

# AYH Fiftieth Anniversary Award



AYH gives special thanks and recognition to these individuals, selected by their local AYH Councils, who, during the first 50 years of hosteling in the United States, have contributed outstanding leadership, service and inspiration in the course of hosteling.

BERT SCHWARZSCHILD

2311 Webster  
Berkeley, CA 94705

Bert Schwarzschild served as Executive Director of the Golden Gate Council for four years during a period of incredible growth. A true visionary with unending enthusiasm and perseverance, Bert realized the development of four coast hostels which increased the number of overnights from 2,000 to 70,000 annually.

There are so many stories about Bert, it's hard to choose just one, but here goes:

The day before the Pigeon Point Lighthouse Hostel was due to open, it had bunks but no other furniture. That week Bert went on a radio talk show and solicited donations. At 10 PM the night before the grand opening, Bert rolled in with a huge U-Haul filled to the brim with wonderful donated furnishings from all over the Bay area.

Bert's dedication did not stop with hostels. He has gone on to saving whales as Executive Director of the Whale Center, and has recently returned from Italy where he has been instrumental in setting up a preserve for the birds of Assisi.

Move over St. Francis, here comes St. Bert!