

January 14, 2021

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La Rueda

S E R V I C E A B O V E S E L F
THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTEREY, RI DISTRICT 5230

Dr. Mara Orescanin **Connections Between Land and Sea: What We Can learn From Sand and Waves at the Beach**

Dr. Mara Orescanin has been an Assistant Professor of Oceanography at the Naval Postgraduate School since 2016 where she researches and teaches coastal morphodynamics (where water and sand go at the beach). She is passionate about education, both of her own thesis students as well as K-12 students. She loves to bring hands-on educational opportunities to anyone who is interested!

Mara received her PhD from the MIT-Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute Joint Program in Oceanography and has worked in both academia and industry. Her current research focuses on breaching of beaches, such as Carmel River State Beach, looking at how variations in river discharge and ocean waves contribute to timing and duration of dangerous breach events.





Katy Castagna



Katy & Gary in Ireland

Katy Castagna shares her life story. I was born in the Haight Ashbury neighborhood in 1964 to parents who didn't realize they were near ground zero of the '60's cultural revolution. Dad was in his second year of medical school and mom left her teaching job to start a family. Within three and a half years they had four children, as I was followed in quick succession by three brothers (including twins!). Dad's career took him back home to the Los Angeles area where we were raised in suburban tranquility of the 1970s. The Southbay area of Los Angeles was a great place to grow up but I wanted to explore the world a bit. A high-school trip to Europe and "behind the Iron Curtain" resulted in the chance meeting of "Lidia", a Polish girl in

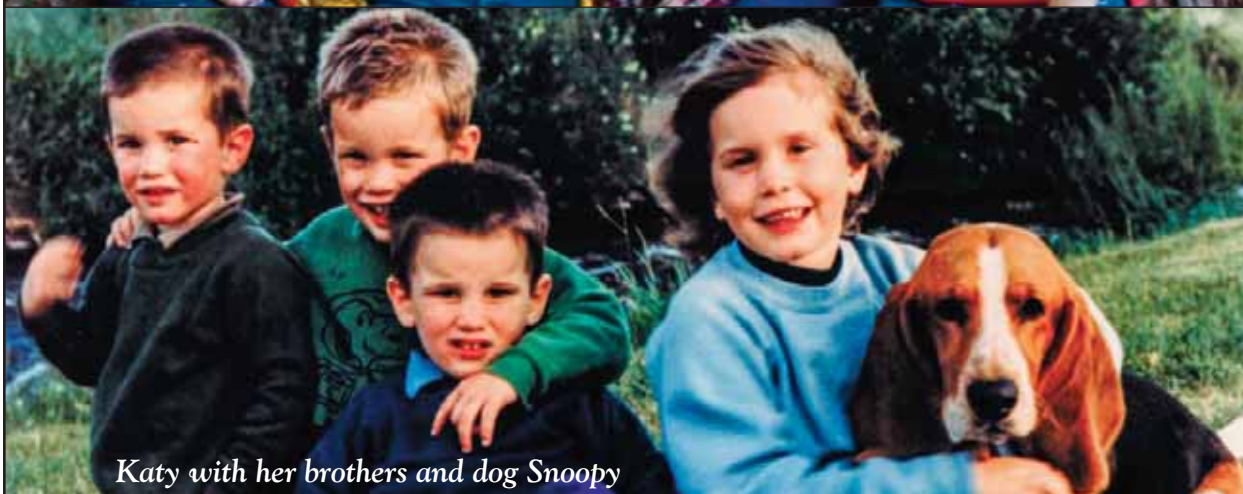
Krakow. We became pen pals and have corresponded ever since. I liked to travel and had the great opportunity to attend Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. Throughout school I had studied Spanish but to solidify my grasp of the language I went to Bogota, Colombia for a semester. Political tensions were high at the time, and our semester was cut short a couple of weeks when a car bomb exploded at the American Embassy just a few blocks from school. The stress we inadvertently place on our parents came back to haunt me this year, when my daughter's studies in South Africa were cut short by the coronavirus pandemic and she, too, came home earlier than planned!

I met my husband, Gary Ray, in business school at UCLA (I was focused on non-profits, he was focused on maximizing profits). My career in the nonprofit sector

has been challenging and rewarding. Prior to United Way, I worked at a child abuse prevention agency, in a hospital foundation, and a Healthcare District. I even spent time in the Anaheim City Manager's office where I tracked public works projects related to the precursor of California Adventure theme park. Since 1986 I have been involved in the American Cetacean Society, promoting education, conservation and research of whales, dolphins and porpoises. We chose Monterey County as the place we wanted to raise our family, moving here from Southern California 22 years ago. It was definitely the right decision and we haven't looked back! Our kids Aaron and Hannah are now off at college and grad school, but we have had unexpectedly long visits with them this year, a silver lining of Sheltering In Place.



Debi, Gary and Children Hannah & Aaron



Katy with her brothers and dog Snoopy

On behalf of President Nelson,
the Allocations Committee is pleased to announce
that they are accepting
grant applications from local non-profit organizations.

With the cancellation of RM/Sotheby's Car Auction,
we were left with a \$50,000 hole in our Foundation budget;
however, we have been gifted with a grant from an
anonymous donor, which has enabled us to again accept
grant requests. The donation of \$40,000 was made in the
name of and on behalf of all the Monterey Rotarians who,
although have departed since 2006, lived a life of
"Service Above Self," whilst with us.

The Grant Request Forms can be found on our website and
must be submitted by February 15th and/or June 7th, 2021.

Questions can be directed to Debi Hardwick at
Debi@Hardwick-consulting.com.

JANUARY

Thursday - 01/14 Board Meeting - 8:00 AM (Via Zoom)

Thursday - 01/21 Jorge La Roza - What's Up In Buenos Aires Rotary

Tuesday - 01/26 COG Meeting - 5:30 PM (Via Zoom)

**Thursday - 01/28 Jeroen Gerrese - Monterey County Hospitality Association
- Revitalizing MC Business**

THANKS TO THESE ADVERTISERS, WE CAN PRODUCE OUR NEWSLETTER WITHOUT COST. THANK YOU!!



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President/CEO

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**Support The Martin/Hurd
Rotary Club of Monterey Fund**

at the CFMC that provides grants to local
non-profit organizations supporting youth
and scholarships for students.

For More Information:
[http://www.cfmco.org/about-us/fund-
list/rotary-club-monterey-martinhurd-fund/](http://www.cfmco.org/about-us/fund-list/rotary-club-monterey-martinhurd-fund/)

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Carl Anderson – January 17

Rotary Book Club Announcement
*The first book chosen is Intangibles by Joan Ryan –
unlocking the science and soul of team chemistry.*
We are meeting once a month starting
Wednesday, January 27, 2021 for one hour @4:00pm
It's not too late to join in the book club fellowship fun!
Please contact Molly if you are interested in joining us.

Molly Bozzo

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mbozzo@stevensonschool.org