn King	Peter Arnautoff
Tara Kirk	Al Beata
Angie Krieg	Alison Bartosik
Karin La Berge	Ellen Bertellotti
Tom Laris	Ed Burke
Pat Lovell	Derrick Crass
Terri McKeever	Nancy Ditz
Billie Mills	Chris Dorst
Julian Munoz	

Tim Evans
Valerie Fleming
Lynn Gautschi
Millard Hampton
Craig Healy
Pam Healy
Barbra Higgins
Jane Swagerty Hill
Bill Hudson
Starr Hurley
Peggy Fleming Jenkins
Trooper Johnson
Sharon Kelleher
Paul Kingsman
David Langon

Bill Martell
Brian Martin
Greg Massialas
Debbie Meyer
Ted Murphy
Sean Nolan
Ray Ocampo JR
June Persson
James Schmidt
Ivan Smiljanic
Terry Stickles Strunck
Michael Teti
Nort Thornton
Tim Vanni
Mark Zembsch

Visit: <http://www.ncolympians.org> for up-to-date news, activities, and event and grant information.

NCO New Member/Member Update Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, ST, ZIP _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Company Name _____

Profession _____

Olympic Sport(s) _____

Year(s) _____

Would you like to be on our Speakers Bureau?
 yes no

Would you like to serve on the NCO Board?
 yes no

In 2008, this newsletter will be published by the Northern California Olympians on the 15th of February, May, August and November. Copy submissions are due by the 1st of each month. Send your news to Kim Carlisle, P.O. Box 620492, Woodside, CA 94062-0492, or kimberlyjcarlisle@gmail.com. Articles about you, your life, your work, and other topics related to youth sports and the Olympics are welcomed. We would also like to invite point-of-view pieces on contemporary issues in Olympic sport. Writer: Kim Carlisle. Editor: Anne Warner Cribbs. Design: Annette Shelby.

**Come to our Holiday Dinner in San Francisco!
Details inside...**

www.NCOlympians.org
El Macero, CA 95618
44733 N. El Macero Dr.
c/o Starr Walton Hurley
Northern
California
Olympians

