

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: STEVE TOLOPKA, PRESIDENT AND MUSIC DIRECTOR

EMAIL: DIRECTOR@TBGO.ORG

PHONE: 503-292-3996

## The Beat Goes On Marching Band

Portland, Oregon

### TBGO twirlers refuse to “pass the baton”

When Patti Waitman-Ingebretsen marches down SW Capitol Highway in the Aug. 16 Multnomah Days parade, it'll be like strolling down memory lane. The Baton Captain for **The Beat Goes On Marching Band (TBGO)** began twirling 65 years ago, when her mom first took her to see the Portland Rose Festival Parade.



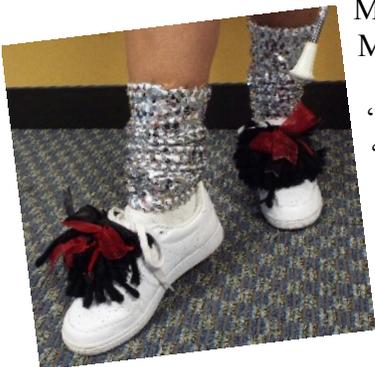
“I saw the baton twirlers dressed in white satin and I fell in love! My Dad bought a little baton for me. He even learned a few tricks so he could teach me,” says Waitman-Ingebretsen, seen leading the twirlers through Multnomah Village in the photo to the left. “I was in the Junior Rose Parade when I was seven and eventually I was the Head Majorette of the Wilson High School Band when I was a senior.”

Marcy Tuffli (right), another TBGO baton team member, also twirled in high school – then she didn't touch a baton for half a century. But about 10 years ago, she, too, fell under the spell of the Grand Floral Parade and its twirlers. They inspired her to take up the baton again ... at age 72.



“Twirling makes me happy. I love the music, the band and the crowd. *And I can draw a crowd!*” says Tuffli, now 82 and the most senior of the many senior citizens in the band.

Waitman-Ingebretsen agrees that the sight of a dozen or more “mature” twirlers stokes the crowd and vice versa. This is especially the case for her in the Multnomah Days parade since she lives right there in Multnomah Village.



“We'll get a lot of “You go, girl!” from the crowd and “I love your socks!” she says. “We pump up the crowd. And *we're* pumped – you watch!”

TBGO appears at many local events year round, but also performs internationally. For example, the band will perform in Shanghai, China as part of the largest city in the world's Tourism Festival next month. The all-adult band ranges in age from 20 to Tuffli's 82, though many skew on the older side of the equation.

Waitman-Ingebretsen considers herself the “Baton Mom” of the TBGO's more than two dozen twirlers. That must make Tuffli the group's older sister. She says she “tries real hard not to drop my baton because no one wants to see an 80-year-old bend down to pick it up!”

But age is far from the twirlers' minds when the band struts its stuff, whether it's through Multnomah Village (below) or through a city of 22 million in September.

"Thirty years ago, back when I was 40, I wondered if I was *too old!* Now I don't worry about that," says the Baton Mom. "When the drums start to play, I'm 18 again! I love marching. I could do a parade a week!"

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Photos available upon request.

We invite your crew or reporter to come out to Multnomah Days on the morning of Aug. 16 or to any of our *seven* August appearances to shoot photos, video or sound, as we prepare for our China excursion.

See our schedule here:

<http://www.thebeatgoesonmb.org/perform.htm>



**THE BEAT GOES ON MARCHING BAND: More smiles per mile!**

*Want to come out and play?*

Email: [director@tbgo.org](mailto:director@tbgo.org)

Website: <http://www.tbgo.org/>

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