

Pacifica Senior Center spotlight Spinning the hits with DJ Rey Hauser

By JEAN BARTLETT | THE WEEK OF 6-18-18-6-24-18



(Jean Bartlett photo)

DJ Rey Hauser strikes a pose at the Senior Center.

At the multi-purpose Senior Center located in Pacifica's Community Center, there are all kinds of classes and activities going on and the monthly calendar is loaded with extra possibilities – Doug Jones on the piano, a pop-up library visit, Scott Hill on guitar, a pet visit – and every month, DJ Rey (Rey Hauser) brings in his Bose Sound System to play three hours of downright danceable tunes.

"I learned to deejay at an after-hours place in San Francisco," Hauser said. "That was 1972 through 1974."

That club was The Shed. It catered to gays and straights, had a huge dance floor and was "happening." Along with working the coffee bar, the front desk, doing maintenance, advertising and design layouts, Hauser spun disco tunes by numerous artists, including: Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes, Gloria Gaynor and the O'Jays.

"It was fun from what I remember," Hauser laughed.

The deejay's song selections now include everything from the 1940s on up and it has been defined by his listeners as "the best music ever."

Until he moved to Pacifica four and a half years ago, Rey Hauser spent the majority of his life in San Francisco.

"I was born in Pasay City, Philippines," Hauser said. "My parents were Philip George and Jean (Merin) Hauser. My mother was from the Philippines and my father was from the States. We moved to San Francisco when I was two."

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His dad was a Merchant Marine and was gone nine months out of the year. His mom, a good cook, had her own restaurant in San Francisco, Ramona's Cafe, which was on Kearny between Jackson and Washington. She served Filipino food and when her son was old enough, he helped out – sweeping, mopping and emptying the garbage.

An only child, Hauser remembers the biggest event of his early childhood was heading over to Luther Burbank Middle School, when he was all of 8 in 1960, to receive the polio vaccine. All the kids thought it was a big deal as did their parents. Hauser attended three elementary schools, Thomas Edison, Alvarado and Cleveland. He went to James Lick Middle School.

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Following high school, Hauser, who was always good at art, attended the San Francisco Academy of Art University to study graphic design. He was also working fulltime as a teletypist at

Wells Fargo. (Now obsolete, the teletype machine was an electro-mechanical typewriter which sent typed messages from one source to another via an electrical communication channel.) Eventually Rey gave up school and Wells Fargo and went on to spend most of his life in the restaurant industry in San Francisco, except for a brief stint working at a resort near Key West.

It was an ad for the Ocean View Senior Apartments that moved Rey from San Francisco to Pacifica. He loves his ocean view and the easy walk, just across the street, to the Center. Except during construction, Rey deejays weekly where he lives.

"I first came to the Center to shoot the breeze," Hauser said. "I met a lot of really nice people and felt comfortable. I took a ceramics class here for a couple of years. Now I play nickel bingo once a week on Monday, mahjong intermittently on Tuesday afternoons and of course I still shoot the breeze."

What would people be surprised to know about him?

"That I am still living," he laughed. "I got my AIDS diagnosis in 1991 and they said I would be dead in 10 years. I had a stroke in 1993, but it was while I was visiting my primary doctor just 300 feet from the hospital. It's a good surprise."

Senior Services at the Pacifica Community Center. 540 Crespi Drive, Pacifica. T: 650-738-7384. F: 650-738-0564. On the web at: http://www.cityofpacific.org/depts/senior_services/.



A Bartlett's Biographies Headliner

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