

Christy Smith – 1949-2016



Christy Smith

Longtime Lake Tahoe resident Christy Smith died July 23, 2016. She was 67.

Christine Cosbey was born March 10, 1949, in Altadena to Jack and Marjorie Cosbey. She spent her childhood in Southern California, graduating in 1967 from Long Beach Polytechnic High School. She studied nursing at Long Beach State College and worked as a nurse in cardiology and family medicine.

She married Tim Smith in 1970, and together they had two children: a son, Corey, and a daughter, Kelly.

With 6-week-old Corey in tow, the couple moved to Lake Tahoe in 1972, and spent the rest of their years in Northern Nevada.

Once her children were in school, Christy began working as a teaching assistant in special education at Zephyr Cove Elementary School, where she served for a decade. She then returned to nursing, working in a private clinic serving South Lake Tahoe's low income community, then at Barton Memorial Hospital until she retired in 1999.

Shortly after her retirement, Christy's grandson, Bailey, was diagnosed with stage IV neuroblastoma. After four-plus years of assisting the family during his long, and ultimately successful, battle, Christy developed a passion for helping to build awareness and raise research dollars for childhood cancer. For the past 12 years, she has been deeply involved in the efforts of the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation, the St. Baldrick's Foundation and various other charitable organizations, as well as actively lobbying state and federal lawmaker on the behalf of organizations dedicated to increasing government funding for childhood cancer research.

Christy was also a talented painter, and spent her retirement years expressing this talent. She had an exceptionally keen eye for color and texture.

Christy was known throughout her life for her beautiful smile, her radiant and positive spirit, and her dedication to serving her community and the people she loved. She was exceptionally giving and caring.

Christy was preceded in death by her father, Jack Cosbey.

She is survived by her husband, Tim Smith; son Corey Smith; daughter and son-in-law Kelly and Ron Johnson; three grandchildren, Bailey and Cameron Johnson and Alexandria Smith; mother Marjorie Cosbey; and her brothers and their spouses Craig and Kim Cosbey and Bruce and Lin Cosbey.

A celebration of Christy's Life will be Aug. 8 at 1pm at the Supper Club at Genoa Lakes Golf Club, 1 Genoa Lakes Drive, Genoa.

In lieu of flowers, consider making a donation in Christy's memory to the **Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation**, 3550 Barron Way, Suite 9A, Reno, NV 89511.

Squaw Valley going to the dogs for a day

The Village at Squaw Valley pays tribute to our four-legged friends with the 7th annual Peaks and Paws Festival on Aug. 27.

Peaks and Paws is a special day to celebrate dogs with pet-friendly guided hikes up the mountain, an array of specialty products pet vendors, live bluegrass music all day, the Fetch Fest at Cushing Pond, an Ultimate Flying Dog Show and demonstrations, and Yappy Hour drink specials.

All proceeds from the event benefit the Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe, a nonprofit dedicated to saving and improving the lives of animals. Last year's festival raised more \$13,000.

The festival is Aug. 27 from 11am-7pm.

Fetch Fest is a timed ball retrieval contest to see which dog can retrieve the most tennis balls from Cushing Pond before time runs out. Fetch Fest will begin at 2m and has a \$5 entry fee.

The Ultimate Flying Dog Show performances and demonstrations from JD Platt's K9 Kings Entertainment will feature daredevil dogs showcasing some of the most incredible dog tricks and high-flying action in the world.

Live bluegrass music performances will take place throughout the day.

TOCCATA presents 9/11 memorial concert series

Tahoe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus will finalize its 2016 Tahoe Summer MusicFest with a four concert series beginning Sept. 11, 3pm at the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in South Reno (100 Bishop Manogue Drive).

The series commemorates the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy and features the Brahms Requiem and Lalo's Symphonie Espagnole with guest artist Elizabeth Pitcairn performing on the legendary Red Stradivarius Violin.

The concert will open with Brahms' solemn symphonic-choral masterpiece, "A German Requiem", with soloists Joy Strotz, Anna Helwing, and Becky Earl, sopranos, and Kimm Julian, baritone, and includes the 70 voice Tahoe Symphony Orchestra Chorus. The "Requiem" is composed in seven sections. The concert concludes with Pitcairn performing Edouard Lalo's "Symphonie Espagnole, Op. 21". Maestro James Rawie, TOCCATA's founder and artistic director, will conduct all performances.

The concert will be repeated on Sept. 14, 7pm, at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Carson City (3597 N. Sunridge Drive); Sept. 16, 7pm at St. Theresa Catholic Church in South Lake Tahoe (1041 Lyons Ave.); and Sept. 18, 4pm at Cornerstone Church in Incline Village (300 Country Club Drive).

Tickets for all concerts are available at the door or **online**. General admission is \$30 adults and \$25 seniors. Youth/students under age 23 with valid ID are \$5 for seating 15 minutes prior to concert time, and for those under 18, admission is free. Preferred/reserved seating is \$40, and \$15 for youth/students.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Coco

Under all that (dirty?) white fur, is Coco, a 10-month-old poodle who has not been treated like the sweet lap dog he should be.

He has never been inside or on a leash. He probably needs help with house training, and it appears that he has never been groomed. So, he needs a patient owner to work with him to help him achieve his potential. But he is a sweet dog who deserves lots of special treatment to make up for the lack of attention he's experienced as a puppy.

Coco is neutered, microchipped, tested for heart worm, and vaccinated. He is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are waiting for their new homes. Go to the Tahoe animal shelter's Facebook page to see photos and descriptions of all pets at the shelter.

Call 530.573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet. For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go **online**.

– Karen Kuentz

4 concerts left in Kings Beach series

Music on the Beach, the free concert series at Kings Beach State Recreation Area, has four more concerts this season, Aug. 5-Sept. 2. (There is no concert Aug. 12).

Bands in August are Paul David and the Drivers, Miss Lonely Hearts and Forget the Roses and will wrap up with Achilles Wheel. Music is from 6-8:30pm.

North Tahoe Business Association is selling Limited Edition High Notes posters signed and numbered by local artist Mereith Solin featuring Kings Beach. They are available at all Music on the Beach concerts for \$20. Proceeds benefit Music on the Beach.

Food vendors include As You Wish Catering, Full Belly Deli, A Pop Above and Cheri's Hand Dipped Ice Cream, and will be available from 5:30-9pm. The North Tahoe Business Association will be serving beer, wine, and soda from 5:30-9pm. Outside alcohol and pets are prohibited. Attendees may bring low-back beach chairs and blankets.

Tahoe woman headed to 6th Olympic Games



Louise Feller, red hat, trades pins at the London Olympics in 2012. Photo/Provided

By Susan Wood

STATELINE – Louise Feller is all too familiar with overcoming adversity.

That's why when she decided to attend her sixth Olympic Games as a volunteer, the notion of particular challenges associated with Rio in 2016 left her unfazed.

After all, she worked the Games in Athens with a broken leg – the result of a bicycle accident near Lake Tahoe two months before. She was forced to do her volunteer job with a full walking cast. But there was no way the diligent 67-year-old who takes volunteering to a level unknown to many would change her plans.

The biggest obstacle was on a very personal level.

"All the bathrooms in Greece were downstairs," she said.

The perpetual optimist took the challenge in stride, making the Olympic adventure her vacation of the year.

Sure, she knows Rio is plagued with issues. There's the mosquito-borne Zika virus that has prompted some athletes, mainly golfers, to decline the invitation. Feller shrugged off the danger.

The threat isn't enough to keep her away.

In addition, political strife resulting from a money-laundering scheme as well as rising crime has cast a shadow over the city. And Guanabarra Bay providing a water supply to residents remains polluted. Plus, the Tim Maia bike path collapsed killing two people and injuring three after a giant wave hit it.



Olympic memorabilia covers the wall above Louise Feller's couch. Photo/Susan Wood

Still, when the lights come up, the athletes take their marks and the stories unfold – it will be all about the greatest event to display the best in humanity.

And Feller will be there to help like she has since going to

the 1996 Summer Olympiad in Atlanta as a spectator. It was like a light bulb came on.

“I said: ‘I’d really like to see the other side of the Games’,” she told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Adorning the walls of her Stateline home are posters from the various Olympic Games. In the kitchen, she created Olympic-themed collages with pictures and other take-aways from the various host cities. Feller has worked as a volunteer for the Games in Salt Lake City, London, Torino, Italy, Beijing and Athens – the birthplace of the Olympiad.

When she applied for her first gig in Salt Lake City, Feller was asked to secure her own lodging before even applying.

“I lived in a motor home for three weeks,” she said. It also helped that she ran an educational touring company.

She is often asked to be the “go-to” girl, running errands for coaches, directors and athletes. She tends to help out most in the sport of taekwondo. At a mere 5-feet tall, she performed security functions. It seems spectators and others would try to trespass or linger too long in the athletes’ dining room.

For South America, she has landed the dream assignment of working an information kiosk.

Volunteers are fed one meal per day on their shifts, but being a diabetic Feller brings her own food. Good ole peanut butter hits the spot for nutrition and diversity when eaten with other things.

The workers also get a thank you dinner, watch, credentials and uniform.

What is her favorite Olympic Games thus far?

Torino (or Turin depending on where you’re from) had her staged in a nice little apartment, with an Italian restaurant

on the corner. She built her own community at the eatery.

"I went to dinner there every night. They started making it for me (before I arrived)," she said.

On top of that, the Games sent her to the speed skating arena where she met Apolo Ohno, the U.S. short-track gold medalist.

Her stint in Beijing turned out quite interesting in terms of allowing the other volunteers to take the pins she brings to give away from her collection. When she laid them out on a table and asked her comrades to choose which ones they wanted "they'd have a hard time because in China they're not used to choosing."

And there lie cultural differences among the 50,000-plus volunteers who form a diverse army for the Olympics. There's also a gap in the hierarchy between languages.

"English is an important language in the Olympics," she said, adding that all referees are expected to speak it.



Memorabilia from past Olympic Games where Louise Feller has been a volunteer. Photo/Susan Wood

Feller doesn't tune in the Olympics while she's working at the Games. If anything, when they're in another country, the coverage is dominated by that nation's homeland athletes much like in the U.S.

She comes home to watch online.

Still, the experience overall is an incredible one – an event that allows a person to be a part of something larger than themselves.

"I like the camaraderie during the Olympics, and I wanted to give back," said Feller, who splits her time between Lake Tahoe and Florida.

"America is a great country. I love to share it," she said. "We're very fortunate."

The Rio 2016 Volunteer Programme is billed as “the place for all those who are passionate about sports and volunteering.”

“The volunteers are indispensable for the success of the Games. They are the soul of the event,” Flavia Fontes, head of the Rio 2016 Volunteers Programme, told *Lake Tahoe News*. “A person in the city could go through the Games without seeing an athlete with their own eyes, but it would be impossible not to meet a volunteer. They play a part in everything, helping and providing information to spectators, assisting heads of state and providing operational support at the ceremonies.”

The Olympic Games in Rio start Aug. 5 with the opening ceremonies in Maracana Stadium and end Aug. 21 with the closing celebration. A total of 7.5 million tickets are expected to be sold – 200,000 less than London’s 2012 Summer Olympics because the venues are smaller. NBC Sports will televise the Games for its duration.

More than 200 nations are expected to participate in 306 events at 33 venues in the host city and at five venues in Sao Paulo.

Gratitude expert to give talk in Incline Village

Bob Emmons, the world’s leading scientific expert on gratitude, will give a talk at Sierra Nevada College on Sept. 1.

Emmons is a professor of psychology at the UC Davis, and the founding editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Positive Psychology*. He is also the author of the books “Gratitude

Works!: A 21-Day Program for Creating Emotional Prosperity” and “Thanks! How the New Science of Gratitude Can Make You Happier”.

Research on the science of gratitude continues to accelerate rapidly. However, questions still remain: What are the functions of gratitude in the economy of human social behavior? What mechanisms are involved in the expression and detection of gratitude? Experiments and recent neuroimaging studies offer important clues as to why gratitude matters, how it works, and how we can collectively capitalize on its promise and potential.

The program will begin at 6pm, with refreshments and no-host bar from 5-6pm at 291 Country Club Drive in Incline Village. Seating is open at 5:30pm to those who **preregistered**, open seating starts at 5:50pm. Cost is \$5.

Doug Sprague – 1932-2016



Doug Sprague

Former South Tahoe High School teacher Douglas Harmon Sprague died July 19, 2016. He was 83.

Doug was born Oct. 15, 1932, in Colton, Calif., the only child of Guy C. and Euleta Mae Sprague.

Doug was already active in the YMCA when he graduated from Van Nuys High School in 1950. After earning a bachelor's degree from UCLA and a master's degree from George Williams College, he became a YMCA director and camp leader, influencing and inspiring countless children and adults for the next 25 years.

He wrote a book about his experiences called "It Happened at Camp."

In 1967, as the founding director of the newly-opened Monterey Peninsula YMCA, he hired a young nurse for the summer camp named Virginia Keller. They married in December 1968.

In 1975, the family moved to Tahoe where he built a home and still worked intermittently with the YMCA in the Bay Area. At the beginning of the consumer computer age, Doug educated himself in programming, bought the first computer model available at Radio Shack and by 1982 found himself teaching computer classes to students at STHS in the Regional Occupational Program.

In 1988, at the request of the STHS principal, Doug laid the framework and began the video production program, which included a TV studio within the high school. He started teaching video production classes which produced and broadcast a daily live news program to the entire high school, dubbed Viking Television (VTV). Many of his former students were influenced to pursue successful careers in the television, movie, and journalism industries. VTV continues, and has grown into the new TADA program at STHS. Even after retiring from teaching in 1994, he continued to take groups of VTV and

performing arts students on memorable trips to Hollywood, visiting some of his previous students working in the film/TV industry, as well as observing working sets of shows in production. He organized 30 of these Hollywood trips, the last of which was at the age of 80.

He loved living in Tahoe, where he taught numerous people to water and snow ski, coached a Buddy Werner ski team, and indulged his love of Gilbert & Sullivan musicals by performing in "HMS Pinafore" and "Pirates of Penzance". As a volunteer with South Lake Tahoe Cancer League, he drove Tahoe-area cancer patients to appointments off the hill. He loved doing magic, performing as Professor Hockenloup "with a capital Hock!" He loved spending time with his family, especially his extended Kritch family and his grandsons.

He is survived by his loving wife Virginia, son Todd (Amy), daughter Robin (Andy), and two grandsons, Douglas and Nick, as well as a great wealth of close friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to: South Lake Tahoe Cancer League; STHS Performing & Visual Arts Booster Association; Emergency Assistance Fund for YMCA Professionals (Stitzer YMCA Center Second Floor, Springfield College, 263 Alden Street, Springfield, MA 01109).

A memorial service will be Aug. 12 at 1pm at Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church, 2733 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe. Share any pictures or stories via the Facebook page @DouglasHSprague.

Renowned poet to lead workshop in SLT

Award-winning poet and human rights advocate Carolyn Forché will lead a workshop on Aug. 11 in South Lake Tahoe.

The intimate craft talk will be limited to 12 participants, who will work with Forché to strengthen their writing skills in a nurturing, fun and educational environment.

Participants should bring one poem for critique.

The event is hosted by the Wordy Girls, a South Lake Tahoe-based writers' organization, and a portion of the proceeds goes to fund writing camps for girls.

Forché's first volume, "Gathering the Tribes," winner of the Yale Series of Younger Poets Prize, was followed by "The Country Between Us," "The Angel of History," and "Blue Hour." Her famed international anthology, "Against Forgetting," has been praised by Nelson Mandela as "itself a blow against tyranny, against prejudice, against injustice," and was followed by the 2014 anthology "The Poetry of Witness."

The fee is \$100. The workshop is from 5:30-8pm. For more information or to sign up, go **online**.

Road beat: Kia Sedona redefines minivan



There is nothing mini about the Kia Sedona. Photos/Larry Weitzman

By Larry Weitzman

Thirty years ago they were all the rage. Almost every manufacturer made them. The field is now reduced to the Japanese manufacturers, Chrysler and one Korean brand, Kia. VW had one, but it was just a version of the Chrysler Town and Country. Ford and GM are out of the minivan business.

Mini-vans are a practical vehicle. Hardly mini, they occupy the footprint of a full size SUV. But they have a huge interior volume, capable of hauling eight people in comfort or nearly 150 cubic feet of cargo behind first row seating. This new 2016 Kia, now in its second year of production, may be the best of the best.

Size-wise, Kia carries dimensions that are fairly standard for a minivan: wheelbase 121 inches, width 78 inches, length 201 inches and height 69 inches. Track (and handling) benefit as it has 68 inches between the center line of the front wheels and the rear measures 69 inches. That's enough data for now.

Not much you can do with a two box vehicle (one box in front with the engine pulling a bigger rear box of people), but Kia has done a great job in its subtle lines and shapes to create an interesting look, like Raymond Loewy did with the Greyhound Scenicruiser bus. Kia uniqueness is created in its third side window design and how it tapers into a smaller shape creating a natural sleekness. It is without question, the best looking of all minivans.

Under the first box mounted transversely or sideways, is one of the best V-6 engines in motoring, the Kia 3.3L, direct injected, high compression (11.5:1), 24 valve, DOHC V-6 knocking down 276 hp at 6,000 rpm and 248 lb.-ft. of torque at 5,200 rpm meaning the engine is also producing about 248 hp at that same 5,20 rpm. If you think this is weak, this same engine used in the Kia Cadenza produces 293 hp when spun to a higher rpm. This 3.3L unit may be half a liter shy of the competition, but its performance is miles ahead.



Specifications

Price \$26,400 to about \$45,000

Engine

3.3L 24 valve, directed injected, DOHC V-6 276 hp @ 6,000 rpm; 248 lb.-ft. of torque @ 5,200 rpm

Transmission

Six-speed torque converter

Configuration

Transverse front mounted engine/front wheel drive

Dimensions

Wheelbase 120.5 inch

Length 201.4 inches

Width 78.1 inches

Height (with roof rails)
69.1 inches

Ground clearance 6.7 inches

Trach (f/r) 68.3/68.6 inches

Weight 4,656 pounds

GVWR 6,085 pounds

Tow capacity 3,500 pounds

Fuel capacity 21.1 gallons

Turning circle 36.8 feet

Steering lock to lock 3.16
turns

Wheels 19X6.5 inch alloys

Tires 235/55X19 inches

Performance

0-60 mph 7.37 seconds

50-70 mph 4.06 seconds

50-70 mph up a grade 6.47
seconds

Top speed Well into triple
digits (but not with me in
it)

Fuel economy EPA rated at
17/22/19 mpg
city/highway/combined.

Expect 21 mpg in rural
county driving and 29 mpg at
legal speeds on the highway.

Performance matches the high output engine which sends power to the front wheels via a six speed torque converter tranny.

Zero to 60 mph terminates in just 7.37 seconds while a 50-70 mph simulates pass lasts only 4.06 seconds and the same run up a 6-7 percent grade on slows that time to 6.47 seconds making this a high performance automobile and outstanding for an almost 4,700-pound minivan. One more point with respect to utility. This Sedona has a GVWR of 6,085 pounds meaning it has a whopping 1,400 plus pound payload capacity. Plus it's rated to tow 3,500 pounds.

On the other side of the coin, the Sedona is rated by the EPA at 17/19/22 mpg. However, it did much better for the Road Beat averaging 29 mpg at 70 mph on the highway with the cruise control set at 70 mph. Overall the Kia averaged 21 mpg. Another thoughtful item with the Sedona is the large 21-gallon fuel tank. Think of the long legged road trips you could do.

Now for the really good stuff. The Sedona is one of the smoothest and quietest vehicles I have driven, and certainly the smoothest and quietest minivan on the market. Suspension is state of the art Macpherson struts up front and a multi-link system in the rear with coils in all four corners. Steering is a reasonably quick electronic power rack with 3.16 turns lock to lock. Wheels are a bit narrow at 6.5X19 inch alloys shod with wide 235/55X19 inch tires. While handling is predictable it tends to run a little wide in tighter corners which means if you are going to make like Lewis Hamilton at Monaco, pay attention. Turning circle is a tight 36.6 feet.

Braking is strong from four wheel discs with the larger front units being ventilated. Of course ABS and the alphabet soup of other acronyms of electronic safety devices are also standard. The brakes have excellent feel and power stopping the Sedona in 43 feet from 40 mph. Safety is second to none with a plethora of airbags and more.

Inside is a sublime, comfortable interior with the options of seven or eight seats. The front chairs are exceedingly comfortable with the option of two three place benches in the

second or third row or captain chairs and a three place bench, your choice.

The instrument panel is stylish and complete. Tach and speedo are standard as is an easy to use trip computer. The entertainment system doesn't require a semester at your local city college. Ditto for the A/C. Sedona is well thought out and to the Road Beat it is number one on the minivan list.

Cementing that choice is pricing. A base Sedona L starts at \$26,400. Now there is a lot of vehicle for the money. My top of the line, fully loaded Sedona SX Limited stickers for \$39,900, plus \$895 for the boat from Korea. It had two options, the Technology Package (\$2,800) and the Rear Seat Entertainment Package (\$1,095) bringing the bottom line to \$44,690. Considering the price of vehicles these days, the Sedona is a superb value. And remember it comes with a standard 10-year/100,000 mile warranty.

Larry Weitzman has been into cars since he was 5 years old. At 8 he could recite from memory the hp of every car made in the U.S. He has put in thousands of laps on racetracks all over the Western United States.