

JOURNAL Montecito

4 - 11 SEPT 2025 | VOL 31 ISS 36 *Voice of the Village*
www.montecitojournal.net
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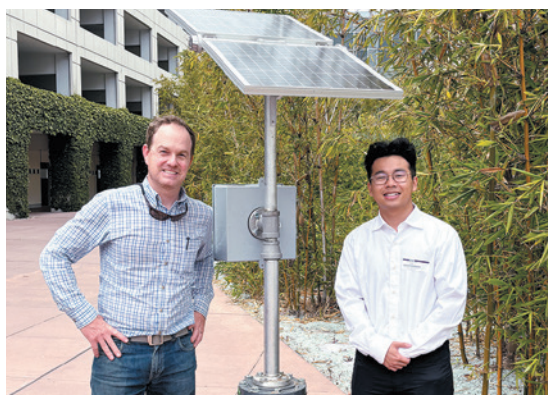
Taran-osaurus – Dinosaurs teach breathing, yoga, and big feelings as Taran Collis brings mindfulness to kids and their families, **P.18**

Golden Years Uncertain – The sale of Battistone's senior housing puts 190 residents in jeopardy amid soaring rents and limited options, **P.28**

The Wilson Legacy

A tribute filled with harmony and heart... Wendy and Carnie Wilson share memories, music, and love ahead of concert honoring their father Brian Wilson and his timeless tunes. (Story starts on page 5)

photo by Ellen Zuckerman



Power-pole Positions

From farms to beaches, Dragon Q's off-grid clean energy technology enters pilot phase in every corner of Santa Barbara County, **page 12**



Shop, Sip, Stroll

One week, endless experiences – Coast Village Road hosts art, music, shopping, and community fun for all ages (and breeds...), **page 24**

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On Entertainment

Family & Friends Bring Good Vibrations to Brian Wilson Tribute



Wendy Wilson, Chynna Phillips, and Carnie Wilson take to the Granada with family and friends (courtesy photo)

by Steven Libowitz

Although he spent his entire life in Southern California, **Brian Wilson** never performed at the Granada Theatre in Santa Barbara. But it's hard not to imagine that the founder, chief songwriter and sonic architect behind The Beach Boys would be even more thrilled by the concert coming to the jewel of a theater on September 27.

That's because the concert is a celebration of Wilson's music performed by a huge swath of his extended family, everyone from his kids **Carnie** and **Wendy Wilson** and **Chynna Phillips**, their colleague in 1990s hitmakers Wilson Phillips, and *their* collective kids to his ex-wife and former members of his bands. Among those scheduled to perform are **Rob Bonfiglio**, Carnie's husband, and **Brian Wilson** band guitarist; The Honeys (early 60s girl group comprised of Wilson's first wife/Carnie & Wendy's mother **Marilyn Wilson-Rutherford** and her cousin **Ginger Blake**); Carnie's daughter **Lola Bonfiglio**, 20, who competed on *American Idol* earlier this year; Wendy's son **Leo Knutson**; longtime Wilson percussionist **Nelson Bragg**; keyboardist **Don Randi** of The Wrecking Crew, the storied session band on the Beach Boys' *Pet Sounds* album.

The Tribe Band, the L.A.-based collective that plays concerts all around the region in support of nonprofits, serves as the house band, with the Folk Orchestra of Santa Barbara providing strings and other instrumental arrangements, and special guest appearances by **Kenny Loggins**, **Ken Stacey** singers **Carly Smithson**, **Alisan Porter**, Santa Barbara-raised **Hunter Hawkins**, backup singer **Rosemary Butler**, and many others.

It's the first such tribute concert to Wilson outside of the L.A. area since his passing at 82 on June 11. Proceeds will go to provide funds for two local organizations, Adam's Angels and Surfrider Foundation of Santa Barbara, but the true beneficiaries might be those who see the concert and its once-in-a-lifetime roster coming together to celebrate the spirit, sound, and soul of Wilson's musical legacy through the Beach Boys' biggest songs and some deeper cuts, as well as surprises.

Carnie and Wendy Wilson – who will perform on their own and with family members, as well as with Chynna as part of Wilson Phillips – shared their thoughts on Brian, the Beach Boys, and this special concert in a conference call last week.

Q. *I'm one of the multi-millions who consider Brian one of the all-time great composers and a true mastermind I marvel about every time I hear a Beach Boys song. I read a long-ago interview with Carnie where you said you heard Pet Sounds in your mother's womb. I have to admit I'm envious. Were you as big a fan?*

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Adam Phillips and The Folk Orchestra will provide strings and other eclectic elements to the Brian Wilson tribute concert (courtesy photo)

Carnie Wilson [CW]. We agree. We’ve always loved the music so much, and we feel very proud that we’ve carried on his legacy for the better part of 40 years. Even though we’ve had our own records and big hits, he’s always been the driving force. We wouldn’t have had anything without the love of harmony, and feeling so connected to our father in that way has always been very special to us.

I know you had a challenging childhood with what your dad was going through with addiction and other problems.

CW. He went through a very hard patch, but it was so great that we got to connect once again through music, to reunite as a family and reconnect with him in the ways that we really related to him. Thank God for these years we had together. There was a lot of healing. I’m very grateful for everything that we’ve been through, all the steps, all the healing and the moments that we have had over our lives, the special moments, some of which we got to spend with Dad, and it was beautiful. We’re holding on to those memories, the good stuff.

More than 20 years ago, you actually recorded your cover of “In My Room” with Wilson Phillips with your dad playing piano and singing the bridge on the Dedicated album. What was that like?

CW. We were laughing because when we were in the studio with Daddy recording it, he played the piano really super fast, very sped up. We were laughing because we knew that he was very emotional, and I think he was very blown away being in the studio with all of us. He really loved our music. So it must have been a trip for him to be there, like he wanted to get it over with faster because he was too emotional.

Wilson Phillips will be singing that as one of our songs in the celebration concert.

You’ll be with a huge extended family at the show at the Granada. What are you looking forward to?

CW. I’m really excited about it. It’s really great to have the family coming together and singing. The whole concert is just huge and fabulous. I’m excited about having the orchestra – I love when strings are a part of any Beach Boys

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Letters to the Editor

In Defense of Socialism

Jeff Harding criticizes the college educated youth that are gravitating to Socialism with puerile augments such as “Capitalism has provided the greatest prosperity ever.” This is simply not true; it has provided the greatest wealth inequality in history and left our environment shattered. Science has progressed in the last 200 years, and this provided the basis for a current high standard of living, not a primitive arrangement between employer and employee modeled on the Lord over serf mindset (just like slavery).

The extreme Capitalist is the reason we are in so much trouble now with our debt and standard of living for the average American. Housing has simply become unreachable for an average income in the U.S., and young adults see a bleak future with no chance of advancement in their lives. Indeed, it says more about Mr. Harding than the young adults he chastises for looking for a better system. No doubt, in the wealthy enclave of Montecito, the prospect of “Socialism” is frightening to those who have either inherited their wealth or exploited those less fortunate in our society to obtain it.

China’s rapid growth simply flies in the face of Mr. Harding’s claim that Socialism never works. Their combination of a highly regulated private sector and government projects have simply lifted more people out of poverty, faster than any other system in history. They also don’t spend 40% of their GDP manipulating stock prices, so the rich can accumulate ever greater amounts of wealth. Everything I have just said can be backed up with actual facts, not invalidated by clichés of how great our system is. The youth of America are simply stating the obvious – that something is drastically wrong with our current economic system, and it needs to be examined carefully.

The New Deal was a result of the last time we had such a huge disparity of wealth

and income. It has been the most successful application of Socialism our country has ever seen. Now, **Trump** and his extreme neoliberal minions are trying to dismantle it as fast as possible. The result will be suffering we have never encountered in our lifetime if he is successful.

Christopher Keate MSEE

The Bear on Books

Jeff Wing’s article on Tecolote Bookstore was fascinating; however, I’d like to add three points.

1.) Tecolote has a wide variety of books and book related items to keep one’s mind happy. Their *New Yorker* puzzles come to mind.

2.) **Mary** and her staff are all avid readers and are available to recommend a read or order one, if you like.

3.) It has air conditioning that makes it a good place to browse the stacks on a hot day.

Also, they have terrific book signing events that I find most interesting and enjoyable. Three cheers for Tecolote, the only bookstore in The Cito, conveniently located in the Upper Village! 🐻

-Carlos, The Bear, & Michael Edwards

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Published by:
Montecito Journal Media Group, LLC
Montecito Journal is compiled, compounded, calibrated, cogitated over, and coughed up every Wednesday by an exacting agglomeration of excitable (and often exemplary) expert edifiers at 1206 Coast Village Circle, Suite G, Montecito, CA 93108.
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Montecito Tide Guide

Day	Low	Hgt	High	Hgt	Low	Hgt	High	Hgt	Low	Hgt
Thurs, Sept 4	2:38 AM	-0.1	9:12 AM	4.0	01:50 PM	2.5	07:58 PM	5.9		
Fri, Sept 5	3:07 AM	-0.3	9:31 AM	4.2	02:30 PM	2.1	08:38 PM	6.1		
Sat, Sept 6	3:35 AM	-0.4	9:53 AM	4.5	03:10 PM	1.6	09:19 PM	6.1		
Sun, Sept 7	4:03 AM	-0.3	10:18 AM	4.9	03:54 PM	1.2	10:01 PM	5.9		
Mon, Sept 8	4:31 AM	0.0	10:45 AM	5.3	04:40 PM	0.9	10:46 PM	5.5		
Tues, Sept 9	5:00 AM	0.4	11:16 AM	5.6	05:30 PM	0.6	11:36 PM	4.9		
Wed, Sept 10	5:30 AM	0.9	11:50 AM	5.9	06:26 PM	0.5				
Thurs, Sept 11			12:33 AM	4.3	6:00 AM	1.6	12:28 PM	6.0	07:31 PM	0.5
Fri, Sept 12			1:45 AM	3.6	6:32 AM	2.2	01:15 PM	5.9	08:52 PM	0.5

◀ **Entertainment** (Continued from 10)

music. I think it's going to add a lot. The cool part about these shows is that there are a lot of moving parts with so many artists so you get to hear different renditions and vibes. We have some amazing singers. **Alisan Porter** was Wilson Phillips' vocal coach for *The Masked Singer* and she's tremendous. I'm going to take another crack at "Good Vibrations," and I'm hoping that more people join me for it. My daughter's going to be singing "The Warmth of the Sun," one of the most beautiful songs ever written. She's a stunning singer. I don't think anyone does it better.

Anytime we do more than just the surf songs and the car songs, I'm just in absolute heaven. I think overall, though, that the thread, the theme, the honor is all this great music. It's really a big family affair for us. It's very special.

Wendy Wilson [WW]. I'm looking forward to hearing Carly singing her arrangement of "God Only Knows".

CW. Oh my God. It's really impactful. You've never heard a version like this before.

Do you each have a favorite Beach Boys song, both when you were growing and today, that means the most to you?

WW. "Don't Worry Baby" was one of my favorites as a kid and it still is.

CW. "God Only Knows" because of Carl's vocals, and "Good Vibrations," which I've always been mesmerized by. It just blows my mind in the story behind it and all the work he put into it. I never get sick of hearing it. It's like experiencing the brilliance for the first time every time I listen to it.

What would Brian have thought of this concert?

CW. I think it would definitely take him aback, but he would be so proud, especially of his grandchildren up there.

WW. I think he would just say, "This is far out."

When he passed in June, the world lost the great Brian Wilson, but the two of you lost your dad. Is it challenging to be able to be with your grief while there's been so much attention and tributes?

WW. I felt very comforted by the fact that there were so many people who were moved by him, and that he was able to be recognized in his time. That was amazing. I didn't like the sensationalizing thing, which is why I turned down going on TV to talk about it. To me he isn't a public figure. He was my father. But I'm grateful that we were not alone in that so many people felt something when he died.

CW. It's been more of a challenge for me. I don't know if it's because I am too sensitive but it's been weird. No pun intended, but there's a vibrational feeling that I get, like I've been taking on a lot of grief, and I can't explain it. I've never experienced grief like this, and it is incredibly hard. And I've been trying to process it and not numb out. I'm a sober woman and I am feeling my feelings and grief is weird. It comes in waves. Again, no pun intended. I'm trying to turn it into a positive. I knew his impact because you could see it with people over the years, and when you would go to a show, and people would be jumping up and down and singing along with all happiness. I get this feeling of love, spirituality, family music, one big tapestry that's interwoven together. So while it's so personal, my own love of music comes from him. So there's an ache in my heart. It's sad that he's gone. But the only word I can think of now is honor.

Even now there's not a day that goes by and I'm at the mall or the market, and a stranger comes up to me and doesn't even say hi. They just go, "I'm so sorry about your dad." It says how touched they were by him, and it makes my day. It warms my heart.

I have an out-of-left-field question: What was it like to see Love & Mercy, the fiction film about your dad?

WW. I got to see the premiere of that movie, and I sat next to my dad for that, and I was with my kids. I took them and they were young, and there were moments in the theater where you could hear a pin drop. Then I'm sobbing and it's uncontrollable, and other people were sobbing, and it was a very emotional thing.

CW. Remember at one moment, though, he blurted out "That didn't happen!" It was actually kind of comical, because he would say anything on his mind.

Country-blues Heroine Comin' Round the Block

Rory Block got her first exposure to acoustic guitar as a pre-teen in Greenwich Village in the 1960s, fell in love with Mississippi Delta blues guitar before she turned 15, taught herself how to play the style by transcribing songs on old records, and then left home to find the masters in person. She released her first album in 1967 at age 17, took eight years off to start a family and then returned to both the studio and the road in the mid-1970s.

Block has released almost 40 albums under her own name since then, including the **John Sebastian**-produced *High Heeled Blues* during the period when she was a peripheral part of the legendary Woodstock Mountain Revue, and *When a Woman Gets the Blues*, her first of three records to be named Acoustic Blues Album of the Year. She's also earned four additional Blues Music Awards, including "Acoustic Artist of the Year" as recently as 2019; well-deserved recognition of her prowess in both interpreting country blues classics and performing her own songs.

Now 75, Block doesn't get out to the West Coast very often, and even then usually only the major cities. But after years of trying, the Santa Barbara Blues Society has landed the much-heralded singer-songwriter-guitarist for her first local gig in almost two decades, a special solo performance set for Sunday, September 7, at the Unitarian Society (1535 Santa Barbara St.) a night after the acoustic blues master performs at L.A.'s famed McCabe's Guitar Shop.

Skating Through Genres

Tommy Guerrero was a pioneer of street skating as an original member of the iconic Bones Brigade alongside **Tony Hawk**, then traded that legendary status to take up a career as a musician. At first working as a member of the skate rock band Free Beer and later Jet Black Crayon, in his solo efforts Guerrero draws on the DIY punk ethos and underground culture he gravitated to in his early days in San Francisco. Guerrero blends in elements of funk, jazz, Latin, soul – in much the same way his skating moves found their own genre-busting edge. Guerrero heads upstairs to SOhO for a Monday night gig on September 8.

Valley Fever

Santa Ynez is wired for sound on Wednesday, September 10, when two must-hear singer-songwriters appear about six miles apart. Nashville-based **Mat Kearney** – whose introspective folk/melodic pop mix has seen him land three albums in the Top 20 of the Billboard 200 before he mined the roots genre and released his first self-titled album over the last few years – headlines the first post-PC-PA theater season under the stars at the mini-amphitheater known as Solvang Theaterfest. Meanwhile, indie folk-rock singer-songwriter **Peter Mulvey** returns to the long-running Tales from the Tavern series at the Maverick Saloon in the heart of Santa Ynez.

Tango Meets Contemporary in 'Malena: Between Freedom and the Embrace'

Alejandra Folguera, founder of Nomad Tango, and **Rodney Gustafson**, founder of State Street Ballet and co-founder of Nomad Tango, knew they'd hit on something special when *Tango Meets Classical*, their production of separate pieces of tango and ballet, was a sensation at SOhO last year. This year, things have grown by leaps and bounds as Nomad Tango presents an integrated work that pairs East Coast tango choreographer **Fernanda Ghi** with Santa Barbara's own contemporary dance creator **Meredith Ventura** for *Melana*, a dance-theatre evening in three acts that explores the frustration of feeling constrained by social constructs and the deep human need for connection and belonging.

Two different dancers portray the main character, with Ghi starring in the first act, while **Rachyl Pines**, of Ventura's Selah Dance company, dances the more freestyle middle section full of rebellion and urge for agency. Ghi returns for the closing act that shows how salvation exists in a new kind of tango that allows both freedom and connection. Both Ghi's and Ventura's companies also perform in their respective acts.

The evening continues with a Q&A with the co-choreographers followed by a Milonga (social dance) and reception at the Lobero courtyard. Visit www.lobero.org or <https://nomadtango.org>. 📍



Take a ride on the Nomad Tango side with *Melana*, a dance-theatre evening in three acts (courtesy photo)