



WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME™

Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Joan Forsberg (2010)



My dear Sea Sisters,
As I approach the end of my terms on the Board and as Chairman, I realize just how much I have to be grateful for.

A great big Sea Sister hug to all of you who have been so supportive, helped however you could, and who said "Yes" when we called upon you. To be part of the greatest team in our beloved sport of diving has been an honor, and I've had the time of my life! I thank each and every one who has served on the Board and on the Committees for showing such diligence that you have truly inspired me and all of our fellow Members. It's been a privilege to be part of a team whose members donate their talents, resources, time, and elbow grease for no reason other than their devotion to the mission. They believe in what we do and what we stand for, with single-minded and whole-hearted dedication.

We have so much to be proud of as we look at how far we've come, from the first glimmer of an idea to honor women divers, to having become an organization that is respected throughout the world. WDHOF has grown in numbers and talent and been enriched by all the women who proudly wear the

diver girl pin. But, for our Sea Sisters, it was not enough. There was a joyous outburst of generosity to share what we have and what we have learned. We provided scholarships and grants worth approximately \$72,000 to 43 scholars of great promise this year alone! Without a doubt this demonstrates that we are lighting the way for not just the future of diving, but the health of our water planet. I hope you will support our "Tropical Dreams & Paradise Sunsets, Mardi Gras Style!" event coming up in November at DEMA. This is our best opportunity to raise the funds that we so gratefully accept from our generous donors to further our goal: reaching out to the next generation of divers and achievers.

Each of us has overcome obstacles and difficulties in life's journey and this is no time to rest. In these challenging times, continue to stand up and make your voice heard. After all, we did not become Members of the Women Divers Hall of Fame by just floating to the surface; we swam with all of our might to achieve those successes that made us WDHOF Members.

Make waves.

Make history!

With great respect
and love,

Joan

EDITOR'S NOTE

My, my, but the summer does fly! Fall is approaching and with it, our summer/fall newsletter, at last. Please enjoy what has happened, what is happening, and what will happen soon, in the packed pages that are before you! Every article will reassure you that the mission of WDHOF is continuing to thrive and grow, thanks to each of you. WDHOF does make a positive difference in the lives of people all around the world!

On behalf of your newsletter team, thank you for making sure we stay informed by sending us these wonderful items for your newsletter. Keep them coming! Enjoy!

Divingly,
Jan



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The Silence of the Sharks

By Associate, Aya Konstantinou with Stephanie Leung

This October, a large dive event will be held in the Red Sea -- Silence of the Sharks. Hundreds of divers from all over the world will congregate in Eilat, Israel, to speak out against shark hunting, finning, and culling. This year's dive is very special because it will be dedicated to my late mother, Dr. Eugenie Clark.

Dr. Clark was a pioneer ichthyologist and a prolific diver. She is well known for her groundbreaking research on various shark behaviors. As a result of her research, she was affectionately given a nickname, the "Shark Lady." In the 1950s, she was the first person to keep large sharks in captivity and conduct experiments on their behavior and intelligence. Her 1965 study on the sharks of Florida, in which she examined nearly 800 sharks, was the first major study of sharks.

My mother first visited the Red Sea in the late 1940s under a Fulbright Scholarship grant. Over five decades she led more than 40 expeditions into the Red Sea to study its fishes. Her first scuba dives were in the Red Sea, as well as some of her last dives. Her popular National Geographic articles on the Red Sea opened new vistas of the underwater world to many people. Dr. Clark introduced many of her

students, not only to ichthyology and the marine world, but also to the wonders of diving. Eilat became her home away from home, and she conducted much of her research at the marine station there.

The Silence of the Sharks event would have been a very near and dear cause to my mother. During her lifetime, she was an outspoken advocate and activist in protecting sharks and for the marine world. Sharks have been found in the oceans for millions of years. Now, for the past few decades, their populations have been decimated due to overfishing, habitat loss, pollution, and other man-made phenomena. This dive event will focus the world's attention on the plight of sharks.

My family and I are proud to support the efforts of the Silence of the Sharks event, and we are honored to be representing the spirit of my mother, Dr. Eugenie Clark, at the dive. We hope to see you there October 19 to 22, 2017, as well. For more information, see <https://www.silenceofthesharks.org>

Editor's Note: Aya Konstantinou is the daughter of our beloved, departed member, Eugenie Clark. Stephanie Leung is Aya's future daughter-in-law.

Jaclyn Friedlander and Friends with Fins

By Julianne Ziefle (2002)

One of the speakers at the Long Beach Scuba Show 2017 was ocean conservation and marine life expert, Associate Jaclyn Friedlander, who was introduced to WDHOF by Julianne Ziefle. Jaclyn created Friends with Fins when, as an aquarium volunteer and beach clean-up captain, she saw a need for ocean-specific educational material. Friends with Fins provides educational materials in the form of books, YouTube videos, and live presentations to school-aged children, with a strong focus on promoting STEM, ocean conservation, and keeping all children, especially young girls, interested in science. For children in land-locked cities who have never seen an ocean up close, this material is their window to the marine environment that we all enjoy through diving. Teachers all over the world are using Friends with Fins videos as teaching tools in their classrooms.

Coming up in December, she is headed to Papua New Guinea to make a video about Lissenung Island Resort and the amazing sea turtle rescue work Angelique Amon is doing there. This video will also serve as a pilot episode for the Friends with Fins educational television show. If you would like to learn more about Jaclyn and Friends with Fins, visit www.friendswithfins.org

