

That time a brochure actually changed someone's life

"If I do something twice, I'm bored." That's one of the reasons David Laredo became a lawyer and practices law the way he does. His approach to legal matters — and life itself — is to think outside the box. Laredo was born in New York, but his family eventually settled in Southern California, where he finished high school. He worked at the regional supermarket, Geison's, throughout high school, undergrad and law school, the latter two at UCLA. "I learned more working at Geison's than all my schooling ... well, more than law school," he said. As a junior in college while waiting for a then-girlfriend Ginny for lunch one day, Laredo stumbled upon a brochure for law school that spoke directly to him. "Don't know what you're doing with your life?" No. "Did you know in English?" Yes. Laredo went out and bought a practice book for the standard Law School Admission Test and found the questions fun ... so it was decided: he would become a lawyer.



David Laredo

Headed to Monterey
Laredo put himself through law school during the Vietnam War. Fortunately, he was able to join the Navy and get his commission as an officer before starting classes in order to avoid being sent abroad before he could graduate. Laredo and Ginny were married when he finished law school and she, nursing school. Rather than immediately calling his detailer — the person in charge of assigning people to jobs and locations in the military — they decided to go skiing. The detailer tracked him down at the ski resort to tell him where he would be going. Laredo waited on the end of the phone with baited breath to find out if he'd be taking a position at the Naval Postgraduate School, or on Adak Island, a westerly dot on the map off the coast of Alaska. The detailer drew a number and told Laredo that he would be the staff judge advocate (legal counsel) for the Naval Postgraduate School.

neighor wanted to adopt a child and as a gift to her — and a learning experience for himself — he took care of the legal aspects of the adoption. That emotional and rewarding experience led him to start the Children's Home Society, now the Kinship Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to matching children with families for adoption. He and Ginny also adopted their first child, Christina, shortly thereafter and then had three boys, Josef, Michael and Matthew. After leaving active duty, Laredo served as deputy county counsel for Monterey County from 1979 to 1981. In 1981, he co-founded the law firm De Lay and Laredo, a boutique law practice representing local government and nonprofit organizations. He and his partner, Paul De Lay, set up their office in Carmel Valley and in 1986 moved to their current office on Forest Avenue in Pacific Grove. Laredo has worked extensively as a trial and appellate advocate dealing with matters ranging from environmental proceedings and election disputes, to labor issues. At one labor negotiation, he instituted a policy with disgruntled MST bus drivers that before any serious discussion could take place, each side had to tell a joke. He said negotiations were much smoother after that. Although De Lay, his business partner of 37 years, passed away earlier this year, the firm continues on as before. Laredo's middle son Michael — also an attorney — is the most recent addition to the practice. Laredo is an adventure seeker and served as scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 90 of Pacific Grove from 1986 to 2006, where all three of his sons and many other boys from the community participated under his leadership. In 2009, he was left with an 18-inch incision from abdominal surgery related to colon cancer. Just a few months later, he camped for a week with 35 Scouts from Troop 90 at Pico Blanco Boy Scout Camp.

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A contest in the water
One camp tradition was to celebrate the week with a water carnival of competing events (swimming, canoeing, greased watermelon race, etc.). The final event pitted scoutmasters in a belly-flop contest from the end of the pier. Knowing this was looming, he asked his surgeon in advance if it was safe. "He assured me this might hurt like hell, but no damage would occur. I worried my first breath would be taken within a plume of sweating blood-red water! I won the contest, and now claim it as a 'leg of faith!'"

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Great Lives

By SALY BAHO
I and I don't ever want to find out." Laredo got the message loud and clear — it was his job to make sure everyone stayed on the straight and narrow so that his courtroom skills weren't required. His secretary was taking night classes in law at MPC and came to work with questions about what she was learning. As he helped her, Laredo discovered he loved teaching. That led to a job instructing a class on water law at MPC, dealing with the legal matters of one of the Peninsula's perennial droughts. Around the same time, Laredo's next-door

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neighbor wanted to adopt a child and as a gift to her — and a learning experience for himself — he took care of the legal aspects of the adoption. That emotional and rewarding experience led him to start the Children's Home Society, now the Kinship Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to matching children with families for adoption. He and Ginny also adopted their first child, Christina, shortly thereafter and then had three boys, Josef, Michael and Matthew. After leaving active duty, Laredo served as deputy county counsel for Monterey County from 1979 to 1981. In 1981, he co-founded the law firm De Lay and Laredo, a boutique law practice representing local government and nonprofit organizations. He and his partner, Paul De Lay, set up their office in Carmel Valley and in 1986 moved to their current office on Forest Avenue in Pacific Grove. Laredo has worked extensively as a trial and appellate advocate dealing with matters ranging from environmental proceedings and election disputes, to labor issues. At one labor negotiation, he instituted a policy with disgruntled MST bus drivers that before any serious discussion could take place, each side had to tell a joke. He said negotiations were much smoother after that. Although De Lay, his business partner of 37 years, passed away earlier this year, the firm continues on as before. Laredo's middle son Michael — also an attorney — is the most recent addition to the practice. Laredo is an adventure seeker and served as scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 90 of Pacific Grove from 1986 to 2006, where all three of his sons and many other boys from the community participated under his leadership. In 2009, he was left with an 18-inch incision from abdominal surgery related to colon cancer. Just a few months later, he camped for a week with 35 Scouts from Troop 90 at Pico Blanco Boy Scout Camp.

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SPORTS

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In 1984, Larry Frye organized the Carmel Beach Volleyball League, a 12-team "bar league" sponsored by local businesses, that ran until 1992. "It was wonderful," said Tim Kitting, a 62-year-old Pacific Grove resident who has played locally since 1977. "We kept score. We

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have lunch and a few drinks. We played with a lot of great players, men and women, young and old. ...
Knitting, DeLapa, Jim Amola (Bert's dad), David Crabbe (Ernie's dad), Bruce Kronlund, "Digger" Smallwood (whose nickname, amazingly, is not volleyball-related), and Dr. Innes West (still played at 70) are among local veterans who play regularly, and still socialize together. A major highlight each

JACOBS

look on his face that was priceless: I could tell he was really happy with the piece."
Murray autographed the back with the inscription, "It looks like me!" He posed with Jacobs, deliberately holding the painting upside down for the photo. And then he was gone. "We only met for a minute, but it was cool to see that Bill Murray is basically the same guy in person that you see in the movies," he said. "He's definitely a character."
He'll showcase his portrait that made him famous, Jacobs' body of work includes bold,

colorful seascapes, many of which contain figures — often statuette women staring over the ocean. Another favorite subject is the commercial wharf in Monterey, which is across from his current residence. "Everything always comes back to the canal for me. Small and big victors keep telling me that I'm doing the right thing in the right place, and I'm excited about my recent work," he said. "I think my most recent paintings have more color, more texture, and more depth."
Jacobs moved last week to his newest location, a studio-gallery on Mission Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues in a converted across from Katy's Place. He'll showcase his portrait that made him famous, Jacobs' body of work includes bold,

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GAMBLING ON HOPE LED TO A BIG CHANGE FOR THIS FELLOW

SCOTT JACOBS and his wife, Tiffany, wake up in their car on Nov. 4, 2008, a day after they were kicked out of the apartment in Ventura they had just moved into. Jacobs, who was 22 at the time, and today is a Carmel gallery owner, had just lost his dead-end job as a boiler-room steamfitter, and his new landlord seemed unimpressed with his new status as a starving professional artist.

Carmel's artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR
"I tried to land him our first rent check, and he wouldn't take it," Jacobs remembered. "He said, 'Sorry, but you can't live here. You have to go.'"

That happened on a Monday. Sunlight through the windshield shook Scott and Tiffany on Tuesday. Except for his being unemployed, destitute, depressed and stressed, it was a beautiful morning, so Jacobs dragged his easel and acrylics from the car, set up in front of an ice cream parlor on East Main Street, and began to paint.

and story on Page 1 of the Ventura County Star and the Sacramento Bee, right under the account of Obama's historic victory. The reporters and photographers returned to do follow-up stories. KTLA tracked him down for the 10 o'clock news. CNN featured him on its iReport. Ventura's city manager took Scott and Tiffany out to dinner. A friendly couple, Robert and Pearl Krueger, picked up the tabs to create 300 prints of the painting (all of which Jacobs sold in less than a week), and also arranged to put the painting on Tehachas. The San Bernardino-Arteist Union Gallery gave Jacobs a show. A British couple bought the original for \$10,000. And the landlord called back to say it was OK to move in.

The greatest benefit from Jacobs' "lightning-bolt moment" came in the form of name recognition and Jacobs, who is now 32, has surfer that way for the past decade. "It's been a feather in my cap, and it's helped my career, but it's not like I haven't experienced some tough times since then," Jacobs said. "There have been peaks and valleys. I've had a \$40,000 day, and I've gone three months without making a sale. It can get really scary, and when it's scary it can be really hard to put it all aside and just paint a painting."

"What if he loses?"
It was Election Day, and the piece he was finishing, a dramatic portrait of presidential candidate Barack Obama entitled "Somebody Has Come," attracted attention from passers-by, including a couple of newspaper reporters. "What if he loses?" several people asked. "Well ... what if he doesn't?" the artist shrugged.

The anxiety of hope is part of every artist's toolbox. A painting might pay some bills ... or collect dust in a crawl space. On Wednesday, Jacobs found his photo

Resident Connie Lamb noticed him painting on the street in 2011, befriended him, and offered him an opportunity to open a studio/gallery in the building she then owned at the corner of Ocean and Lincoln, a partnership that lasted for most of the next six years.

"Bill is here!"
He moved to a new location on Lincoln, between Fifth and Sixth avenues in 2017, the same year he felt inspired to paint a portrait of comedian/actor Bill Murray. That one was featured on the cover of Shakers Magazine, whose local co-publishers, Manny Espinoza and Ryan Sanchez, invited Jacobs to show the piece at the magazine's new issue release party. "I was at the event, and somebody came running up and said, 'Grab the painting ... Bill Murray's here!'" Jacobs recollected. "I walked up holding the painting in front of my face, and kind of peeked over the top, and I saw a



Scott Jacobs poses next to his most recent painting in his new gallery on Mission Street. His career started to take off after he got on the right candidate in a certain presidential race.



See JACOBS next page

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FOURTH

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decided to take on the explosives themselves, hoping that an organized party and fireworks display might discourage those who have long celebrated by blowing up illegal fireworks of all over town. While those explosives put on quite a show, they have caught houses on fire and injured many, and though police pledged in past years to track the scofflaws down and fine them, they are ramping up their anti-fireworks PR and efforts this year with an increased fine, now \$2,500, and more public outreach. Their zero-tolerance enforcement began June 28. Safe and sane fireworks are still allowed in the city and can be purchased from booths in town before the holiday. Scandia's inaugural Red White & Blue party will take place at Bayonet Black Horse Golf Course, 1 McClure Way, from 4-30 to 10 p.m.

of tournament carnage," he said. "But our beach has become somewhat of an incubator recently. We're seeing the results now at the local high school level, and we're going to see a continuing increase in the level of play around here."
CIVVA Monterey has tournaments July 14 (girls 16 and younger, 14 and younger), July 21 (Women's A), Aug. 4 (Men's B), and Aug. 18 (girls 16 and younger, 14 and younger). Dennis Taylor is a freelance writer in Monterey County. Contact him at scribblewriter@gmail.com.

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