

In Memoriam

Tom Silk 1937-2022

Tom Silk passed away on February 4, 2022, after a brief illness. Tom was the guru of non-profit law. He represented hundreds of NPOs, especially in the Bay Area, including the Tides Foundation, Glide Memorial, Oceanic Society; and he lectured on the subject in the emerging countries of East Asia. Tom joined the Dolphin Club in October 1973, primarily to play handball. In 1976, he was asked to represent the Club as it entered negotiations about admitting women members. He ascertained that the City of San Francisco was the Club's landlord, and so, he explained, there was no wriggle room. He was promptly fired. Tom was later married for a while to one of the first ladies to join the Club.



Patrick Kelly 1928-2022

Life Member Pat Kelly died on January 8, 2022, in Chico, California, where he had resided for the last forty years. Pat was 93. Born in Missouri, he studied at the Sorbonne, and earned degrees from the University of Mexico and San Jose State before becoming a reference librarian. Pat joined the Dolphin Club in April 1961. He was a handball player, rower, and one of our top runners. Pat also swam the Golden Gate in 1963, and served on the Board in 1965. Pat continued to jog and bike in retirement. He was a conservationist and enjoyed outdoor hobbies, growing his own food, collecting mushrooms, panning for gold, and fishing.

(photo: Patrick Kelly - 2nd from Left)



Ray Mondini 1940-2022

Raymond Mondini passed away on January 4, 2022, at age 81. He was born in San Francisco, and attended SF State and the University of Perugia, Italy. Ray became a highly respected scholar, lecturer, and longtime chair of the Humanities Department at the SF Art Institute from 1968 through 2004. In October 1981 he joined the Dolphin Club and was active in all the Club swims. Ray also piloted, completed Polar Bear many times, was a weightlifter, and served on the Board. In recent years, Ray simply enjoyed his leisurely morning swims.



Hiroshi Tsuyumine 1921-2021

Life Member Hiroshi "Hiro" Tsuyumine passed away on December 14, 2021, aged 100. Hiro was born in San Francisco, graduated from Polytechnic High School, and was interested in art before the attack on Pearl Harbor changed everything. Like other Japanese-Americans on the West Coast, the Tsuyumine family was forced to relocate. They were held at Topaz Camp in desolate central Utah. Returning to San Francisco after the war, Hiro met Frank "Cecco" Mennucci while working in the old produce market and heard about the Dolphin Club. He also became a longshoreman and met more Dolphins, including his gang boss, Frank Drum, president of the Club. Hiro joined the Dolphin Club in July 1974, hoping to find wholesome exercise and friendship.

Hiro told fascinating stories of a much different club back then, including sunbathing naked on the roof deck, old-timers smoking while playing gin rummy, and the coke machine in the Staib room dispensing beer. He was an enthusiastic swimmer, and, when not competing in club races, Hiro would be a timer or helper. Or, you might have spotted Hiro tanning on the deck with a wood block pillow and eye shields. Along the wharf, from the BV to Scoma's to IHOP, Hiro's appetite is still legendary.



Jerry Jacoby 1936-2022

Jerrold "Jerry" Jacoby passed away in San Francisco on February 22, 2022, at the age of 86. Jerry was superbly educated at Lowell HS and UC Berkeley. He joined the Dolphin Club in May 1982 with a passion for fitness. Jerry was a fixture at the Club, busy in the weight room and erging (rowing) on the deck, but always happy to pause, chat, and share his wisdom with anyone.



William McKown 1944-2021

Bill McKown, a valued Life Member, passed away on November 25, 2021, at age 77. Born in St Louis, he served on a destroyer in Vietnam. After his service, he earned an MBA degree from the University of Southern California, and then enjoyed a distinguished career in banking and equipment leasing. Bill became a Dolphin in May 1983, and was soon a swimmer, helper, Dipsea Trail runner, and triathlete. Bill learned to play the bagpipes at age 50 and entertained us at our Robert Burns celebrations.



William 'Bill' Fink 1943-2020

We only recently learned that Bill Fink died in Bodega Bay on February 10, 2020, at age 77. Bill joined the Club in July 1983 and was a talented sculler at Lake Merced. He represented the club in many rowing regattas. Bill graduated from Yale in 1964, and became a Rhodes Scholar. Locally, he was well-known for promoting and selling vintage hand-built Morgan sports cars, dealing with all the import restrictions, and keeping the brand alive in America.



Bob Danielson 1930-2022

A landscape architect and lecturer at UC Davis, Bob Danielson worked on many large scale landscapes including Shoreline Center in Mill Valley, Yosemite and Sacramento International Airports, and the Lakes (multi-family housing) in Mountain View. Over his career, he estimated he was responsible for planting over 100,000 trees and shrubs. Bob was an active swimmer all his life. He competed in open water swims, Masters World Championships and even traveled to Sweden and Italy to compete internationally. He swam regularly on the Masters team at USFs Koret Center, and in 1984 joined the Dolphin Club where he kayaked and piloted for 35 years. For decades he was always the first to arrive at the club every morning at 5 am, switch on the sauna, swim backstroke along the buoy line and then enjoy the camaraderie in the sauna sitting in his favorite spot in the southeast corner. Although diagnosed with cancer some years ago, he never chose to talk about it.

