



## Off We Go Into 2017

Off we go into the wild blue yonder of the year 2017. To our left is reported turbulence and to our right is hopefully smoother going. Our first stop after our Monday and/or Tuesday weekly meetings will be our **Celebration Luncheon** at the 94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron Restaurant on January 12th. We will celebrate 15 years of continuous weekly meetings and honor: Steve Politis' 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday; Ron & Diane Ross for providing our meeting place; Art Sherman for his eight years of leadership. If you have not made your reservation yet, call Karen Vegtal at (818) 342-8299.

Our next scheduled stop will be a tour of the LA Times facilities on February 1, signup for the tour with Warren Weinstein at a Monday meeting or call (805) 603-9930.

## Year in Review

2016 was another eventful year for the members of Wings Over Wendy's and included several major changes. In February, the publishing of the Wings News was passed from Neil Baliber and Fred Kaplan to Ed and Judy Reynolds. The Wings News was expanded and included a recap of each week's speakers for those that missed attending the meetings. Additional advertisements were added and members contributed as "Wings News Patrons"

## Meeting Leadership

Sadly, health problems caught up with Art Sherman during the year and he turned over the meeting podium to Ed Reynolds in June. Art was awarded the title of "Leader Emeritus" in August and Howard Swerdlick was made an Honorary Private for outstanding support and service to Wings Over Wendy's.



## 2016 Speakers

Roscoe Frazier and Barney Leone did a great job of obtaining interesting speakers for our Monday meetings. In February we heard from Dave Hoffmann, Patrick Daily, Captain Bruce Holdt, USN Ret. and Commander Karen Coyle, USN Ret.

In March, we listened to Ed Reynolds, Gary DeMaio, Mort Sherman and on the day of our bi-annual picture: Dennis McCarthy, Dennis Zine, Mitch Englander and Ron Ross.

Our April speakers were Robert Lanthier, David Timmerman (talking about his father who was a WWII POW), David Loppnow and Ernest Dutcher.

In May Bob Bermant, Richard Ruby, Roscoe Frazier, Robert Ham and Roger Cartland spoke to the group.

June had a series of great speakers with Ernest Dutcher returning to talk about the Normandy Invasion, then Larry Powell, Marthe Hoffnung Cohn and John Duffy.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July we were entertained by Roy Firestone. Larry Powell returned and then we listened to Maurice Portnoy.

Maurice Portnoy continued his story in August

followed by a performance by Don Ray, Fritz and Michel Ellington. Lee Auger reported on Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) AirVenture Oshkosh 2016, John Helm and Masse Bloomfield also spoke to the group.

We were entertained in September by Jimmy Weldon. Gary "Rocky" Rocklin, Andrea Michaels and Sonja Telias also spoke in September.

In October, we heard from Marion Lovelace who spoke on behalf of Sonja Telias, Leon Waldman, Barney Leone, a return talk by Larry Powell, Mike LaVere, Jack Norris and Senior Lead Officer Brent Rygh.

November, we heard from Marion Lovelace, Kent Kellegrew and a return engagement by Roy Firestone.

## **December Speakers**

### **Geoff Schaaf**

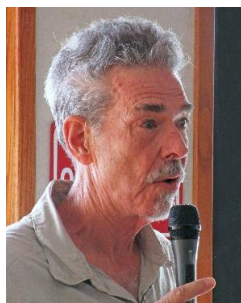


Photo by Harlis Brend

On December 5<sup>th</sup> Geoff Schaaf, four time Emmy award winning director/cinematographer gave us a presentation about his growing up as an USAF dependent. His father was assigned to USAF Photo Recon units. Geoff was able to learn to take pictures with help of the USAF photographers in his father's unit. He showed us pictures growing up on the Leon-Couvron AB, France. From France, his father was stationed at McClellan AFB, CA where Geoff learned to fly at the base Aero Club. In addition to his aircraft pilot license he also took up glider flying. His presentation showed his taking wounded veterans up in gliders.

He then told us about how he started his career as a news film photographer for a Sacramento TV station and on to San Francisco as a TV Director and Producer. He was with one of the first US TV crews to do a special in China. From TV, he migrated to camera work on the "Life Styles of the Rich and Famous" show which had him traveling around the world and meeting his wife. Soon he moved to Hollywood to become a director and cinematographer on TV Movies and Series.

He finished his presentation with a recap of his current project which is a movie about the Burmese escaping from the Japanese during World War II. He showed us clips of his father when he was stationed there in WWII and of the elephant scenes in his current project.

### **Leon Waldman & Barney Leone**



Photo with Gary Sinise by Barney and by Harlis Brend

On December 12<sup>th</sup> Leon and Barney reported on their trip to Hawaii to participate in the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor.

### **Ed Barkett**

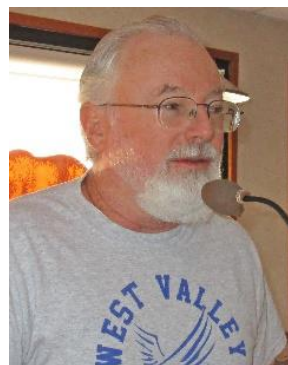


Photo by Harlis Brend

Our speaker on December 19<sup>th</sup> was Ed Barkett who told us about his research on the Canoga Park High School graduates and non-graduates that served in the military. Due to limited time, he told us just about the nineteen Gold Star graduates. Canoga Park HS had 842 graduates, including 32 women.

## **2016 Tours and Events**

Warren Weinstein arranged several tours for the group in 2016. In March, he arranged a tour of the TR-1/U-2 Lockheed Martin Overhaul facility in Palmdale. Marion Lovelace arranged a tour for Warren to organize at the Guide Dogs of America facility in Sylmar, CA.

One March event was the Bi-Annual Picture which was held on March 28<sup>th</sup>, with 170 attendees.





On April 1<sup>st</sup>, we supported the Students Aviation Career Day at the Van Nuys Airport.



Then, on April 9<sup>th</sup> a small group of Wings Over Wendy's members were invited to sit at a table purchased by Ron and Diane Ross at the Condor Squadron Annual Fundraising Dinner Dance and Auction held at the Airtel Plaza Hotel at the Van Nuys Airport.



The month of May is always a busy time for our members supporting events leading up to Memorial Day. First was the "The Wings of Freedom Tour" which visited Van Nuys Airport on May 9 to 11. The tour featured a B-24J Liberator and a B-17G Flying Fortress. Then May 20 to 22 was the EAA's B-17G "Aluminum Overcast" tour.

On Memorial Day, two of our members Steve Politis and Guy Chookoorian served as the Grand Marshalls of the Canoga Park/West Hills Chamber of Commerce Memorial Day Parade. Our members rode in two floats (trucks).



A major tour was also arranged by David Timmerman and organized by Warren to the Warner Brothers Studios, Burbank Lot on May 24<sup>th</sup>. We had 52 members attend. It was a great success.

In July, the group supported a Cookout at the Pacific Lodge "Boy's Home" in Woodland Hills.

The major event in August was the 2016 Wings Over Camarillo Air Show, August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. We had over twenty members work or display at the show. As usual,

Bill Blair demonstrated his Norden Bombsight on both days in the "Welcome Veterans" tent and hanger.



On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, we toured the Skirball Cultural Center Museum.

In October another major event was organized by Warren. On the 26<sup>th</sup> we toured the Coast Guard Station Channel Islands Harbor, Oxnard and the USCG Air Station at the Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station. Forty-five members attended. The USCG tour was followed by attendance at Councilmember Mitchell Englander's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual "Welcome Back Workshop for Principals" breakfast at New Horizons: Sam Café in North Hills on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Then 50 WOW members attended the Justice Armand Arabian Leaders in Public Service Awards Luncheon.



As busy as we were in October it did not compare to our activities in November leading up to and following Veteran's Day. We started by attending the Veteran's Day Service and Celebration on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the St. Martin-In-the-Fields Episcopal School, Winnetka, CA. On Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> over two dozen of our members were honored at a catered luncheon at the Canoga Park Woman's Club. A small group attended the Castlebay Lane Charter Elementary School Patriotic Assembly and Reception on November 8<sup>th</sup> in Porter Ranch. On the 9<sup>th</sup> I attended a "Conversation with Heroes" hosted by State Senator Bob Hertzberg's Pacoima staff. Then a larger group attended the North Valley Military School Veterans Honor Wall program. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, we attended three events starting with the Carlos Santa Arts Academy, North Hills, Veterans Assembly, then a larger group attended the Ernest Lawrence Middle School, Chatsworth, Veterans Assembly and finished with the Veterans dinner at the Canoga Park Elks Lodge.

On Veterans Day Wings Over Wendy's members attended at least six events, spread across the west San Fernando Valley. A dozen members of Wings Over

Wendy's rode in a truck provided by Karl Boeckmann, Galpin Ford, and driven by Fred Kaplan, in the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade in the City of Mission Hills. Following the parade there was a carnival at the Ritchie Valens Recreation Center. At 09:15 several of our members attended the Veterans Day Assembly and service at the Calvary Community Church Worship Center for the Oaks Christian School, Westlake Village. At 10:00 another group of our members attended the Veterans Day Commemoration at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. A dozen members attended the City of Malibu's, 17<sup>th</sup> Annual "Veterans Day" public ceremony.

Veterans Day luncheons were attended by our members at the Fairwinds – West Hills, Retirement Community and the American Legion Post 826, Veterans Day BBQ at the post's Woodland Hills facility. The day's activities ended in the evening at Congressman Tony Cardenas Veterans Day Forum at the Richard E. Byrd Middle School in Sun Valley.

On Saturday, November 12th over a dozen Wings Over Wendy's members attended the Temple Aliyah Shabbat Morning Service Honoring Veterans.

The final Veterans event of the month was the Pomelo Community Charter School, West Hills, on November 15th. The 'Heroes Feast' event not only honored veterans but also first responders. Close to 50 Wings Over Wendy's members attended.

Many of Wings Over Wendy's members attended "A Celebration of Life Honoring Robert A. "Bob" Hoover" held at the Clay Lacy Aviation Hangar in Van Nuys on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

## December Events

### Annual Veterans' Holiday Celebration



On December 4<sup>th</sup>, a group of Wings Over Wendy's members attended the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans' Holiday Celebration at the West Los Angeles VA Campus. Warren Weinstein made arrangements with the event organizers for WOW members to obtain VIP parking and

for VIP access into the long lines to obtain the mounds of food served. Warren also arranged for carpooling from Platt Village to the event.

## Museum of Tolerance

The final tour of the year was to the Museum of Tolerance on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Warren organized carpooling from Platt Village to the museum. The highlight of the tour was a one hour presentation by Dr. Wilkinson.

## Member Profiles

We featured fourteen member profiles during the year.

### FEB: Steve Politis



### MAR: Mike LaVere



Then



Now

### APR: Ed Reynolds



Photo by Harlis Bend



**MAY: Art Sherman**



**MAY: Roscoe Frazier**



**JUN: Bill Blair**



**JUN: Fred Kaplan**



**JUL: Howard Swerdlick**



**AUG: Shirley Andrews**



**AUG: Warren Weinstein**



**SEP: Dave Steinbacher**



## OCT: Lezar Saunders



## NOV: Dick Guyer



## DEC: Bob Donovan



Photo by Harlis Brend

## Departed in 2016

In 2016 eight members of Wings Over Wendy's flew to the great beyond. They were:

<b>Gilberto Rendon</b>	<b>09/01/1924 – 03/25/2016</b>
<b>Gene Salvay</b>	<b>11/15/1919 – 04/08/2016</b>
<b>Frank Barnyak</b>	<b>05/23/1921 – 07-01-2016</b>
<b>Rich Raymond</b>	<b>01/01/1931 – 08/21/2016</b>
<b>Katherine Frangos</b>	<b>12/20.1929 – 09/06/2016</b>
<b>Gerald Katz</b>	<b>10/16/1923 – 09/29/2016</b>
<b>Clyde Reynolds</b>	<b>11/24/1923 – 11/10/2016</b>

**AND**

## Bill Blair



**November 10, 1922 – December 14, 2016**

We lost one of our most active and devoted members last month in Ernest William Blair, Jr. Bill as he was called to avoid confusion with his father, attended every Monday meeting and WOW event he physically could from his home in Pasadena, a minimum forty-minute drive away. He would stay after the meetings to have lunch and show off "toys", gadgets or models. At the Aviation Days in Van Nuys and Wings Over Camarillo he would demonstrate his WWII Norden Bombsight.

He loved life and was dedicated to his hobbies which included his military organizations, WOW, 5<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, 13<sup>th</sup> AF Reunions, B-17 gatherings, and air shows. He was also active with his Music Box collection and their monthly meetings. He, his family and care givers that attended WOW functions with him will be greatly missed.

Entombment was at Forest Lawn, Glendale



## REMINDERS

**Food drive is Monday, January 2, 2017**

**WOW Luncheon, January 12, 2017**

**LA Times Tour, February 1, 2017**

## January Birthdays

<b>Bud Lindahl</b>	<b>January 02, 1924</b>
<b>David Loppnow</b>	<b>January 02, 1934</b>
<b>Peter Howenstein</b>	<b>January 03, 1925</b>
<b>Al Friedman</b>	<b>January 08, 1932</b>
<b>Stephen Sherman</b>	<b>January 10, 1921</b>
<b>Kevin Larosa II</b>	<b>January 10, 1986</b>
<b>Steve Politis</b>	<b>January 11, 1917</b>
<b>Stephanie Pofcher</b>	<b>January 12, 1976</b>
<b>Chris Colegrove</b>	<b>January 13, 1961</b>
<b>Tom Curtis</b>	<b>January 16, 1919</b>
<b>Stan Opatowsky</b>	<b>January 17, 1931</b>
<b>Don Eisenberg</b>	<b>January 18, 1937</b>
<b>Ron Hackney</b>	<b>January 19, 1937</b>
<b>Gary Rocklin</b>	<b>January 23, 1941</b>
<b>Al Lewis</b>	<b>January 30, 1924</b>

## Wings News Staff

<b>Publisher:</b>	Ed Reynolds
<b>Alternate Publishers:</b>	Neil Baliber & Fred Kaplan
<b>Editor:</b>	Judy Reynolds
<b>Reporters:</b>	Ray Rosenbaum Ed Moreno Peggy Jean Bassett
<b>Photographers:</b>	Harlis Brend Mike LaVere Howard Swerdlick Ed Reynolds
<b>New Members:</b>	Marion Lovelace Shirley Andrews
<b>Reminders:</b>	Connie Hein

## New Members

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


**Ed Barkett**  
**Michael Bloxberg**  
**Shannon Muchow**

Overall, we added 46 names to the Wings Over Wendy's roster. Several of the added names started attending before 2016 but had not completed roster information sheets and several only attended one or just a few meetings so it is difficult to determine how many new attendees we added to the organization.



## 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.

<b>Al Lewis</b>	<b>Andy Kopetzky</b>
<b>Art Sherman</b>	<b>Anne Marie Radel</b>
<b>Barry Chapman</b>	<b>Bill Tapp</b>
<b>Bob Bermant</b>	<b>Bob Donovan</b>
<b>Bob Rose</b>	<b>Bob Stiles</b>
<b>Bruce &amp; Sam Shultz</b>	<b>Chip Stevens</b>
<b>Claude Maugein</b>	<b>Dave Steinbacher</b>
<b>David Alvarez</b>	<b>David Loppnow</b>
<b>David Timmerman</b>	<b>Dick &amp; Jan Edwards</b>
<b>Dick Guyer</b>	<b>Don Foster</b>
<b>Doug &amp; Marce Rankin</b>	<b>Ed &amp; Judy Reynolds</b>
<b>Ed Moreno</b>	<b>Eli Baker</b>
<b>Elmo Maiden</b>	<b>Ernest Dutcher</b>
<b>Ethel Margolin</b>	<b>George Musser</b>
<b>George Stone</b>	<b>Howard Swerdlick</b>
<b>Jack Taube</b>	<b>John Helm</b>
<b>Karen Vegt</b>	<b>Leon Waldman</b>
<b>Lezar Saunders</b>	<b>Malcolm Dipperstein</b>
<b>Marion Lovelace</b>	<b>Mike &amp; Boots LaVere</b>
<b>Morris Litwak</b>	<b>Neil Houston</b>
<b>Patrick Daly</b>	<b>Paul Boghossian</b>
<b>Peggy Jean Bassett</b>	<b>Peter Helm</b>
<b>Phil Aune</b>	<b>Phil Shapiro</b>
<b>Ray &amp; Maria Rodriguez</b>	<b>Ray Rosenbaum</b>
<b>Richard Gross</b>	<b>Richard Hernandez</b>
<b>Richard Jeffress</b>	<b>Richard Raskoff</b>
<b>Richard Ruby</b>	<b>Roscoe Frazier</b>
<b>Skip DeYoung</b>	<b>Diane DeYoung</b>
<b>Shirley Andrews</b>	<b>Sid Maiten</b>
<b>Steve Politis</b>	<b>Ted Davis</b>
<b>Tom Villanueva</b>	<b>Toni Mattlock</b>
<b>Tony Velarde</b>	<b>Warren Weinstein</b>



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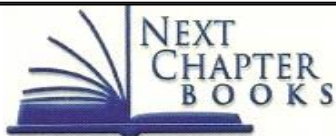
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