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Carmel-by-the-Sea, and the Carmel Highlands

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KSQD Radio Personality

# Jill Cody

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**KSQD**

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By George Donaldson. Photos by MossMediaCarmel

# Jill Cody

## A Life in Public Service

### WHAT'S A K-SQUID, YOU ASK?

KSQD (AKA "K-Squid") is a nonprofit community radio station overseen by Natural Bridges Media. It was founded in 2019 to serve the local community with news, interviews and music programming relevant to our region.

The station's program schedule includes a variety of musical styles, from Classical and Jazz, to Rock, Folk and Bluegrass. The talk programming is a mix of locally hosted shows such as "Ask Dr. Dawn," "The Dream Journal," "Be Bold America!," "What a Week" and "Talk of the Bay." Nationally syndicated



shows and personalities include "Democracy Now!," Thom Hartmann, Laura Flanders, and "Counterspin." KSQD is overseen by the nonprofit Natural Bridges Media and lives by the stated mission: "...to build community through quality broadcasts, podcasts, training programs and community events. We celebrate the uniqueness of our region through news, arts, and culturally diverse programming."

The original signal at 90.7 FM was limited and didn't reach parts of Watsonville and Aptos, as well as Monterey, Carmel, and Salinas, the Board of Directors had been seeking to expand the broadcast region as a goal from the beginning. Recently, K-Squid, with the generous support of community members and listeners—more than \$400,000 was raised for the effort—has successfully purchased two more radio licenses. This move enabled the station to triple its audience reach for a potential 645,000 listeners reaching from Santa Cruz to Monterey, Carmel, Salinas and all points in between. Listeners can now dial in KSQD at 89.7 FM and 89.5 FM, as well as at the original 90.7FM in Santa Cruz.

The station plans to include programs and hosts from the expanded broadcast region of Salinas, Monterey, Carmel, Seaside, Prunedale, and Watsonville. More information on all the

shows, forms for making suggestions about new programs, and the live broadcast online, are available at the station website, [ksqd.org](http://ksqd.org).

Live, public affairs talk shows are a staple on America's airwaves, and Jill's "Be Bold America!" on KSQD is intelligent and thought provoking. The description of the program on the station's website states that it "imagines an America with ethical principles and functional systems. We can be a country with engaged citizens whose lives are politically active and personally meaningful." The program airs every other Sunday at 5 pm. "[hosting this program] is more than a hobby for me," she says. "It's all passionate volunteer work for a great non-profit community radio station."

Jill Cody, M.P.A. is an author and political scientist is uniquely qualified to speak on the topics her show presents. Her books, *America Abandoned: The Secret Coup That Cost Us Our Democracy* and *Climate Abandoned: We're on the Endangered Species List* (the latter is a #1 Amazon bestseller) address critical societal issues and offer advice on what the reader can do to further their solutions. Prior to her retirement she held positions at San Jose State University as Chair of the Recreation and Tourism Department and Deputy Director of the School of Library Information Sciences. She consulted in organization development in Egypt, the Czech Republic and the USA in addition to senior positions with three San Francisco Bay Area municipalities.

A fourth generation Californian, Jill has priceless and colorful family memories. "My great-grandfather and great-grandmother (Larry and Lulu Cody) owned a boarding house and saloon in Toulumne County near Yosemite," she says. "My grandfather, Arthur Cody, was born at a lumber mill in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The mill burnt down, prompting the move to Toulumne. One of the stories my grandfather told was that in 1906, they could see a large red glow emanating from the direction of San Francisco. Days later (communication didn't travel as fast as today) they heard about the earthquake and fire that destroyed the city." At thirteen, Arthur taught himself how to play the drums with sticks and a log. "He left Toulumne for San Francisco around 1912 and got a job playing in a band at the St. Francis Hotel. He then joined a band that toured China for five years. He said that his band were the first Caucasians the Chinese had ever seen."

"Years ago, I was personally trained by Vice President Al Gore and licensed to present his astonishing slide presentation, *An Inconvenient Truth*," Jill recalls. "I became passionate about educating anyone who would listen about the upcoming climate crisis. I gave numerous presentations to community groups and then edited and contributed to an anthology, *Climate Abandoned: We're on the Endangered Species List*. So, one could say that educating and discussing saving our American democracy and restoring our climate for civilization's future are my hobbies. Writing books and producing and hosting my own radio show—which is subsequently edited for podcast—is how I do it. I know I am one small pebble in a pond but I'm trying to make larger and larger pond water rings."

Jill and her husband Jerry Grimes were living in Aptos when Jerry had surgery that necessitated their moving to a one-story home. "Our Aptos townhouse was a block from the beach, but it was three levels and had 29 stairs. After the surgery, my husband was possessed to find a single level house, and those are rare in Aptos. He expanded the search and found one in Carmel within our price range, but we had to buy a fixer-upper and we have been fixing and upping ever since." The couple are clearly overjoyed with their choice. We love every minute of living here. We're living in our favorite vacation spot and can't think of anywhere else we want to be or visit. We are dog people and are delighted that Carmel is beyond dog-friendly to dog-loving. Carmel offers the unique fun of being able to chat to people who have come from all over the world. In coffee houses, restaurants and on the sidewalk, we welcome people to Carmel and California and get huge smiles in return. One motto that I try to live by is: 'Let your smile change the world but don't let the world change your smile.'"

Excellent words to live by.

Turn your FM dial to 89.7 FM and 89.5 FM, as well as at the original 90.7 FM for "Be Bold America!" every other Sunday at 5 pm. The schedule is available at [KSQD.org](http://KSQD.org), and live streaming and archived podcasts are also available on the site.

