



Volume 11 Number 1

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Ed Reynolds, Penny Korechoff, and Avi Light a candle



Photos by Larry Kushner
Sharon K sings to the group.

Avi & Liat Ben-Shabat's Hanukkah Celebration

On December 9, 2023, Avi & and Liat Ben-Shabat hosted their annual Wings Over Wendy's Hanukkah Celebration at their home in Woodland Hills.

The group was entertained by Liat's cousin Sharon K, a professional singer and singer-songwriter from Israel.

Sharon K has developed her passion for music from a very young age, performing on esteemed stages in Israel. She has a unique vocal tone and impressive and moving abilities. She has released her debut single, "No Junkfood Boys," and is currently working on her new album.

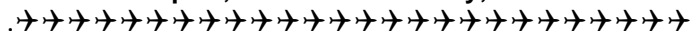
Among those attending the celebration were **Lee and Shirley Ambers, Bob Donovan, Bob and Nancy Eisenhart, David Greenberg, Fred Kaplan, Victor and Penny Korechoff, Larry Kushner, Judy Lamppu, Frank Lopez, Ethel Margolin, Ed Reynolds, Ray and Maria Rodriguez, Bob Stiles & Sharon Fine, and Maurice & Moses Vasquez.**

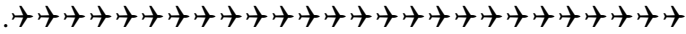


Photo by Larry Kushner

CD12 Community Holiday Breakfast

At 8 AM on December 14, 2023, a small group of Wings Over Wendy's members attended John Lee's annual Holiday Breakfast held at Rancho Cordillera Del Norte in Northridge. Among those attending were **Ron Boggess, Bob Donovan, Bob Eisenhart, Bill and Dolores Garland, David Greenberg, Victor and Penny Korechoff, Larry Kushner, Erick Lace, Ed Reynolds, Chip Stevens, Maurice Vasquez, and Lucie Volotzky,**





December 2023

Meetings

December 4, 2023



Kristen Fujitaki Donates Origami Birds to WOW

Kristen Fujitaki visited the December 4, 2023, meeting to donate Origami Birds that she and her daughters have made for veterans.



Avi Ben-Shabat Invitation to his Hanukkah Celebration

Also, on December 4, 2023, Avi Ben-Shabat invited all Wings Over Wendy's attendees to the Annual Hanukkah Celebration, which he and his wife, Liat, will host on December 9, 2023.



Steve McQueen: Man On The Edge (Narrated by James Coburn)

On December 4, 2023, the featured presentation was *Steve McQueen: Man On The Edge (Narrated by James Coburn) | The Hollywood Collection*.

Steve McQueen was one of Hollywood's highest paid stars – and one of its most difficult, most rebellious, and, when he wished, most charming.

His story is told with film clips from his greatest performances.

Abandoned by his father, he was a reform school kid with nothing going for him and a giant chip on his shoulder. He joined the Marines but never stayed far from trouble. Then he discovered acting – and the woman who would be with him for most of his meteoric career.

His story is told with film clips from his greatest performances, including *The Magnificent Seven*, *Love With The Proper Stranger*, *The Cincinnati Kid*, *The Reivers*, *The Great Escape*, *The Thomas Crown Affair*, and *Bullitt*.

Also shown are home movies – and the recollections of those who knew him best, including Steve's first wife, Neile McQueen Toffel, and their children, Terri and Chad, fellow actors Chuck Norris, Karl Malden, Don Gordon, as well as directors, producers, agents and the racing buddies who saw it all happen. Narrated by James Coburn.

December 11, 2023



Guide Dogs of America Organization in Sylmar

On December 11, 2023, the featured presentation was conducted by Diana Janke, a volunteer with Guide Dogs of America. Assisting Diana was Hanna Belyea, Manager of Admissions and Graduate Services, and Nancy, also a volunteer. Each of them had a dog in various stages of training.

They started telling us about their Mission to transform lives through partnerships with service dogs. They then explained the four programs their dogs serve:

- People who are blind/visually impaired
- Veterans
- Children with Autism
- Facilities

Diana then explained the difference between Service Dogs that are trained to serve Veterans, Children with Autism, and Facilities, vs Guide Dogs that are trained to serve People who are blind/visually impaired.

Service Dogs wear a purple vest and are task-trained to perform over 25 different cues/commands that mitigate disabilities.

Guide Dogs wear a black/white leather harness with a handle and are trained to assist with mobility.

Diana emphasized that **emotional support animals that simply provide comfort are NOT service dogs.**

Next, the team described what the organization does:

They breed, raise, and train professional, highly qualified, expertly matched guide/service dogs

They Provide:

Personalized instruction on how to care for and work with your dog



They offer transportation to and from their school, plus room and board during a ten or 21-day in-residence program, a Specialized vest or harness, veterinary care at their clinic, and extensive post-graduate support.



Our Beginning

est. 1948


- Founded by Joseph Jones who lost his vision due to tropic fever
- Denied a guide dog because of his "advanced age."
 - He was 57
- Established school in 1948



Our Campus

Sylmar, California

- Built in the early 1980s
- Only guide dog school in LA
- Visitor and Education Center
- Student Dormitories
- Administration Building
- Kennel Center
- Nursery Center



Hanna then explained several of the steps in developing a dog.

- Puppies are born on campus
- Intensive genetic process
- Labrador Retrievers
- Golden Retrievers
- Golden/Lab Cross
- Emphasis on socialization

Puppies then go to a foster home at eight weeks old

- Puppy raisers teach:
 - Basic Obedience
 - House Manners
 - Socialization

Service Dogs are trained in a Prison Program

- Teams of Two
- 9-12 months of training
- Lives in institution
- Feeding
- Relieving
- Grooming
- Playtime
- Training

Guide Dogs start formal training at about 16-18 months old and take between 4 and 6 months in a well-balanced positive reinforcement approach. They are taught

- Straight line method
- Avoid obstacles
- Stop at changes in elevation
 - Staircases, Curbs, Platforms

(Continue page 4)

- Intelligent disobedience
 - Traffic Training
- Common route learning
- Requirements
 - Legally Blind
 - 18 years old
 - O&M Training

Next, they described:

Veteran Service Dogs For PTSD, Mobility Limitations, or Military Sexual Trauma

- Stress/Anxiety response to triggers
 - Cue: squish, snuggle, or lap
- Alert/Interrupt, Hypervigilance & Nightmares
 - Cue: Chin rest, nose nudge
- Mobility
 - Carry and retrieve objects
 - Open/Close Doors
- Social Engagement + Public Support
 - Cue: fist bump, bow, and wave
- Requirements
 - Ongoing treatment with a mental health professional and an Honorable Discharge

Autism Service Dogs For children between 4 to 12 years of age

- An adult is the Primary Handler
- Stress/Anxiety Response to Triggers
 - Cue: lean, lap, or feet
- Alert/Interrupt, Maladaptive or Repetitive Behaviors
 - Cue: Chin rest, nose nudge
- Mobility
 - Secondary leash or handle-led walking in public for children who wander
- Daily Living Skills
- Social Engagement and Communication
 - Cue: fist bump, visit, wave

Facility Dogs For Hospitals, Schools, and Courtrooms

- Schools and classrooms for special needs children
 - Encourages classroom participation
- Victim advocate centers and courthouses
 - Helps victims through painful and challenging experiences
- Hospitals & Physical Therapy centers
- The main job is to mitigate stress/anxiety

The presentation finished with details on the application process, the magic of the match, student life, guide dog class, service dog class, and sponsorships.

The team answered many questions.



Photo by Larry Kushner

Ed Reynolds presents Hanna Belyea, Diana Janke, and Nancy with a Certificate of Appreciation and WOW logo bumper stickers.

December 18, 2023



Photo by Larry Kushner

Bill Dillion Reports on the Book Tour Selling: *Strike of the Sailfish: Two Sister Submarines and the Sinking of a Japanese Aircraft Carrier.*

(Continued page 5)

Bill Dillion attended the December 18, 2023, meeting to report on his experience accompanying the author Stephen L. Moore on his book *Strike of the Sailfish: Two Sister Submarines and the Sinking of a Japanese Aircraft Carrier*. That was released on December 5th.

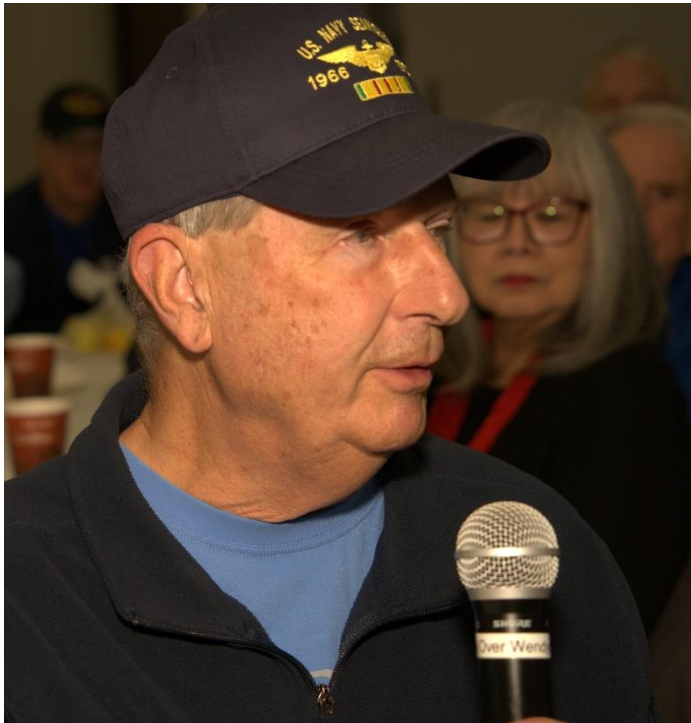


Photo by Larry Kushner

Sam Fiola Visits Wings Over Wendy's

On December 18, 2023, Sam Fiola visited the Wings Over Wendy's meeting. Sam is a former USN combat helicopter pilot with a tour in the USN Seawolves unit in Vietnam.



How Did The Tudors Celebrate Christmas?

The featured presentation on December 18, 2023, was from the Real History Channel: *How Did The Tudors Celebrate Christmas? | Tudor Monastery Farm Christmas*

500 years ago, Christmas was celebrated every bit as enthusiastically as it is today. If anything, it was bigger and feasting, culminating on the 12th night with the biggest party of the year when Madness reigned.

Historian Ruth Goodman and archaeologists Tom Pinfold and Peter Ginn spent six months turning the clock back to Tudor England, working as Farmers under the watchful eye of the country's biggest landowners, the monasteries.

In this video, they are returning to celebrate Christmas Tudor style and recreating the untold story of how the Farms of Tudor England celebrated the 12 Days of Christmas.

Celebrating the winter solstice is a tradition that goes back millennia when the days were getting longer. The Romans celebrated it with saturnalia, the Norsemen had Yule, and by the Tudor era, it had evolved into a Christian Feast marking the birth of Christ. It has that Christmas feel and Christmas for the Tudors was 12 days of feasting fun. But first came Advent with 24 days of fasting while preparing food for the feasts to come.

During Advent, no meat, eggs, or cheese were to be eaten. This was not just a religious observance but also a chance to save food and money for the feasting ahead.

The teachings of the church dictated that the farmer downed his tools for the 12 Days of Christmas, so the animals needed to be well stocked with fodder.

In the early 1500s, it became popular to rear pigs to sell on a commercial scale. Pigs were the perfect animal for a Tudor farmer to breed. They not only ate pretty much anything but provided many essential resources: bristles to make brushes, fat to lubricate machinery, and almost every part could be eaten.

The video shows the cutting off of a butchered pig's head, and later, the skull is removed and stuffed so it becomes the table centerpiece before turkeys are used. It was a tradition that dated back to the Anglo-Saxons. Back then, it would have been the head of a wild boar, but they were hunted to Extinction in the 13th century.

Next, the video showed the gathering of firewood, Holly and Ivy.

While the pig's head is cooked, Ruth makes a Tudor version of Christmas pudding made by boiling cracked wheat in milk, but at Christmas, there were special added ingredients flavoring, and this is the flavor of Christmas then like now Christmas with dried fruit and spices. It's quite exotic, with raisins coming from the Mediterranean added to cinnamon bark, crushed nutmeg, and dry ginger root.

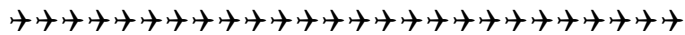
The video showed Peter and Tom making a Christmas Crown to hang from the ceiling of their Farmhouse. Then, the video showed how game birds were caught with a Falcon.

(Continued page 6)

The Seventh Day of Christmas was New Year's Eve, which gave rare time for recreation, and the video showed an archery competition. The Eighth Day of Christmas was New Year's Day, another opportunity for revelry even though the Tudors had four more days to go.

The biggest party was saved until the very end. On the 12th night, there was music, abundant food, and alcohol. The video showed how to make felt to make a felt hat.

The final scenes are singing, and then the next morning, the farmers are back to farming for the new year.

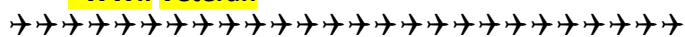


2023 Memoriam

During 2023, seventeen members of Wings Over Wendys "Flew West."

Howard Swerdlick	WOW	12/07/1936 - 02/12/2023
Jerry Lief	USN	08/29/1933 - 03/01/2023
Earl Minkin	USAF	05/25/1934 - 03/24/2023
Laurence DeCuir*	USAAF	05/02/1922 - 04/19/2023
Harvey Krasner*	USA	10/12/1924 - 05/01/2023
Bill Wentz	USAR	02/26/1948 - 05/06/2023
Hillard Lewinson*	USN	05/13/1926 - 06/03/2023
Jimmy Weldon*	USA	09/23/1923 - 07/06/2023
Steve Andersen	USNR	01/01/1944 - 07/07/2023
Loren Tyler	USA	03/22/1949 - 07/07/2023
Stanley DeCovnick	USAF	05/22/1932 - 07/10/2023
Rosalie Rifkin	Widow	10/01/1938 - 08/31/2023
John Helm	USAF	12/24/1929 - 09/06/2023
Rushing, Chris	USAF	08/06/1958 - 09/17/2023
Reed King*	USMC	08/24/1924 - 09/25/2023
Harvey Cohen*	USA	05/12/1922 - 10/15/2023
Ed Phillips*	USN	08/21/1926 - 10/18/2023

*WWII Veteran



2023 Presentations

The following is a list of each week's presentations.

01/02/23	The Berlin Airlift by PBS host Paul Duke
01/09/23	Cliff Henderson – Visionary Leader By Barbara Schultz
01/16/23	Flying the Feathered Edge – Bob Hoover Story By Andy Romanisky
01/23/23	The Future of Wings Over Wendy's By Ed Reynolds
01/30/23	Veterans History Videos for Library of Congress By Ed Lynch
02/06/23	USAF Thunderbirds By Lt Col Elliott
02/13/23	Boeing Assembly Line
02/13/23	Veterans Alliance Benefits By Paul Delanoe

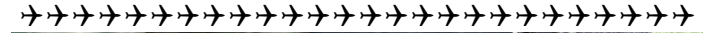
02/20/23	The Evolution From Arrows To Artillery In Weapon Technology By Bill Wentz
02/27/23	101 Chuck Yeager-isms By Victoria Yeager
03/06/23	Veteran Tales: Charlie Mohrle, P-47 Pilot
03/13/23	Secrets of War: How Rommel Was Outsmarted In North Africa
03/20/23	Air Warriors episode "B24 Liberator S08E05"
03/27/23	The First Women in the Military Services By Maria Rodriguez
04/03/23	B-2 Stealth Bomber Documentary
04/10/23	The Wooden Plane That Terrorized The Luftwaffe
04/17/23	Codename Garbo Spanish Chicken Farmer Who Tricked Hitler, Saved D-Day & Got Awarded the Iron Cross
04/24/23	Dwight D. Eisenhower: Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces
05/01/23	Wings Over Vietnam Wild Weasels Documentary
05/08/23	The US Air Force - Wild Weasel Program By Jerry Knotts
05/15/23	The History of the MiG
05/22/23	Secrets of War Weapons of the Shadow War
05/29/23	Canoga Park Parade via Zoom
06/05/23	Condor Squadron By Chris Rushing
06/12/23	Memoirs of an OSS Operative in WWII China By Susan Haigh
06/19/23	The Cold War: Seven Minutes to Midnight
06/26/23	Motion Picture History Of The Korean War Armed Forces Info Film
07/03/23	Bernardo de Galvez By Abe Hoffman
07/10/23	Restoring a Piper Cub and Buying a 77-year-old Airplane By Max Calise
07/17/23	Wings of Madness Alberto Santos-Dumont
07/24/23	Flight Power – Aircraft History
07/31/23	The PACT Act By Tony Cárdenas
08/07/23	Age Well Drive Smart By Stuart Olesker
08/14/23	The Genius Behind Skunk Works: Kelly Johnson's Top Secret Airplane Designs That Will Blow Your Mind"
08/21/23	Legal self-defense and the Constitution By Allen Chandler
08/28/23	US Army's Female Cultural Support Teams that served in Afghanistan By Collen Dragovich
09/04/23	Genius of The Jet: The Invention Of The Jet Engine: Frank Whittle
09/11/23	USAF Broadcast Journalist and Public Affairs Specialist By Briana Céspedes

(Continued page 7)

- 11/04/23 American Heroes Helicopter Air Show
- 11/07/23 City of Calabasas Veterans Day Celebration
- 11/08/23 Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Veterans Assembly
- 11/09/23 Councilmember John Lee's 10th Annual Educators Roundtable
- 11/09/23 Lawrence Middle School Veterans Day Celebration
- 11/09/23 Elks Lodge Veterans Day Dinner
- 11/10/23 Silver Spur Awards Show
- 11/11/23 San Fernando Valley Veterans Day Parade
- 11/11/23 Malibu Veterans Day Public Ceremony
- 11/12/23 Birmingham Hospital Chapter 73 Veteran Hall USMC Birthday BBQ
- 11/14/23 Pomelo Community Charter School Heroes Feast
- 11/16/23 Northridge Academy
- 11/18/23 Ed Phillips Celebration of Life
- 11/25/23 Veterans Sabbath at HAMAKOM Synagogue
- 12/07/23 Bob Blumenfield Holiday Party
- 12/09/23 Avi Ben-Shabat Annual Hanukkah Party
- 12/14/23 CD12 Community Holiday Breakfast

By Greg Hadley and Chris Gordon

As the Department of the Air Force's sweeping re-optimization review nears its January deadline, the USAF is considering fundamental changes to its major commands. "We're going to transform the entire Department of the Air Force organizationally to prepare for great power competition within the next quarter," Space Force Lt. Gen. Michael Guetlein said at the Spacepower Conference Dec. 13.



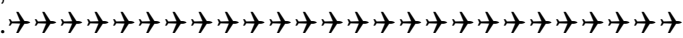
Air Force Issues Smartwatches and Rings to 1,000 First Sergeants to Manage Their Health

The Air Force has distributed wearable smart devices to more than 1,000 first sergeants in an attempt to help some of the most overworked and stressed enlisted members keep track of their health and wellness.

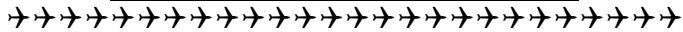
Chief Master Sgt. John Alsvig, the Air Force first sergeant special duty manager, told Military.com in an emailed statement that the First Sergeant Academy early this year began passing out both a smartwatch and a smart ring to each graduate in hopes they'd use them to monitor their vital statistics.

"Some of the metrics being measured include sleep quality, O2 [oxygen] readings and heart rate," Alsvig said. "As we get ready to close out 2023, nearly all wearables have been issued -- with more than 1,000 first sergeants using them."

The Air Force's use of the smart devices comes as the Space Force continues its research into the equipment to replace routine physical fitness tests. It also shows how far the military has come in accepting the technology since 2018, when the Pentagon warned that sensitive data was being broadcast to the public from some wearable devices.



In Other News



Air Force Eyes Big Changes for Major Commands

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(818) 448-1737
pcinfoman@gmail.com.
 The WOW Zoom Equipment GoFundMe account link
 is gf.me/u/x9pst6.
 Charles has offered to help Wings Over Wendy's
 members with their computer problems for FREE.

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