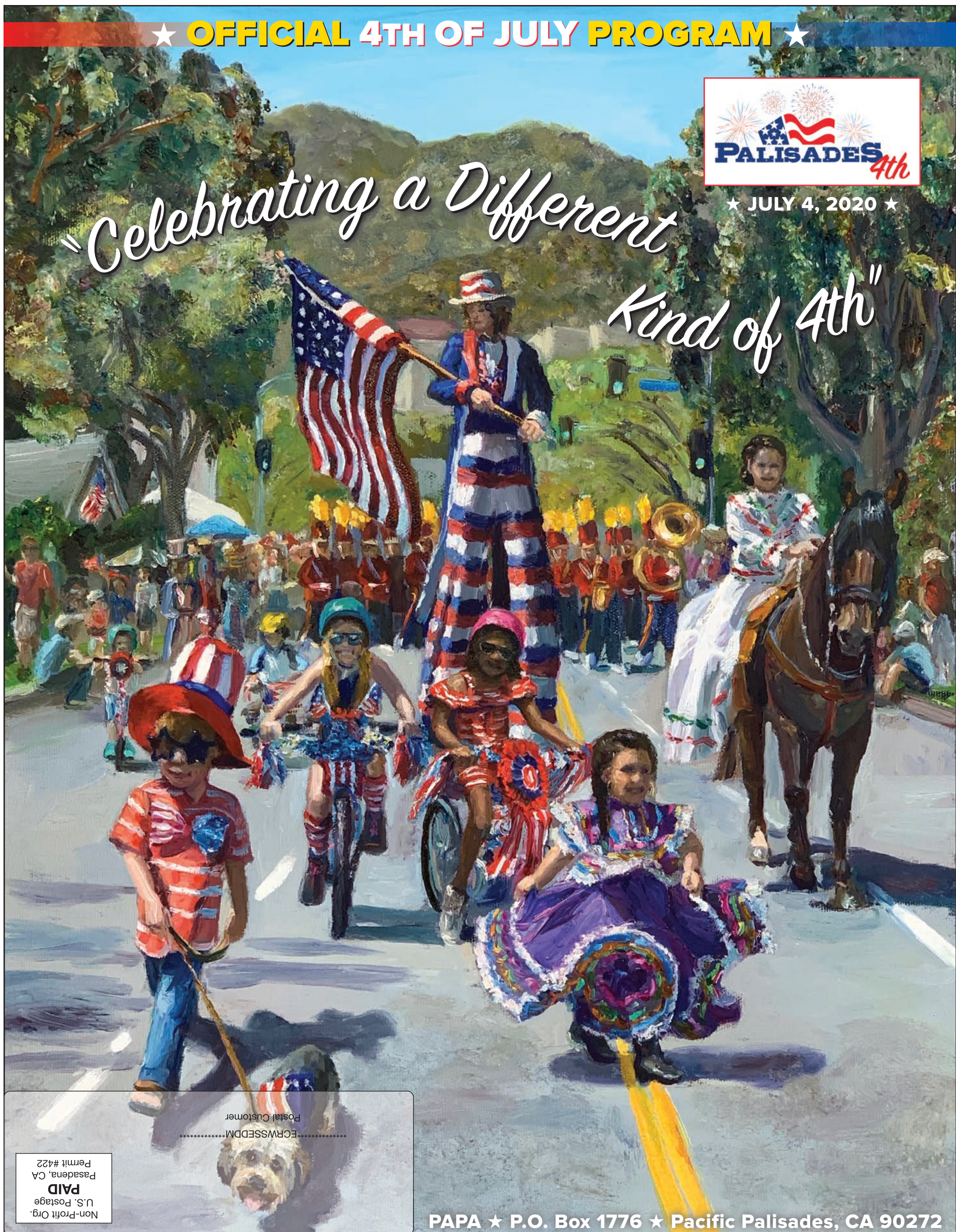


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WWII Planes to Fly Over Pacific Palisades

This air squadron will fly over Pacific Palisades on July 4 at 2 p.m.

Photo courtesy of Chris Rushing

By LAUREL BUSBY

In 1962, former World War II fighter pilot Richard Sykes and his friends started the Condor Squadron, a group that today still flies WWII AT-6 planes for various community events and celebrations.

Sykes, who was shot down over Hungary during the war but lived to tell the tale, has since died, but a new cadre of pilots has taken up his mantle to share the wonders of this plane and era with residents.

"We have the honor and privilege of flying them," said the non-profit's president, Chris Rushing, 61. "All of the first generation of pilots are gone. We are just carrying on Richard Sykes' legacy."

The Condor Squadron owns and maintains a cadre of six vintage WWII planes that fly out of the Van Nuys Airport. Its 50 active

members meet each Wednesday to connect about upcoming events and sometimes fly together, Rushing said. They regularly perform at events, such as recent Memorial Day flyovers in Los Angeles and Santa Clarita.

On the Fourth of July, Pacific Palisades will benefit from their expertise for the first time. Beginning at the traditional parade start time of 2 p.m., five Condor Squadron planes will fly over the Palisades for about thirty minutes. The pilots will make repeated passes through town, beginning at Mandeville Canyon, venturing along Sunset Boulevard to the Pacific Ocean, and then traveling up Palisades Drive to the Highlands.

The flights should be visible from almost everywhere in town to create a coronavirus-safe display for the holiday. (Organizers request that people refrain from congregating on Sunset to view the flights, but instead remain at their homes.)

During the flyover, Rushing will be piloting one of two North American AT-6 planes that he owns. The remaining four planes are owned by the Condor Squadron, which incurs about \$700 per hour in operating expenses (gas, insurance, and maintenance) per plane to fly at events. Part of the club's appeal is that its members, who include many seasoned corporate and commercial pilots, get the chance to fly these unique, hard-to-handle historical planes.

"This airplane—it's built somewhat peculiar," Rushing said. "It's real hard to land. You have to have real good pilot skills." During WWII, the plane was used for formation pilot training, "and it made real good pilots. It was called the pilot maker."

Some of the plane's challenges, Rushing said, include narrow landing gear, a center

of gravity that "kind of moves around," and a single wheel under the tail, which requires special care on landing. For pilots with "tail wheel experience," flying the plane comes fairly easily, but typically planes today have a single wheel under the nose, which requires a different landing strategy.

Rushing, a former Air Force mechanic and three-decade member of the California Air National Guard, learned to fly on his own by taking lessons and gathering miles. He had first flown as a kid, and when he moved to California from Tennessee in 1987, he soon joined the Condor Squadron to connect with other pilots.

His skills have since reached the point that last year he won gold for the second time at Reno's National Air Races in the T-6 category, an event in which Sykes had also previously triumphed. To begin competition 15

years ago, Rushing adapted one of his AT-6s with a lighter frame and a "newer, fresher, peppier engine." Instead of flying at typical cruising speeds of about 138 mph, his racing plane has charted speeds at the National Air Race of up to 241 mph.

"You want the strongest engine and the least heavy airplane; the whole idea is to go fast," Rushing said, noting that the race features 15 airplanes flying five laps on a five-mile track over repeated heats. Each heat, "We come out of the chute, balls out."

By contrast, the flights over Pacific Palisades on the Fourth will be more sedate. The formations will be flown in a diamond, line, or two variations of a fingertip formation. The name of the latter is inspired by the spread of the tips of one's fingers. Later in the day, they will also fly over four beach cities, including San Clemente.



Chris Rushing will be one of the pilots flying over Pacific Palisades. Photo courtesy of Chris Rushing



The Condor Squadron owns and maintains a cadre of six vintage WWII planes that regularly perform at events, such as recent Memorial Day flyovers in Los Angeles and Santa Clarita.

Photo courtesy of Chris Rushing



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Yogurt Shoppe to Sponsor Kids on Bikes

Although there's no parade this year, the traditional bike decorating contest is ON. Kids who decorate their bikes or scooters could win one of three \$50 gift certificates to The Yogurt Shoppe on Swarthmore.



Riding in the parade!

Photo: Morgan Genser

For nine years, owners Kevin and Jennifer Sabin sponsored the Kids on Bikes contest. This year, the shop's new owners, Christine and Adam Wolfson, are continuing the event.

"Being a part of the community is one of our most important values," Adam told Circling the News. "Given all this community has been through, it's important to carry on this long tradition."

Kids of all ages are encouraged to decorate their scooters or bikes and then either bring them by the shoppe, at 873 Swarthmore, on July 3 or July 4 and have a picture taken, making them eligible for judging.

Virtual submissions will also be accepted via an upload and form that can be found on palisades4th.com or on a parent's Instagram feed or TikTok, adding the tags #palisades4thkidsonbikes and #theyogurtshoppe. All submissions must be made before 11:59 p.m. on July 4, with judging and winners announced that week.

"Have fun and be creative," said the Wolfsons, who have three kids. "If you come to shop with your bikes, just remember to maintain social distancing guidelines."

Contestants are also encouraged to try a

new yogurt flavor at the Fourth approaches, now that in-store visits are allowed. The Wolfsons said they are working on red, white and blue selections for the holiday, with the flavors to be announced soon. Or just try one of the standards: chocolate fudge brownie, Jennifer's vegan peanut butter, country vanilla, salted caramel or original tart.

For those having a barbecue, picking up a few pints of yogurt are an easy go-to dessert—and frozen yogurt is actually California's state dessert, according to "The Most Iconic Dessert from Every State Gallery."

"We are extremely grateful to our AMAZING community and everyone's commitment to local small businesses," Adam said. "Thank you to the community for supporting us during this time."

Last year's top-three winners were: Henry Isola, 7, who decorated a bike and trailer; Temple Hoerner, 9, who designed and constructed a cardboard eagle; and the Martin family, Chris, April, Jameson (4) and Annabelle (2).

Will last year's winners repeat in 2020? Or will they face even tougher competition? Start designing now. Visit: theyogurtshoppe.com or call (310) 459-0088.

On the Cover

One of the most talented artists in Pacific Palisades is Katie O'Neill, who grew up here. Her paintings capture the local beauty of the ocean, the Santa Monica Mountains and the local community. This is her second year creating a cover for the Palisades Americanism Parade Association program.

Katie taught art in Malibu for 15 years, before returning to the Palisades in 2011. She has a studio at 835 Via de la Paz, where she paints and offers art lessons for beginners to those who are more accomplished. She works with all ages, including children, teens and adults.

Stop by Katie's studio to see some of her beautiful artwork, or visit: oneillsfineart.com or call: (310) 459-1039 or email: katie@oneillsfineart.com.

Pacific View Rights Center



The Pacific View Rights Center is a collaboration and exchange of information regarding view and related property rights between property owners and developers, real estate brokers, attorneys and architects. It is hosted by Pacific Palisades residents Don Erik Franzen (310-785-1710) and Keith Turner (310-454-6190)

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Post a Photo of Your Patriotic Pup Online

(Photos by Shelby Pascoe)

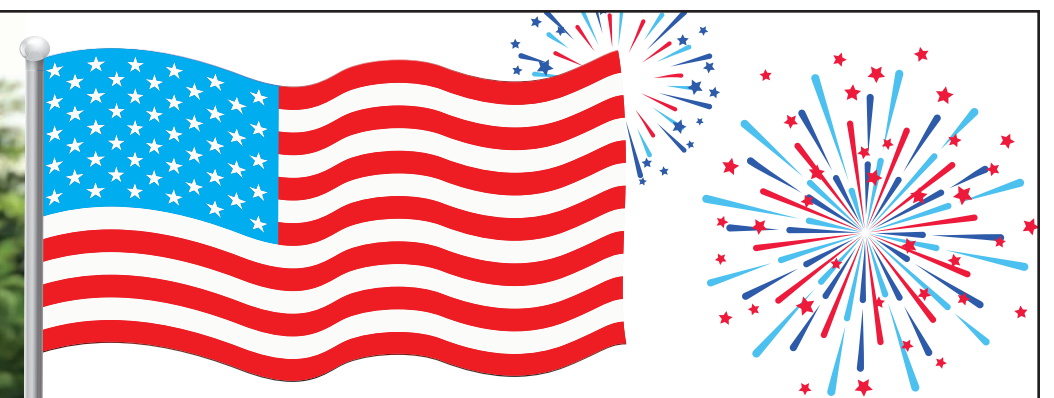
The Patriotic Pups, a popular entry in the Palisades 4th of July parade for 23 years, will not march as a unit this year.

However, you can still share with others how absolutely adorable your dog is.

When you take your pooch for its daily walk, just take a photo on your cell phone

and upload a picture of your Patriotic Pup to Instagram or Facebook, using the hashtag #palisades4thPatrioticPups.

There are no awards, but let the whole community see your cute, stately or handsome canine family member. If he or she is wearing some sort of patriotic garb, so much the better.



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The Show Will Go On: Palisades Rocks the 4th

By LAUREL BUSBY

While most of the Fourth of July traditions in Pacific Palisades came crashing down this year, the annual evening concert will continue.

Of course, the format has been altered from in-person at Palisades High to online, but this change offers a unique opportunity for a particularly inspiring show.

Three-time Grammy-winner Ben Harper has agreed to join drummer Adam Topol and singer/guitarist Tom Freund in entertaining the Palisades community.

Even though he's in Ghana, reggae artist Rocky Dawuni also plans to contribute, and some local celebrities have agreed to join the festivities with short video tidbits to honor the holiday tradition.

This year's event "is wide open to possibilities," Topol said. "I think it's really great that we're going to move forward. It's such a great family event. I'm glad we're going to put some good vibes out there."

Freund agreed: "I think it's important, maybe more important than ever, to have a celebration among a lot of chaos. It's good to have positive reinforcement in a chaotic time."

Topol and Freund, both seasoned musi-

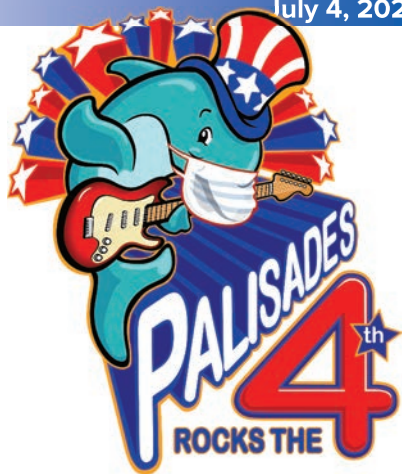


Adam Topol and Tom Freund

Photo: Tom Hofer

cians, who have led or contributed to more than 50 albums during their careers, have been reaching out to friends far and wide to join the concert. And they each have extensive contacts. For example, Freund has collabo-

rated with Elvis Costello and Jackson Browne in addition to leading his solo efforts, while Topol, also a solo artist, plays and tours with Jack Johnson and has also worked with artists such as Jimmy Cliff and Ziggy Marley.



One pal is Harper, who, due to the pandemic, can make time to join the concert this year. The widely popular singer-songwriter plays a mix of blues, folk, reggae and rock guitar, and will contribute a few songs from his home, while also joining Topol and Freund for one number. A varied talent, the seven-time Grammy nominee has won awards for best pop instrumental song (2005), best traditional soul gospel album (2005), and best blues album (2014).

Chris Joyner, the keyboardist from Heart, and violinist Jessy Greene, who tours with Pink, have offered their skills, as has singer-songwriter Louise Goffin, daughter of Carole King and Gerry Goffin.

New acts and celebrities are joining the lineup every day, including basketball great Steve Kerr, actor Steve Guttenberg, and Assemblymember Richard Bloom, all of whom have contributed short video tidbits.

The emcee will be longtime Palisadian Sam Lagana, who has been the stadium an-

(Continued on Page 8)



Ben Harper

nouncer for L.A. Rams football games at the Coliseum.

"There's crazy pent-up demand," said organizer Keith Turner. "I was able to connect with some really interesting people this year, because they were just sitting around."

One fun aspect of the concert will be that Palisadians can pipe it directly into their family barbecues via Facebook Live. In addition, a beloved concert tradition will be upheld.

As usual, at 9 p.m., the show will end with a sing-along of Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land." Palisadians are encouraged to step outside to sing the standard together, if desired, and the show overall should provide a bit of the local community spirit that the holiday normally inspires.



Gilli Messer

"America has been through some big changes, big challenges" this year, singer/songwriter Freund said. "If we can do our little part with the music and some healing in an online music celebration on July Fourth, then we're being put to good use. It's a new strange model, but everyone can still feel togetherness—togetherness from our home to yours."

Some local acts will also be joining the event, although the final line-up will not be available until after this program goes to press. Teen Jacob Winthrop, the guitarist and singer of Phat Trick, plans to play, and the 2004 Miss Palisades, Gilli Messer, will be joining the endeavor by singing "America the Beautiful."

Messer, a 2006 PaliHi grad, started off the event last year by singing the "Star Spangled



Rocky Dawuni

Banner." Growing up, she also sang the national anthem for both the start of the parade and the Will Rogers Run. This year, the singer/actress and Barnard College alum, who now lives in Westwood, is looking forward to a new way to contribute to the festivities.

"Singing 'America the Beautiful' now is bittersweet," noted Messer, 31. "Our country has been through so much between the pandemic and finally, real acknowledgment of racial inequality, so it can be hard to see its beauty, but at the same time, the progress we've made recently does give me hope and reminds me that there is, in fact, beauty in this country."

The show itself should be one part of that beauty as people come together to create a unique event at a trying time. The nature of



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this new type of show means that there will inevitably be some surprises. Turner is receiving a stream of emails from local acts and celebrities who want to contribute, and some of the lineup may alter as details are finalized.

The websites palisadesrocksthefourth.org and palisades4th.com will have the latest information, including an upcoming Facebook Live link to see the show, which is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

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PAPA Expands Home Decorating Contest

Since the traditional Fourth of July events have to be cancelled this year in Pacific Palisades—the morning run, the afternoon parade and the evening concert/fireworks—the emphasis will be on activities we can enjoy at home, as a community.

For example, to help Palisades residents celebrate their homes, the annual 4th of July Home Decorating Contest has been expanded. Local realtors Joan Sather and Susan Montgomery (who are partners at Sotheby's International) will once again sponsor the contest.

The Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) has created five categories this year, with first and runner-up winners announced in each category. In addition to bragging rights, there will be prizes.

GET READY. GET SET. DECORATE.

GET READY:

Residents can enter one of five categories:

1.) "Hometown Style," which means using homemade decorative elements. In 2015, the Jack and Sharon Sutton family on Galloway was the winner with a colored cutout paper USA in the front window and small flags located throughout their drought-tolerant landscape. In an interview that year, Zach Sutton, 8, who was visiting his grandparents from New Jersey, said: "I took big pieces of paper and cut the lines with a ruler. It was my idea to put up the stars around the USA, too."

2.) With "In This Together," the idea is to best represent that theme.



Joan Sather (left) and Susan Montgomery will once again sponsor the home decorating contest.

Have your family put on their thinking caps and come up with what Covid-19 and safer-at-home means to everyone.

3.) "Proof Through the Night" will finally give those who decorate with lights a chance to shine. Generally, judges just see the daytime effort, but in the past they were told that there were some outstanding lighting displays. If you are one of the people who have a myriad of star lights or red, white and blue lights framing your house—this is the category for you.

4.) "Americana Award" is one that best depicts national treasures and traditions. One of the most beautifully decorated patriotic homes in past contests was the Hassett family on DePauw. The flags and patriotic bunting drew ahs from the neighbors and those walking/driving past.

And finally,

5.) "Grand Champion Award," which will be given for best-overall display. The Mercer family on Toyopa, which won in 2010 and 2013, managed to decorate not only the front yard, but also the house itself.

GET SET:

Start planning which category your family would like to enter and then secure the supplies before stores run out.

DECORATE:

Once your house is completed, upload a photo of your home and provide the street address to either the PAPA website (palisades4th.com) or the PAPA Facebook page (facebook.com/PalisadesJuly4/) or via Instagram, adding the tag #palisades4thhomecontest.

Want to try the lighting category, but don't want to climb a ladder? A 10 percent discount is being offered by professional event lighting company Mobile Illumination, if you mention PAPA when you contact them (visit:mobileillumination.com) or call (818) 914-0601.



Michael Siemer, Lorena Robletto, Neil Farnham and Dr. Thomas Farnham won the 2019 Home Decorating Contest.

Home Decorating Contest Past Winners

2008	Hoffman family (Via de la Paz)	2014	John Riley, Bev Lowe (Kagawa)
2009	No contest held	2015	Sutton family (Galloway)
2010	Mercer family (Toyopa)	2016	Hassett family (De Pauw)
2011	Almaraz family (Sunset)	2017	Simon family (Toyopa)
2012	Hassett family (De Pauw)	2018	Trotti/Connolly (Haverford)
2013	Mercer family (Toyopa)	2019	Farnham/Robletto (Via de la Paz)



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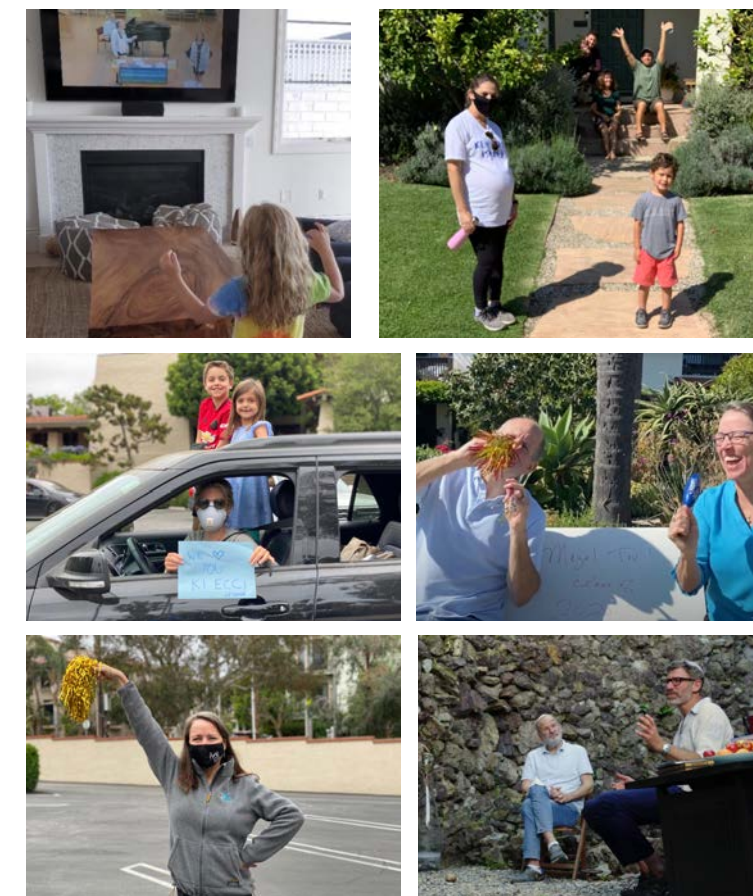


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Our production of *Wait Until Dark* is on hold until it is safe for our audience,
cast and crew to come together and experience live theatre again.
In the interim, the Theatre Palisades Actors' Troupe (TPAT) has continued
to meet online to explore and create material that examines the
unique challenges our world is facing today.
And Theatre Palisades has just launched a YouTube channel to present
these and other works as they develop, in our quest to provide you with
quality entertainment. Visit theatrepalisades.com for the link.
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Palisades Americanism Parade Association Message

Not during most of our lifetimes have we experienced such a fundamental upheaval of community normalcy due to global events. In fact, it was out of the victory by America and its Allies in World War II that Pacific Palisades began to evolve as the strong suburban community it is today, led in great part by the returning veterans who joined American Legion Post 283 in the Palisades.

In 1948, the American Legion wanted to celebrate the difficult and dangerous work that led to victory and ended the war that engulfed the world. Many of the returning veterans fought in battles that today we only see streaming on our devices in black-and-white. The first Fourth of July parade both celebrated and honored our nation's founding, our local veterans, and our town's growing presence within the city of Los Angeles.

This year, with the global pandemic still over-shadowing everyday life, including work, school, shopping, dining and even exercising, the usual July 4th celebrations are not taking place in Pacific Palisades. For 2020, we're bringing you a special celebration, with a WWII air-squadron flyover at 2 p.m. and a virtual concert at eight in the evening featuring local and celebrity performers, as well as our Home Decorating and Kids on Bikes Decorating contests.

Although I serve as the president of the Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA), none of this would happen without lots and lots of help. This group of amazing, dedicated volunteers, as their predecessors have done before, have banded together to help our community celebrate July 4th under these challenging circumstances. I take my hat off to the volunteers (PAPA People) who join us each year in the field, putting together the traditional events, and who have mostly been sidelined due to the quarantine.



Matthew Rodman, the Palisades Americanism Parade Association president, and his wife, Rene, at the 2019 parade.
Photo: Mia Duncans

They're still involved and helping as needed. Of course, July 4th wouldn't be the same without the incredible work of the Palisades-Will Rogers 5K/10K Race board and volunteers who help raise money for the community grants and college scholarships funded by the Optimist Club.

Your executive board of PAPA includes community members who have worked tirelessly to bring you great events, year after year, on the Fourth of July. Daphne Gronich, Keith Turner, Rob Weber, Rich Wilken, Kevin Niles, Ramis Sadrieh and Andy Frew have all been dedicated to bringing you this year's events. The July 4th Program, featuring current and retrospective articles, has been crafted by our stellar team of returning professionals, including editor Sue Pascoe, graphics director Manfred Hofer, writer Laurel Busby, advertising representatives Jeff Ridgway and Grace

Hiney, and adviser Bill Bruns.

Lastly, we could not do this without the most generous financial support of the Pacific Palisades American Legion, other community groups, and individual business donors. If you would like to support the July 4th events, you may do so by visiting www.Palisades4th.com.

Fourth of July celebrations take place in our town every year because of incredibly hard work and creative input by many volunteers. If this sounds interesting to you, please join us in 2021 by volunteering, and maybe even taking a greater role. This is a true community day, maybe even the best day in the Palisades, and you can be involved. Just email us in a few weeks, if you're interested!

Thank you for your support, both in spirit and financially. We hope you enjoy this year's celebration on July 4th in Pacific Palisades, and we look forward to an even bigger show in 2021.
— MATTHEW RODMAN

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Last year was overcast at the start of the 2019 race, but in 2017, the blue skies made a perfect backdrop to the race start.

Photo: Tod Seelie

So you're not an athlete and you've never run a 5K or even jogged around the block? This is absolutely your year to donate to the Palisades Will Rogers 5 & 10K Run and receive a T-shirt.

The July 4th races have been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions, but the T-shirts had already been ordered, so with a \$20 donation, you will receive a shirt. You can wear it around town for years, leading everyone to believe that you actually exercise. (Visit: palisades10K.com for details). The Kids 1K Run shirts are also available.

Will Rogers Run committee members Brian Shea, Ken Anderson, David Hibbert, Jon Varat, Thomas Hathaway, Jimmy Klein and Michael Solum send their thanks for your financial support and look forward to seeing you at the starting line next year.



RACE BEGINNINGS

Residents Brian Shea and Chris Carlson had just finished running the Brentwood 10K in 1977 and thought it would be great if Pacific Palisades could have a 10K run. A group of men, who ran together as the Ridge Runners, organized the first Will Rogers 10K Run in 1978, augmenting the town's other Fourth of July activities.



Oscar and Golden Globe winner, Palisades resident Walter Matthau was the race starter for the 1978 Palisades Will Rogers 10K Race.



10K 2019 Winners were Cosmo Brossy and Caitlin Chrisman.



Photos: Sue Pascoe

10K HISTORY

That first year, Drew Mearns won the men's race in 31:35 and Pam Firestone was the women's champion in 39:35. Between 1978 and 2011, Russell Edmonds had the fastest course record of 29:46 (1983) and Katie Dunsmuir Younger had the fastest women's time of 35:09 (also in 1983).

The race, with its run through historic Will Rogers State Park and the switchbacks to access the park, is considered one of the most beautiful in the country. It has been written up in various magazines, including

Runner's World, as a race not to be missed. However, the race times were never official, because the course had not been officially measured. Before the 2012 race, the course was recalibrated and found to be 475 feet short, so the extra distance was added on. Tonny Okello, who won the race in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2018, now holds the course record of 31:21 (2014) and Kaitlyn Peale has the women's record of 36:19 (2018). Caitlin Chrisman has the second and third fastest times: 36:34 (2018) and 37:17 last year.

LEMEN HIGH SCHOOL TROPHY

One highlight last year was the debut of the Lemen High School Run, which coincided with the 5K race.

This gave student runners from local high schools a chance to run under their school's name and compete for the team trophy. A high school needed to have at least three athletes running, and the fastest three times were added up to determine the winner.

Palisades High edged out Loyola by just 53 total seconds. Pali's Brett Bailey ran 17:35, Alec Schmitt 18:27 and David Tobin 18:54, giving the team a time of 54:16.

Loyola's Nathan Mars ran 18:28, and Tyler Ratkovich and Mark Valencuela had identical times of 18:39, giving the team a 55:07.

This team competition is dedicated to the late Dick Lemen, a longtime Palisadian and a track coach at Palisades High for many years. He was also a member of the Ridge Runners, the band of about 20 local runners who originated the Will Rogers Run in 1978.

In a 1990s feature article by Matt Purdue ("They're Running the Show"), Lemen explained why the group organized the 5/10K races. "It's a good opportunity for us to put something back into running. Also, it's good for the community and we enjoy doing it."

Lemen died in 2017 and is survived by his wife, Karen, and two adult children, Carly and Jeff.

Look for a return of this contest in 2021.



Members of the Palisades High School Cross Country team captured the first ever Lemen High School trophy.

Photo: Sue Pascoe

5K HISTORY

A 5K run was added in 1986, and current race director Brian Shea later explained why. "The 5K started the year after the 10K race sent 20 ambulances to local hospitals because of the heat, and it was on every news channel that evening."

"It was very hot that year and runners had only one choice, the 10K," Shea said. "The 5K was born the next year to give runners a choice of either distance."

David Greifinger won the inaugural race in 15:22 and Kiki Laborteaux finished first in the women's division in 17:34.

Palisades High runner Peter Gilmore, who eventually became one of the country's leading marathon runners, won the 5K eight

times: 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2006. Kara Bernard holds the most wins for women with five: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2004.

As noted earlier, when race organizers discovered in 2011 that the 10K course was 427 feet short of an official 10K, they brought it up to the national standard in 2012. But the 5K course remained short until it was lengthened for the 2015 race. With the now accurately measured route, Andrew Bland now holds the record at 15:48 (2014). Drake Johnston, who won in 2015 and 2016, has the second fastest time of 15:56. Regina Lopez holds the women's record with 17:54 set in 2017.



5K 2019 Winners were Evan Hassman and Natalie Gigg.



Photos: Sue Pascoe

KIDS FUN RUN



Every year a local student is selected to sing the National Anthem before the Kids' Fun Run. Last year Avery Elizabeth Kline, 8, who attends St. Matthew's Parrish School was selected for the honor. Her rendition was the perfect start to a race that almost saw the clown trampled as he tried to outpace the kids.

In 1995, a half-mile race was added for kids who were too young (or unwilling) to run a 5K, and it rapidly became a top attraction. Every year hundreds of kids, some as young as three, sought to emulate the older runners by running down down Alma Real, turning left on Drummond and finishing back on Toyopa.



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kids fun run

JULY 4TH 2020

Town’s Historic Parade to Return in 2021

Over the years, the Pacific Palisades Fourth of July Parade has grown to become one of the most popular patriotic celebrations in Southern California, with thousands of spectators lining the streets.

Alas, the Covid-19 pandemic forced the City of Los Angeles and the L.A. County Department of Health to withhold permits for spring and summer events that traditionally gather a crowd. And thus the Palisades parade, as well as the morning’s Will Rogers Run and the evening concert/fireworks show, had to be cancelled.

Still, as we anticipate the parade’s return in 2021, we can look back at its history and appreciate how the spirit of activism and volunteerism in Pacific Palisades has preserved this tradition in the face of constantly growing expenses.

The town’s first Fourth of July parade was held in 1948, when American Legion Post 283 members decided to commemorate the day by riding through the Palisades on a fire engine, accompanied by local Boy and Girl Scouts. They all ended up on the land that is now the Palisades Recreation Center, where the Legion hosted picnics and games.

Through the Eisenhower ‘50s, the parade continued as a rather loose affair, with informal entries and eager marchers, until 1961 when Legion commander Russell Q. Olsen decided it was time to take it up a notch.

He organized the parade as a big community bash, with marching bands, floats and convertibles packed with various Palisades organization and business leaders.

That parade started at the corner of Via de la Paz and Bowdoin (the current starting point), turned right onto Antioch, turned right onto Swarthmore, then left on La Cruz and right on Alma Real. The parade continued on Toyopa and concluded on Pampas Ricas.

Life-long Palisadian Rich Wilken remembers when the first American Legion Post



The original Pacific Palisades 4th of July parade route went along La Cruz Drive, before turning onto Alma Real and ending at the park. Here the 1966 parade passes in front of the Post Office.

Photo courtesy of the Vieau family

was “a small building where the current CVS loading dock is located” and a lumber yard was next door. On the La Cruz corner was “a nursery and Legion tennis courts, where the current Legion building now sits.” St. Matthew’s Church, since replaced by the Frontier Communications building, was

across the street. Another long-time resident, Manfred Hofer, remembers that when he was a little boy, he and his family would sit on La Cruz in front of the old Palisades Garden Supply and watch the parade.

The Alphabet street resident said that the

parade didn’t go along Sunset back then, but instead followed the Antioch/Swarthmore/La Cruz route to Alma Real and then the new Recreation Center. “We used to have a full-on carnival at the park every 4th of July,” Hofer recalled.

The Legion, before it developed its real



Hal Vieau drives the Optimist Club entry past Sawyer’s Landscaping, which is now American Legion Ronald Reagan-Palisades Post 283.

Photo courtesy of the Vieau family

estate into substantial rental income (today’s CVS and the U.S. Post Office), was having trouble funding the parade, so in 1965 it turned to the Chamber of Commerce for help. Ray Haddad, James Whitman and Jerry Festa stepped forward to help raise funds for the parade.

Two years later, in 1967, volunteers created PAPA (the Palisades Americanism Parade Association) and organized/financed the non-profit’s inaugural parade. Tom McKiernan, who owned the McKiernan Prescription Center on Via de la Paz, was the first president. He was Citizen of the Year in 1971 and Optimist Club president in 1976. Joined by the Woman’s Club, he helped start a recycling program at the Recreation Center.

One of PAPA’s first decisions was to sponsor a yearly contest to name a theme for the parade, with “Heroes of America” being selected in 1967.

Another new tradition was for the PAPA board to select a grand marshal and a parade marshal to ride in the parade. The first parade marshal was General James Edmundson, a Palisadian and a decorated hero of World War II and the Korean War.

In 1968, Pageantry Productions, under Bill and Ronnie Lomas, came aboard for help in planning the ever expanding parade.

In 1978, the first Will Rogers 10K Run was held in the morning to make it a complete day of activities in the Palisades. A concert joined the fireworks display in 1998.

The parade grand marshals have typically been celebrities or well-known public figures, including actors Anthony Hopkins and Eddie Albert, singers Patti Page and Pat Boone, athletes Rafer Johnson and Jim Brown, TV personalities Art Linkletter and Ed Asner and even Kati Stam, Miss America in 2009.

In 1995, seventy-one Patriotic Pups marched in the parade for the first time and rapidly became an annual crowd favorite. A year later, another popular entry, Kids on Bikes, joined the parade.

Awards to marching bands, floats and other entries were given out for many years, decided by judges who sat in the reviewing station at Antioch and Via de la Paz.

In 1983, the Float Sweepstakes award was won by realtor Lelah T. Pierson, the Patriotic award went to the Palisades Rotary Club



The Chicken Delight float was a 1962 parade entry.

Photo: George Mann

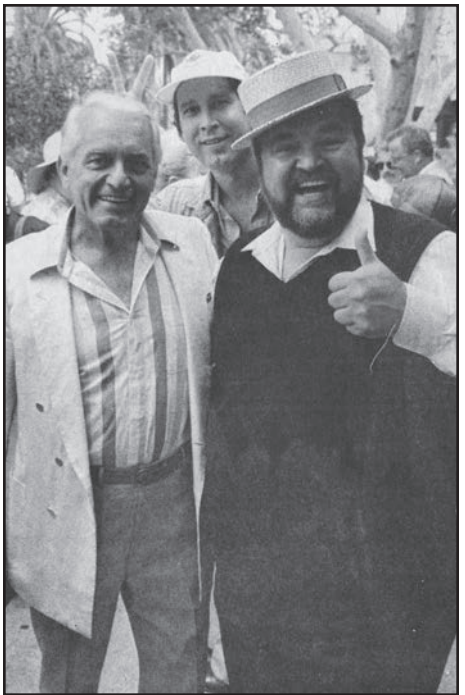
and the Fourth of July Award went to Don Burgess & Associates (a swimming pool construction company).

That year, the Palisades Optimist Club’s Briefcase Drill Team took first place in the marching category, beating the Children’s International Choir. The Palisades Lions Club won the antique auto division and special awards went to the Oom PaPa Marching Band and the Marquez Kazoo Marching Band.

In 2007, the Optimist drill team was inadvertently entered in the Equestrian division, but still managed to take third place.

The Palisades-based Oom PaPa Band formed in 1975, attracting all ages of residents, and continues to march every Fourth. Another popular local entry in recent years has been the talented Palisades High marching band.

Every year, the PAPA committee must raise close to \$200,000 to stage the parade, the concert and the fireworks show. The money is donated by businesses, organizations and residents who believe that the Fourth of July tradition in Pacific Palisades must endure.



In 1983, Chevy Chase was the Grand Marshal (and became the 1986 Honorary Mayor.) Here he’s being upstaged by former Honorary Mayors Ted Knight (1981) and Dom De Luise (1983).

Photo: Jim Stout



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The Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) gratefully acknowledges the lead sponsor of *Celebrating a Different Kind of 4th*, the American Legion Ronald Reagan-Palisades Post 283. Due to its generosity, Pacific Palisades will see the Condor Squadron formation flight flyover by World War II aircraft at 2 p.m. on July 4th.

We also thank the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club and the Optimist Club of Pacific Palisades for supporting us in 2020, including our virtual Palisades Rocks the Fourth concert. PAPA also appreciates returning sponsors of the Most Patriotic Home Decoration Contest, Joan Sather and Susan Montgomery, as well as the yogurt shoppe for the Kids on Bikes decoration contest.

PAPA THANKS the many sponsors and donors who allow our nonprofit to put on Pacific Palisades' July 4th celebrations, year after year, especially community members Donald and Nancy de Brier, as well as Councilman Mike Bonin, the CD 11 staff, Gelsons, Ralphs and the Official July 4th Program advertisers. Very special thanks to those who help create content for, put together, edit and raise funds for the Official Program, including Sue Pascoe, Manfred Hofer, Bill Bruns, Laurel Busby, Grace Hiney and Jeff Ridgway.

PAPA would like to recognize the many community groups who usually work on the July 4th celebrations, including the Pali High Football team members, Pali Ambassadors and other Pali groups and teams who serve as parade banner carriers. The PAPA People and July 4th volunteers listed below regularly devote hundreds of hours to make our celebrations possible, together with the staff and volunteers of Pageantry Parades, Palisades Charter High School, Chabad of Pacific Palisades and Namevents. PAPA also appreciates the on-going support of many local civic and community organizations, the Pali High Band, as well as the personnel of the West L.A. station of LAPD and LAFD Fire Stations 23 and 69. **We look forward to better days and collaborating again in 2021.**

Volunteers who worked on last year's pre-parade reception, parade, concert and fireworks (as well as on pre-event organization, set-up and clean-up) include: Mary & Barry Allwright, Grant Alkin, Melissa Anna, Zena Bartholomew, Olga Bezrukova, Kurt Bierschenk, Susan Blake, Lorna Boyd, Sylvia Boyd, Nancy Brennan, Lee Calvert, Brett Chapin, Susi Cohen, Amy Kate Connolly, Marilyn Crawford, Joy Daunis, Gil Dembo, Terry Dimich, Mia Duncans, Rabbi Yossi Eilfort, Madeline Eskigian, Bobbie Farberow, Jeanne Elfant Festa, Andy Frew, Morgan Genser, Marge & Bob Gold, Ellen Grady, Linda Grant, Ivy & Peter Greene, Daphne Gronich, Patrick Hart, Carolyn Haselkorn, Erin Herron, Manfred Hofer, Rosalie Huntington, Mike Kafka, Lou Kamer, Cheryel Kanan, Sylvia Karlan, Nina Kidd, Sam Lagana, Ed Leblang, Sara Margiotta, Mary Martin, Kathy McGoff, Steve Miller, Eli Nagle, Paul Nagle, Kevin & Nancy Niles, Sue Pascoe, Kimi Petrick, Fati Pourmand, Leena Pourmand, Bill Prachar, Greg Prachar, Joanne Reich, Jeff Ridgway, Matthew Rodman, Max Rodman, Rene Rodman, KC Ryan-Foster, Katherine Saslow, Bill & Cindy Simon, Tara Sizlo, Rikki Smoot, Eli Soufo, Haldis Toppel, David Trotti, Keith Turner, Apoorva Vishwanath, Rob Weber, Rich Wilken, Robin Weitz, Dara Williams, Maryam Zar. (Our sincere apologies to anyone who may have been inadvertently omitted from this list.)

In addition to the Official July 4th Program advertisers, PAPA would like to recognize the legacy sponsors and entities below, whose ongoing support and participation enable us to put on our community celebrations: ACS Security, Caruso, City National Bank, Coldwell Banker, Dentistry by Design, Elyse Walker, Festa Insurance, Fran Flanagan Properties, Juice Crafters, Luxe Home Care, Marquez Knolls Property Owners' Association, Michelle Turk Properties. Midwin, Vogel & Nathanson, Newcomers & Friends of Pacific Palisades, OnStage Talent Group, Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce, Pacific Palisades Community Council, Pacific Palisades Dentistry, Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church, Palisades Patrol, Paws N' Claws Grooming Salon, Solum Insurance Agency, Technology For You!, Turner Law Firm, UCLA Health, UDO Real Estate/La Cruz Investors, Van Duzer & Associates, Village 76, Dennis & Sharon White and Jackie Maduff & Arnie Wishnick (z.l.).

PAPA also thanks the following local businesses, companies and individuals for their regular annual donation of food and beverages for pre-parade receptions and Palisades Rocks the Fourth concerts, as well as of prizes for the home decoration contest: *Black Ink*, Café Vida, Casa Nostra, Chipotle, *Gift Garden Antiques* (Susan Carroll), *Goorus*, Ivy Greene, Kay 'n Dave's Cantina, Laura's Brownies, Le Pain Quotidien (Brentwood), Matthew's Garden Café, *Ogden's Cleaners* (Pacific Palisades), *Palisades Barber Shop* (Joe Alvarez), Palisades Farmers Market, Palisades Garden Café, *Palisades Gas 'n Wash*, Pearl Dragon, Porta Via (Pacific Palisades), Ralphs (Pacific Palisades), *Rosie & Nails*, Taco Bell, Taj Palace, Thai Vegan, The Draycott, The K Bakery, *The Massage Place*, Trader Joe's (Pico Blvd.), Viktor Benê's Bakery, Vittorio's Ristorante and Vons (Pacific Palisades). **We appreciate their past generosity and trust that they will continue to be recognized as valued members of our community.**

The PAPA Board wishes everyone a healthy and safe Fourth of July.

Matthew Rodman (President), Kevin Niles (Vice President), Keith Turner (Vice President, Concert), Rich Wilken (Vice President, Fireworks), Daphne Gronich (Treasurer), Ramis Sadrieh (Secretary); Andy Frew and Rob Weber (Advisors).

Donations are always gratefully accepted by PAPA at P.O. Box 1776, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272 or www.palisades4th.com.

Honorary Parade Marshals Are LAFD Stations 23 and 69

Every year an outstanding resident (or sometimes a married couple) is chosen as the Fourth of July parade marshal in the Palisades. Although there won't be a parade this year, the Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) has still named a marshal—actually, 53 of them will share the honor.

This year's honorees include individuals who have fought numerous local and state fires, including those recently set by rioters; who help at the scene of traffic accidents; who work with FEMA; who rescue hikers from local mountain trails; and who respond whenever there's an emergency, such as when an unconscious homeless individual is discovered.

Their professionalism, steeped in compassion, made it an easy choice for PAPA this year to name Fire Stations 69 and 23 (on Sunset at Los Liones) as this year's parade marshals.

Since these individuals are generally on call and serving during the parade, this is the perfect year to honor them—virtually, of course!

FIRE STATION 23



L. Scott Gribbons

L. SCOTT GRIBBONS (A-shift) has been a member of LAFD for 33 years and a captain for 22. He has worked in South Los Angeles, the San Fernando Valley, mid-city and downtown. Gribbons first came to the Palisades a year before Engine 69 was closed because of budget cuts during 2011. (It was one of 18 engines cut in the City). "I circled back to FS 23 about four years ago, recognizing there is no better place to work than right here in this community," he said.

"The Palisades community is like no other and we are thankful for the incredible support and relationships that have been developed here over many generations," said Gribbons, who has served as the board chair for the Firefighters First Credit Union and



The 2015 Via de las Olas bluffs fire was started by a homeless fire.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

also worked with the Fire Family Foundation.

★ ★ ★

ROBERT WILLIAMS (B-shift), a member of LAFD since 1987, started working in the Palisades in 2017. "The friendliness of the members of the community is always a breath of fresh air and nice to be a part of," Williams told CTN in an interview at the station.

He has one friendly reminder for the community about brush clearance. "I think it's everyone's responsibility to take brush and vegetation clearance to heart," he said. "We have had the Skirball, Palisades and Getty fires in recent years, which have left a lasting memory. These are good examples of why we need to stay vigilant with fire protection in our community."

★ ★ ★

KURT VOSBERG (C-shift) is the newest addition to FS 23, coming to the Palisades



Robert Williams

about nine months ago.

"There is a sense of community here," he said, and he complimented residents on their
(Continued on Page 20)

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Kurt Vosberg

Marshals

(Continued from Page 19)

adherence to brush clearance and fire safety awareness, such as making sure smoke detectors are up to date. He also warns people against hoarding because if their house catches on fire, “that’s a big problem in trying to fight it.”

Vosberg praised the Palisades Task Force on Homelessness, stating “They deal with the people the right way.”

He began his LAFD career in 1988 and has worked downtown, Hollywood and North Hollywood, where he was based during the 1992 riots. He was on duty during the Northridge Earthquake and during the Pan Pacific Park fire in 1989.

Fire Station 23 Crew

Other members of FS 23 are (A Shift) Robert Appleford, Andre Zimbeck and Darin Herbert; (B Shift) Josh Burton, Tommy Ober-to, Armando Carranza, Bob Wil- liams, Mike Spears and Paul Sor- um; and (C Shift) Jim Nordquist, Jim Rogers, Jeff Foster, Tom Nordquist and Bob Johnson.

Fire Station 69 Crew

Other members of FS 69 are: (A Shift) Todd Tsujimura, Steve Hazard, Tim Togneri, Ralph Hes- ter, Danny Garcia, Marc Samama, Robert Trevino, Scott Christlieb, Daniel Ramirez and Charles Mi- calef; (B Shift) Greg Felix, Yvonne Gutierrez, Henry Gasbari, Jeff Es- calante, Mike Thompson, Andy Carter, Salvador Castillon, Mark Glenchur, Joseph Kovacic and Robert Steinbacher; (C Shift) Dan Kleiser, Steve Shelp, Dennis Roach, Eric Dillon, Tim Van Dus- en, Glenn Potter, Greg Cueto, Octavio Silveyra, Robert Miller and Mario Westphal.

FIRE STATION 69

JEFF BROWN (A-shift) came to Station 69 from the North Hollywood Station in 2017 and has served with LAFD for more than 30 years. He currently helps train new recruits.

He loves working with his colleagues. “They’re all senior guys who are well-trained, educated and top-notch,” Brown said. “There’s a great team that’s been built here.”

Along with serving the LAFD, Brown was also part of FEMA’s Urban Search and Rescue Task Force for 10 years and worked the Los Angeles riots in 1992.

He also helped battle the Thomas Fire in the Santa Barbara area in December 2017. “It looked like the Los Angeles riots,” Brown said. “Everything was burning, and we had to choose to save this house or the one across the street.”



Jeff Brown



Darren Kesterson

DARREN KESTERSON (A-shift), the newest captain, spent his first day in Pacific Palisades on June 8 and the next night went with Engine 69 to the brush fire near the Getty Center along the 405 Freeway.

“This is a beautiful area,” said Kesterson, who spent most of his career in South L.A. because “I like being busy.” He has worked with most of the crew at FS 69 at locations throughout the city and has high praise for them. “These guys are the most experienced of everyone in L.A. There’s a lot of talent here.”

Hired in 1990, Kesterson went to East L.A., then rotated through South L.A., the



Robert Bates



Tom Kitahata



Erik Schneider



Paul Egizi

South Fernando Valley and North Holly- wood. During the riots in 1992, he was sta- tioned at 54th and Arlington, and he notes that during the recent protests/riots, not nearly the number of buildings were burned compared to 1992.

Hired in 1987, ROBERT BATES (B- shift) has worked at stations all over Los An- geles. Before coming to the Palisades in 2016, he spent seven years at Station 98 in Pacoima.

Although he has enjoyed the many places he has worked, this area holds a special place in his heart. “I love to surf, I love the ocean and it’s only a mile away,” he said. “It’s a blessing.”

After last year’s brush fires, Bates stresses: “It is important for residents to evacuate,

when requested to, if a brush fire is threat- ening their neighborhood.”

He also reminds residents to test their smoke detectors monthly and to change the batteries annually.

TOM KITAHATA (B-Shift) has been with the LAFD for more than 32 years. He has worked in Hollywood, Echo Park/Ram- part, South Central, Westlake, Van Nuys, East L.A. and Downtown L.A.

Kitahata is also a member of FEMA’s Cal- ifornia Task Force One Urban Search and Rescue Team. He was deployed to New York City after the World Trade Center attacks. Currently he is helping to run Covid-19 testing at one of many sites across the city.

“Whether it be brush fires, earthquakes, or other disasters, residents need to have an

evacuation plan,” Kitahata said. “Meet your neighbors. When the big one hits, you and your neighbors may be on your own until help arrives.”

ERIK SCHNEIDER (C-Shift) joined the

force in 1986 and has spent most of that time in South Los Angeles and downtown L.A., before coming to Station 69 in August 2016.

“The thing that surprises me most about the area is that the streets are so tight it really slows our response time,” Schneider said. “If people live in an area that is close to the brush, they really need to be diligent about brush clearance.”

He has gone on several structure fires, but also was called to the Chimney Fire which burned 46,344 acres in San Luis Obispo County, and involved 3,985 personnel, in-

cluding 328 fire engines.

PAUL EGIZI (C-shift) joined Station 69 in January 2019, after working all over the city, starting as a paramedic in South L.A. in 1987. Egizi made captain in 1998. For two years (2000-02), he was in charge of the re- cruitment training academy, and from 2011 to 2013, he was the administrative captain in charge of air operations, overseeing seven helicopters.

“The relationship between the commu- nity and this fire station is unsurpassed in any of the 104 stations,” Egizi said. “The relationship here is really rewarding.”

His advice for residents? In an emergency call 911, rather than calling Station 69. “There’s a potential we’re not here, and time could go wasted,” he said.



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Special Moments on Via de la Paz will close at the end of July.

We are closing our doors, but with all our friends and customers in mind we want to invite them to stop by to say 'Goodbye!'— and to enjoy a SALE.

Mely, a native Italian, started with a store in Torino, Italy. Later she married an American from Pacific Palisades and moved here; and in 1983 created 'La Sposa,' designing and making Bridal Gowns—and then in 1988 she opened Special Moments!

Her merchandise includes the best quality names of European lines—from PJ's, Leggings, Slips, Gowns, Stockings to fine Lingerie.

Designers include Ritratti, Cosa Bella from Italy, Hanro from Switzerland, Chantelle, Simon Perele, LeJaby French and Cotn, to name a few.

Please stop by to say 'Goodbye' to Mely, and perhaps get a present for yourself or a loved one—for those 'Special Moments.'

We have a sale in progress everyday for the benefit of our regular customers—and their daughters, mothers, friends and neighbors. Come have a look!

Special Moments

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** We are currently interested in speaking with serious parties who might wish to purchase our business or inventory. Written requests only.

2019 Golden Sparkplugs: Don Camacho, Lisa Glantz And Mike Lanning

The annual Golden Sparkplug Awards, presented by the Pacific Palisades Community Council, honor Palisadians who ignite ideas and projects into community action that benefits residents throughout the community.

The tradition was started in 1974 and the first awardees included Kate and Peter Ahrens, Vergene Bollens, Anna Priolo May, Lance Lee, Bob McMillen, Wally Miller, Shirley

and Jim Solomon, Ed Staley and Tennant. There were three honorees in 2019. One of them, Mike Lanning was also honored with the award in 1979.

Brian Shea, who was one of the founders of the 5/10K Will Rogers Run, was honored for starting the race with a Sparkplug award in 1980. Bill Bruns, who was the long-time editor of the *Palisadian-Post* and served as an advisor on this program, was recognized in 1987.



Lisa Glantz accepted the award from Community Council Chair David Card.

DON COMACHO spearheaded and coordinated the acquisition and installation of five solar-powered scoreboards at the Field of Dreams at the Palisades Recreation Center. A member of the Pacific Palisades Baseball Association (PPBA) board, he raised nearly \$250,000 for the project and then worked for almost a year with the City, the Coastal Commission, engineers, contractors and the supplier to provide the new scoreboards. They will be available to all organized sports teams, including baseball, softball, soccer and flag football.

When the Chamber of Commerce discontinued its traditional Holiday Ho!Ho!Ho! event in 2018, **LISA GLANTZ**, within two weeks, produced the Holiday Hullabaloo. With a "joyous can-do nature" (as described by her nominator), she inspired numerous volunteers to help put together a special



Don Camacho

"kid-centric" event in the Palisades, combining elements of the past "Ho!Ho!Ho!" tradition with appearances by Santa and Mrs. Claus on the Station 69 fire engine and honorary mayors Billy and Janice Crystal as Santa's elves; a bake sale; toy donation drive; fun kids' activities; a photo booth; live music; dance performances and more. And she did it all again last December!

MIKE LANNING, who rode as 4th of July parade marshal in 2019, received his Sparkplug in recognition of his leadership in bringing girls into Scouting last year. The esteemed Scoutmaster of the renowned Palisades Troop 223 for more than 60 years, Lan-



One of the five solar-powered scoreboards



Mike Lanning

ning was pleased to have 30 girls join the Troop, including 12 Second Class Scouts and 18 Tenderfoot Scouts. The Scouts earned more than 200 merit badges in 2019 and 12 of the participants should earn the rank of Eagle Scout in May of 2021.

"What goes in your garden comes out in your soul."
— Dick Lahey

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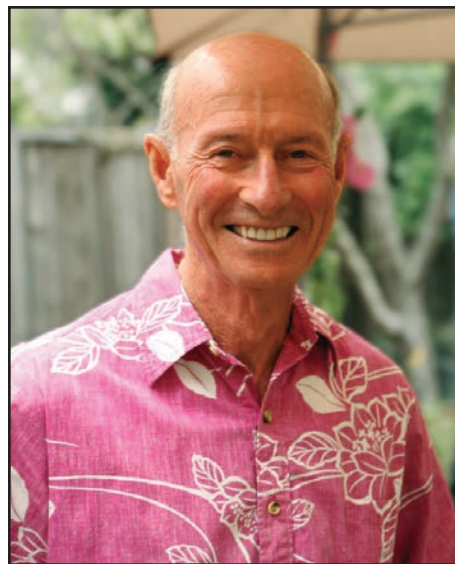
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Pride Of The Palisades: George Wolfberg

By SUE PASCOE
Program Editor



George Wolfberg

As I picked blueberries from the plants in my backyard recently, my "George Wolfberg blueberries," I felt a sadness. There are men who do great things that history remembers. There are men who are immortalized because of a heroic act. And then there are those who impact lives in simple but profound ways and people don't understand that importance.

I started refereeing soccer because AYSO required that parents had to volunteer in some job for each kid—and I had three kids here in Pacific Palisades. However, if you signed up for refereeing, you only had to volunteer for one job.

George was a long-time AYSO referee (and coach and registrar), serving AYSO Region 69. Even today, there are almost no women referees on the field—possibly because they didn't have a George Wolfberg in their lives.

He put me in the center position and had my back against shouting parents and coaches who were too boisterous in their indignation.

George was not complicated. He simply stood up for the underdog. He did things because they were right, not because it was the popular thing to do.

George Wolfberg, who received the Community Council's Pride of the Palisades award last December and who passed away

this park will finally be completed—thanks to Wolfberg's persistent oversight.

Even after he was diagnosed with late-stage cancer and was confined to a wheelchair, George attended a Pacific Coast Highway task force meeting last October, where he lobbied for pedestrian-access bridge from Potrero Canyon to the Will Rogers Beach parking lot.

Wolfberg graduated from UCLA in 1961 with a degree in political science and later earned a master's degree in public administration from USC in 1971. He worked for the City of Los Angeles his entire career, retiring in 1996 as Chief Administrative Analyst in the City Administrative Office.

In the 1960s, Wolfberg and his wife Diane volunteered with Fair Housing, doing sting operations on racist landlords by approaching them with housing applications after the landlords had unlawfully turned down applications by persons of color.

Wolfberg oversaw the City's selective contracting policy to bring pressure upon South Africa to end apartheid. Nelson Mandela came to Los Angeles to specifically give thanks.

Wolfberg also helped prepare the City's successful bid to host the 1984 Olympics. He was responsible for the birth of women's Olympic cycling, because he ensured that Los Angeles and the IOOC would hold the women's road race as an exhibition sport. The next Olympics will feature 11 cycling events for women.

Following the 1992 riots, Wolfberg was appointed by the City as commissioner of the Watts Friendship Sports League. He served for 10 years and raised over \$100,000 in funding. It was the first youth sports league sponsored by the City.

After moving to Pacific Palisades in 1972, George became active with the 20-year No Oil campaign, which eventually defeated efforts by Occidental to build oil rigs along PCH, just north of Potrero Canyon.

He was named Citizen of the Year in 2011 and was serving his fourth term as president of the Pacific Palisades Community Council in 2019 when his cancer came back.

One of Wolfberg's final fights was on behalf of an urban forest plan for Los Angeles, which led to Rachel Malarich becoming the city's first-ever Forest Officer, with the goal of planting 90,000 trees by 2021.

As Community Council president, Wolfberg was instrumental in creating the Palisades Forestry Committee in 2019.

When I visited George at his house one morning, before we drove to referee a soccer game, I noticed the blueberry plants in his yard. He convinced me I could grow them, just like he convinced me I could ref, and that as a journalist, I should query city governmental decisions.

This Fourth of July, honor George Wolfberg. Aspire to be like him, aspire for greatness. It is really that simple.

Citizen of the Year: Kevin Niles

The Citizen of the Year award, presented by the Community Council, "Honors those whose contributions to Pacific Palisades have been both a recent effort resulting in a substantial benefit to the community, and a steady, reliable long-term history of service to the Palisades."

The 2019 honoree, Kevin Niles, clearly exemplifies those attributes.

At the PPCC's awards ceremony at the Woman's Club last December, Niles was recognized for his long-time support of youth in the community and for the numer-

ous service clubs in which he is active.

When given the award, Niles was praised for "his recent leadership of two successful youth programs sponsored by the American Legion Ronald Reagan Palisades Post 283—the Oratorical Scholarship Program and Boys State."

Back in 2017, Niles and his wife Nancy were named parade marshals for the 4th of July parade, in honor of their volunteerism. A long-time Cubmaster for Scout Pack 223 (165 boys, grades K-5), Niles has long been associated with Boy Scout Troop 223.

Niles, 69, attended his first Pacific Palisades parade when he was 10, after his family bought a house on Edgar Street. Now all these years later, he remains active on the Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) board.

He and Nancy, who married in 1975, are also active at Corpus Christi School and Church. They raised two children, Kevin, who attended both Corpus Christi and Palisades High before moving on to USC, and Joanna, who also attended Corpus Christi and USC, but went to Marymount High School.

Kevin Jr. died in a tragic diving accident in 2003, while Joanna and her husband, Charles Curtis, now live in the Palisades, where they are raising Joey, 11, and Violet, 8, who both attend Corpus Christi.

Niles, who was an Eagle Scout, watched his son achieve that admirable rank, and the family has dedicated the library at Emerald Bay Boy Scout Camp on Catalina in Kevin Jr.'s memory. Niles has served on the Camp Emerald Bay Redevelopment Committee and the Camp Josepho Redevelopment Committee.

A Vietnam War veteran, Niles is a former commander



Kevin Niles organized the American Legion oratorical contest and is pictured with winner Danielle Wilson. Photo: Sue Pascoe

of Post 283 (2011-12).

He worked for 30 years for the Los Angeles Police Department, before becoming the owner/CFO of a general contracting business, C.K. Niles Construction.

Currently he works as the Post 283 Adjutant. In a 2017 interview, Niles said: "Pacific Palisades is like paradise with the climate, the view, the ocean. I've been a lot of places in the world—Italy, Hawaii, Moscow, Australia, Alaska, China, and traveling with our grandkids in Europe. There's no place like the Palisades."

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the yogurt shoppe

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- Ramis Sadrieh, MBA



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Councilman Mike Bonin Supports The Fourth in Pacific Palisades

The Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) relies upon the support of L.A. City Councilman Mike Bonin for securing permits to host our town's day-long Fourth of July celebration—starting with the Will Rogers Run, then the parade, and concluding with the concert/fireworks.

He helps get the fees waived for some of these permits, saving PAPA thousands of dollars a year.

During Bonin's seven years in office, he has facilitated a team effort between the City and the Palisades community to produce one of the most active 4th of July's in Southern California.

"We'd like to give a shout out to Bonin's office and his staff," said PAPA President Matt Rodman, "and we look forward to partnering again in 2021."



Councilman Mike Bonin rides in the 2019 Fourth of July parade.

Photo: Joy Daunis

How to Stop a Parade

Aside from Covid-19, which brought about the cancellation of this year's parade, has any unforeseen event delayed the start of the parade since it began in 1948? Put on your *Jeopardy* cap and guess.

Try 2007.
Yes, the parade was delayed for 30 minutes because a motorist parked in front of Starbucks on Sunset Boulevard and walked away, somehow ignoring the posted sign: "Tow-Away: Temporary No Stopping: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday only."

Frankly, we know most Pacific Palisades residents are shocked that someone would ignore a "no parking" sign in this town. So it must have been an out-of-town visitor who never

imagined that a Fourth of July parade was about to make its way down Sunset.

Although the car wouldn't be blocking the parade, the LAPD was concerned about a possible car bomb (just five years after 9/11) and called for the car to be towed. This being a holiday, compounded by various road closures, it took a half hour for the tow truck to arrive. The skydivers, who had been circling in their plane for 45 minutes, were finally given the green light at 2:30 p.m. and the parade got underway.

The cost for parking in this great spot (16 years ago) was \$86 for the tow, \$40 for the ticket, \$40 for the city release fee and \$22 per day for tow storage—a total of \$210. The driver was never identified.



The offending vehicle is removed.

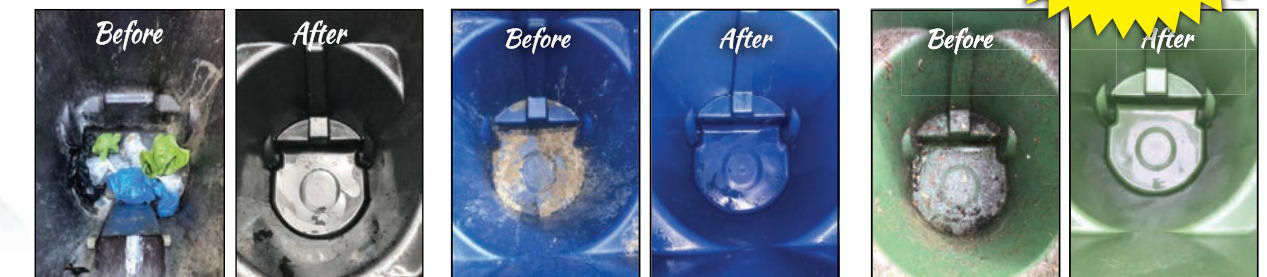
Photo: Liz Lonky

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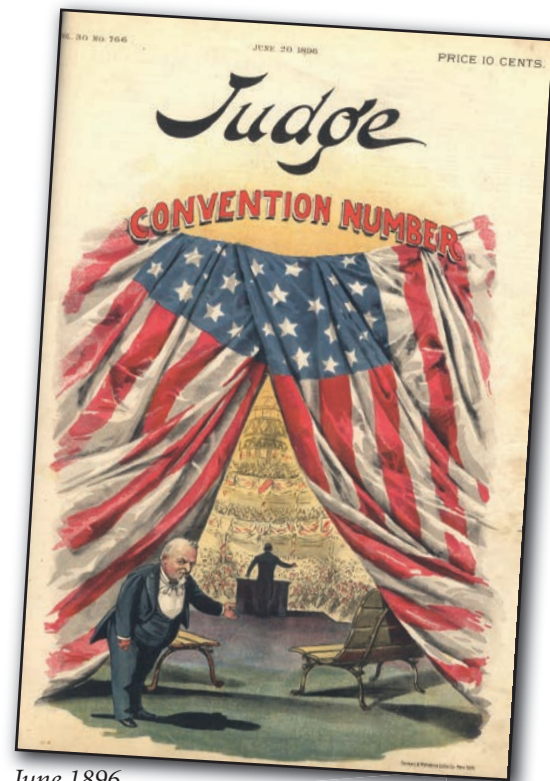
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Celebrating America through Historic Covers

(Editor's note: Resident Peter Kreitler has one of the largest collections of magazine covers that feature the American Flag. Named the 1777 Collection in honor of June 14, 1777, when the Stars and Stripes was declared the national flag, Kreitler's collection encompasses 3,500 covers ranging from 1839 to present day, and includes 450 covers from 1942 alone. Now-defunct magazines he owns include Leslie's Weekly, Collier's, The American Boy and Pictorial Review. For five years, his covers were featured on the front of the Fourth of July parade program, and inside more of his fabulous collection were featured in stories. We remind you of some of our favorites.)



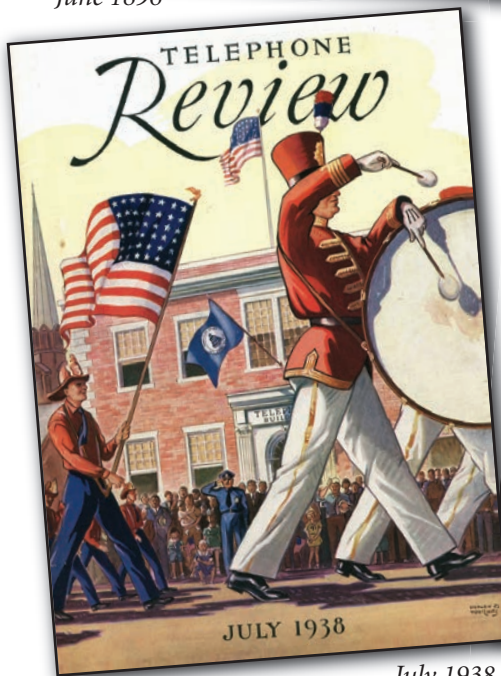
June 1896



July 1956



July 1901



July 1938



August 1898



July 1918



July 1925

Pageantry Parades Loses Beloved Family Member, Elizabeth Sarell

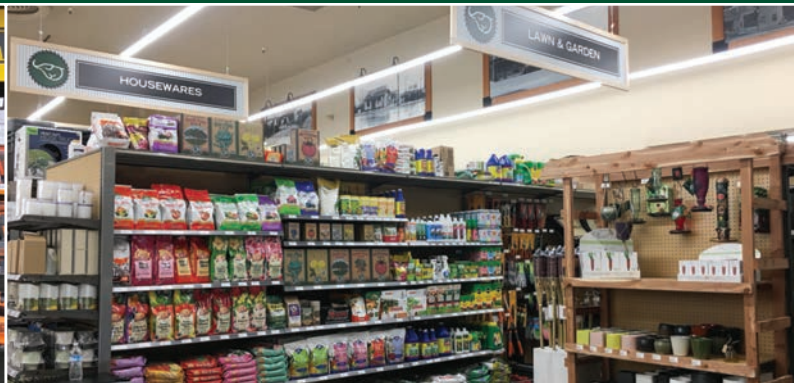
Pageantry Productions (now Pageantry Parades) has worked closely with the Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) since 1968. Not only does the company organize the parade lineup, it helps find marching bands to participate, such as the Downey Unified School District, the New Orleans Jazz Band and the Alexandria Minnesota Community Band in 2019. Pageantry also locates and provides specialty acts, such as the Uncle Sam Stilt Walker, the Lan Narthasin Thai Dance Group and the Broken Horn Ropers, which are then sponsored by local businesses. Pageantry has been owned and run by a three-generation,

parade-producing family, with a fourth generation now in training. The company was founded by Bill and Veronica "Ronnie" Lomas. Ronnie's son, Richard Harn (and Bill's stepson), met his wife Debra (Hendrickson) in high school. She started working for the company in 1971 and retired a few years ago. The Harns' daughter, Elizabeth, married David Sarell. When Lomas began talking about retiring, the couple formed Pageantry Parades in January 2018 "to carry on" the family tradition. David explained, "Even though Pageantry Parades and

Pageantry Productions sound the same, they are two separate, non-related companies." (Pageantry Productions is the DBA for the parent company, World Wide Spectaculars, Inc.) On March 30, PAPA organizers learned that Elizabeth Sarell, 44, had passed away, due to complications from pneumonia. The couple has a son, Thomas, 15. "Her passion for parades, the arts, community and family is still very much a part of our company and daily lives," husband David wrote PAPA. "Our work brought her much joy and happiness throughout her life, and we are determined to continue to carry the torch forward."



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IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. — We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. — He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. — He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. — He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. — He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. — He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance. — He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislatures. — He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. — He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: — For quarantining large bodies of armed troops among us: — For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: — For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: — For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: — For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: — For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: — For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: — For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. — He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. — He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Button Gwinnett
Lyman Hall
Geo. Walton.

Wm. Hooper
Joseph Hewes
John Penn

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Thos. Mifflin
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Saml. Adams

John Adams
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Elbridge Gerry

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John Huntington
Wm. Williams
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