

San Francisco selected Olympic Torchbearers

Michael Bailey, 27

Sunnyvale

Michael has been involved with the Special Olympics for 20 years. Last August, Mike received a letter notifying him that he had been selected as the San Jose Sports Authority 2007 Special Olympian of the Year and would be recognized at the Hall of Fame dinner along with the likes of Brian Boitano, Mark Spitz and several other notable San Jose area athletes.

Chris Barron, 29

San Francisco

Chris is a teacher at Log Cabin High School, a school that services incarcerated youth from the city of San Francisco. It is Chris's journey to provide these youth with quality education, positive and nurturing learning experiences, and to give them the tools needed to sustain a successful life in our community.

Sean Baumstark, 26

Sacramento

A year ago Sean was diagnosed with a disease called Friedreich's Ataxia In March, Sean and In March, thirty cyclists pedaled to Las Vegas from Sacramento, a thirteen-day journey covering over 600 miles. The ride was meant to inspire, inform, motivate, and compel people to action for those who can't take action

Willie Brown, Jr., 74

San Francisco

Former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown Jr. has been a tireless advocate for human rights, environmental concerns, and the power of athletics to change the lives of individuals and communities throughout his long and distinguished career. Mayor Brown takes great pride in carrying the Torch for all of those, who are not able to carry it themselves.

John Caldera, 43

San Francisco

John a 21-year resident of San Francisco, a first generation Latin-American, a Navy Veteran, a long-term AIDS survivor and a San Francisco Veteran's Affairs Commissioner. John is honored to represent United States veterans and all the other communities on whose behalf he volunteers and represents.

Chris Chui, 16

Alameda

Chris was stricken with infantile paralysis at age three. Track and field became Chris' motivation to overcome his physical disabilities. He eventually became Captain of his high school team, he received the award for Most Outstanding Freshman/Sophomore Sprinter, and he went on to become a captain of a team-Relay For Life raising fund for American Cancer Society. Just as Chris's grandfather brought a jar of soil to America from China, so Chris will carry the torch for all Chinese Americans and for all children with physical disabilities.

Anni Chung, 57

San Francisco

Anni has been the President & CEO of Self-Help for the Elderly since 1981 where she oversees and manages a community-based organization that provides a comprehensive range of health, educational, social and recreational services to over 25,000 seniors a year in San Francisco. Anni is participating on behalf of all of her clients and seniors throughout the Bay Area and across the country.

Lorraine Coppola, 68

Greenbrae

Lorraine is living with ALS/ Lou Gehrig's Disease. She advocated before Congress to secure more funding to fight the disease. Lorraine has spent 40 years teaching Physical Education and coaching Track and Gymnastics. She has competed in World Masters Track and Field Championships in South Africa, Australia, Buffalo, Eugene, and Spokane.

David Drabkin, 23

San Francisco

David works for Earl's Organic Produce, the sole 100% certified organic distributor on the San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market. Davis is dedicated to making my immediate community more sustainable by making organic fruits and vegetables the easy and affordable choice for all. He is passionate about improving the sustainability of our country and world-at-large by promoting sustainable food production and organic food consumption.

John Goldman, 58

Atherton

John is a member of the Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee and was privileged to attend two Olympic Games. He believes that the Olympics reflect not only the athlete's spirit but also the human spirit: desire and drive towards accomplishment, not alone but with the support of all who strive for excellence. Through his dedication to the Olympic movement, now and for many years to come, John hopes to help spread the message of the torch and the flame -- one people, one heart

Todd Hallenback, 25

Daly City

Todd is a marine biologist, who works at Fisherman's Wharf with commercial fishermen to collect biological information essential to the sustainable management of San Francisco's most traditional and iconic professions. The Olympic spirit is about challenging ourselves and finding motivation to pursue those things that define who we are, guides Todd along his own meandering pursuit for excellence.

Lisa Hartmayer, 29

San Francisco

As a registered nurse, Lisa initiated the Green Group, an interdisciplinary team working to make UCSF more environmentally friendly, through education and action. She helped increase recycling efforts and helped organize a public conference, Focus the Nation, to educate our community about global climate change and health care. Lisa's personal journey is to create a paradigm shift towards a more environmentally friendly health care system.

Mark Henderson, 37

Oakland

The Olympic movement inspired Mark in a profound way at a young age: when he was six years old when he was diagnosed with a joint condition that prohibited him from playing "contact" sports, so he began swimming for rehabilitation. In 1976 he met the US Olympic Swim team, whose members encouraged him to go after his dreams. Mark's competitive career for the United States culminated in 1996 at the Atlanta Olympic Games with a Gold medal and a World & Olympic Record in the 400 Medley Relay. Since then, he has given back to the movement by hosting clinics in low-income areas around the world.

Dean Karnazes, 45

San Francisco

Through his running endeavors -- recently having completed 50 marathons, in 50 states, in 50 days -- Dean has tried to encourage others to adopt healthier, more environmentally-minded lifestyles. For his efforts, TIME Magazine named him one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World". Dean is a member of the California Senate Task Force on Youth Wellness and proudly serves on the board of Girls on the Run and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's Shape Up SF Physical Activity Council.

Marilyn King, 58

Oakland

While training for her third Olympic team in the track and field Pentathlon, Marilyn was injured in a car accident and could not physically train for seven months. When she placed second at the 1980 US Olympic Trials using only mental training, she discovered that the thinking skills she used are the same ones used by all who strive for excellence and these mental skills can be easily taught. After success in teaching the skills to high risk youth, Marilyn is intends to teach these thinking skills to middle school students throughout Oakland in 2008, making the process available to Olympians throughout Northern California and to schools across the US via the internet.

Molly Last, 50

San Francisco

Molly has been an elementary school teacher for 28 years. The Olympics allows her first grade students to not only celebrate being Americans but also allows them as 1st generation Americans to root for the athletes of their families' cultures. Molly hopes to instill in them all that is wonderful about being a member of our global community.

Edwin Lee, 55

San Francisco

As City Administrator, Ed has his hands on all the programs that make San Francisco a great symbol of diversity and strength to the world at large. Ed proudly represents all outstanding services and employees of this unique city, and he hopes that the Torch Relay will show off San Francisco at its very best.

Todd Lincoln, 46

Palo Alto

Todd's work as a pediatric surgeon has been grounded by his effort to maintain the health of children, not only locally in Oakland, but also worldwide during his journeys on volunteer medical teams to regions in Central America and Asia. He has led or joined teams to the poorest regions in Northern Nicaragua where children arrive to be seen after days of travel by foot or horseback. He has traveled to the largest cities in China, as well as to remote areas of the Gobi desert, to provide care for orphaned children.

Jessica Lorenz, 29

Berkeley

Jessica is a blind person and 2008 Paralympian who has worked continually to improve her game and spread the Paralympic message of inclusion to disabled and non-disabled people alike. She has helped bring accessible crossing signals to San Francisco, lead voter registration drives, and worked both locally and on the Federal level to pass Civil Rights legislation. In her own words: "Simply put, I try to make a difference. I try to make a difference in my work, and I try to make a difference in my sport. And I try to let others help me make that difference. One world, one vision!"

Robin Luo, 21

San Leandro

For Robin, the Olympic torch represents hope. In 2006, she was diagnosed with nasopharyngeal cancer and left school to get radiation and chemotherapy. Throughout her ordeal though, Robin always believed she would make it. And she did. She graduated from college a semester early. Every weekday, she runs 2 miles in the morning. She wants to bring hope to others. She wants to show them what a cancer survivor can accomplish.

Bertie Mandelbaum, 59**San Francisco**

Bertie is an institution in an organization that is itself a San Francisco institution. Bertie has been assisting Compass clients, formerly Travelers' Aid, since 1979. . As the organization changed and grew, Bertie has kept on an unwavering and commendable course -- counseling individuals and families toward self-sufficiency, offering care and compassion to the most down and out, many of whom had no one else to turn to. For almost thirty years, Bertie Mandelbaum has been a beacon of support, a credit to the concepts of refuge and sanctuary that define San Francisco, as she has gone above and beyond to make this City a better place, for its neediest residents, one person at a time.

Jill Mason, 30**Sacramento**

On Easter Sunday, 2004, a driver, who was four times the legal limit drunk, hit Jill and her boyfriend Alan on a training bike ride. Alan was killed instantly; Jill is now a wheelchair user with a head injury. . To help prevent this from happening to others she gives PowerPoint presentations to schools and am involved in the "Every15 Minutes" program at high schools (every 15 minutes is the average time in which someone is killed by a drunk driver). Jill is carrying the torch in San Francisco to show that nobody should let one devastating experience change his or her attitude towards life.

Raj Mathai, 37**San Carlos**

Two-time Emmy award winning Raj Mathai serves as sports director for NBC11. In 2004, the Associated Press honored him for Outstanding Sports Segment. He's also been awarded regional Emmys for Outstanding Sports Program in 2002 and 1998. Raj has reported on-location from the Olympic Games in Torino, Italy, Athens, Greece and Salt Lake City, Utah. Raj and his family contribute to cancer research, the Leukemia Society and various other Bay Area charities.

Robert McDaneils, 50**Vallejo**

For the past 22 years Robert has made it his personal journey to work with youth, in particular at-risk youth in San Francisco. A former high-hurdler from San Francisco State University, he has long believed that each child be given the opportunity to run and jump in a safe environment, to learn to be a champion in life through track and field, and to be embraced for a "job well done". Today, many of these socio-economically challenged children run safe and jump high with Mac Can Do - the first track and field club in the Tenderloin, which Robert founded.

Andrew Michael, 45**San Francisco**

Andrew is guided by the principle of "Arre Mana Anbu Payamaria-adu." which is Tamil for "Love strong and Fearless" as taught by the Franciscan Nuns in Chennai, India. He serves as of Vice President for Sustainable Development for the Bay Area Council and is Director of Partnerships For Change. His groups have been able to build a free school for 1500 kids of the slums directly impacted by the wave tsunami in Eastern India. In addition he has partnered with the nuns of Bon Secour to build a Women's Empowerment Center to provide vocational training for the lowest caste and clean water for a village 70kilometers from Chennai.

Morgan Montoya, 16**Benicia**

Morgan's inspiration for her personal journey to excellence is her autistic brother, Max. She will carry the Torch for him and on behalf of all special needs kids of San Francisco and the Bay Area. Morgan has lived her entire life with her brother who is a lifetime patient at Children's Hospital in Oakland. On the very day of the Olympic Torch Relay, her brother will face the greatest challenge of his life: He will be in 12 hours of surgery at Children's Hospital Oakland to correct spinal deformities that are life threatening. She will carry the torch for him, symbolic of his absolute love for sports excellence.

Jasmine Nachtigall, 17**San Mateo**

Over the last four years, Jasmine has taken a journey through more than 2,170 hours of community service and now finds herself more open-minded, aware, and as passionate than ever before. This year, on Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, she led a group of students from the student-run Volunteer Center she created at her school, to join the Trails Forever Team in planting 1,000 new plants at Golden Gate Park.

Shirley Olivo, 75**San Francisco**

As a 75-year-old native San Franciscan, Shirley is proud of her city and her birthplace. She will carry the torch for her special needs grandson, who has benefited from Special Olympics athletic programs growing up and has won many medals in competition. She has I am sustained by her love of community through her volunteer work as a board member of the San Francisco PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and as a Eucharistic Minister at Most Holy Redeemer Church in the Castro.

Vladimir Prikupets. 75**San Francisco**

Vladimir is a 75 year-old refugee from the former Soviet Union, who I immigrated to San Francisco in 1975 and became a United States citizen in 1981. His youth in the Soviet Union was focused upon escaping the Nazi invasion of the Ukraine and surviving numerous relocations during the Holocaust. Once he was free from the Soviet Union, he began attending Olympic Games, first in 1980 in Lake Placid and then Los Angeles, Seoul, and most recently Turin and next Beijing. Since 1980, he been to nine Olympics on four continents, Vladimir is dedicated to the Olympic principles of freedom and individual excellence, and he has dedicated his Olympic journey and his previous Olympic Torches to those who are struggling for freedom.

Patricia Rayburn, 64

Redwood City

Patricia believes it is a true gift as Franciscan Sister to represent those who follow St. Francis, the one for whom San Francisco is named. St. Francis was a man of peace, a person who respected all people and who honored all creation. These values will help sustain our human endeavor. This is also what I believe the Olympic Spirit is about: peace, respect and honor! She works with others to insure that people have food, clothing, and housing. In particular, Patricia works with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Habitat for Humanity, Coalition for Human Trafficking, and international missions in Chiapas, Mexico and Tanzania, Africa.

Neshat Rezai, 39

Berkeley

As a health-care provider in a community clinic, Neshat makes significant contributions to the sustainability of individuals in a community. Her personal journey, her career, her opinions and beliefs all have led her to focus on our community and on well being of people. She was born in Shiraz, Iran and immigrated to the US twenty-four years ago. She is giving back to the community by providing dental health care in a community clinic setting.

Susan Roberts, 26

San Francisco

Susan Roberts is the Executive Director of the non-profit Girls on the Run of the Bay Area. Every day, she inspires the next generation of Olympic athletes with her tireless work to create a supportive environment where girls can grow up physically and mentally stronger. Attributing her own success directly to her involvement in athletics, Susan has used running to overcome personal difficulties and is a tireless and inspirational leader. Susan is an athletic ambassador to the San Francisco community and as a coach to many future generations of Olympic athletes to come.

Trevor Robinson, 20

Fair Oaks

Track and field has been Trevor's passion for seven years now. In 2005, just before he was to qualify for the California State Meet, a car doing 30 mph hit Trevor. He doesn't remember much of the accident, so it came as a shock when he found that he had pushed a girl out of the way of the car before he was struck. He was in the hospital for three days, causing him to miss the State's qualifying meet. It's been a very long and hard road since then, but he is still a competing athlete and an accomplished coach, with 6 youth athletes who he has taken to the National Meet.

Tierra Rogers, 17

Pacifica

Tierra is a junior at Sacred Heart Cathedral High School, who is a starting forward on the Girls Varsity Basketball Team, which is ranked number 1 in the country. Tierra grew up and still lives in the worst public housing projects in the City, and yet she made it into one of the best college preparatory schools in the area. Her father, who was a leader in keeping peace and a safe world for at-risk youth in their neighborhood, was gunned down senselessly during half time at his daughter's basketball game. Tierra models what a girl from the Projects can achieve. She truly embodies the Olympic Spirit we all want to believe in.

Jill Savery, 36

Sacramento

Jill is a 1996 Olympic Gold Medalist. She is actively involved in the international sport and environment movement, representing the United States Olympic Committee at several international conferences hosted by UNEP and the International Olympic Committee. She is currently the Chair of the first-ever Environment Committee for the International Children's Games, which will take place in San Francisco in July of 2008.

Mallory Schaffer, 23

Alameda

On October 9, 2007, Mallory turned her personal journey into her professional journey when she enlisted in the United States Coast Guard. She believes that sacrifices made in the line of duty are well worth the end result, which is a country full of citizens who can sleep peacefully at night because the United States military members work round the clock to ensure the nation's safety. In this respect, Mallory is proud as an Olympic Torchbearer to represent hundreds of thousands of American military members.

Rachel Tsao, 16

Moraga

Rachel is a high school student, who is making the world more sustainable by learning environmental science and applying what she has learned to make a difference. She has led a campaign to encourage use of compact fluorescent light bulbs in her neighborhood and her community. Rachel also has started a "Full Tire" program where volunteers fill up under inflated car tires on cars that stop at the local gas stations to improve gas mileage. By being an active environmentalist, Rachel speaks for the youth of her generation that will carry on the torch to a more sustainable Earth.

Daniel Way, 33

Encinitas

Daniel is an accomplished professional skateboarder and skateboarding has given him the ability to travel the world and experience many cultures to see both the positive and negative traits of the human experience and our effects on our planet. He now wants to utilize his social influence to inspire people to embrace peace, positiveness and a healthy lifestyle. Daniel believes that carrying the torch will be a natural follow-up to jumping the Great Wall in China and a launching pad for doing more public education in the future.

Helen Zia, 55

Oakland

Helen is a journalist and scholar who has covered Asian American communities and social and political movements for decades. Zia is former Executive Editor of Ms. Magazine. Her articles, essays and reviews have appeared in numerous publications, books and anthologies. A *Magazine* named her one of the most influential Asian Americans of the decade. She is the author of "Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People", a finalist for the prestigious Kiriya Pacific Rim Book Prize. She was married to Lia Shigemura in San Francisco in 2004.