

## THE ACA, SOUTHERN CA/HI LEGACY CIRCLE

Membership in the Legacy Circle honors the vision and support of individuals who have been committed to the field of organized camping and ACA for more than 30 years. They have served in leadership capacities in Southern California or Hawaii and have made significant contributions to the camp industry.



**Grant Gerson** founded the Calamigos Covered Wagon Club in 1947, a travel camp for boys 10 to 16 years of age. They toured the western United States in a covered wagon with a hundred horses under the hood of a Chevrolet truck built like a Conestoga wagon. In 1949, Grant and Helen Walter bought a 15-acre property in Malibu in the Santa Monica Mountains. This was the beginning of Calamigos Star C Ranch Camp. In the summer of 1950, they started a resident camp for boys 7 to 15, and several years later, the camp became co-ed. There was a creek running through the land so

Grant built a dam and a lake. In the early years, Grant farmed the land with a team of draft horses and raised hay. Over the course of many years, multiple buildings and facilities were added to eventually provide for 160 campers and 50 staff to live.

Grant's love of the outdoors led him to be one of the founders of the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council. He is also credited with starting the Outdoor Education program in the Las Virgenes Unified School District. Grant Gerson has received many awards, recognitions and accolades over the years from ACA, WAIC and many other organizations. Currently, Grant enjoys riding his horse frequently and just turned 89 years old.



**Cindy Moore** joined ACA as a student member when her first camp director offered to pay half of the student membership: she paid \$2.50. In the mid 1950's Cindy attended her first ACA conference in St. Louis. The result was a commitment to camping as a profession and ACA as her professional organization.

Cindy could easily be described as one of ACA's most active volunteers. Her leadership roles have spanned Standards at Section and National levels, Section education, National education, Regional conferences, National conferences, BCDC presenter, and most recently, team member for the Fall Leadership Training: A Summit for Education and Professional Development Chairs. Cindy has been an active volunteer in her local Girl Scout Council and is involved in a number of projects in her community.

Cindy has been involved with camping in a range of capacities, including service in a number of private camps, YWCA camps, two camps for children with special medical needs and Girl Scout camps in Hawaii and San Diego. In the late 1990's Cindy was privileged to chair a Property Planning Committee that developed long range plans for all five of the San Diego Girl Scout properties, including a new camp on Palomar Mountain. Phase One, the addition of program resources and meeting space at the Balboa Park site is almost completely finished. Cindy is currently the ACA Southern CA/HI Education Work Group Chair, a Standards Instructor, ACA visitor and continues to also be involved with ACA at a National level.



**Greg Schneider** began his love of camp in 1947 when he attended Tocaloma Day Camp and Catalina Island Boys Camp (at the time he didn't dream that he would one day own and operate both camps for 15 years).

In 1963, Greg opened Westchester Swim School. The new program was immediately welcomed by the community and in 1965, he opened Westrey Summer Day Camp followed by Westrey Nursery School in 1967. The programs grew and Teepee Club Day Camp was added to the Westrey Group. The program continued to prosper with the addition of Foxboro Ranch, in Northern Arizona, in 1980 and Tocaloma Day Camp and Catalina Island Camps in 1981. Greg operated these programs through 1994. In 1995, he was joined by former camper, Adam Hibbeler to open Peninsula Bay Cities Day Camp and Swim School (PBC) in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. PBC will celebrate their sixteenth summer this year.

Greg served as ACA Southern California/Hawaii Section president in 1984 - 1985 and again in 1988. He joined the ACA National Board from 1987 through 1991. Greg was the President of WAIC from 1992 through 1995 and served on the WAIC Strategic Planning committee in 1993 and was the WAIC conference chair in 1996. Greg has received the ACA, Southern CA/HI Paul Sommers award and Outstanding Service Award as well as the Association of Independent Camps (AIC) Regional Honor Award in 1991. Today, he enjoys the fun and excitement of summer at Peninsula Bay Cities Day Camp.

