

The Pacific Masters Service Awards for 2020 were announced at the Annual Celebration Meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Pacific Masters couldn't be successful without its volunteers and we hope you'll agree when you read about those we've recognized this year. They represent the unsung heroes in every club and Masters activity in Pacific Masters. If you know of someone you think should be recognized, please send us his or her name and keep your eyes open for a potential award winner!

### **Nancy Ridout Award for Distinguished Service – Phyllis Quinn**

Phyllis has been a major contributor to Pacific Masters Swimming for a very long time. She has been an active participant in both our pool and open water program. She is a national top ten pool swimmer and has been at the top of the open water rankings for years. But what prompted Phyllis to be awarded the highest award Pacific Masters gives are her dedication and service to the program that we enjoy here in Pacific. She was the first meet director for the annual USF meet, she was the Race Director for the FINA World Championship OW event in 2006, She was the Pacific Masters OW Chair from 2013-2019, and she has been a member of the USMS Long Distance Committee since 2012. Now, in these difficult times, as the Chair of Pacific Masters, she has led us through a challenging year and kept us working together to swim and stay fit. We are honored to present this award to Phyllis Quinn with our thanks for all she has contributed to Pacific Masters.



### **Contributor of the Year – Karen Harris**



Karen is always willing to do what is needed! Her passion for Masters swimming has shown itself as steady over the years and she has been recognized in several categories for her contributions. For Pacific Masters, she has been a delegate to the USMS Annual convention, and highly involved in the annual OW event Swimming for the Sake the Kids at Keller Cove. She has served on many task forces for Pacific Masters and is a member of the USMS Rules committee, and a member of the Adult Learn to Swim committee. She has served in many roles with the Richmond Plunge Masters including President of their Board. She coordinates and serves as an instructor in the Swimming Saves Lives program that has made a huge impact in the community and taught over 80 adults to become water safe. We're delighted to honor Karen with the Contributor of the Year Award for 2020.

## Appreciation Awards-4

**Richard Burns** took it upon himself to chronicle the challenges of 2020 to our aquatic community and created the video you saw today utilizing your contributions of photos and videos. It is a wonderful tribute to our passion and resilience. Many thanks Rich!



**Carol Nip** has worked tirelessly for Pacific Masters this year! She was the innovative force behind the first few eNews Updates as we began to shut down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Her entertaining and creative Update newsletters reminded us all that we were still part of a caring community during a very stressful time. In her role as VP of Clubs and Coaches, Carol continues to bon our community with regular communiques to our coaches and spearheaded a very successful October virtual Coaches clinic attended by more than 90 coaches.

**Laura Shope** has been the Treasurer extraordinaire for the past 3 years. As a CPA, Laura has provided Pacific Masters with a professional eye on our annual tax filings and budgeting. She has worked tirelessly with our vice presidents to help them with their budgets. Pacific Masters has been very fortunate indeed to have Laura as a valued volunteer!



**Greg Stoner** is being recognized for his work on the Pacific Masters Covid-19 Relief Committee. This Davis Aquatic Masters member stepped up to the plate and played a vital role in this effort to support our clubs in these critical times. He helped create the first and second editions of the PacMasters form, evaluated all club requests and attended all weekly meetings for 5 months. He is in the process of following up the clubs who received funds to see if they made a difference. We're very thankful for Greg and his willingness to volunteer his time and expertise!

## Personal Achievement – 2



**Catherine Breed** became the 5<sup>th</sup> female to successfully swim across the Monterey Bay. (Only 1 man has successfully completed this swim.) She began her journey at Twin Lakes State Beach in Santa Cruz on a September Monday night and finished at San Carlos Beach in Monterey on Tuesday morning, 12 hours and 42 minutes later – a new record! She braved 59-degree water, pitch black sky and water, and earplugs; leaving her with no feedback from her senses, but she was awed by the cold water glowing with bioluminescence, a surreal experience. She raised roughly \$2,000

for Diversity in Aquatics, a nonprofit that aquatic programs in underserved communities. Congratulations Cat!

### **Google Relay**

Over 11 days in December 2019, eight members of Google Masters Swimming set new distance and time standards with the “Guinness Book of World Records”. Craig Robinson, Joe Gardner, Erik Haugen, Sven Mawson, Collin Johnston, Tom Dowd, Rob Gray, and Joe Young swam continuously for 11 days and covered more than 596.5 miles. This effort required over 270 volunteers to donate time, money, or both to the cause. The swim not only landed them in the Guinness Book of World Records, it raised \$30,000 split evenly between the USMS Swimming Saves Lives Foundation and Challenged Athletes Foundation. Wow! Congratulations to all!



### **Peggy Lucchesi Award**



This year the Peggy Lucchesi award for bringing joy to Masters swimming goes to Bonnie Tsui. In the midst of the pandemic, Bonnie brought many people joy with her NYT piece “Eat. Sleep. Swim. Repeat” and her new book Why We Swim. When we couldn’t get in the pool ourselves, we could read about it and look forward to the days when we could get back and get wet! And if you come back after this short break, you can hear and see Bonnie talk about her book and answer your questions.