

Sophie's • Gazette

DECEMBER / 2025

A PERSON CENTERED NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE'S CENTER
Edited in the Theresa & Edward O'Toole Foundation Adaptive Computer Learning Center
Shifting Gears © Michael Klein 2024



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Happy Holidays



SMSC students Shannon Buxton, Clayton Hauer, Katie Floyd, and Chelsea Voisard enjoyed an afternoon at Cuyamaca College at an Open Mic/Karaoke event.

What's more fun than karaoke? Karaoke and dancing with newfound friends! SMSC students and staff attended an open mic/karaoke event at Cuyamaca College on November 6th, a fieldtrip planned by Farah Awad, St. Madeleine's Volunteer Coordinator. "It was a little stressful at first as the Cuyamaca students didn't know anything about our center. However, as soon as our students started singing, the audience was cheering and dancing along!"

"Did you know that karaoke literally translates to empty orchestra", Clayton said when asked if he enjoyed the event. He sang *What A Wonderful World*, by Louie Armstrong and *Que Sera Sera*. "I was told I have good pipes!" Clayton offered tips for beginners, "whatever songs you pick make sure you know them before trying to sing them. If you try to sing and read at the same time you are going to bomb!"

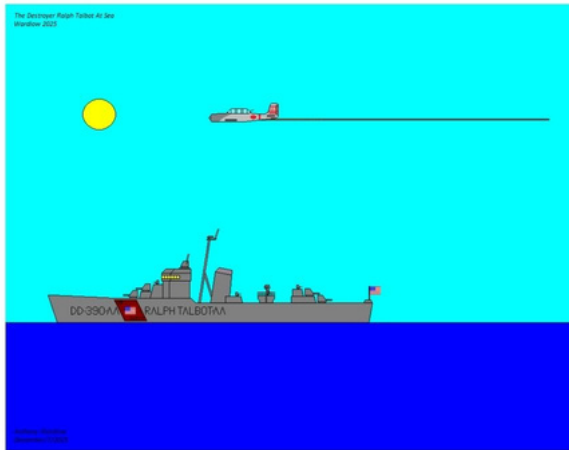
"A lot happened in that hour with our students singing their hearts out and having a lot of fun. The students from Cuyamaca were so welcoming and friendly" Farah remarked. "I am glad to say that this will not be our last time attending events like these. We are stronger and happier together, and this open mic proved that, even for just a bit."



Cuyamaca student Cielo sings a duet with Shannon Buxton. Clayton Hauer performing above and Katie Floyd below.



Campus Spotlight



USS Talbot and Mitsubishi A6M Zero
by Anthony Wardlow



Christmas Tree © Ethan Coss



Winter Birds © Heather Matthews



If I had three wishes!

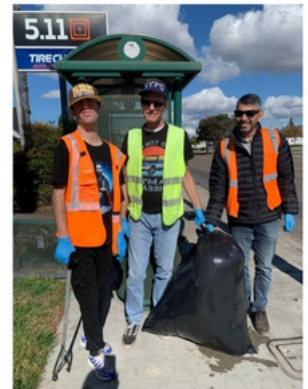
By: Cali Williams

I would be famous and have a successful job giving speeches at public speaking events. I would share my feelings about how I love planning get togethers. I would enjoy doing data while working at an office.

What inspires me!

By: Cali Williams

My family and friends inspire me and put a smile on my face. Its inspiring to be very loyal to everyone that I care about, that's something my parents taught me when I was growing up.



National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 7, 2025

By: Wendy Morris

On a quiet morning on December 7, 1941 my uncle, Allen Smith was on the deck of the *USS Talbot* with one other sailor. Allen was the lead signalman on the Navy destroyer buoyed at Pearl Harbor. It was 8AM, Morning Colors were beginning and as the flag was raised aircraft were noticed in the distance. Using a high-powered spotting glass, Allen was horrified to see Japanese planes with smoke and explosions in the distance. Soon there were three airplanes to his left, they were "so low on the cane field you could see the prop wake on the cane as they flew towards us." Less than 100-150 feet away from the *Talbot* they released torpedoes. Allen notified the captain and sounded the alarm and then madness broke loose.

The whole sky was covered with airplanes. "I experienced an airplane coming at me with flashing bursts." As Allen and the captain watched on deck the *Arizona* went up in flames about 1000 yards from them. The vessels were in close quarters making it impossible to fight back without hitting other US vessels and in the midst of the chaos the *Talbot* left the harbor heading for open sea, but not without significant challenges. The air was thick with black smoke that made navigation perilous and the Japanese sought to disable the destroyer hoping to block the entrance to Pearl Harbor. They made two waves of attacks on the destroyer and missed.

The *Talbot* had orders to rendezvous with the *Enterprise* in open waters and as they passed the grounded *Nevada* in the harbor the signalman flashed the message *Good Hunting*. "Everyone knew we were fighting for our lives." The *Talbot* went on to seek its revenge on the Japanese navy in the Marshall and Gilbert Islands.

"Pearl harbor was a big change in your life, and people reflected on the girls they left behind, mothers and fathers, and things they wanted to do. Everyone realized it was a new world now."



USS Talbot

On December 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, resulting in a devastating blow to the U.S. Pacific fleet and causing over 2,400 American deaths. The attack destroyed or damaged nearly 20 American naval vessels, including eight battleships, and over 300 aircraft, and propelled the United States into World War II. The day after the attack, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan.



Aerial view of Pearl harbor taken by a Japanese pilot during the first wave of bombing.

Allen Smith's first-hand account of his experiences at Pearl Harbor were included in a book, *Events That Shaped a Nation* by Rick Phalen that was published in 2001. After the attack Allen went on to become a Navy pilot and served in the US Navy for 34 years in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and in astronaut recovery for NASA.



December Birthdays



Steve Barnard
 Christian Carle
 Jason JJ Carlisle
 Joel Clark
 Candace Cawthon
 Jerry Cotton
 Carlo DeLaTorre
 Christopher DelMoral
 Ryan Depriest
 Bianca Gomez
 Mark Graff
 Marilyn Guidi
 Teresa Hawley
 Shannon Hoffarath
 Aaron Kevane
 Jacob Kellogg
 Deseray Lee
 Charlie Lizarraga
 Francisco Mendoza
 Dulce Moreno
 Tamara Rathey
 Andrea Revelez
 Maria Sandoval
 Stevenson Sapper
 Stephen Sorenson
 Debra Tarr
 Angela Thomas
 Kristina Van Gelder



Making Memories

25th Wings & Snow

December 12, 2025 - January 31, 2026

Public Reception
Friday, December 12, 4 - 7:30PM

Join us as we celebrate the Holiday Season with a flurry of handmade art and unique gifts! Winter treasures include sewn and felted snowmen and angels, linocut and woodblock prints, seasonal hand-crafted home goods, charming ornaments, original cards, and more.

Wrap-up Sophie's
Gallery's 25th
anniversary year:
Shop a curated
collection of prints
of past Wings &
Snow favorite art
pieces!



Snowman © Auden Jamil 2025



Sophie's
artists
created a
variety of
holiday
prints & cards
sold sets of 6
and singles!



**Gifts that
support a great
cause!**





**ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE'S
CENTER PRESENTS**

STUDENT HOLIDAY PARTY

ALL DAY DECEMBER 19TH

PARTY HIGHLIGHTS

Ugly Sweater Contest - Student Dance
Cookie Decorating - Ornament Making
Face Painting - Photo Booth - Holiday Movies
Visits from Santa Claus and friends

FREE LUNCH FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

Please contact the appropriate
program manager with any
dietary concerns

**A private event for
SMSC consumers.**
Friends and families are not
able to attend this year.

**All community activities
have been canceled for
the day to allow all
consumers to participate.**



GIVING TUESDAY



Bright and bubbly Shauna Davis has been part of SMSC for more than two decades, growing and thriving through the programs she loves.

With upcoming rate reform from the California Department of Developmental Services, several SMSC programs face funding cuts. **Community support is more crucial than ever this Giving Tuesday** to help sustain our organization.



Stop by SMSC's lobby
on Giving Tuesday
and enjoy
refreshments when you
make a donation to
support our programs
and services!

December 2nd, 2025

Visit STMSC.org to make your donation or to learn more about our programs

Make your
reservations now for
Tea by the Sea, our
first fund raiser of the
new year. Enjoy live
music, shopping,
champagne, and
brunch all with
magnificent views of
the ocean!

**BENEFITS
SOPHIE'S
GALLERY
AND ART
PROGRAM**

Tea by the Sea



January 17
11 AM - 2 PM

The Marine Room
2000 Spindrift Dr, La Jolla, CA 92037

Honoring
Sister Virginia Rodee, RSCJ

Honorary Chairs
Maureen King, Angel Kleinbub, and Barbara Menard

Live Music • Handcrafted Menu • Sophie's Gallery
Champagne • Opportunity Drawing

Single Seat — \$170 Table of Ten — \$1,700

WWW.TEABYTHESEA.ORG



St. Madeleine
Sophie's Center
Serving adults with intellectual and
developmental disabilities for over 50 years



ANNE MARY THUNDER
Sophie's Artist
1959 - 2025



Forever in our hearts...



SAMIR HALLAC
Senior Program
1950- 2025



TINA FRANTZ
Sophie's Artist
1973 - 2025



'That Girl' at St. Madeleine Sophie's Center

On or off campus, bright and bubbly **Shauna Davis** gives those high-energy 'that girl' vibes wherever she goes. Shauna, with her winning personality, has been attending *St. Madeleine Sophie's Center* (SMSC) for over two decades, growing and thriving from all that SMSC has to offer.

Whether it's participating in the many programs on campus, or working and volunteering in the community, Shauna's pro-active attitude toward learning has been giving back a lifetime of love, fun, friends, and reaching her own full potential.

"In the 21 years that Shauna has been attending St. Madeleine Sophie's Center, I've seen such growth in my daughter! She is enthusiastic about her jobs ... and is learning life skills daily. She has a place where she can interact and fit in with her peers. Shauna looks forward to going to SMSC each and every day. We are very blessed and grateful that she is part of this wonderful program."

 **Barbie Bates**, Proud Mother of Shauna Davis



Shauna Davis & Barbie Bates



Programs for Life.

Shauna's interests and energy could not be more in full motion! She is the ultimate 'that girl' and gets totally immersed in everything she undertakes! Shauna has participated in the Organic Garden Program, the state-of-the-art Aquatics Program, the Food Handlers Program and working in the cafeteria, the high-tech Computer Lab, Music Therapy and the Art Gallery.

Shares Barbie: *"Through the years, since 1966, St. Madeleine's has grown in size along with all the wonderful life programs and exemplary professional staff that it offers. It's interesting to note that next year is the Center's 60th Anniversary ... and the number of students they have impacted is truly beyond measure!"*

continued on back 

Beyond Campus.

As part of Shauna's schedule, she works four days a week off campus at *Children's Nature Retreat*, *Lions, Tigers and Bears*, *Meals on Wheels* and *XO Ranch*. She also loves doing her volunteer work in the community, including ringing the bells for the Salvation Army during the holiday season. Shauna shows her natural talent consistently, having won a first-place gold medal for swimming in the Special Olympics Summer Games and modeling in the SMSC *Haute with Heart* fashion show.



*Haute with Heart
Walking the Runway!*



Giving Back to the Community

Looking Toward the Future.

Due to rate reform being implemented by the California Department of Developmental Services, several of the SMSC programs will have their rates reduced in the coming year.

According to Debra Emerson, SMSC's Chief Executive Officer, because of these rate cuts, donations from the community and families are more critical than ever for the support and survival of St. Madeleine's Sophie's Center, and the adult students currently enrolled.

Please support our Students and Programs by Donating Today!

We are asking you to support St. Madeleine Sophie's Center's lifetime programs with a gift of \$100 or more, however no gift is too small! Please send your gift today online by visiting www.stmsc.org or by scanning the QR Code below.

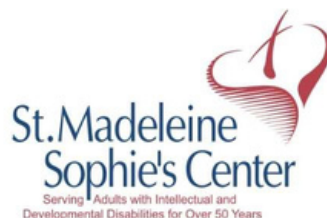
Donations of any size are appreciated and will help us continue to meet the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities 'for life.'

With warm regards,

Debra Emerson, MBA
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. – For more information on how you can become a Monthly Giver please contact Joe Perucca at jperucca@stmsc.org or 619-442-5129 ext., 332.

P.S.S. – Donations received on or before December 31, 2025 qualify for a tax deduction for year 2025. Our Tax ID # is 95-1957332.



Scan to Donate



December / Diciembre 2025 Lunch Menu

Dec 1st Grilled cheese and tomato soup

Dec 2nd Chicken taco salad bowl with cilantro lime vinaigrette

Dec 3rd Bacon cheeseburger and fries

Dec 4th Shrimp curry bowl

Dec 5th Pizza and side salad

Dec 8th Creamy garlic pork loin over mashed potatoes and broccoli

Dec 9th Hawaiian BBQ chicken over coconut rice

Dec 10th Eggplant parmesan and side salad

Dec 11th Turkey and rice soup with garlic toast

Dec 12th Pizza and side salad

Dec 15th Greek chicken spinach wrap and french fries

Dec 16th Carnitas tacos, rice, and beans

Dec 17th Glazed ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, and pie

Dec 18th Mushroom raviolis in a cream sauce and side salad

Dec 19th Student Appreciation Day - Free Lunch

Dec 22nd Sweet and sour shrimp over steamed rice

Dec 23rd Chicken noodle soup and dinner roll

Dec 24th Holiday Closed

Dec 25th Holiday Closed

Dec 26th Pizza and side salad

Dec 29th Spaghetti and meatballs and side salad

Dec 30th Chicken chili and cornbread

Dec 31st Ham and Swiss sub, chips, and cookie