



## Summer is over and Veterans' events are about to begin

Every fall in the weeks and days leading up to Remembrance Day on November 11<sup>th</sup>, the veterans in Wings Over Wendy's are invited to many events honoring our service and those that served and are no longer with us. It is a busy time for our members but also an important time for the public to think about the sacrifices that our military has endured to keep our country free. It is up to us to pass on our experiences and those that gave their lives in defense of our freedom.

### Events Schedule

#### **Wednesday, OCT 26<sup>th</sup>**

Tour Coast Guard Station Channel Islands Harbor, Oxnard  
Bus from Wendy's parking lot

#### **Thursday, OCT 27<sup>th</sup>: 08:30 to 11:00**

Mitch Englander: Principal's Meeting (breakfast)  
New Horizons, 15725 Parthenia St., North Hills

#### **Thursday, OCT 27<sup>th</sup>: 11:30 to 15:00**

Encino C of C: Armand Arabian Awards (Lunch)  
Warner Center Marriott, Woodland Hills

#### **Wednesday, NOV 2<sup>nd</sup>: 08:30 to 11:30**

St Martin Episcopal School: Veterans Day Service  
7136 Winnetka Ave, Winnetka

#### **Saturday, NOV 5<sup>th</sup>: 11:00 to 15:00**

Canoga Park Women's Club: Veteran's Lunch  
7401 Jordan Ave, Canoga Park

#### **Wednesday, NOV 9<sup>th</sup>: 10:30 to 12:30**

Glendale Wilson School: Veteran's Day Assembly  
1221 Monterey Rd, Glendale

#### **Thursday, NOV 10<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 to 12:00**

Lawrence Middle School: Veteran's Day Event  
10100 Variel Ave, Chatsworth

#### **Friday, NOV 11<sup>th</sup>: 08:30 to 13:00**

San Fernando Valley Parade: WOW Truck  
Mission Blvd. and Laurel Canyon Blvd, Mission Hills

#### **Friday, NOV 11<sup>th</sup>: 11:00 to 13:00**

Malibu C of C: Veteran's Day Event  
23805 Stuart Ranch Rd, Malibu (Limo p/u Wendy's 10am)

#### **Tuesday, NOV 15<sup>th</sup>: 11:30 to 13:30**

Pomelo Charter School: Conversations with Heroes  
7633 March Ave, West Hills, CA

### Speakers

## September 5, 2016 Jimmy Weldon

We were entertained again by a repeat visit by Jimmy Weldon. He again led us in the pledge of allegiance to our flag in his unique and very rousing manner. (He should be hired by the 49ers football team). Later, Leon Waldman introduced him as our featured speaker.



On this day Jimmy showed us a video he narrated titled: "A Pirate Saves America" by Dennis Daily. So, you might ask: Who is Jimmy Weldon?

He is one heck of a fascinating fellow. Beginning with his trained and talented voice, he became Yakky Doodle, the adorable little duck as an animated character of the Hanna Barbera cartoon "Yogi Bear" TV show, a series about a picnic basket stealing bear named "Yogi", in Jellystone Park. It ran from 1961 to December 1988.

Jimmy was also the host and ventriloquist of "Webster Webfoot," another TV show that ran from 1950-1952.

(Continued on page 2 column 1)

Thank you, Uncle Jimmy, for bringing happy memories to us with youthful hearts. (I didn't want to say old folks). You are a blast from the past, and a brilliant sparkle for the future. Keep up the good (God's) work. It is much needed in these troubled times.

Now onto the DVD show we were treated to and narrated by Jimmy. "A Pirate Saves America" by Dennis Daily, is the little known story of our amazing American history.

During the War of 1812, often called the "Second War of Independence", General Jackson faced a dilemma. He had a shortage of manpower and needed a man that knew the bayous of Louisiana in his fight with the British.

Jean Lafitte, a notorious pirate, signed on to be a privateer (meaning a ship owned and crewed, authorized by the government to attack and capture the enemy). Jean Lafitte, and his crew of pirates fit the bill. As a French Canadian, Lafitte wanted nothing to do with the British. He was facing arrest, and his brother Pierre was already in jail. Lafitte was offered amnesty by the US if he teamed up with the General Andrew Jackson. His ship's "Jolly Roger" flag came down and the Stars and Stripes went up. The pirates joined the War of 1812. A treaty was signed on December 24, 1814 in Ghent, Belgium that ended the War of 1812.

Andrew Jackson was our seventh President of the United States of America. He was a lawyer, a judge, a U.S. senator and a General. He was elected in 1837. He was known as the "the people's president" and "Old Hickory". Andrew Jackson departed from his journey through life at the age of 78 on June 8, 1845.

"God never said that the journey would be easy, but he did say that the arrival would be worthwhile."

Pictures and reported by Peggy Jean Bassett

## September 12, 2016 Gary "Rocky" Rocklin



On September 12<sup>th</sup>, one of our new members, Gary "Rocky" Rocklin, was our featured speaker. "Rocky" told us the story of his US Army service and his post Army career.

Rocky was one of five enlistees from LA to attend Basic and Advanced Training at Fort Ord, CA in September 1962. Following his training, he was sent to Ft Dix, NJ and boarded the USNS Geiger T-AP-197, and steamed to Bremerhaven, Germany. He arrived in March 1963 following what he was told was the worst winter in Germany and posted to the US Army Bad Kreuznach, in the southwest area of Germany.

Upon arrival with the troops from his ship, they were asked if any had taken a course in typing. Rocky had, so he was sent to Clerk Typist School where he improved his typing skill from 13 words a minute to 30 words a minute.

He spent his 18 months in Germany typing memos to the General detailing the location of where his troops were training. On his passes from the barracks, he would go into the town with a buddy up a hill to a guest house. The other soldiers did not want to climb the hill so they sort of had the place to themselves. They also enjoyed concerts in the park on Sundays with singing and dancing.

One of Rocky's memories was attending a Fasching Festival where the women wore masks and would ask the men to dance. He was asked by a shapely young lady and at mid-night she removed her mask and he wished she had kept it on. He also spent time visiting the vineyards in the area.

When his tour was complete, he pulled some strings to be able to fly back to New York and was able to see some Broadway shows. When he returned to LA, he got a job at Grauman's Chinese Theatre where he initiated theater tours building from 5,000 to 42,000 a year by befriending the tour bus drivers to recommend the tour when they stopped at the theater. This success led to a better paying career as a salesman for Columbia Pictures.

Reported and photo by Ed Reynolds

## September 19, 2016 Andrea Michaels



On September 19<sup>th</sup> we were fortunate to have in our audience, Andrea Michaels who pinch-hit for our scheduled speaker. (Continued on page 3 column 1)

Andrea Michaels was born in the Arbe concentration camp (today Rab, Croatia, on the northern shore of the Adriatic Sea) to Lelja Kauders. Michaels and her mother, along with her mother's Jewish parents, escaped in a small boat across the Adriatic to Italy. Andrea lived in Italy to the age of four with her grandparents until her mother, who had married an American pilot, sent for her to come live in America. The marriage ended, and after Michaels arrived in America, her mother married Peter Gerson, who adopted Andrea.

Andrea told us it was difficult for her to leave Italy and rejoin a mother that she didn't remember, but she soon adjusted to America and learned English.

An only child Michaels graduated from Burbank High School in 1961 and attended the University of California at Berkeley in 1961 and 1962, transferring to the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). After a marriage that produced a son, she divorced and changed her last name as well as that of her son's to Michaels.

She founded Extraordinary Events, an international event production company that produces large corporation events.

We were fortunate to have her as a substitute speaker.  
Reported and photo by Ed Reynolds

## September 26, 2016

### Sonja Telias



On September 26<sup>th</sup> Sonja Telias told us her story of being born a Jew in Holland. She was born in Amsterdam on June 8, 1939, to Eva and Louis Blits, a successful toy manufacturer. Germany invaded Holland in May 1940, but it was not until July 1942, when they received notice to report for relocation, that her family felt the need to escape. A few days later, Sonja's father, who had connections with the Dutch underground, escorted her, her mother and his parents to various safe houses.

Sonja's father, at 6 feet 4 inches tall, with blond hair, blue eyes and fluent German, was able to work for the underground while passing himself off as an agricultural expert.

Living under the false name of Rietje Knox, Sonja spent her days in a bedroom of the Heidels house, playing with dolls, coloring, and avoiding the window. In the afternoon, her host's two older girls taught Sonja to read, draw and other skills they were learning in school.

During this time Sonja's father, dressed in bib overalls, rode a rickety bicycle to various farms and traded small loose diamonds from his brother-in-law's diamond business for food, regularly delivering eggs, rice and cheese to the Heidels and to other families harboring Jews. "That's what saved us," Sonja said. She didn't recognize him as her father, but she liked him.

Three times, when the Nazis searched for Jews inside the houses on the street, Sonja and three adults had to crawl backward into a hiding place behind one of the headboards in the girls' room. The opening, about 3 1/2 feet by 3 1/2 feet, resembled a hollowed-out rain gutter with little air circulation for several hours.

Shortly before the war ended, in May 1945, Sonja's parents came for her. She was almost 6 and had spent two and a half years in hiding.

Her family, including Sonja's father's parents, returned to their house in Amsterdam, where they learned that Sonja's mother's parents and two brothers had perished in Bergen-Belsen and Auschwitz. Her mother never talked about it and never cried, even when friends gathered in the garden and sobbed. "It was sad times," Sonja said.

Sonja's family, including her father's parents, was permitted to immigrate to the United States, arriving in Los Angeles on Oct. 26, 1949.

A week later, her father enrolled her at Roosevelt Elementary School in Santa Monica. It was a hard adjustment, but a girl soon befriended her, staying after school and teaching her 10 English words each day.

Sonja graduated from Santa Monica High School and attended Santa Monica City College. Then, on May 10, 1958, she married Larry Faber and together they had three daughters: Deborah, born in 1959; Michele, in 1963; and Lisa, in 1965.

In 1965, she enrolled at West Valley Occupational Center, where she learned medical office skills. She worked for several doctors, retiring in 2005.

Sonja also survived what she described as "a difficult divorce" in 1983, as well as two bouts of cancer, in 1986 and 1996.

"There are good people in the world who make the best of everything," Sonja said.

Reported by Ed Reynolds, Photo by Harlis Brend



# **Member Profile**

## **Lezar Saunders**



Photo by Ed Reynolds

## **Saunders Guarded Coast & Beyond**

Reported by Ray Rosenblum

Lezar Saunders, a three-year member of Wings Over Wendy's, thought he would see limited service in the U.S. Coast Guard when he went on duty in the Korean War. After all, that sounded like all the Coast Guard would do, just guard the coast. Instead, after induction at Terminal Island, he served all over the world, the Pacific, Japan, Hawaii, Panama and then in Mexico. As an Electrician Technician (ET), he was posted on a Destroyer Escort for three years in the early 50s, finally being discharged as an ET Second Class, after Navy School in San Diego.

A California resident all his life, having been born at L.A. County Hospital in 1932 (You guessed it; Lezar is 84) he went to work after the service for Bethlehem Steel, then the City of Los Angeles and finally started his own business as an electrician. That business, after 58 years, is still rolling along, now mostly under the guidance of Lezar's son, Bruce Saunders, and his wife, Carole. They also have a daughter, Dana and all live in Woodland Hills.

Lezar is a quiet guy, but if you want to see someone "light up your life", check him out.

## **Incas Do Not Pick Cotton**

By Ed Moreno

It was a sunny Sunday in May 1947. I had just returned to the 111th Signal Co. from breakfast at the community mess. All seven of us were lounging on our bunks. The Quonset door flew open. Mamasan stood smiling, displaying her gold teeth. Her teen-aged niece was with her. They had come to collect our clothes to wash. I slid off my bunk and knelt in front of Mamasan and began in Spanish flattering her about her eyes, her gold teeth, her movie star nose, her ruby like lips, her ebony hair, her charm and her classy walk. I kissed my queen's hand and returned to my bunk.

The six guys laughed at me and thought I was nuts. Her startled looks just heightened the laughter.



Mamasan approached me, knelted and in perfect Spanish idolized me as if were the King of the Realm and with praises beyond anything I had said to her. All wanted to find out - where did Mamasan learn perfect Spanish? Still in Spanish, she began to inform me that since the early 1920's a freighter from Yokohama would pick up workers to pick cotton in Peru.

The tradition in Okinawa was that the virgins and older or married men would remain to prepare the rice for harvest. The older and married women boarded first and then all the young single men would board the freighter to go to Peru and pick cotton. After picking the cotton, all would return home to harvest the rice. When the war broke out, no one could return. Mamasan learned Spanish living in Peru four to five years.

She taught me about Okinawan culture. On the hillsides, why are some tombs shaped like a turtle shell and others like a womb? Sailing ships never get lost sailing in the Pacific Ocean. The major currents above and below the Equator have names. They are like our freeways the 405, the 5 or the 101. Mamasan told me about the afterlife and who prepares the body to be placed in an urn and then interned in a tomb.

Before I left Okinawa in December, she gave me her sister's address on Hawaii. Twenty plus years later I sought out the address. It was now a highrise.

I spent that Sunday afternoon not on the beach on the China Sea instead, listing all the tasks I needed to complete to build two monitoring stations.



Okinawa Monitoring Station 1947  
Photos from Ed Moreno

## Hey, Sailor

Do you remember this one?

Once there was a little girl who lived next door to me and she loved a sailor boy; he was only three.

Now he's on a battleship in his sailor suit (Just a great big sailor, but she thinks he's very cute. With his bell-bottom trousers, coat of navy blue, she loves her sailor and he loves her too).

When her sailor boy is away on the ocean blue soldier boys all flirt with her, but to him she is true. Though they smile and tip their caps and they wink their eyes, she just smiles and shakes her head. Then she softly sighs (Oh, bell bottom trousers, coat of navy blue She loves her sailor and he loves her too.)

When her sailor went to sea to see what he could see she saw that he ate spinach, now he's big as he can be. When he's home they stroll along. They don't give a hoot. She won't let go of his hand even to salute. If her sailor, she can't find on the bounding main, she is hopeful he will soon come home safe again so they can get married and raise a family, dress up all their kiddies in sailor dungarees.

(Oh, bell-bottom trousers, coat of navy blue she loves her sailor, and he loves her too.)

Song writers Jaffe, Moe: Shared by Peggy Jean Bassett. Daughter of a sailor (Bud Campbell) 1944, Service vessel USS LOI 1082.

## Old Glory

By Peggy Jean Bassett



Francis Scott Key, a respected young lawyer, author and poet from Georgetown was aboard a British troopship, negotiating the release of an American civilian, imprisoned on the ship. He witnessed the attack on Fort McHenry when the bombardment began, September 1814.

So inspired, Key began jotting down lines that became a very popular poem of that time and became our national anthem "The Star Spangled Banner".

Now here's a believe it or not story: A group of young Americans were enjoying the evening in a British tavern. They heard some English patrons singing an English drinking song. That enticed them to begin singing to that melody a popular poem of the times by Francis Scott Key: "The Star Spangled Banner". Well, I was not there, but I will toast to that!

## The Golden Years

The golden years have brought me tears.  
I cannot see; I cannot pee.  
I cannot chew; I cannot screw.  
My memory shrinks; my hearing stinks.  
My sense of smell; I look like hell.  
My pants don't fit; I cannot shit.  
The golden years have come at last.  
However, they have come too fast.  
The golden years have come to pass.  
The golden years can kiss my ...

## In Memorial

### Katherine Frangos



**December 20, 1929 – September 6, 2016**

Wings Over Wendy's lost one of our faithful members in Katherine "Cassy" Frangos, wife of Anarg. Frangos. Service in Witness to the Resurrection and in Memory was held on September 10, 2016 at the Moorpark Presbyterian Church. She will be missed. Cassy and Anarg were like hand and glove. As Anarg said: "She was the quarterback of his team and he was the water boy"

## New Members

We welcomed the following new members during the month of August:

**Chris Colegrone**  
**Cynthia Duhome**  
**Jimmy Weldon**  
**Justin Devine**  
**Phil Shapiro**

## October Birthdays

Earl Klein	October 01, 1942
Sam Marion	October 05, 1921
Dan Stark	October 10, 1933
Harry Dent	October 11, 1947
David Tostenson	October 12, 1946
Richard Guyer	October 15, 1924
John DeBrauwere	October 16, 1928
Kaye Thomas	October 19, 1955
Cesar Morales	October 21, 1920
Bob Rose	October 23, 1930
Simon Diaz	October 23, 1956
Arnold Weiss	October 25, 1942
Bill Tapp	October 28, 1936
Bruce Schultz	October 28, 1949

## Wings News Staff

<b>Publisher:</b>	Ed Reynolds
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<b>Editor:</b>	Judy Reynolds
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<b>Birthday List:</b>	Connie Hein
<b>New Members:</b>	Marion Lovelace Shirley Andrews
<b>Reminders:</b>	Connie Hein

## Wings News Patrons

The following is a list of WOW members who have contributed \$10 to fund the publication of the Wings News for 12 months.

Al Lewis	Art Sherman
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## REMINDERS

- **WOW's monthly food drive is Monday October 3rd**
- **Visit the Wings Over Wendy's Facebook Community page for current information between Monday meetings.**
- **USCGS Tour is October 26, 2016 (Sign up with Warren Weinstein)**



**We all want raffle**

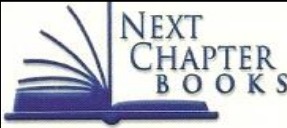


**Please search your closets and garages and bring your items to the next "Wings Over Wendy's" meeting!**


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# **Wings Over Wendy's Theme song**

**There'll be Wings Over Wendy's  
Mondays not Wednesdays,  
Tomorrow, Just you wait and see.**

**There'll be Reynolds and Sherman  
And much to determine  
Who the speakers are going to be.**

**The banners will wave again  
And we will still be friends  
With raffles and prizes, Amen.**

**There'll be Wings Over Wendy's  
Mondays not Wednesdays  
Tomorrow the coffee may be free.**

Written by Ray Rosenberg