

# DOS VIENTOS

## LIVING

JULY 2026



**THE COWEN  
FAMILY:  
A LIFE OF LEARNING  
AND SERVICE**

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# THE COWEN FAMILY: A LIFE OF LEARNING AND SERVICE

BY BETH CONE • PHOTOS BY IMAGES OF LIFE BY ASHLI

This month's feature family, Alan and Dolly Cowen, have been active members of our community for two decades. "We found this little diamond called Dos Vientos in 2006 and have lived here since then. Coming up Borchard leads to a most comfortable feeling of mirth and well-being," shares Alan. DV has served as the perfect backdrop for a family that includes three adult children and four grandchildren.

For Alan and Dolly Cowen, a lifelong pursuit of learning and community service is a way of life. Between the two, the couple holds multiple undergraduate degrees, two Master's degrees, and two separate Doctorates. That shared passion for understanding and helping others has fueled a 52-year marriage, two successful careers, and a growing family legacy right here in the neighborhood.

The story began in 1972 with a smile across a street in Culver City. Alan was visiting his brother's house when he noticed Dolly. A year later, the Culver City High School graduates were married, embarking on a half-century partnership rooted in education and public safety. Dolly initially began her career as a school teacher in Santa Monica before pivoting to mental health, ultimately earning her Doctorate in Psychology (PsyD) and establishing herself as a dedicated Marriage and Family Psychotherapist. She is also a published author, capturing her perspective in her book, *Count it as a Vegetable and Move On*.



While Dolly focused on mental wellness, Alan spent five decades on the front lines of physical crisis intervention. In 1974, he became one of the very first field paramedics for the Los Angeles City Fire Department. His career trajectory spanned 50 years of EMS innovation, moving from a field paramedic to Supervisor, Chief Paramedic, and ultimately retiring as Deputy Fire Chief.

Even in retirement, Alan's commitment to the field remains active. He still maintains his license as a Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic, holds a Doctor of Chiropractic degree, and serves as a Professor of Fire Technology and EMT Program Director at Los Angeles Valley College. His own experiences on the streets of LA are cataloged in his book, *Paramedic Chief – Extraordinary Experiences from the Streets of Los Angeles*.

The couple's dedication to service has clearly left an impression on the next generation. Their son, Robby, followed the first-responder path and serves as a Firefighter/Paramedic for the Boise Fire Department, where he lives with his wife and two children, Benny (15) and Stevie (11). Their daughter, Kate, a former school teacher, is mother to Penny (9) and Atticus (5). Their son, Aron, works for the City of Oxnard while pursuing a deep passion for music and guitar. Completing the immediate household is Honey, the family's lively six-year-old Boxer-Greyhound mix.

When the extended family isn't gathering at home to share stories, they can often be found on their favorite two-week family hiatus to Maui, or reflecting on past group adventures to Mexico, Vienna, and Alaska.

No matter how far they travel or how busy their respective professional practices keep them, certain traditions remain absolute. Every December, Alan steps into a very specific seasonal role, dressing up as Santa Claus to visit the grandchildren, a fitting tradition for a family that has spent more than five decades bringing care, guidance, and safety to the communities around them.



Alan has been a member of Sons of the Desert, the official Laurel and Hardy Appreciation Society, since 1972.

