



# Non-Veterans Support Key to WOW Success

When Fred “Crash” Blechman and Mickey Epstein started formalizing meetings at Wings Over Wendy’s 21 years ago, the theme that brought them together was aviation. Two of the original members: Lee Auger and Stan Dean, were not pilots, but Lee flew as a radio operator in the Navy, and Stan was a paratrooper.

Fred initially advertized the meetings as “Aviation Enthusiasts” because he told Lee Auger the meetings would be listed at the top alphabetically in the free papers that listed meetings and items for sale.

Micky suggested at a meeting planning the group’s participation in the 2001 Wings Over Camarillo Airshow that the group should call themselves Wings Over Wendy’s. The group approved, and from June 2001 on, the group has been known by that name.

As the group grew, non-aviation veterans started to join, and by the time Art Sherman began to run the meetings, the group’s motto had become: **“Honoring all veterans past and present.”** That encouraged veterans supporters to join the group.

Among the early veteran supporters was Howard Swerlick, joining in 2004 before the group moved to morning meetings. Howard pitched in to support first “Crash,” later Art, and now Ed Reynolds.

After Art started leading the group, he relied on: Howard and other veteran supporters like Alan Hill, Shirley Andrews, Karen Vegtel, Chip Stevens, Michele Croson, Harlis Brend, Marion Lovelace, Peter Helm, David Timmerman, Paul Boghossian, David Greenberg, and TonyCubarrubia.

Howard was instrumental in the design and purchase of our hats and sheets. In addition, he assisted Art in many

tasks, including founding WOW 2 in Tarzana.



Photo by Hans Gutknecht, Los Angeles Daily News

## Howard Swerlick



Photo by Howard Swerlick

## David Greenberg

(Continued page 2)

When Ed Reynolds started leading the meetings, David Greenberg joined the group and immediately pitched in to help where needed. David is the first to arrive to assist in setting up the coffee bar and assisting Fred Kaplan's crew set up the room. He helps store the coffee bar structure and vacuums the floor at the end of the meetings.

Along with Kurt Rademacher and Fred Kaplan, David helps the restaurant we select, reserve, and arrange tables for the WOW lunch on Thursdays.

Not only does David support Wings Over Wendy's, but he has become a reliable supporter of the Association of Naval Aviation (ANA), Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW), and Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). In addition, he volunteers to drive Jimmy Weldon to events.



Photo by Harlis Brend

## Chip Stevens

Chip Stevens has been a "behind the scenes" supporter of the group since 2009, when he started bringing his father to the meetings. When his father passed in 2017, Chip continued to attend by bringing Guy Chookoorian to the meetings. In addition, he runs a travel agency and has helped many members arrange trips.

Behind the scenes, he has assisted Jimmy Weldon with his emails, personal papers and Caregivers. Chip was able to get Jimmy honored at a Dodger Playoff game and Bill Dillon at a LA Rams game.



Photo by Harlis Brend

## Marion Lovelace

Marion Lovelace has been a key supporter of the group for ten years. She has served as the group secretary, circulating "Get Well" and "Memorial Cards." In addition, she writes the group's thank you letters.

She has driven many members to the meetings and events. When Darrel Houston "flew west," she took his role of providing the grand prize of food goodies for the weekly raffle.

Marion has arranged for flowers in the name of Wings Over Wendy's to be provided at members' funerals. She found a florist that would give the flowers at no cost to the group.

She is a recruiter, convincing people to attend and join the group and recording all new members' profiles.

Like David, she supports Wings Over Wendy's, but he has become a reliable supporter of the ANA, MOWW, and MOAA, driving Joe Weber and others to those events.

Aside from her support of Wings Over Wendy's she is active in other activities. See her talk about Childhelp reprinted from the Reel Cowboy's Newsletter on page 10.

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Photo by Harlis Brend

## David Timmerman

David Timmerman is another “behind the scenes” member. He still works at the studios, so he cannot attend every meeting but has quietly provided immense support to the group.

Working with Warren Weinstein, he has arranged group tours to the Lockheed Martin U-2 facility in Palmdale, the Warner Brothers Studio Tour, and dinner at the Adventure Club.

In a WWII flight suit, David attends the parades and Wings Over Camarillo Airshow. His diorama display of his father’s aircraft is always a hit.

While on a tour of the Pacific Northwest, David stopped at an Aviation Museum and discovered an exhibit of David Thomas, founder of Wendy’s Restaurants. He took pictures and presented a display to Ron and Diane Ross that hangs in the Woodland Hills Wendy’s Restaurant.

Dave has spoken to the group about his father and his uncle’s military experiences, plus he has arranged speakers from the entertainment industry such as:

- Col. Larry Powell, four times
- DVD Movie of Larry Powell
- Dale Dye
- David Abernathy
- “Victory Girl”
- Barbara Schultz, twice
- Moose from Mammoth, CA.
- Gary Tegal

He has brought guests to the meetings, such as Miss Ireland of 1943 and Bazooka Joe. In addition, he has recruited five members.

He is a valuable supporter of the group!



Photo by Harlis Brend

## Shirley Andrews

Shirley Andrews has been a great supporter of the group since 2006. She helps were needed reminds us of the monthly food bank donations and the Christmas Toy drive.

She takes pictures of new members and keeps scrapbooks of pictures and newspaper articles about the group. Always willing to help where needed.



Photo by Hans Gutknecht, Los Angeles Daily News

## Charles Scott

Like Howard Swerdlick, Charles Scott has no direct tie to the military, but he volunteers his time to help our members with their computer problems. Without him, our Zoom meetings would not have been a success.

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Photo by Larry Kushner

## Max Carlisle

Max Carlisle joined the group in July of 2021 but is already making an impact by applying his audiovisual skills to improve the hybrid meetings Zoom component.

He has joined Ed and Howard on the stage and monitors the main Zoom computer. Improving the share screen transitions and the location of the other cameras.

Max is a private pilot with no association with the military. He joined on the recommendation of Boyd Davis.



Photo by Harlis Brend

## Alan Hill

Alan Hill has been a member of the group for over ten years. He started by filming the meetings and events. He takes the bi-annual group picture. He also helped with the Zoom meetings before the school required that attendees have both shots.

Over the years, other non-veterans have supported the group and contributed to its success, such as David Anderson, Peggy Jean Bassett, Paul Boghossian, Jan Edwards, Hank Garrett, Connie Hein, Peter Helm, Abe and Sue Hoffman, Shannon Muchow, Franky Ortega, Jamie Pellegrini, Anne Marie Radel, Kurt Rademacher, Karen Vegtel, Lucie Volotzky, and Nathan Wolfstein.

All Wings Over Wendy's veterans appreciate their support. Thank you all!

## January 2022

## Meetings

## January 3, 2022



## How The Americans Outproduced Everyone Else In WW2 War Factories

On January 3, 2022, we watched a documentary by Timeline entitled How The Americans Outproduced Everyone Else In WW2 - War Factories. The documentary started by describing the German build-up of war equipment in the 1930s and then the reaction of President Roosevelt when Germany invaded France. Roosevelt called a meeting of American Industry leaders to plan the conversion of America's production capacity to produce war materials and equipment.

American industry giants either shifted production in their facilities or built new facilities. Initially, the war equipment was sold to the Allied countries under the lend-lease program.

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the US entry into the war, the American factories stopped civilian production and converted to war production.

The documentary described how American engineers improved the design of tanks, vehicles, aircraft, and ships.

The documentary's theme was the side that could out-produce the other side would win the war.

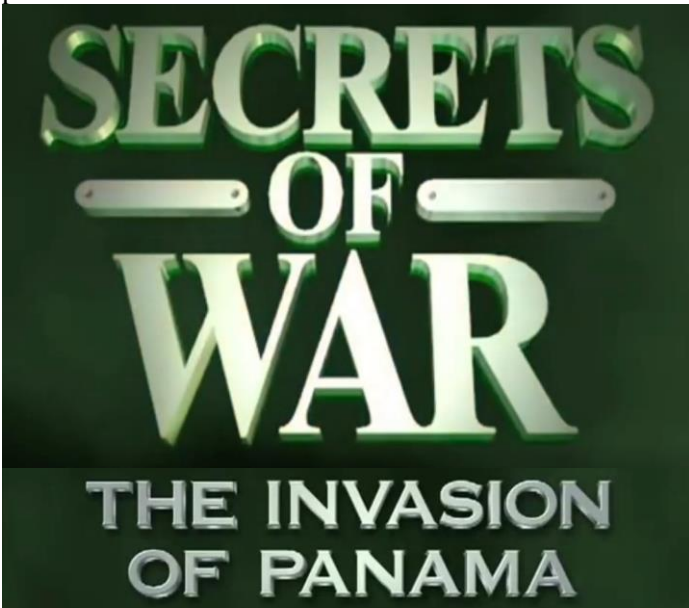


# January 10, 2022



## Max Carlisle January 9<sup>th</sup> Aircraft & Train Crash

On January 10, 2022, Max Carlisle narrated a video he produced from TV news and police video cams of the plane that crashed on the railroad tracks outside Whiteman Airport. The video showed the quick response of the LAPD to pull the pilot from the wreckage as a train approached and eventually hitting the aircraft. The four policemen were great heroes, risking their own lives extracting the injured pilot.



## Secrets of War – The Invasion of Panama

On January 10, 2022, the featured presentation was the TV *Secrets of War Season 2, Episode 1: The Invasion of Panama*. The episode documented the secret build-up to the surprise invasion of Panama by the Americans in 1989. The mission was to rescue a US hostage and search for a dictator who had pushed his luck too far.

The video started with a brief history of the United States and the country of Panama, the canal, and the creation of the Panama military.

In 1977, U.S. President Jimmy Carter and the de facto leader of Panama, General Omar Torrijos, signed Torrijos–Carter Treaties, which set in motion the process of handing over the Panama Canal to Panamanian control by 2000. Although the canal was destined for the Panamanian administration, the military bases remained, and one condition of the transfer was that the canal would remain open for American shipping. The U.S. had long-standing relations with General Noriega, who served as a U.S. intelligence asset and paid informant of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1967, including the period when Bush was head of the CIA.[9]

Initially supported by the US Army, Noriega became too corrupt, moving into racketeering and drug trafficking. Finally, he was found guilty of drug trafficking in a Miami court, and the US Military developed plans to depose him.

We saw details of various plans, Noriega's military buildup to defend himself, and the story of Kurt Muse. Kurt was raised in Panama City, Panama. After graduating from college in the U.S. and fulfilling his Army Commissioned Officer's active duty obligations, Kurt returned to Panama. He began his career in a family-owned printing-supply company. He was the General Manager and later Managing Director of those enterprises which had offices and affiliates throughout Central America. From 1987-89 Kurt led a band of Panamanian patriots in a plot to overthrow General Noriega. Unfortunately, Kurt was betrayed and arrested and spent 9 months in the infamous Modelo Prison. On the eve of his execution, the elite and secretive U.S. Army Delta Force operators fought into the prison and whisked him away in a daring rescue code-named Acid Gambit.

We watched a review of the battle of Paitilla Airport between members of the Panama Defense Force and SEAL Team 4, on the 20th of December 1989, in the starting hours of Operation Just Cause. The force consisted of forty-eight U.S. Navy SEALs (three SEAL Platoons: Golf, Echo, and Delta). The team was tasked with destroying Manuel Noriega's private jet on the ground at the Punta Paitilla Airport in Panama City.

Four Navy SEALs were killed and 9 wounded, and it has been considered the most botched SEAL operation to date.

Despite tracking Noriega's locations, the U.S. Army lost contact on the invasion day. The video details the efforts to find him and when he secured himself in the Vatican Embassy. The world watched as the Panamanians surrounded the Embassy. U.S. Army MG Cisneros told the Vatican Ambassador that he would be safe, but the U.S. would not stop the crowd from storming the Embassy. Finally, fearing he would suffer the same fate as Mussolini, Noriega surrendered to the U.S. Army.

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From Zoom

## Andy Romanisky

Following the presentation, we heard from Andy Romanisky, who was in Panama with forty members and three CA ANG C-130s. He told us that the 146<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing was rotating duty in Panama during the period, and he volunteered to go on a December rotation thinking it would be a quiet time with Christmas coming.

Andy told about the hostility in the area during the months leading up to the invasion. He had no advanced knowledge that the U.S. was planning on invading and was surprised. When he arrived, he was surprised to find the 101st, Airborne, fox holes, and barbed wire were there.

He described the biggest fireworks show he had ever seen and the missions the C-130's flew. The Howard AFB bowling alley was converted into a mortuary. The unit had the only C-130s in the country and flew various missions during and after the invasion.

Following Andy's talk, Roger Meredith, a guest of Andy's from the 146<sup>th</sup>, also on the deployment, spoke about his experience.

## January 17, 2022



## Secrets of War – German Intelligence in WWII

On January 17, 2022, we watched another episode of the TV show: Secrets of War. The subject of the episode was German Intelligence in WWII.

Reinhard Heydrich and Commander Wilhelm Canaris were the top spymasters in the Third Reich, two rivals who were masked in both mystery and secrecy. But in the end, one man would kill for Hitler, and the other would betray him.

The video documented each man, discussing how Heydrich had started by working for Canaris but was discharged from the Navy as unbecoming an officer for having an affair. As a civilian, he formed the SS and was one of the main architects of the "Final Solution" and Deputy Protector of Bohemia and Moravia. We saw in detail his ambush by a team trained by British Special Ops. He was not killed in the ambush but died of wounds he received. Nazi intelligence falsely linked the Czech and Slovak soldiers and resistance partisans to the villages of Lidice and Ležáky. As a result, both villages were razed; the men and boys age 14 and above were shot, and all but a handful of the women and children were deported and murdered in Nazi concentration camps.

Documenting the career of Canaris, we learned he was appointed head of Abwehr, the German military intelligence agency. Initially, a believer in Hitler, we see him turn when Hitler planned to invade Czechoslovakia. The video describes Canaris' role in persuading Hitler to not attack Gibraltar. Canaris had contacts with British MI6. By 1944 evidence that he was a double agent grew and Hitler dismissed him and abolished the Abwehr. He was hanged just before the end of the war.



# January 24, 2022



Photo by Larry Kushner

## LA Councilmember John Lee

On January 24, 2022, Los Angeles Councilmember John Lee visited our meeting. He informed us that after several years of meeting in the Council District 3 area, he was happy that we returned to his Council District 12 area. He also told us that the West Hills area will continue to be in 12 after the approved redistricting.



Photo by Larry Kushner

## Howard Swerdlick Awarded Certificate of Recognition

Following his speech, he surprised the group by calling Howard Swerdlick to come up to receive a Certificate of Recognition. The certificate read:

*The City of Los Angeles and the Twelveth Council District hereby recognize you for your commitment to serving our veteran community through your tireless work at Wings Over Wendy's. On behalf of the City of Los Angeles and the Twelveth Council District, we thank you for your dedication and wish you success in all of your future endeavors.*



## Secrets of War – Cold War: Eisenhower's Operatives

On January 24, 2022, the featured presentation was the Secrets of War episode: *Cold War: Eisenhower's Operations*, The untold story of the Supreme Allied Commander of WWII, Dwight Eisenhower, and his relationship with the CIA.

The video started with a review of Eisenhower's life and military career. Then, it discussed that he was naïve about military intelligence before WWII but began to rely on deception and covert operations after learning how the British had developed secret intelligence and the CIA's initial successes in Iran, Guatemala, Vietnam, and other operations.

After reviewing Eisenhower's success in WWII, we saw his use of deception and covert operations as he became President. For example, he developed the U-2 to spy on Russia after they developed an atomic bomb and long-range missiles.

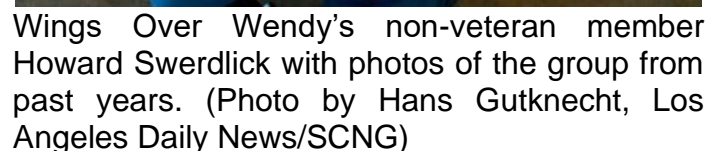
In the end, we see the successes lead to failures with the Bay of Pigs, U-2 embarrassment, Iran, Guatemala, and Vietnam.

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Zoom photo

## Story-sharing and meetings of aviation veterans are kept on schedule with help from non-veterans members



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Art told us about his chance encounter on vacation in Florida after graduating from Columbia University. Upon his return from vacation, he reported to active duty as an Officer in the US Army. He was surprised to learn that the Army knew about his encounter in Florida and was informed that his drinking campaign was a British Intelligence Officer and recommended Art for covert operations.

He was assigned to Army covert operations and transferred to the reserves. He lead a double life in the Bay Area as a Director of Human Resources for a Pharmaceutical Company and conducting covert operations. He recruited spies and cultivated information about communism spying in the Northern California region.

Art told us about some of the people he met and why he resigned when fellow colleagues were killed in the operation

Howard Swerdlick couldn't help himself. He had to know what was going on at the table across the dining room at the old Wendy's restaurant on Platt Avenue in West Hills.

This is where he came every day at 11 a.m. for lunch and stayed through dinner reading three newspapers to kill time before he went home to an empty house.

After 47 years of marriage, and so many good times and laughs, his home had turned cold and uninviting since his wife, Gail, died. He had to get out or he'd go crazy thinking about her.

(Continued page 9)





Wings Over Wendy's non-veteran member Howard Swerdlick with photos of the group from past years. (Photo by Hans Gutknecht, Los Angeles Daily News/SCNG)

So, he went to Wendy's to people watch and read his newspapers. He couldn't help but notice the man across the dining room who was there on most days, too.

Only this man wasn't sad and reading his newspaper alone. This man was happy, and not a day went by when his table didn't fill with friends who seemed to have so much in common.

They laughed and carried on, and soon one table became two pushed together. Howard couldn't help himself. He had to know who they were.

Fred Blechman had noticed the man across the dining room staring at his table everyday. He also was wondering what was going on? Who stays inside a fast food restaurant by himself for 10 hours a day? Fred had a reason, but what did this man have?

He began to notice the man was getting a little closer to his table every few days. Inching his way within earshot. Finally, he said something.

"Are you spying on me?" Fred Blechman asked Howard Swerdlick. "Why are you here everyday?"

Howard told him. He just couldn't stay at home alone, and being here people watching and reading his newspapers took his mind off the pain for a few hours. Fred said he was sorry for his loss.

"Have you ever been in the military?" he asked Howard. No, but he had a brother who fought in Korea. Close enough, Fred said. Pull your chair over and join us. We're a bunch of old World War II pilots, navigators and bombardiers.

"We've formed a lunch group and called it 'Wings Over Wendy's.' You have to be an aviation veteran to join, but in your case we'll make an exception. I'm Fred, but everyone calls me Crash."

A pilot nicknamed Crash. That can't be good, Howard thought. He learned Fred had crashed five U.S. Corsair fighter planes during training missions, a record the Navy was not happy he set.

He loved to fly, but hated to drive, thought it was too dangerous. He had 26 aircraft carrier landings before he ever had a driver's license.

Around the table, introductions were made. There was Ernie Bankey, a P-51 Air Force pilot who shot down 11 enemy planes in World War II, and earned "double ace"

fighter pilot honors.

Next to him was Mike Karatsonji, a Hungarian military pilot, who was forced to fly a Messerschmitt Me-109 for the Luftwaffe when his country was occupied.

He knew the war was over when he took off with 40 other Luftwaffe pilots on a mission, and were met by 1,000 American planes. He was shot down, but lived, and made his way to America after the war.

Mickey Epstein, who co-founded the group, was a B-24 flight engineer, and Ed Figueroa, a B-26 gunner. They all welcomed Howard to the group. He thanked them, but felt like a man going to a gunfight without any guns.

He had no war stories to tell. For 35 years, he worked in the meat and grocery business for the old Westward Ho markets. The closest stories he had to anything interesting were serving a few celebrities.

Howard made up for it by being the guy who always volunteered. He began selling raffle tickets at the meetings, and as the group grew and got more into community events, he designed the "Wings Over Wendy's" hats and shirts the vets would wear when they visited schools to talk to the kids, rode in parades or went to VA hospitals to cheer up sick vets.

**He's been joined over the years by Chip Stevens and David Greenberg, who also didn't serve in the military, but feel a special kinship to the men who did. They do the nuts and bolts work – setting up the tables and chairs for meetings, and driving vans to pick up the last surviving World War II and Korean war vets who are all frail and in wheelchairs now. They look in on them to make sure they're okay, and if they need any help, just ask. These men who did not serve will tell you it's an honor and a privilege to be allowed to serve them now.**

"Nobody writes them a thank you letter for all they do," says Ed Reynolds, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, who leads the group now. "They don't get the honors the vets get. When they go to schools nobody applauds them. They push the wheelchairs in, and go sit in the audience.

"We rely heavily on them, especially now when so many of our older members are flying west," Ed says. Into the setting sun.

Crash is gone, as are all the men who sat around that table at Wendy's in 2004, and invited a non-veteran who was hurting and needed a friend to join them.

Whenever a member flies west now, and it's just about a weekly occurrence, it's Howard who sets up a display of the member's life at the meeting so he can be honored. It's Howard who organizes the flag ceremony for them. Howard who pays final respects to their loved ones.

He never served a day in the military as a young man, but Howard Swerdlick, 85, is serving now.

*Dennis McCarthy's column runs on Sunday. He can be reached at [dmccarthynews@gmail.com](mailto:dmccarthynews@gmail.com)*



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## Speech to the Childhelp Organization by Marion Lovelace



I can't tell you how happy I am to be your guest speaker today. I could talk about Childhelp all day, but I will try to confine it to fifteen minutes.

My first introduction to the organization (about 60 years ago) goes way back to "International Orphans, Inc." I had a Real Estate client by the name of Ann Vivian, who invited me to the fund raisers. The L.A. Chapter had to raise funds for the orphans that Sara and Yvonne had been helping in Japan and Vietnam. Of course, I welcomed the chance to adopt, by remote control, a darling little boy by the name of Cao Van Ly.

Being unmarried, I had all the instincts that comes with motherhood, and wanted to do all I could do to make his life better. With the help of the Nuns, we were able to correspond and I could send gift packages in addition to my monthly stipend for his care. I proudly displayed his picture on my desk in my Real Estate office, purposely; so that people would ask questions, and I could promote International Orphans, Inc. As you know, when the war ended, we had a baby lift, but I was never to learn the fate of my little one. I do know that he was not one that we brought to the United States.

When International Orphans, Inc. was about to disband, Nancy Reagan, who was the First Lady of California at the time, knew Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson. She persuaded them to turn their attention to child abuse. She told them that it was the biggest kept secret in the country; we have learned how right she was.

We first were known as "Children's Village" because the plan was to build a facility where abused children could have professional care. A wealthy gentleman, by the name of Nat Dumont, owned 23 acres in Beaumont, which he donated for us to build on. But, I call it "Divine Intervention" because right next door was a beautiful all-brick complex that was housing wayward boys, and it was being sold by the Arch Dioceses. If you saw "For the Love of a Child" on YouTube, you know how Sara and Yvonne

negotiated to get them to drop their price by millions of dollars so we could afford it. The Archbishop was so impressed by our intentions for its use. Members and their husbands went out to paint and make necessary reparations, because, for one, the urinals had to be covered, and false fronts made cabinets for toothbrushes and other toiletries.

We had no gymnasium at that time, so Christmas shows and Santa Claus gift giving took place on the steps of the commissary. We would have to sit in the freezing cold. One of our members, Anna Ruth, and her husband, owned a helicopter, and Santa would arrive by air. It was so emotional, we had to fight back tears. Rhonda Fleming was one of our faithful supporters and built a chapel on the top of the hill. One little boy in a nearby cottage was heard to say "Guess what! God is going to live right across the street from me."

As you leave the property, a big archway reads "Thank You For Caring." I went with another member to visit our special friends, and to take them out for lunch and shopping. On our way out, her special friend, a little boy, took her hand and said "Helen, that's for you." Needless to say, I had to choke back tears.

I was a very active Realtor and could not attend meetings, so I did not officially become a member until 1979. However, I was a good buddy with Ethel Grant, our office manager. Yes, we had a local office until we were priced out of California and, after praying over it, the girls chose to move to Arizona. Among other things, I would go to the office to pick up catalogues to sell Christmas Cards. We were able to get a 50% discount, which wasn't at all shabby. Also, I recruited many to attend our "Women of the World" luncheons. One of them at the Century Plaza attracted 1,400 guests. We always had great celebrities, including Barbara Bush.

We also had wonderful telethons when Yvonne's husband, producer Don Fedderson, was alive. After one of these telethons, Sara and Yvonne announced that a viewer, Anthony Elliott, was so touched by it that he left his home and estate to us in his will; he lived in Burbank, California. His wife had just passed away and he had no living relatives. My dear friend, Nili Lehavi, and I decided to take him under our wing. We lovingly referred to him as "Uncle Tony." Often, we would take him to lunch, and come back to his home to listen to his piano recitals. We would take him on our trips to the Village when we went to visit our special friends, or attend our Christmas Party. As I mentioned before, it was really cold then at our Christmas events.

Tony had prolific fruit trees and donated the fruit to the village. Nili would climb the ladder to pick the fruit, and when she came down the ladder, Uncle Tony and I cracked up, because she was so black, she looked like she was ready for a minstrel show. (Continued page 11)



One of the saddest days of our lives was when his caregiver called to say that Tony had taken his own life by using a razor blade on his wrist in the bathtub. We think he did it because a banker by the name of Charles Keating swindled investors at Lincoln Bank of all their savings. Tony was one of them, and he was heartsick. He wanted the money to go to the children. We really loved Uncle Tony, and I expect to see him in Heaven.

We have been blessed over and over again. In 1972, the doctors opened up Sara's torso from top to bottom, and just closed her back up, saying that she had cancer throughout her body and there was nothing they could do. Well, she had a faith healing through Kathryn Kuhlman at the Shrine Auditorium, and she is still here doing God's work, fifty years later.

After moving to Arizona, Merv Griffin deeded his dude ranch to us, but the state of Arizona did not support placements of the children there. Merv authorized us to sell it, and consequently, we were about to rededicate our village in Beaumont in his name. Unfortunately, he passed away two weeks prior to the dedication.

Early in the game, we had to change our name from "Children's Village" to "Childhelp" because there was another organization of the same name and our donations were being conflicted.

I think I have been on the board ever since I joined (Except one term), and I have a cup recognizing me as "Recording Secretary," which was a gift given to me by our President of many years, June MacMurray. June once took me to a fundraising dinner sponsored by her friend, Betty White. As you know, Betty was a great animal lover and this had something to do with that. After one of our membership events, my husband bragged that his hamburger was BBQ'd by Fred MacMurray. As you know, Fred was the dad on "My Three Sons," which was produced by Yvonne's husband, Don Fedderson.

Before moving to Arizona, Sara lived in Tarzana, California, and had a little chapel built onto her home. I would attend her monthly services and always sat with Efrem Zimbalist, Jr. One day, Sara asked the congregation to turn to the person next to them and say "I Love You." Well, I did. When Efrem said it to me, he emphasized the word "Love," and I almost melted into a little grease spot on the floor. He was a wonderful supporter of Childhelp and a really good friend to Sara and Yvonne.

One of our dedicated members, Cordella Owens, started a support group comprised of the daughters of our members. She called it "Wings." Nili's daughter, Tali, was escorted by Efrem Zimbalist, Jr. when Cordella presented her with an award on her 16th birthday at the Beverly Wilshire. Time marches on. Tali now has three daughters of her own. The oldest will soon be twenty years old.

Years ago, Nili and I went back east for a several-day event, which included the dedication of our Village in Culpepper. Barbara Bush was there as our honorary

chairman and, at that time, she was the First Lady.

One time, we had a golf tournament at Lake Sherwood Country Club. Dan Quayle was the Vice President at the time, and our guests paid \$2,500 in order to play just one hole with him. He started at the tee and then kept advancing one hole at a time. We raised some really good money that day.

At one of our fundraiser's I met Robbie Britt, an 18-year old black vocalist with a rich deep baritone voice. He had been abused by his parents as a child and was adopted by a white family. His white father was his manager, and he kept him very busy with engagements. Robbie had the privilege of singing at the inauguration of Barbara Bush's husband. Also, he sang at my husband's funeral, at Robert Schuller's Chrystal Cathedral, in 2002. Sara and Yvonne sponsored him to sing patriotic songs at our fundraisers, and he sang at Sara's Little Chapel in Tarzana. When they moved to Scottsdale, they had a Little Chapel built on the same property as their homes, and they would pay for him to come to their monthly services. Robbie became an integral part of Childhelp, and is very near and dear to my heart.

I have some fond memories of our "Welcome Back" parties;" our fabulous chili parties at Jo Ann Klauer's in Bel Air, lawn parties at Bobbie Furrey's in La Canada Flintridge, parties at Sharon Sindell's in Beverly Hills, Halloween theme parties at Mary Heistand's in Encino, and many others

Some of the greatest joys in my life have been my affiliation with this group. Firstly, because Sara and Yvonne have enriched my spiritual life, and secondly because the members I have worked with are some of the greatest people on God's Earth.

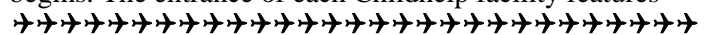
Thank you for your friendship! Keep up the good work!



Childhelp exists to meet the physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs of abused, neglected and at-risk children. They

focus our efforts on advocacy, intervention, treatment, prevention, family resilience and community outreach.

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### 16 February 2022 DINNER MEETING

Kevin and Evie Lynn are both United States Coast Guard Academy graduates; he in the Class of '97 and she the Class of '98. The majority of his career was in emergency management with his final assignment as Commander of the Coast Guard Pacific Area in Alameda. After a short shipboard assignment, Evie flew helicopters for several years with desk jobs in acquisition. They retired on the same day on 1 September 2018. Their presentation will include describing the roles the Coast Guard plays in Homeland Security and the defense of our nation. They will also talk about the highlights of their respective careers.



Check in starts at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.

Program begins at 7:30 p.m.

**RSVP to Dan Pemberton no later  
than 12 February 2022**

**[dhpinto@aol.com](mailto:dhpinto@aol.com)**

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**Sunday, April 3rd, 2022**

*Social Hour 1 pm | Brunch 2 pm*

*Ceremony begins at 3 pm*

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**Tickets | \$10 per person**

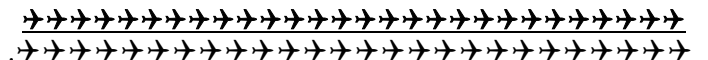
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Apple Cinnamon Oatmeal  
Coffee  
Orange Juice

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## In Other News



### Aircraft mechanic shortage could hamper airline operations

By [Robert Silk](#)

Jan 25, 2022



Consulting firm Oliver Wyman estimated last April that there were 273,000 people working in the U.S. aircraft maintenance sector compared with 296,000 pre-pandemic.

Photo Credit: Gorodenkoff/Shutterstock

(Continued page 13)



Concerns over pilot shortages. Cancellations due to Covid. New 5G transmissions. Now there's another challenge that could force more headaches for aviation: A shortage of maintenance workers, which has repair shops struggling to fill open positions.

"If we don't have enough technicians, you are going to see delays, cancellations, potentially fewer aircraft in operation," said Christian Klein, vice president of operations for the Aeronautical Repair Station Association, a trade group that represents the industry.

Like the shortage of U.S. pilots, which has forcefully resumed within the regional airline sector following a reprieve during the early portion of the pandemic, the shortage of maintenance technicians and repairmen preceded Covid-19 and then temporarily went away as lockdowns sharply impacted U.S. aviation activity.

But the downsizing of the maintenance worker labor force that took place in 2020 is now exacerbating the shortage.

The consulting firm Oliver Wyman estimated last April that there were 273,000 people working in the U.S. aircraft maintenance sector compared with 296,000 pre-pandemic.

A dearth of newly certified aircraft maintenance technicians has furthered the hiring challenge for maintenance shops over the past several months. In 2020, the FAA issued 30% fewer new mechanic certificates than it did in 2019, a drop-off that the Aviation Technician Education Council described as "devastating" in its 2021 Pipeline Report.

The report notes that the decline could prove to be an anomaly. But the council's executive director, Crystal Maguire, said she expects that a portion of the individuals who had their certification testing delayed by lockdowns won't end up taking the test at all.

"I can't imagine they're all going to come back," Maguire said. "It's hard to get students to test anyway."

Some repair station jobs, she pointed out, don't require certification.

An upshot of these short-term dynamics are immediate hiring challenges for maintenance shops. In the 2021 edition of the Aeronautical Repair Station Association's annual industry survey, slightly more than half of participating companies cited difficulty with finding or retaining workers as a major strategic threat.

Wayne Sisson, COO at the aircraft maintenance company FEAM, which has more than 30 U.S. stations, said that they are currently 8% short of their desired staffing level, a figure that is similar to pre-pandemic levels.

But late last year, in an effort to facilitate a nationwide hiring campaign, FEAM began paying a \$2,000 signing bonus.

Beginning this year, the company also reduced health insurance premiums, doubled vacation accrual for new hires and began matching employees' 401(k) contributions.

"It's a highly competitive landscape. It's something we've anticipated for more than a decade. But now there's a perfect storm," Sisson said.

Covid-related dynamics, including early retirements, layered onto what was already a challenging outlook. Boeing forecasts that the North American aviation industry, including airlines and repair stations, will need to hire 132,000 technicians between 2021 and 2040.

The good news, according to the Aviation Technician Education Council analysis, is that the mechanic population is expected to increase by 13% over the next 20 years. But high retirement levels combined with other attrition and demand growth is still expected to leave a shortage of 12,000 mechanics compared with the needs of the U.S. commercial aviation industry.

The silver lining, say members of the industry, is that there are solid financial reasons for people to turn toward the aircraft maintenance profession -- provided they know about it as an option.

"Sometimes you sit back and wonder, why is there not a line out the door?" said Steve Sabold, director of marketing and information technology at the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics, which has four campuses in the eastern U.S. "But it's an occupation that a lot of people don't know is out there."

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median salary in 2020 for aircraft mechanics and technicians was \$66,000. Sisson said that at FEAM, including readily available overtime hours, technicians can easily make \$75,000 in their first year.

Another plus, said Sabold, is that completing a technician program can take as little as 16 months. The overall cost to get through the Pittsburgh Institute program is \$40,000, a fraction of the cost of most four-year universities, said Karin McKenna, a spokeswoman for the school. Still, combined, the institute's four campuses are approximately 25% below capacity.

Staffing challenges are already impacting the pace with which airlines can get aircraft work done, said Sisson. FEAM, whose U.S. airline clients include Frontier and Spirit, has had to turn down potential new customers due to staffing shortfalls.

Sisson said flyers needn't worry about the maintenance worker shortage causing safety problems.

"The airlines will not gamble on safety. They won't try to do too much with too little. I think they'd reduce service before they allow it to compromise safety," he said.

But the time could be coming when the shortage has a meaningful impact on airline schedules.

"I would think we would see it in the next few years unless something really dynamic happens in the talent pipeline," Sisson said.

## Prayers

Unfortunately, several of our most active members were hospitalized or in Nursing Homes or at home recuperating from their injuries or illnesses. Our prayers are for a speedy recovery and a return to our meetings:

**Howard Davis, Ginger Lyons, Dick Guyer, Nancy Eisenhart, and Jan Edwards**

## New Members & Guests

We welcomed the following new members, guests, friends, and relatives to our physical and Zoom meetings during January 2022:

**Tanya Kaiser**

## Emma Volotzky

## February Birthdays

<b>Richard Raskoff</b>	<b>February 04, 1938</b>
<b>Paul Ehrenberg</b>	<b>February 07, 1950</b>
<b>Benjamin Levine</b>	<b>February 11, 1925</b>
<b>John Cromwell</b>	<b>February 12, 1942</b>
<b>David Alvarez</b>	<b>February 13, 1947</b>
<b>Earl Roth</b>	<b>February 16, 1941</b>
<b>Lloyd Wright</b>	<b>February 16, 1931</b>
<b>Wayne Wright</b>	<b>February 20, 1948</b>
<b>Fred Shapiro</b>	<b>February 23, 1937</b>
<b>Steve Shepard</b>	<b>February 25, 1967</b>
<b>Lucie Volotzky</b>	<b>February 25, 1955</b>
<b>Jane Leisure</b>	<b>February 26, 1936</b>
<b>Bill Wentz</b>	<b>February 26, 1948</b>
<b>Paul Boghossian</b>	<b>February 27, 1947</b>
<b>Boyd Davis</b>	<b>February 28, 1946</b>
<b>Gary Demaio</b>	<b>February 29, 1948</b>

## For Help with your Zoom Connection

## Contact:

# Charles Scott

**(818) 448-1737**

**pcinfoman@gmail.com.**

**The WOW Zoom Equipment GoFundMe account link is: [gf.me/u/x9pst6](https://www.gofundme.com/u/x9pst6).**

**Charles has offered to help Wings Over Wendy's members with their computer problems for FREE.**

# Monday Zoom Meeting Agenda

## The URL is always the same:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/661372701?pwd=NEZCWjlMUTArRW1tRetWUWRLNmpDQT09>

- **Meet & Greet starts at 8:00 am.**
- **The formal meeting starts at 9:30 am.**
- **Visitors and guests interviewed about 9:40 am.**
- **The presentation starts around 10 am**

**Meeting ID: 661 372 701**

**Password: 200220**

**THE MEETING ID and PASSWORD DO NOT**

## CHANGE

**Please rename yourself to the name you are listed in the WOW Roster.**

**If you didn't enter the name when you joined the Zoom meeting, click on the name, and a box will appear in the middle of the screen, and you can change it. Note that it only changes it for the session. If you drop off and rejoin during the meeting, you should change your name again.**

# Reminder

**Wings Over Wendy's  
monthly food drive is  
Monday, February 7rd**







# **In Memoriam**

In January 2022, we lost two members, one a very active attendee of our meetings and the other the longest living member of our group.



Photo by Harlis Brend

## **Phil Shapiro**

**02/24/1935 to 01/07/2022**

Phil Shapiro was born on February 24, 1935, and grew up in Brooklyn, NY. He attended schools in the area and graduated from Columbia University. Following Columbia, he was commissioned in the US Navy and served on active duty in Adak, Alaska, and Portsmouth, NH. Later he earned an MBA from George Washington University.

His work for defense contractors moved him to California. He was an active environmentalist, distance runner, climber, and world traveler.

Phil retired from defense contract work in 1993, and with his wife, Roz took 15 cruises and many tours of the Old West.

He slowed down after receiving a kidney transplant from his sister. He is survived by Roz and three children, Wayne, Brian, and Jennifer.



Photo from Valley News Group

## **Herb Brooks**

**05/20/1919 to 01/08/2022**

On May 20, 1919, Herbert Brooks was born in Cleveland, Ohio, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family Saturday morning, January 8, 2022, at age 102.

In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in North Africa, where he met and married his beloved wife, Rachel, of nearly 78 years. After the war, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks relocated to the West Coast, accompanied by Herb's parents, Joseph and Malvina. They settled in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles to start a family. Family meant everything to Brooks.

While he earned a good living driving semi's in the Southwest, he transferred to a local company delivering bread so that he could be at home nightly once his daughters were born. Shortly after that, his mother-in-law Marietta Gabbay from Egypt, joined them.

Herb remained active with family, friends, and neighborhood until he was in his mid-90s.

The Masonic Temple's Menorah Lodge honored Brooks for 50 years of unwavering service.

Herbert Brooks is survived by his wife Rachel, three daughters, Joyce Brooks Bogartz (Gary), Colette Brooks (Brett), and Jacqueline Brooks Bercsi (Stephen), two grandchildren, Joseph Tynan and Alexandra Ferro.

He was laid to rest at Mount Sinai Memorial Park in Los Angeles on January 10, 2022



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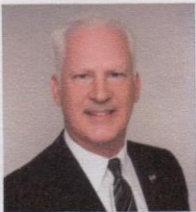
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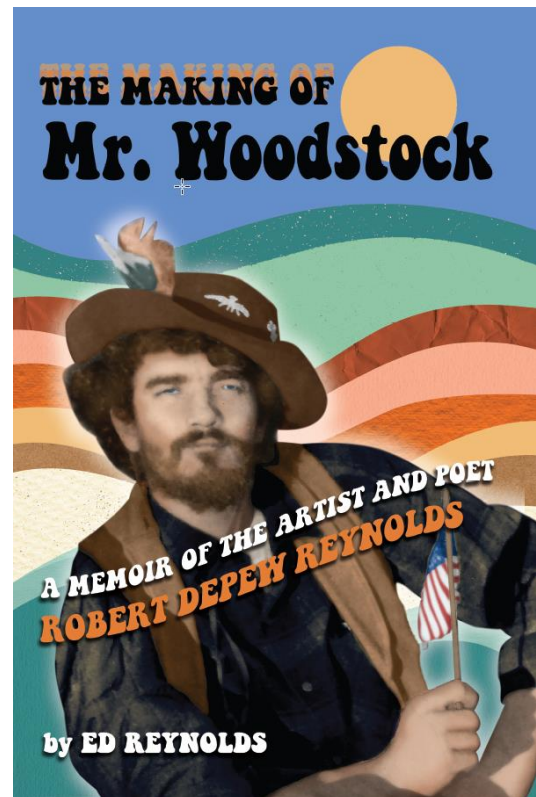


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