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★ JULY 4, 2019 ★



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PALISADES WILL ROGERS 5K & 10K RACE COMMITTEE



Photo: Joanne Reich

Enjoy a Palisades Fourth!

PACIFIC PALISADES FOURTH OF JULY TIMELINE

Will Rogers 5/10K Run Kids' Fun Run	71st Annual Palisades Parade	Palisades Rocks the Fourth
6:30 a.m. Registration	12:30 p.m. VIP Pre-Parade Luncheon	4 p.m. Gates open at PaliHi Baseball Field. Food trucks available. Kids activities.
8:15 a.m. 5/10 K Start	1:30 p.m. Sunset closed	Music starts on Festival Stage.
9:30 a.m. Kids' Fun Run	2 p.m. Skydivers land on Sunset	6 p.m. Main Stage Concert
10:30 a.m. Awards Ceremony	2:05 p.m. Parade starts on Via de la Paz	9 p.m. Fireworks

Fourth of July Street Parking, Closures

NO STOPPING, NO PARKING signs will be posted along the race and parade route prior to July 4. Please observe the signs, so events can start on time.

RACE CLOSURES: In the Will Rogers 5K/10K race area, hard closures start at 6:30 a.m. **People will not be allowed to turn from Pacific Coast Highway to Chautauqua starting at 7:15 a.m.**

The Huntington Palisades neighborhood including Alma Real Drive, Corona del Mar, Toyopa Drive and Pampas Ricas will be closed. Drummond Street from Toyopa to Chautauqua; Ocampo from Drummond to Alma Real will also be shut down.

Sunset Boulevard from Amalfi Drive to Monument Street will be closed in both directions from 6:30 to 11 a.m. Chautauqua Boulevard north of Sunset until Drummond and Drummond from Chautauqua to Toyopa

will also be closed. The roads will reopen after the race course is closed about 11 a.m.

PARADE CLOSURES: The parade route and staging areas, which include Via de la Paz, Sunset, Swarthmore, Drummond Street, Toyopa, La Cruz Drive and Alma Real, will close to vehicles at 1:30 p.m. or possibly earlier and will not reopen until after the parade route is cleared. Estimated reopening is 4:45 p.m.

CONCERT/FIREWORKS CLOSURES: Westbound Bowdoin Street, in front of Palisades High School, **will be closed at noon** (or before, depending on the arrival of the fireworks) until 10 p.m. and the ocean-field side will be closed from 4 until 10 p.m. (after the fireworks). North and southbound Temescal Canyon Road will close shortly before 9 p.m. to Palisades-bound traffic (no turns off Pacific Coast Highway).

On the Cover

Artist Katie O'Neill, who grew up in Pacific Palisades, not only celebrates the beauty of this area, but also chronicles important town events through her artwork. A former Palisades High classmate wrote about O'Neill's painting of the Palisades Bluffs, "It captured the memory of my youth."

After teaching in Malibu for 15 years, O'Neill returned to the Palisades in 2011. She has a studio at 835 Via de la Paz, where she offers lessons to people who have never had an art class and those who want to refine their technique. She welcomes children and teens. Visit: oneillsfineart.com or call (310) 459-1039 or email katie@oneillsfineart.com.



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WILL ROGERS 5/10K RUN AND FUN



About 3,000 runners tackle the 5/10K Will Rogers Run.



Although some race for time, others such as the Elvis team run for fun.

Will Rogers Races Continue to Draw Runners

The Will Rogers 10K Run was started in 1978 by Brian Shea, Bill Klein and the late Chris Carlson. A year earlier, Shea and Carlson came up with the idea for a Palisades event after running in a Brentwood race.

At that time, they were part of a loosely organized group of about 20 Palisades residents, the Ridge Runners, who ran most mornings from Sunset to Pacific Coast Highway and back up through Rustic Canyon.

In order to hold the first Will Rogers 10K,

they had to fight both City and State bureaucracies. The Run started with about 1,000 entrants and, since adding a 5K in 1986, now attracts nearly 3,000 runners every year.

Shea said that the 5K was added because the temperature at that year's race was 90-100 degrees and 20 people were sent to the hospital after the run.

The 1K Kids' Fun Run was added in 1995, to allow even the youngest residents to begin their Fourth of July with a joyful burst of energy.

In 2012, the 5K and 10K racecourses were remeasured so that they met USATF standards, after both courses were found to be about 400 yards short.

The 10K run is still considered one of the toughest in the country (but also one of the most beautiful), with its switchbacks through historic Will Rogers State Historic Park.

Tony Okello ran the fastest time in 2014 (31:21) and has four of the fastest course times.

In the woman's event, Katilyn Peale set the course record (36:19) in 2018 and Catilin Chrisman, who finished second, has the sec-

ond fastest time (36:34).

The 5K record on the remeasured course is 15:48, set by Andre Bland in 2014. The second fastest time (15:56) was established by Drake Johnson in 2015. The women's record is held by Regina Lopez (17:54), set in 2017, and Grace Zamudio (18:36 in 2015) has the second fastest time.

Okello, who has won the 10K event the last five years, ran 32:15 last year. Peale won the women's 10K.

In last year's 5K, Ethan Stauber (16:05) and Natalie Marsh (18:57) took first in their respective categories. (For race results from 2006-2018, visit: palisades10k.com.)

This event runs so smoothly, many believe that a professional outside entity is hired to run it. NO. It is a testament to local volunteers and to Shea, who still heads the race committee, that this remains a local effort. But new volunteers are always needed to maintain the hometown tradition.

Money from registration not only pays for City permits and fees, but also for T-shirts and timing. All net proceeds are donated to

local nonprofits that benefit youth, through the Palisades Will Rogers 5/10K Race Foundation. Please do not walk or run the race course without registering.

Register through June 27 and the 5/10K is \$60. Late and same-day registration is \$70. Visit: palisades10k.com.

Take the Shuttle To the Race Start

If runners are planning to enter the 5/10K Will Rogers Run and are driving from points west, south or east, go to Temescal Canyon Road, park and take the free shuttle to the race start on Alma Real.

All roads in the Huntington Palisades and along Sunset will be closed, with "No Parking" signs posted, starting at 5 a.m. This year Ralphs grocery store parking lot will also be closed on July 4, starting at 6 a.m. No race parking.

Compete in High School Team Division

New this year at the 42nd annual Will Rogers 5/10K Run is a high school challenge. The times by the three fastest runners from a high school in the 5K will be tabulated, just like at a cross-country meet.

The high school competition and a winner's trophy will be dedicated in honor of Dick Lemen, a coach at Palisades High School for many years. He was also a member of the Ridge Runners, a band of about 20 local runners who originated the Fourth of July Will Rogers Race in 1978.

In a 1990s feature article by Matt Purdue ("They're Running the Show"), Dick 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.

The winning school will receive the Dick Lemen Memorial Trophy. Runners, boys and girls alike, from PaliHi, Loyola, Santa Monica, Brentwood, Crossroads, University, Venice, St. Monica, Wildwood, etc., are all invited to register and run.

When registering, runners need to list the high school, he/she attends. Visit: Palisades4th.com.

KIDS' FUN RUN INFORMATION



The Kids' Fun Run always has eager participants.

This will be the 24th Annual 4th of July Kids' Fun Run, which is a fun-filled non-competitive run, starting at 9:30 a.m. (Visit: Palisades4th.com)

All children 10 years and younger are invited to run the ½-mile loop, starting and finishing at the entrance to Palisades Park on the corner of Alma Real and Toyopa.

The morning of July 4, all kids need to check in at the Kids' Fun Run tent, which opens at 7 a.m., on the grass near the Park entrance.

All runners will receive a T-shirt, bib number, American flag and participation ribbon before the start of the run. Keeping with the fun theme, a clown will entertain children at the start line and be available to make balloon animals after the run.

Registration through June 27 at 8 p.m. is \$25 and day of race registration is \$30.

Volunteers are sought. Contact DAL16hat@gmail.com.

Hathaways Vital to July 4th Races

By LAUREL BUSBY
Contributing Writer

Running on the Fourth of July has been a tradition since 1978, and Thomas and Dalena Hathaway have become a central part of that tradition.

For eight years, Dalena has coordinated the Kids' Fun Run, while Thomas has taken an active lead on the 5K and 10K races for the past 10 years.

"For me, it's always been a labor of love," said Thomas, who has frequently run both long races as well as more intense runs, such as one to the top of Mt. Baldy and another on Mt. Wilson. "I grew up running. I've always had an appreciation for the sport. I always appreciated the time people take to excel. I take pride in organizing it."

Added Dalena, who used to run the 5K, "For me, it's really a couple of things. When you reap the benefits of something for several years, I think it's time to step up and say, 'Of course, I'd be happy to do this.' The second thing is the children. I love the children."

Thomas, a general contractor, agreed, "They are a hoot."

The children's 9:30 a.m. Fun Run, which is in its 24th year, is not a race, but a participation event that allows young children to join the fun of race day. Often a parent or sibling is also running in the 5K or 10K, and



Dalena Hathaway calls these volunteers her devoted Kids' Fun Run crew: (left to right front row) Claudia Fishler, Hathaway, Sheila Benko, Karen Goldberg and Sheridan Hathaway; (left to right, second row) Rouzbeen and Chris Myrick, Starr Hathaway and Deborah and David Williams.

Photo: Rich Schmitt, Courtesy the Hathaways

with the Fun Run, children 10 years old and younger can join the action too.

Each of the approximately 400 young runners receive a race bib, t-shirt, flag, and participation ribbon. While one child does break the finish ribbon first, at the end of the almost half-mile run, they all get the joy of crossing the same finish line as the runners in the longer races.

"They're so excited; my heart goes out to all

of them," said Dalena, who was born in New Mexico and grew up in Libya and El Paso.

The earlier 5K and 10K events are fun too, but also competitive, and the courses distances are USA Track and Field certified, which means that distance is precise, Thomas said. Serious runners can be certain that if they get a good time on the course that it's an accurate measure of their skills.

This wasn't always the case. About eight

years ago, the courses were measured, and both were more than 400 feet short, so runners actually thought their times were better than they were.

Since then, the race committee has modified the courses according to the specific requirements for certification.

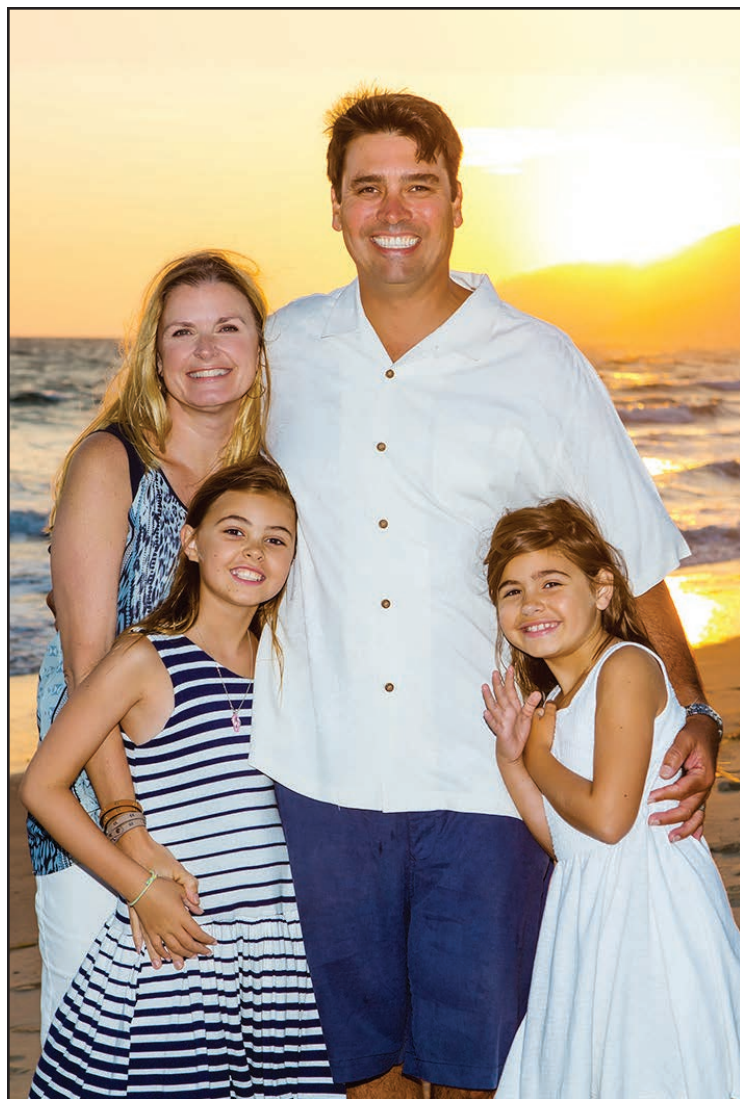
"We spend a lot of time to make sure the race is of a high caliber for the serious runner," said Thomas, who noted that the committee who oversees the race includes about 20 people who now meet on Wednesday mornings in Caruso Village's Community Room. "We want the race to represent a high standard of excellence."

This means that in addition to a precise distance, the organizers try to ensure that the race starts precisely at 8:15 a.m., so runners who have timed their warm-ups will be at their best when the race begins.

In addition, volunteers work to place fast runners at the front, so they won't be slowed by more casual runners. These volunteers are only a small portion of the approximately 100 volunteers needed for the 5K and 10K races, while a dedicated group of Dalena's friends returns each year to manage the needs of the Fun Run.

The volunteers, who may donate only a few hours of time or a substantial number, allow the events to be locally produced, in-

(Continued on Page 7)



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Hathaways

(Continued from Page 6)

stead of requiring a professional race organizer to run them. Some vendors are hired to do specific things, such as the 5K and 10K race timing, but the vast majority of work is done by volunteers.

“The event still has a very local flavor,” said Thomas, who moved to Pacific Palisades from Rolling Hills in 1973, when he was 17. “But we can only do that as long as we have support from the residents.”

Since the race is in its 42nd year, the race founders have been gradually stepping down from their volunteer work. After this year, Dalena will be handing over the Fun Run, so she is searching for someone new who would like to take charge.

For now, Thomas plans to continue organizing the 5K and 10K, but he is also searching for more volunteers to help. The needs are quite substantial for the longer races, which may have about 3,000 runners combined.

Volunteers set out signage, do crowd management, and address safety issues. They can also help pre-race by passing out brochures, installing banners, or setting up the course. About 30 people are also placed along the course during the race in case of emergencies. Approximately a half dozen volunteers are later needed to take everything down.

“The regular volunteers are a fun group of people, but we need to pass on some of the responsibilities,” Thomas noted. “It’s a challenge to find enough volunteers.”



Thomas Hathaway volunteers in all aspects of the 5/10K Will Rogers Run.

Photo: Rich Schmitt, Courtesy the Hathaways

However, the dedication of volunteers means more race proceeds can go to The Palisades Will Rogers 5 & 10K Run Foundation, who gives the money to the Optimist Foundation, who works in partnership, to choose various local nonprofit organizations who work with youth. Last year about \$35,000 was provided to various charities.

The Hathaways, who purchased their Palisades property in 1991 and raised their two children, Sheridan, 28, and Starr, 27, there, hope that this community spirit continues.

If interested in volunteering, email Dalena at dal16hat@gmail.com.

Kline to Sing Anthem At Kids’ Fun Run

Avery Elizabeth Kline, 8, who attends St. Matthew’s Parrish School, was selected to sing the National Anthem before the Kids’ Fun Run on July 4.

Kline first sang the National Anthem at the St. Matthew’s Town Fair in May. She has performed in several musicals at the Adderley School and loves soccer, basketball, tennis, swimming, art and spending time with her family and friends.

She has an older brother Charlie, 11, and a younger sister Taylor, 6. Her father is Andrew Kline. Her mother Sarah grew up in Pacific Palisades and also attended St. Matthew’s School with her brother, Tyler Neal.

The Fourth of July was always the Neal children’s favorite holiday because they lived on Toyopa along the parade route. Avery’s grandparents, Christal and Dale Neal, are still Palisades residents and look forward to hearing Avery sing the anthem.



Avery Elizabeth Kline

America... Home Sweet Home

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Happy 4th of July from my
family to yours.

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COMPASS



July Fourth Home Decorating Contest

Show your patriotism, your good taste, your decorating prowess or just have fun by entering the Fourth of July Home Decorating Contest, sponsored by Sotheby's realtors Joan Sather and Susan Montgomery.

In addition to bragging rights, the winning entry will receive an American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol, numerous gift certificates from local businesses, and a chance to judge the 2020 Home Decorating Contest. The winning house will also be featured in next year's parade program.

After you've decorated your home, go to: Palisades4th.com and click on the home contest and fill out a simple form. Take a photo and post it on the Facebook page or via Instagram feed #Palisades4thHomeContest or email it to homecontest@palisades4th.com.

All entries should be posted by July 2 to be included for initial judging. On July 3, Sather, Montgomery, Palisades Co-Honorary Mayors Billy and Janice Crystal, and last year's winners David Trotti and Amy Kate Connolly will travel the "mean" streets of the Palisades for the final judging.

Sather, a longtime Palisadian, has sponsored the contest for the past decade. "My favorite part of the contest is our judging ritual on July 3," she said. "We have had Jake Seinfeld, Kevin Nealon, and Janet and Billy Crystal. Terrific judges, all. And funny!



Joan Sather (left) and Susan Montgomery

"As we drive from house to house in our golf carts, we discuss what we like about each decorated home. One home had absolutely every (and I mean every) surface covered with cute things obviously collected with love over

many years," Sather said.

"Another was decorated by the young grandson who happened to be visiting his grandparents," Sather said, noting that the boy and family had mostly homemade decorations

and couldn't decide if they should even enter, but did and the judges loved the homespun approach.

"Then there was the 'yarn bomb' house where all the trees were wrapped in red, white and blue crocheted-yarn."

Sather also noted, "Last year the winner used an exuberant profusion of red and white plastic flowers, flowing from window boxes, fences, and among the red, white and blue Adirondack chairs on the front porch."

The judges later learned that the Toti and Connolly theme was about saving water, but patriotically.

"Then comes the best part of knocking on the doors of the winners," Sather said. "One year the winners gathered in their Uncle Sam hats to sing us all a song."

Last year Sather convinced Montgomery to join her in sponsoring the contest.

"Joan and I met years ago at the office on Sunset Boulevard," Montgomery said. "We collaborate on various real estate transactions and cover for each other. It's worked out beautifully."

The main thing that Montgomery and Sather share is a love of Pacific Palisades. Montgomery, who grew up in Louisville and graduated from the University of Kentucky, moved to Chicago and worked on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange learning to (Continued on Page 9)

Happy Fourth Of July!



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Decorating

(Continued from Page 8)

trade commodities.

Her other job was working as a model for magazine shoots, such as Marshall Fields, Sears, Lord & Taylor and also on the Phil Donahue Show, when the top designers were guests on the program, and she wore their fashions.

Montgomery and her husband lived in Brentwood before moving to the Palisades in the late '90s, which is about the time she started her real estate career with Coldwell Banker. "We moved into a house on Alma Real and the neighbors were so welcoming and helpful with much needed advice, i.e. 'you'll

need 300 pieces of candy for Halloween!"

"I thought that couldn't be possible but having to make two last-minute runs to Ralphs that evening, I really did need 300 pieces of candy!" Montgomery said. "The neighbors also let us know that on the morning of the Fourth there would be hundreds of runners jogging past our house. My twins were three years old at the time and I still remember their wide-eyed faces looking out the front window as throngs of people went by.

"When we moved in, we received plates of cookies, notices in the mailbox with babysitters' names, etc. Having lived in various parts of L.A. since 1985, I really thought that I had landed on another planet, or Mayberry RFD, and I was elated," said Montgomery, who is now divorced. "It's all about community and family here, and the myriad choices of incredible schools, both public and private, are second to none."

Sather also started out in a Brentwood apartment with her husband Kent. She was the child of a Naval officer, and had lived all over the United States, including Hawaii, plus three years in France. During the many moves, she attended five elementary schools, two middle schools, two high schools and two colleges, before graduating from UC Berkeley.

Through friends, the couple heard about Pacific Palisades and started house hunting. "We looked quite a while before we found something we could afford in the Marquez Knolls area," said Sather, who was pregnant with her first child. (They have two adult children and now grandchildren.)



David Trotti and Amy Kate Connolly took first place in the 2018 Home Decorating Contest.

Home Decorating Contest Past Winners

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

After they purchased the home and lived here almost a year, Kent accepted a job offer in Arizona. They went to look at houses and he asked Joan, "Which one do you want to put an offer on?" To which she replied, "I don't want to make an offer. I don't want to leave the Palisades."

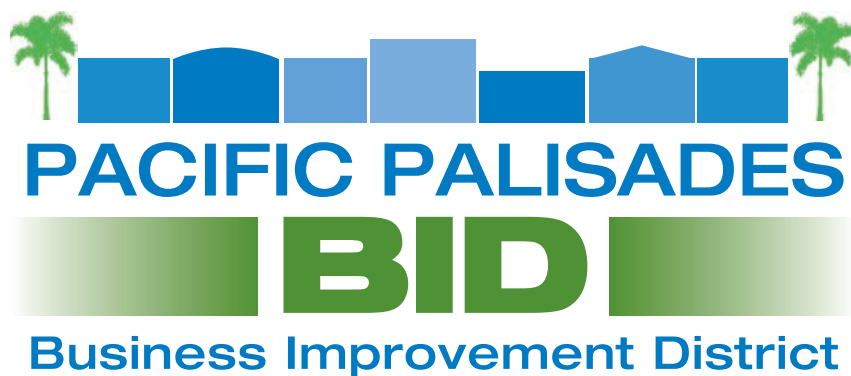
Sather said she didn't think about her response. "It just came out of my heart. After moving around so much as a kid, I wanted to stay here."

Praising her husband, Sather said that Kent responded by saying, "Guess I'll have to quit my job and come back to L.A."

Sather said that to be in Pacific Palisades on the Fourth of July is "a magnificent combination of community and patriotism. The day is so full. First the 5/10K, then the parade, then the concert and fireworks.

"It is a long delicious day of hanging out," Sather said. "It seems so very special because it could only happen in a town as wonderful as Pacific Palisades."

Montgomery's twins, Madison and Paulina, are now 24 and work in New York City and Colorado Springs, respectively. They will both fly back to join their mom for the Fourth of July holiday.



Tree Trimming in the village courtesy of THE BID

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Yogurt Shoppe Again Sponsors Bike Contest

Kevin and Jennifer Sabin opened The Yogurt Shoppe at 873 Swarthmore Ave. in February 2011.

Just five months later, they stepped up to sponsor Kids on Bikes for the Palisades Fourth of July parade.

Today, the store is still one of the most successful in town, the Sabins operate a second store in Brentwood (since April 2016) and they still sponsor Kids on Bikes.

"We really enjoy sponsoring the bike-decorating contest and it is wonderful to see how excited the community and local youth get about this entry in the parade," Sabin said. "We judge the bike decorations the day before and it's wonderful to watch the participants bring their bikes by with such pride.

"What surprises me the most about the kids and their bikes is that they are all so amazing, making it extremely difficult to select only the top three winners," Sabin said, noting that many of the decorations come with a story behind them.

The first year their business was open, the Sabins also started a fundraising tradition, "Happy Hour," giving 15 percent of net sales back during happy hours to community groups and nonprofit organizations connected to the Palisades, such as Palisades High School's music program, the Village Green and Friends of Marquee.

They have continued the program at both their stores. "We have raised close to \$80,000," Sabin said. "Typically, we run the happy-hour fundraiser at both shoppes for the same beneficiary. This helps to maximize the amount raised."

In addition to Happy Hour benefits, the Sabins also donate to community, school and silent auctions.

At the Woman's Club annual birthday luncheon for the town's 90-year-old residents, The Yogurt Shoppe provided free yogurt to the more than 125 attendees. This was the ninth year the Sabins have participated.

The husband and wife team also hosted a fundraiser for Autism Speaks in 2015 at the Palisades Recreation Center. Jennifer is the executive director and founder of Working With Autism in Encino. Founded in 1997, WWA has been one of the leading providers for the treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders. She initially began working with children on the autism spectrum under Dr. Ivar Lovaas at UCLA, while earning her psychology degree. (Visit: workingwithautism.com).

The Sabins have been married 20 years and have three children: Frankie and Oliver, who attend Palisades High, and Sadie, who attends Paul Revere.

Kevin is an executive vice president with KW Commercial. "My career for the past



Kevin and Jennifer Sabin, and children Oliver, Sadie and Frankie, opened a second Yogurt Shoppe in Brentwood in 2016.

Photo courtesy Kevin Sabin

20+ years has been in commercial real estate, specializing in the sale of apartments and land for multifamily development throughout Los Angeles' prestigious Westside (visit: apartmentmarket.com)," he said.

Sabin was asked how his kids feel about the yogurt business.

"The Shoppes have definitely been a large part of their lives," Sabin said. "They often contribute to the flavor suggestions, promos we run and occasionally even work at the store. I think they take pride in the shoppe and the fact that we have given back so much to help support local schools and charities."

He said that when he opened the business, he was surprised by how quickly they were welcomed into the community. "I speak for my family when I say how connected we feel to the Palisades and it makes us very happy to have the opportunity to give back to such a won-

derful community we call home," Sabin said.

Flavors have evolved over the years, Sabin said, with vegan options becoming more popular, and the shoppe has introduced a greater variety of flavor options.

"Definitely try the activated charcoal shoppe chocolate (vegan)," he said. "Jennifer's peanut butter is one of our most popular. The recipe was perfected over time, with lots of trial and error, until we got it just right—and it's vegan."

Looking back over the nine years, Sabin was asked if there was one thing he could change, what it would be.

"That's a tough one," he said. "I'm happy with how everything has gone at the Shoppe, but if I had change one thing, it would be that people stop abusing the sample cups."

Visit: theyogurtshoppe.com or call (310) 459-0088.

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How to Enter a Bike in the Decorating Contest, Parade

Youth who want to enter the bicycle decorating contest must come to The Yogurt Shoppe at 873 Swarthmore (across from CVS) with their decorated bike between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 3. Authorization forms will be handed out and a photo of each entry will be taken.

Judges will scrutinize photos, and awards will be presented on July 4 as the bike owners assemble for the parade (at Palisades Elementary). Only those who have had their photos taken on July 3 will be eligible for prizes.

There will be a \$75, \$50 and \$25 yogurt gift card for first, second and third place.

Youth do not need to enter the contest to ride in the parade. Riders need a helmet and a completed authorization form, which can be picked up before the parade at The Yogurt Shoppe, or downloaded from the parade website (visit: palisades4th.com).

On July 4, bike riders will assemble at the beginning of the parade route on Via de la Paz at Bowdoin between 1:15 and



Kids ride in the parade.

Photo: Joanne Reich

1:30 p.m. Kids should come with their parents and guardians; water bottles are recommended. Parade start time is 2 p.m. Participants can leave the parade route at any time.

Visit: theyogurtshoppe.com or call (310) 459-0088.

Building a Float Is Easy and Fun

By LOU KAMER
Special to the PAPA Program

Last Fourth of July, there was a grown guy driving a huge, thirty-five foot, smoke-billowing, music-blaring truck down Sunset, zigzagging through all lanes and screaming out the window at people on the street!

I never thought that one of the things I would do in my life was—become THAT GUY.

When I was a kid, I looked forward to a few special times each year—Halloween or New Year's Eve or maybe the start of baseball season.

They were special to me because I was sharing them with family and friends, but more so because my parents did something to make the celebrations that much more special for me.

When my wife and I found ourselves in the same position with our kids, we decided to do the same for the Palisades Fourth of July parade.

I've never been a fan of most parades. Many are over-produced or boring, with lots of waiting, the smell of horse poop, and overpriced junk for kids to break on the way home.

That said, the Pacific Palisades parade is different. It is the one event all year that



Local residents decorate a float that helps liven up the Fourth of July parade. Photo: Lou Kamer

brings all neighbors and the different communities together—and it's ours.

Still, it sometimes can get a little boring, which is why one year I decided to invite a bunch of kids to come up with an idea for a float that captured what living in the Palisades was all about.

We called it the Alphabet Streets Spectacular. "Ring" sponsored it and it was a blast.

Seriously. Parents helped out, nobody got hurt, and the kids (mine included) got to see how fun it can be to bring their ideas and dreams to life and take pride in what they had accomplished.

One six-year-old told me "I will remember this forever!"

So, this year and ever year until my kids go to college, I will be THAT GUY again,

driving erratically down Sunset with a bunch of smiling kids waving at their friends and thousands of other people goes.

In the process the float builders will form bonds with each other that will give them and our community, a certain future.

I invite any of you or your kids to help create this year's float or to build your own for your part of the Palisades.

If you've never done it before or feel hesitate or just wonder about the work involved—I will help you—step-by-step and we can have a mass building party a couple of days before.

Email or message me for more info. Consider supporting our 71-year-old parade by buying grandstand seats or making a donation.

And if you will be out of town on July 4, you can still make a donation to the parade or sponsor a float.

PRESIDENTIAL QUOTES

"My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!"

—3rd President Thomas Jefferson

He also said, "Love your neighbor as yourself and your country more than yourself."

Congratulations to the hard-working Parade Committee and Volunteers on another fantastic Celebration of the 4th!

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Details at <http://palisades4th.com/parade/home-contest>



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Oom PaPa Band Produces Music, Camaraderie

By LAUREL BUSBY
Contributing Writer

Since 1975, the Oom PaPa band has been entertaining Pacific Palisades.

A stalwart part of the Fourth of July parade, the band also annually entertains at Christmas, and in years past has regularly appeared at other local events.

Although the band has local origins and mostly consists of Palisadians, people from across Los Angeles County also join the group each June to make the parade more festive.

Palisadians Gene Romig and Sandy Schaefer started the band, and the name Oom PaPa is not only inspired by the peppy marching music featuring brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments, but also by PAPA, the Palisades Americanism Parade Association, which orchestrates the parade.

Five years after its inception, the band's current leader, Mark Eisenberg, heard about the group from his high school friend, Palisadian Nancy Morrison. He soon joined the band as a trumpeter, and then, in 1986, he took over the role of drum major and music director. This year will mark his 40th year performing in the parade.

"It's a great group of people," said Eisenberg, an attorney who lives in Playa Del Rey. "Everybody comes together and rallies to do this thing. My family and many of my friends have planned their day around this



The Oom PaPa band in last year's parade.

Photo: Morgan Genser

parade for years. It's this event we rely on every year, and it's nice to give back a little."

Eisenberg's wife, Marla, began managing the band last year after longtime managers Margot Morrison and Phyllis Schlessinger retired, and their children, Michael, 13, and Emma, 11, have been joining the parade since they were babies—first in strollers and now as playing members.

Michael, who has played both the drum and trumpet in the parade, and Emma, who now plays clarinet, are just some of the chil-

dren to regularly join the festivities. For many years, Lorene Roberts was a drum majorette who twirled the baton with her daughter and granddaughter.

"It's a tradition," Eisenberg said. "I want to keep that tradition going. It's been a real nice way to just be a part of a larger community."

Early in June each year, the band gathers on Pampas Ricas Boulevard to begin to play together again. Only a few members return at first, but by the end of the month, the gang is back playing familiar tunes like "76

Trombones" and "Louie, Louie."

Last year, one new member was Terrin Busby Thompson, now 14, who plays alto sax. For Busby Thompson, who had never been in a marching band, the experience last year was both "tiring and fun."

He said, "The music itself is not too hard, but it's hard to learn to march and play. You have to keep the instrument steady while you're playing, and the walking makes it shake around. But it's rewarding to be there because it feels good to march in front of everyone."

Like others introduced to the band, Busby Thompson is returning this year, and he is just one of many who have caught the Oom PaPa bug.

Tenor sax Debbie Harding drafted tuba player Peter Reale into the band at a girl scout camp out when his daughter Alex, now 25, was in fifth grade. He's still turning out every year.

"I'm a newcomer compared to a lot of people in this band, which means I've only been doing it for about 15 years," Reale said. He noted that his daughter carried a flag in the band when she was young, while his son Anthony, now 22, once played cymbals.

"I find this completely enjoyable to play in a marching band. It's different. It's a really cool group of people. We have a commitment to show up, and that's what we do."

The Oom PaPa band welcomes new members. Contact Marla Eisenberg at meisenberg310@gmail.com.



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Mike Lanning Selected Parade Marshal

No individual has had a bigger impact on Pacific Palisades youth than resident Mike Lanning. Since becoming the Scoutmaster of Troop 223 in 1953, he has seen 804 boys attain the rank of Eagle Scout—a national record.

But it's not only the teenagers who have felt Lanning's influence; the troop now has more than 123 assistant scoutmasters because "There is intense parental involvement," he said. "Probably about 50 of those scoutmasters are parents whose kids have already gone through the program."

When asked if being named parade marshal was unexpected, Lanning said: "Frankly, I was surprised. I thought they hired generals and movie stars."

This will be Lanning's first time riding in the parade since 1979, when he was a Community Council Sparkplug awardee. A half-dozen years earlier, he helped form the Pacific Palisades Community Council as a way to help the town leaders have more influence with City officials and departments.

"I recruited the first chair," Lanning said.

Born in Indio in 1932, Lanning became a Boy Scout in 1941 and an Eagle Scout in 1947. When he was accepted at UCLA in 1952, he and several friends started looking for a place to live near campus. One apartment was \$85, "which was exorbitant," Lan-

ning recalls.

One of his friends knew about a choir camp at the Presbyterian Synod grounds in Temescal Canyon that had cabins. A man in charge told them that if they fixed up a couple of cabins they could live there—for only \$15 a month.

Lanning got involved as a Scoutmaster a year later and stayed in the Palisades. "Parents didn't want to lose me," he said, and he was able to live in a remodeled garage while completing his undergraduate and law degrees at UCLA.

After graduating, he went into the Army for six months, and then took his first job as an attorney, in 1958. "It was in Beverly Hills with one of the brothers of a fellow scoutmaster."

Recognizing him as an eligible bachelor, the moms in town went into overdrive and he could have had a home-cooked meal every night of the week. "One week I had eight dates," he said.

He eventually met his wife Carol through Scouting, when her two boys signed up. They started dating in 1962 and were married in 1973. The couple have three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

From 1961 through 1976, Lanning worked in real estate development before setting up his own law practice. He special-



Mike Lanning

izes in estate planning and asset protection.

He has received numerous Scouting awards including Distinguished Eagle, and regional, council and district awards of merit, Scoutmaster of the Year, the James E. West Society Award and the Americanism Award Honoree (past awardees included Gerald Ford and Bob Hope).

Lanning is active at St. Matthew's Church, where he served as the Senior Warden. He and Carol were named 2017 Honorary Canons of the Cathedral Center, for long outstanding service to the diocese, its bishops and the Parish.

Lanning was asked why so many Scouts make Eagle status in Troop 223.

"What we do week to week leads to merit badges," he said, but more importantly, the troop has established a tradition. "If you've joined the troop, you're going to become an Eagle. It's an expectation."

Lanning cited two other reasons: the indi-

vidual attention given the boys by the Assistant Scoutmaster and the physical facilities at the troop's meeting place at St. Matthew's.

After being in Scouting for nearly eight decades, Lanning said he wishes that "I could figure out a way to get more parents to come and take a look at the program." He notes that there's no way to quantify the leadership skills and self-confidence that youth in the program acquire.

He feels that many parents sign kids up for sports, but that there is no comparison between club sports and the life lessons Scouts learn.

For example, on an adventure trip, "Scouts average 50 miles a week backpacking. They carry everything then need to wear and to eat," Lanning said, noting that Scouts soon realize they can't just go down to the store and buy something. They learn self-reliance.

And, he rues that more people don't realize that Scouting "is the oldest conservation organization in America. We're trying to get kids to take care of nature."

When asked if he has plans for retirement, Lanning said that he remembered when he was camping as a Scout. An older Scoutmaster went to take a nap under a tree and died.

"Might not be a bad way to go," he said, but added, "I have no plans of retiring."

In a 2014 speech to Eagle Scouts, Lanning said: "First remember to be thankful, it will empower you and help you set aside the small stuff. Second, be opportunistic—the works is full of opportunities and it is fun to be a leader. And third, remember, when the going gets tough, there is an indefatigable force within you that will take you anywhere you want to go."

Boys or girls who want more information about Scouting can contact Greg Frost (310) 454-2593 or email frostfamily223@gmail.com.

Parade Grand Marshals since 1990

- 1990** Ann Martin: TV news co-anchor
- 1991** Eddie Albert: Actor
- 1992** Jon Hartin: TV news co-anchor
- 1993** Michael Jackson: Radio talk show host
- 1994** Monty Hall: Co-creator of *Let's Make a Deal*
- 1995** Jan Murray: Comic storyteller
- 1996** Paul Moyer: TV news anchor
- 1997** Casey Kasem: Radio personality
- 1998** Larry Elder: Radio talk show host
- 1999** Anthony Hopkins: Actor
- 2000** Michael Richards: *Seinfeld* co-star
- 2001** Dennis Tito: Space tourist
- 2002** Art Linkletter: Radio/TV personality and author
- 2003** Barbara Billingsley: *Leave It to Beaver* actress
- 2004** Rafer Johnson: Olympic Gold Medalist
- 2005** Linda Blair: *The Exorcist* Actress
- 2006** Patti Page: "The Singing Rage"
- 2007** Pat Boone: Singer/actor
- 2008** Marion Ross: *Happy Days* actress
- 2009** Katie Stam: Miss America
- 2010** Jim Brown: Football player
- 2011** Jeffrey Tambor: Actor
- 2012** Jerry Mathers: Actor
- 2013** Ed Asner: Actor
- 2014** Steve Kerr: NBA Coach
- 2015** Bill Handel: Radio Personality
- 2016** Kevin Nealon
- 2017** Giada De Laurentiis—Celebrity Chef/Author
- 2018** Janice and Billy Crystal
- 2019** Janice and Billy Crystal

Barnett Sings the Anthem

Hunter Barnett grew up in the Pacific Palisades, and like many, started her Fourth of July by participating in the 5/10K Will Rogers Run.

This year, the rising senior at Palisades High School will sing the National Anthem to start the race.

She won the town's Teen Pageant in April with her rendition of Ariana Grande's "Give it Away." At PaliHi, she has performed in *Spring Awakening*, *The Producers*, *Footloose*, *Sister Act* and *Chicago*, and also wrote and created the character Bibi McClain for a student-led production of *The Special: Burt and Bibi's Bicentennial Bash*.

One of her favorite roles was Hunyak in *Chicago* because "I had an entire monologue in Hungarian, one of the hardest languages to speak." She has been part of Fancy Feet's performance group since eighth grade.

Barnett, the daughter of Matt and Joy, has a sister Madyson.



Hunter Barnett

Reviewing Officer: General Jay Coggan

By LAUREL BUSBY
Contributing Writer

Maj. Gen. Jay Coggan was a Century City entertainment and business lawyer when he began wanting something more in his life.

He had a desire to give back, and he was particularly interested in using his legal expertise to aid soldiers with legal matters. While still in private practice, he began volunteering his time as a military lawyer in 2007 and was soon able to stop the home foreclosure of a soldier in Iraq.

The soldier wrote him a note expressing gratitude that his wife and children were now safe. The man added, "I will keep my head down because I know my family is safe, and I will come back alive."

Coggan said, "I started crying. I looked at my law partner, and I said, 'That's better than any check any client ever wrote me.'"

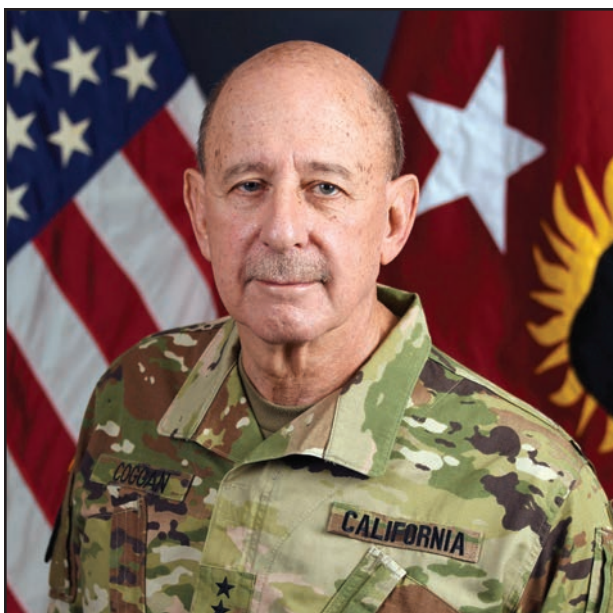
Coggan immediately decided to devote himself to helping soldiers full-time as a JAG—judge advocate general—for the California State Guard. He noted that often soldiers are "so worried about what is going on at home, that they are not being safe" while serving.

In particular, he mentioned that both National and State Guard soldiers have special challenges because they are not only in the military, but also members of the private sector.

"This results in a unique type of problem set," Coggan noted.

Their homes are not on military bases, and if they're called to action, they can risk losing income and thus losing their homes. Moreover, they can potentially face issues with job security and ruined credit.

In addition to aiding varied soldiers with legal issues, Coggan has also worked to create state legislation to



Maj. Gen. Jay Coggan

improve their circumstances. For the past decade, "I've been involved in writing several significant pieces of state legislation that impacts soldier care."

About seven years ago, he stepped down from being a JAG and became the California Military Department's chief counsel for cyber operations. As such, Coggan, who last year also became the commanding general of the California State Guard, focuses on defending California in the cyber environment.

For cyber issues, the State Guard has enlisted some skilled private-sector tech workers. Because the State Guard strictly serves the state and is under the command of the governor, it attracts people who might have a desire to serve in the

military but also a need to stay close to home, such as parents with young children and highly paid tech experts.

"We draw people from the private sector" of all ages, Coggan, 70, said. "Because of the talent pool in California, right now, we have a large cyber team, including people from Silicon Valley."

This team coordinates with state agencies to defend critical infrastructure and plan for emergencies as "the presumption is that during natural disasters or civil unrest, it's a perfect opportunity for bad actors to take advantage of the situation," Coggan said. This happened recently in several states, where the ability to contact 911 was cut off, and the fire department could no longer coordinate with police.

In addition, Coggan spends time either leading or training the 1,500 soldiers under his command. The goal is to "constantly improve their training and capabilities in search and rescue, cyber defense, and other areas . . . to insure we're always ready to proceed. If we're not fighting, we're training to fight."

Coggan's initial foray into the military occurred in 1967, when he was a Navy combat air crewman. Over four years of service, he spent 18 months in Vietnam. Afterwards, he returned home to Connecticut where he re-enrolled in college.

After graduation, in 1975, he moved to California to attend Southwestern Law School. He has since spent 40 years as an attorney, practicing both entertainment and business litigation before switching his focus to the military. Since leaving private practice, the State Guard has been a continually satisfying endeavor.

"I don't have to stay at my age," Coggan said. "I enjoy it. I find it fulfilling and rewarding. I certainly made a lot more money practicing law, but serving my state is much more rewarding."

May the 4th be with you!



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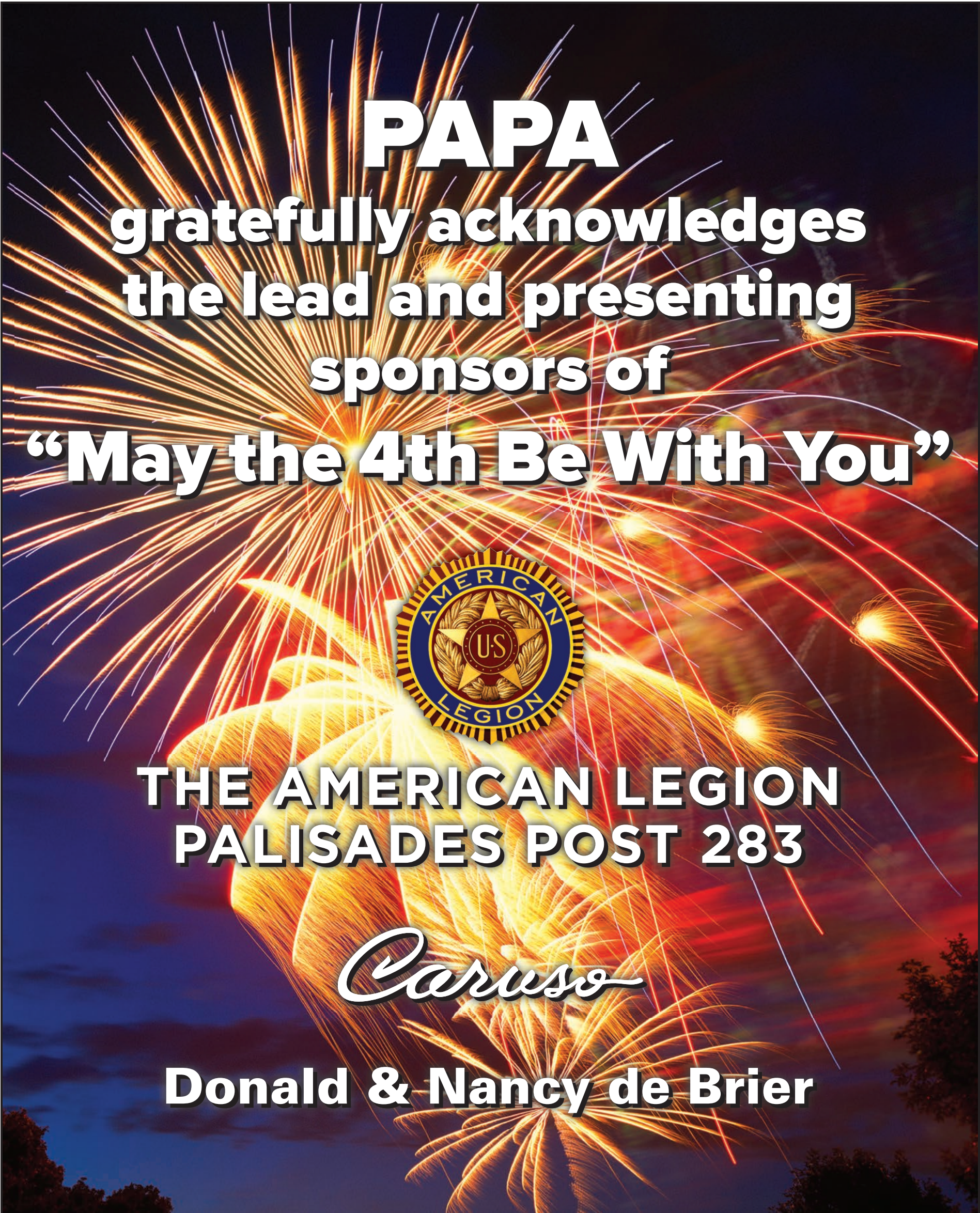


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PaliHi Grad Falzone Starts Parade

By LAUREL BUSBY
Contributing Writer

Skydiving and sangria may not seem like natural partners, but for Tom Falzone they are.

Falzone, the coach of West Point's skydiving team and one of the three parachutists starting the Fourth of July parade, has recently entered the sangria business with aptly named Freefall Sangria, and the birth of the drink is intertwined with not only of his love of skydiving but also the love of his longtime girlfriend, Christine Kelley, who is also a skydiver.

The two met while spending their weekends jumping out of airplanes. Kelley has more than 3,000 skydives under her belt, while Falzone, a parachutist for 33 years, has more than 15,000.

Early in their relationship, Kelley, who loves to cook, happened to make a batch of sangria, and Falzone told her he had a great formula. His late stepfather, who was from Spain, had shared his recipe with him.

She told Falzone, "Men don't like sangria." He responded, "I do."

She noted, "It's more of a ladies drink," and he said "Why? It's wine. It's fruit. It's alcohol."

So the two joined forces to create a version of his stepfather's recipe, which has no added

PRESIDENTIAL QUOTES

"I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man."

—1st President George Washington, who also said, "It is better to be alone than in bad company."

"I have found the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and then advise them to do it." 33rd President Harry Truman said and added, "Always be sincere, even if you don't mean it. Intense feeling too often obscures the truth."



Christine Kelley and former Palisadian Tom Falzone celebrate the launch of Freefall Sangria with a skydive.

Photo: Laszlo Andacs

sugar and is spiked with brandy. After Falzone spent the week coaching, he, Kelley, and other skydiving devotees would gather together at a spot called The Ranch in New York to skydive and then relax with sangria. Repeatedly, their friends insisted that they should sell it commercially.

Their recipe offers a dryer taste with sugars only from fruit and the 30 proof brandy, which also provides a boost in alcohol content compared to the typical sugary store brands, which are six percent alcohol versus Freefall's fifteen percent, he said. Friends ordered the drink for weddings and continued to suggest that they sell it.

Falzone told them, "My girlfriend works for Google; I'm a skydiver. We don't know anything about the industry, and we don't have that type of money." Then a friend said, "I'll give you the money if you want to do it."

So they did. It wasn't easy. It took five years to get the permits and licenses to simply sell it in New York. They started out with a trial run of 500 cases, and within a few months, they had sold out.

Since then, two years ago, they have sold over 5,000 cases with liquor stores selling them for \$15-20 a bottle. Kelley quit her job to grow the business fulltime, and Freefall San-

gria is now sold in 220 stores across New York. They haven't sold it in California yet, but they have plans to expand to more states soon.

Of course, California is always a special place for Falzone, a 1979 PaliHi grad. He developed his love of skydiving here and returns regularly to parachute and celebrate

on the Fourth with Carey Peck's skydivers. This year, he's joined by Mary Tortomasi and Rich Piccirilli while Peck monitors conditions from the ground.

He also has had a year to celebrate with his U.S. Military Academy at West Point team, which has become a frequent national champion since he began coaching 10 years ago. This year, his team was the overall champion and also won in numerous categories.

The team competes by grade level, so seniors versus seniors, and they also compete in both two-person (or two-way) and four-person (four-way) formations. In the formations, the judges give the competitors challenges to do within certain time limits, and their scores depend on how many they do in the allotted time.

All five of his sophomore two-way teams placed in the top five. In addition, the seniors won in numerous categories, including four-way open and four-way advanced.

After 10 years, "it's still a wonderful way to make a living by working with these wonderful men and women," Falzone said. If he could have imagined his life, "I would have not have dreamt that I would have been coaching at West Point and making Freefall Sangria."



Tom Falzone, who coaches the skydiving team at West Point, jumps into Yankee Stadium.

Photo: Courtesy of Tom Falzone

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Paws N' Claws Is a Family Affair

By LAURA ABRUSCATO
Contributing Writer

Paws N' Claws Grooming Salon and Boutique has sponsored the Patriotic Pups brigade in the Palisades Fourth of July Parade since 2001.

Barbara Buck and Henry Marting, Palisadians since 1969, bought Paws N' Claws Grooming Salon in 2001 from another family, its original owners. "My daughter Leslie is a groomer so she took over the grooming part and I ran the pet boutique," said Barbara. A third generation is now involved in the family business with Leslie's daughter, Santa Monica College student Devyn Delgado, working as a bather.

Today, Leslie is the manager of both the grooming parlor and the store, and Barbara and Henry do paperwork, correspondence and other computer work from their home, located two blocks away from the salon in the Marquez neighborhood.

The owners have had many dogs through the years, and currently have a Labrador and a terrier mix. The honorary mascot for the business is Errand, a beagle who died two years ago.

Barbara was at Blue Cross Pet Hospital (formerly located on La Cruz) visiting and giving treats to the dogs. Blue Cross owner Debbie Oliver told her she could take one of the two lost beagle brothers home for the weekend and when the

owner wasn't found, the dog stayed. His name came from the fact that Barbara would tell Henry that she was running an errand when she was actually visiting with the dog.

"Grooming dogs is a challenge," says Leslie. "Patience and energy are definitely required." The boutique is offering various patriotic dog clothing as well as booties for dogs that prefer footwear while walking in the parade.

"One thing that has become popular is that we have a groomer who is certified in using non-toxic color products," says Barbara. "For Fourth of July, dogs can have their ears highlighted red, topknot blue, and tail red, white and blue."

Another popular offering is the non-anesthesia dental cleaning on the first Wednesday of the month. Dogs can have their teeth scaled and cleaned, and a mobile van with a vet on board gives a free health wellness exam prior to the cleaning.

The shop also collects donations for local animal shelters several times a year, including donated blankets and dog beds at the West L.A. Animal Shelter.

"Our business was and is the only grooming shop in town, so it seems logical to put the two together," Barbara says in regards to sponsoring Patriotic Pups since 2001. "For me it's the high point of the year."

Paws N' Claws Grooming Salon and Boutique is located at 16634 Marquez Ave. Contact (310) 459-2009 or visit pawsnclawspacificpalisades.com.



The groomers and owners of Paws N' Claws wish you a happy Fourth of July.



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Patriotic Pups Celebrates Quarter Century

By LAURA ABRUSCATO
Contributing Writer

Celebrating their 25th year, Patriotic Pups will be marching at 2 p.m. in the Palisades Fourth of July Parade along with their owners.

Once again, the Palisades' grooming salon, Paws N' Claws will be sponsoring the event and passing out patriotic bandanas to each canine participant and their owner, as well as a bottle of water, a collapsible bowl and waste cleanup bags.

Although you can sign up in advance by e-mailing PatrioticPups@Palisades4th.com, with your name, telephone number, email address, and pup's name, you can also just show up that day. "The bigger turnout of dogs, the better, the more fun." Says Leslie

Buck, Paws N' Claws manager.

Co-founder of Patriotic Pups Marilyn Haaker will be walking with Edgar and Murphy, Buck will be walking with Gucci, and Paws N' Claws employees Devyn, Diana, Gabby and Carly will join the parade as well as many of the grooming salon's customers.

Marilyn Haaker and her sister Margaret started the Patriotic Pups in 1995. The group of dogs are one of the most popular entries in the parade year after year.

Paws N' Claws owner Barbara Buck-Marting will be helping everyone get ready at the corner of Via de la Paz and Bowdoin where

dogs and owners are asked to gather at about 1:40 p.m. There will be consent forms on hand to sign, or it can be printed, signed and brought with you by visiting: <http://palisades4th.com/docs/PatrioticPupsParade-waiver.pdf>.

Dogs must be on leash at all times and feel comfortable with crowds, cars, horses and other dogs. Dogs and owners can step out of the parade at any time along the route. "This is the happiest and most fun time of the year. Dress like your dog, and come join us," says Buck-Marting. "People watching the parade get a kick out of it."



Prince Dudeman, who is owned by Ryan Thor, is the star of Nickelodeon's Emmy nominated show Matt and Stuff.

Photo: Virginia Bustamante Skolnik

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Janice, Billy Crystal Are Grand Marshals

Pacific Palisades Honorary Mayors Janice and Billy Crystal have been asked for an encore performance in the 71st annual Fourth of July parade.

“We are excited to once again be the Grand Marshals,” said the Crystals, who were parade favorites in 2018 when they dressed identically as Revolutionary leader George Washington, and traveled in a boat float, fording the “Sunset.”

The ego and alter-ego President said, “It was so much fun last year, working with our neighbors to create the Washingtons crossing the Delaware.

“And it was great seeing the thousands of people who lined Sunset Boulevard to cheer the parade on,” the Crystals said.

The co-mayors start their holiday duties on July 3, when they travel the terrifying streets of Pacific Palisades during rush hour in a golf cart looking at home decorating contest entries.

Although the cart is decorated in banners, flags and bunting, there are no air bags or a secret service detail to keep the co-mayors from falling out or to protect them from Lime scooter riders suffering from road rage.

Janice offers advice and encouragement to everyone who is considering entering the decorating contest this year. “Be creative,” she said. “The best homes are the most unique ones.”

Early on July 4, the Crystals will join the 5/10K Will Rogers Run with their kids and four grandchildren.

“One year I came in 13th in my age group,” Janice said. “I would have done better but my kids slowed me down.” (A *Circling the News* reporter reached out to the children for verification, but so far no luck.)

Then after recovering from their run, it’s on to the VIP luncheon at the Methodist Church, and the 2 p.m. parade. Billy offers this advice: “Cheer for everyone—and when you see the co-mayors, bring them a cold drink.”

Both honorees are from small towns in Long Island, where they grew up celebrating the Fourth of July.

Janice recalls people congregating on the boardwalk at Rockaway Beach, shooting fireworks out to the ocean and enjoying waffles and ice cream.

For Billy, the Fourth of July always meant a Yankees doubleheader. “We’d go to the hot, steamy Bronx, but it was always one of my favorite things to do.”

The mayors barbecue after the Palisades parade—and no feast is complete without Billy’s guacamole.

Both agree that Thanksgiving is their favorite holiday, “because it’s not about anything else but eating as much as you possibly can.”



The Washingtons, aka Billy and Janice Crystal, will be the Parade’s Grand Marshals.

Photo: Virginia Bustamante Skolnik

But they add that “The 4th of July has always been special to us because it signifies the birth of our country and how lucky we are to live in our free society . . . and the hot dogs and cheeseburgers and fireworks at Palisades High are good too.”

Although they dressed as Washingtons in last year’s parade, their favorite President was John F. Kennedy.

“JFK was smart, young and vibrant,” Billy said. “I was 13 and just coming of age myself, so following the much older Eisenhower, JFK was inspiring to me. I often think of what could have been.”

“There are many Presidents I have admired for different reasons,” Janice said, “but JFK marked a turning point for our country.”

The honorary mayors said that during their two years in this role, “We’ve been to so many terrific events and gotten to know more about the heart and the soul of the Palisades. It was a special place when we moved here in 1979 and gets more special every day.”



The Crystals attended the annual Town’s 90th Birthday Party and posed with Colonel Dick Littlestone, 96.



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President Rodman Oversees Fourth

Matthew Rodman, who has lived with his wife Rene in Pacific Palisades for more than 20 years, is once again overseeing the town's biggest annual party on July 4.

This is his second year as president of PAPA (Palisades Americanism Parade Association), which oversees the parade, concert and fireworks.

"The biggest surprise in my first year was realizing the number of amazing people required to make the events of July 4 a success," said Rodman, who grew up in Brentwood.

Reflecting, he said "If I could change one thing, it would be the cost. We spend too much time fundraising hundreds of thousands of dollars needed to pay for City services, security, production and of course the amazing fireworks show." The cost for the parade, concert and fireworks is close to \$200,000.

"If every community member went to the website [palisades4th.com] and made a modest contribution, it would make a huge difference for the hard-working volunteers that work tirelessly for months to raise money," said Rodman, who has a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's in public administration from USC.

Last year Rodman worked to combine the different websites for the Will Rogers Run, parade and concert onto one site. "Whether you're a runner in the 10K, a parade enthu-



Matt Rodman and wife Rene in last year's Fourth of July parade.

Photo: Joanne Reich

siast, or just want to spend the evening listening to music and watching fireworks, or all the above . . . we want you to have a seamless experience," he said.

Rodman, who owns a real estate investment firm in West L.A., was asked why he agreed to volunteer for such a time-consuming job that begins in earnest in January when PAPA begins holding meetings.

"I appreciate the special community that is Pacific Palisades, and I'm hopeful that new-

comers to our town learn to appreciate how this small community is very special within the greater city," Rodman said. "I grew up attending the July 4th parade, and enjoy sharing that experience with my family."

It goes deeper than that. Rodman was an Eagle Scout in Troop 117. "I learned that giving back to my community is more important than receiving. I live by this every day, and work hard to encourage others to do the same."

Rodman received a Golden Sparkplug

award from the Pacific Palisades Community Council in 2017 for his efforts to solve traffic problems at Paul Revere Middle School.

He praises his wife and two boys: Max, a baseball player at Palisades High, and Spencer, who was on the PPBA's Pony championship team this spring. "They're all up early with me on July 4, setting up signs, and stay up late breaking down equipment after the fireworks."

As Rodman goes out the door to yet another meeting about raising money, he's asked what the one thing he wished people knew about PAPA.

"There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer," he said. "We need volunteers for the parade, including teenagers to carry banners, parents to help at the bleachers, and grandparents to help coordinate the participants. We need help at the concert and fireworks, both at the front gate and helping some attendees get to the field. Volunteers still get to see the day's events, and it's rewarding to be part of the production."

To volunteer, visit palisades4th.com.

PRESIDENTIAL QUOTES

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—44th President Barack Obama

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People from all walks of life, from doctors to artists to writers, are sought to help make the daylong Fourth of July celebration in Pacific Palisades successful.

Not only does the 5/10K Will Rogers Run need volunteers to help with recycling, clean-up and awards presentation, but the parade and evening concert need a massive number of volunteers, too.

There is a task or a place for any individual, no matter their occupation.

When realtor Joan Sather was asked why she continues co-sponsoring the Home Decorating Contest, she said, "When I attended my first PAPA [Palisades Americanism Parade Association] meeting 10 years ago, I had no idea I would become so involved for this long. It has only been terrific."

When Marge Gold was serving as the town's honorary fire chief in 2012, she was invited to the VIP luncheon held in the Methodist Church courtyard at noon on July 4.

The luncheon inspired her to come back the next year to help out. Seven years later she's still assisting with the luncheon and décor and "anything else that is needed."

Michael Kafka told *Circling the News*, "I



(Front row, left to right) Matt Rodman (PAPA President), Mary Martin, Marge Gold, Nancy Brennan, Daphne Gronich (treasurer), Grace Hiney and Morgan Genser. (Second row, left to right) Susan Montgomery, Haldis Toppel, Andrew Frew, Rich Wilken, Bob Gold, Terry Dimich, Mike Kafka, Jeff Ridgway, Eli Nagle, Keith Turner and Joy Daunis. (Third row, left to right) Joan Sather, Ramis Sadrieh (secretary), Kimi Petrick, Kevin Niles, Kurt Bierschenk, Lee Calvert, Rosalie Huntington, Daniel Helfgott, Carolyn Haselkorn, Lorna Boyd, Janet Turner, Paul Nagle, Sylvia Boyd, Linda and Ed Le Blanc, Rabbi Yossi Eilfort and Lou Kamer. (Fourth row) Thomas (left) and David Sarell. Photo: Bart Bartholomew

started with PAPA three years ago when we moved here. That first year, I was recruited by Sylvia [Sylvia Boyd who helps organize the volunteers] to control the parking under the Chase building."

That year there was also panic on the PAPA committee because the insurance needed to hold the parade was being discontinued. "I have been responsible ever since then for

getting the insurance we need for the event," Kafka said. "This year I will also be a cashier at the high school for a few hours [for the concert and fireworks]."

Starting in February, the PAPA committee meets monthly in order to orchestrate these events, and each committee member has a particular assignment, ranging from permits, insurance, security and traffic control to

marching bands, celebrities, fundraising and the pre-parade luncheon.

Matt Rodman is serving his second term as PAPA president and is assisted by Daphne Gronich (treasurer and past president), secretary Ramis Sadrieh (also a past president), vice presidents Rich Wilken and Keith Turner and Rob Weber (past president).

Visit: Palisades4th.org

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Chudd's Theme: 'May the 4th Be with You'

Speaking to Reeve Chudd, this year's Fourth of July parade theme winner was fun—because he loves puns, he loves the Palisades and he was thrilled his theme “May the 4th Be with You” was chosen. It was the first time he had ever entered this contest.

“When I was 11 years old, I entered a contest to create a new slogan for Kellogg's Corn Flakes,” he said. “You'll be feeling well-y with Kellogg's in your belly.”

“It didn't win,” Chudd said—but this time was different.

Members of the Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) voted on more than 40 parade theme entries at their meeting on April 8.

The top six vote-getters were then ranked first, second and third, and PAPA Treasurer Daphne Gronich tabulated the results. Chudd was notified on April 15.

He was thrilled to learn that the competition was so stiff. “Forty themes? That's great,” he said, but admitted that he thought people would have liked his second entry better about a unified community.

He was assured that this snappy theme was preferred by PAPA volunteers.

“It's a joke/pun that I used about 20 years ago,” Chudd said. “I sent it to my brother, but it's a fun pun. I like puns.”

Chudd also admitted, “I torture my partner with puns.” He's an attorney with Ervin Cohen & Jessup in Beverly Hills.

Working with trusts and estates, Chudd said, “I specialize in death and taxes,” and then joked, “I like old people—and now I'm one of them. Now I represent people younger than me.”

He grew up in Los Angeles, in Cheviot Hills. Just before his 14th birthday, his parents were going through a divorce and sent him to the Williston Academy, a boarding high school in Easthampton, Massachusetts [now Williston Northhampton School]. “We wore ties and jackets seven days a week and attended classes six days a week,” he said.

Chudd earned a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's in accounting from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania—and also received a bache-



Marian Mann and Reeve Chudd will have the opportunity to ride atop the Fire Station 69 hook and ladder truck because Reeve won the parade theme contest this year.

lor's degree in English.

He moved back to Los Angeles and worked for Arthur Anderson for about three years, before attending law school at USC. He graduated in 1980, but while in school, he worked part-time with his current firm, which was originally a tax-law firm.

Chudd and his wife, Marian Mann, moved to Pacific Palisades in 1984. He adopted his stepdaughter Sarah Mann. His grandson, Jerry, attends Palisades High School, where Chudd is on the Board of Trustees.

“I don't have a lot of experience with public education,” he said. “But numbers are my friends. When it comes to finances, I'm shocked at how we [at PaliHi] have to pinch pennies.”

For example, in order to help keep the fiscally-independent charter school diverse, students are bused in, but must pay the cost. “They keep raising the cost of busing,” Chudd said, noting that since Palisades is an outlier, there is no bidding competition for the routes. “They charge what they charge.”

“I'm learning. I'm a neophyte,” Chudd said. “But I'm on the board because I believe

now serves in a support role. “They run by our house and we stand outside and wave the flag and talk to people we know.”

He has been in the parade several times, walking in the Patriotic Pups brigade with his 15-year-old standard poodle Cathelina, “named by my grandson when he could barely speak.”

But now, “I call her my area rug because she lays on the floor and sleeps most of the time.” He admits that the dog still seems excited about going to the little dog park in the Huntington Palisades, but on the way home, “she's almost too tired to walk.”

Chudd emphasizes that he's not one of the scofflaws who put out their chairs three days early along the parade route, and that he and his family vary their parade-watching routine.

“We sometimes go to Sunset and Carey and watch it, or some years we buy a seat in the stands [in the Ralphs parking lot],” he said.

This year will be different because the theme winner rides atop the Fire Station 69 hook & ladder truck. Hopefully, Marian and Jerry will join him as the rig travels the parade route—and if not, “Marian will make my grandson go to the corner and wave.”

“I love the Palisades,” he said. “This is an incredible neighborhood and a wonderful community. Everyone wants to live here, but only a few can anymore because people can't afford it.”



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Sylvia, Lorna Boyd Lead Volunteers

This year's Fourth of July parade, themed "May the 4th Be with You," will start promptly at 2 p.m.

You may remember taking your enthusiastic kids to the parade, but perhaps this year everyone's out of the house, and you're considering skipping it because there's no one to really go with. Instead, think about giving back by volunteering at the parade. You're needed.

Sylvia and Lorna Boyd head PAPA, the Palisades Americanism Parade Association volunteers who serve in various capacities on July 4. Sylvia has headed this group since 2006 and is again serving as co-chair with her daughter.

"I called the usual people this spring," Sylvia told *Circling the News*, "but 10 people I normally count on haven't responded." She wondered if they feel they've grown too old to handle their usual jobs.

Lorna told *CTN*, "We still need around eight volunteers to help manage the bleachers, mostly crowd control. I'm looking for people who can boss others around—firmly, but diplomatically."

The bleachers will be placed at two locations: Swarthmore and Sunset (where the skydivers land) and at Ralphs' grocery parking lot.

Additionally, Lorna and Sylvia are looking for people who can carry parade banners be-

fore each entry or work as monitors along the route to keep the parade moving. A lucky few volunteers shuttle guest VIPs to different sites via golf carts, since streets in the center of town are closed to traffic.

"The Palisades High football players have been great [about carrying banners]," Sylvia said. Scouts, teams and other groups are urged to sign up to walk in the parade with banners.

Sylvia says this will be her last year as co-chair. She made the same claim in 2014 but continued on. "I kept volunteering because it's just in my nature not to quit anything I feel is fun, exciting, worthwhile or financially rewarding. Jon [her husband] and I stayed in Tupperware for 46 years for all four of those reasons.

"I might add that I've stayed much longer at times because very few people step up any more to take over. Volunteering to help is one thing. Volunteering to lead is another."

In addition to the parade, Sylvia volunteers at Palisades Presbyterian Church, the Discovery Shop and Marquez Knolls Property Owners Association. "That's another important association where we badly need volunteers," she said.

Sylvia has convinced her daughter to take over the PAPA leadership role and said, "Next year I'll work wherever Lorna needs me, but



Lorna and Sylvia Boyd

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

I'll no longer share in being the lead."

Born in Hollywood, Sylvia graduated from Van Nuys High School in 1950. She attended Cal State Northridge for a year, majoring in drama, before marrying her high school sweetheart Jon in 1951. When he enlisted as a Marine during the Korean War, she went with him to Camp Pendleton.

After the war, the couple moved to Van Nuys and Sylvia began a career in a new company, Tupperware, which offered her a position in Fort Wayne, Indiana. From there she was transferred back to Westchester, at which time the Boyds purchased a home in Pacific Palisades. In 1983, Sylvia was offered the regional VP position overseeing six states (Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana and Illinois) and the couple moved to Cincinnati.

From 1988 to 1994, Sylvia was regional VP for California and Arizona, and then became president of Tupperware in Australia/New Zealand, followed by stints in Toronto and India. Her final job was in 2000, when she was named president of Tupperware in Canada.

The Boyds' home in Marquez Knolls, which has a spectacular view of Santa Monica Bay and the mountains, was largely vacant during the couple's many relocations.

After graduating from Westchester High School, Lorna enrolled as a premed student at USC. When that didn't work out, she transferred to Cal State Northridge and grad-

uated with a degree in religious studies.

"My first job, besides working at my parents' Tupperware office, was a gas jockey," said Lorna, who in 1972 made the local news when she was the first female hired in Los Angeles to pump gas, check the oil and tire pressure, and wash windows. "I was even tipped."

When her parents went overseas, she and her sister Leslie ran the Tupperware franchise in Westchester.

Lorna also worked as a singer. Her first husband was a guitar player and songwriter. "It was backup studio work, but mostly weddings and church," said Lorna, who has lived in the same house in Sherman Oaks for 42 years.

Sylvia added, "She sang with a Christian choir and soloed with her husband. This was all when we lived overseas, but I have the CDs."

Lorna's second husband was a chiropractor and she ran his office until he died.

"I'm pretty retired right now," said Lorna, who volunteers with Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services and its Suicide Survivor support groups; and Reading Partners, an elementary school reading program.

Her son, Palmer Haight-Boyd, has an events production company Model Citizens, which builds out the venues for events.

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Volunteer Lee Calvert Honored with Inaugural Arnie Wishnick Award

It is 4:30 a.m. on July 4th. Teeth are brushed, hair is combed, makeup applied and change of clothing packed.

It is the start of the day for volunteer Lee Calvert, who has been given the first Arnie Wishnick Award by 4th of July organizers.

A Pacific Palisades Optimist Club member, Calvert is one of the first people at the Palisades Recreation Center at 6 a.m. on the Fourth. One might have spotted her in prior 5/10K Will Rogers Runs as the person handing out water. She'll be doing it again.

As soon as the race is over and the last of the race T-shirts handed out around 10 a.m., Calvert changes clothes and heads to the Methodist Church. There she starts setting up the registration for the VIP Pre-Parade luncheon. As guests arrive, she greets them and checks them in with a smile.

When the luncheon concludes, she goes to the parade grandstands and is in place, by the entrance, at 1:30 p.m. "I keep people from blocking the people who have seats who have paid," she said.

In the past, Calvert continued volunteering by going to the concert venue to work the ticket office, but this year the 94-year-old doesn't think she'll work in the evening. "By then I'll be exhausted, and I will go home and collapse," said Calvert, whose first Fourth of July volunteer job was in 1995 as a parking attendant.

"I go with the flow," Calvert said. "I go where they need me."

Calvert moved to Tahitian Terrace with her daughter Nancy and son Jeff in the early '60s, when Nancy wanted to attend the newly opened high school.

"I think we have a town that's exceptional," Calvert said. "I was lucky my daughter wanted to go to Palisades High School."

She started her own business with *The Lucy Show* for Desilu in 1964, working with continuity in scripts. Calvert even worked on the early Tom Hanks sitcom *Bosom Buddies*.

When that company was sold to Paramount TV, Calvert's business went with it.



Lee Calvert (center) has received the first annual Arnie Wishnick award. She is flanked by VIP Parade Luncheon volunteers Jeff Ridgway and Mary Allwright. Photo: Joy Daunis

As computers came into the picture, Calvert, a 1941 Santa Monica High graduate, learned Wordstar, Word Perfect and Word.

When Paramount was sold to CBS, an

executive asked "Where's your continuity department?" and was told, "It's a lady in the Palisades. She always gets everything out on time and has never been late."

For 40 years, Calvert had two women working for her as they provided continuity for *The Good Wife*, *NCIS* and *Rules of Engagement*. She retired when she was 89.

One of her co-workers found the jacket Calvert wears every Fourth of July in a second-hand store. The jacket, although a little big, is probably 50 years old.

Now that she's retired, she said she has more free time. "I can go to the YMCA every day and work out."

The other thing you should know about Calvert is she's in the Badminton Hall of Fame, having accumulated numerous national and international medals before knee surgery stopped that athletic pursuit when she was 87.

"I missed the competition," she said. So she switched to table tennis and last October returned from The Huntsman World Senior Games in Utah, with three gold medals.

Calvert has already paid her entry fee for this year's games in October. And has a 93-year-old male partner lined up and a woman Calvert describes as 80+.

But first, she will celebrate her 95th birthday in August with a party that will include the tango.

Movies in the Park August Lineup

This will be the 16th year of showing free outdoor movies on Saturday nights in August at the Palisades Rec Center, 851 Alma Real.

Movies in the Park is a nonprofit founded in 2004 by David Williams and John Wirth, who were later joined by Andy Frew and Brad Lusk. Together they lead fundraising efforts, select movies, create the on-screen and audio ads. They also make the announcements on movie nights.

Every year the movie costs have gone up: most movies are now \$595 and *Incredibles 2*, which is scheduled for August 24 will be \$675.

Williams wrote *Circling the News*, "We are now looking for Community Sponsorship/Contributions to help keep MITP alive. Any amount is welcomed." Contact: moviesintheparkpacpal@gmail.com.

August 3 will be Arnie Wishnick night, and the movie *Back to the Future*, was selected by residents via Nextdoor and MITP Facebook.

August 10, *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) will screen.

August 17 is the popular Disney movie *Finding Nemo*.

August 24 will be *Incredibles 2*.

August 31, *Black Panther* is scheduled.



Arnie Wishnick

"Arnie Wishnick was the glue which held the Palisades together.

Such big shoes for others to now fill." —Randy Young, Palisades Historian

For his years of involvement with this community, Arnie will be missed. He was Executive Director of the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce for 25 years and a constant source of information and solace, sweets and dog-treats. He received several Community awards, including Pride of the Palisades and the Sparkplug Award, and U.S. Representative Ted Lieu gave a tribute speech about him on the House floor May 21, 2019.

Arnie participated actively with the following organizations:

- Village Green
- Theatre Palisades
- Rotary Club
- P.R.I.D.E.
- PAPA 4th of July Parade
- Optimist Club
- Kehillat Israel
- Just Off Via Dance Troupe
- Holiday Ho!Ho!Ho!

Remembering Arnie Wishnick, Consummate Parade Volunteer

By BILL BRUNS
Program Writer

Whenever he was asked about his role on the Palisades Americanism Parade Association, Arnie Wishnick would always grin and proudly say, “I’m in charge of celebrities and toilets.”

He joined PAPA, the parade/fireworks organizing committee, way back in 1979, a year after he came to Pacific Palisades as the bank manager at Glendale Federal.

His first assignment as a rookie volunteer: reserving the porta-potties and making sure they were distributed to the correct locations along the parade route.

“When I succeeded at that task (and every year after that),” Arnie recalled, “the committee leaders asked me to also help find a celebrity grand marshal as a way to promote the parade.”

Over the decades, he managed to wrangle the likes of weatherman Fritz Coleman, actors Eddie Albert, Ed Asner and Anthony Hopkins, singers Patti Page and Pat Boone, television personalities Monty Hall and Art Linkletter, and athletes Rafer Johnson, Jim Brown and Steve Kerr.

Always fearing a last-minute cancellation (which somehow never happened), Arnie never relaxed until the celebrity actually showed up for the parade. Then he could enjoy his favorite day of the year, savoring the community spirit on display, starting at the morning Will Rogers Run and ending with the evening concert and fireworks show.

“The Fourth of July belongs to Pacific Palisades,” Arnie told writer Laurie Rosenthal last June when he was honored as parade marshal. “It’s ours. Nobody can take it away.”

On April 27 this year, we lost our good friend Arnie to pancreatic cancer, less than a year after he retired as executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, a job he em-



Arnie Wishnick, the 2018 parade marshal, rode with his wife Jackie Maduff and stepgranddaughter Bella.

Photo: Virginia Bustamante Skolnik

braced for 25 years. His beloved status in Pacific Palisades was such that the Chamber arranged to have six flags in town flown at half-mast, and he was eulogized as a modern-day Will Rogers who welcomed everyone with an open heart and genuine charm.

In honor of Arnie’s indomitable spirit and the various roles he played on the parade committee for nearly 40 years (he also lined up the eight parade announcers), PAPA has established the Arnie Wishnick Award. The honor will go annually to a person within the organization who epitomizes the cheerful enthusiasm, the “I’ll do any job” spirit and the hearty good will that he engendered. (See adjoining article about the inaugural winner, Lee Calvert).

When writer Rosenthal asked Arnie for a favorite parade memory a year ago, he recalled that he was Optimist Club president in 1983 when the members decided to march in their underwear.

“I didn’t want to do that,” he said. “I thought we’d just be laughed out of town, so my late wife Cathie and I rode in a car behind 30 semi-naked gentlemen.

“But as soon as we took off, the yelling and screaming began—women going crazy, women running out kissing the guys. Some women were trying to pull down the guys’ shorts.

“Obviously, I knew we had a hit on our hands.”

The Optimist Club’s Semi-Naked, Semi-Precise Drill Team, now including women members, continues to perform in every parade.

Asked about other memorable parade moments, Arnie remembered 2002 (just months after 9/11), when a woman left her locked car parked on Sunset Boulevard, in front of Starbucks, and the parade had to be delayed until a tow truck arrived.

“Arnie Wishnick was our welcome-to-the-Palisades symbol of friendship, helpfulness, service to community and good cheer, with a dash of stylish panache thrown in,” said fellow PAPA member Rich Wilken during Arnie’s memorial service at Kehillat Israel.

Wilken noted that beyond Arnie’s job with the Chamber, “he helped promote a real sense of community in the Palisades” through his active involvement with the Village Green Committee, Palisades PRIDE, the Palisades Teen Contest, Movies in the Park and Theatre Palisades (where he produced four musicals).

Arnie also enjoyed writing a weekly movie review column for the *Palisadian-Post* for many years, and was a witty public speaker, reflecting his Toastmaster training.

Writer Bob Vickrey recalled that when the Chamber honored Arnie in 2018 with “A Night of Comedy,” five past and current honorary mayors (including Steve Guttenberg, Sugar Ray Leonard, Kevin Nealon and Billy and Janice Crystal) performed special comedy routines. And yet Arnie upstaged them all with his own remarks at the end of the evening, causing host Nealon to admit, “With all the comedic talent assembled in this room, who would have thought that we’d be upstaged by the guy we were honoring?”

An Arthur Murray graduate, Arnie owned three pairs of fancy dancing shoes and attended every Big Band dance at the American Legion. “He loved to show his moves out on the dance floor,” said fellow Optimist Billy Snyder, “and he would move gracefully through the crowd without stepping on anybody’s toes. That was the way he lived his life.”

Arnie is survived by his second wife, Jackie Maduff, stepdaughter Wendy, stepson Daniel and their daughter Bella. He is also survived by his sister Audrey, nephew Josh, niece Kristy and their children Ella and William Benjamin.

PRESIDENTIAL QUOTES

“America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.”

—16th President Abraham Lincoln



Arnie Wishnick was awarded a parade marshal statuette by emcee Rich Wilken.

Photo: Joy Daunis

Sousa's Fireworks Cap Evening

By LAUREL BUSBY
Contributing Writer

In the early 1900s, Manuel de Sousa began shooting off fireworks displays in the San Francisco Bay Area for local Portuguese celebrations.

Thrilled by his colorful showmanship, the locals dubbed him Papagaio, which means parrot in Portuguese.

Soon his family joined him in creating shows, and more than 100 years later, their company, Pyro Spectaculars, is still sparking joy on holidays with 400 Fourth of July celebrations nationwide and more than 1,500 other displays throughout the year.

"Our Macy's Fourth of July show is the largest in the country," said H. Hanson, who has worked for the company for 40 years. "It's the big one—10 times the size of the largest show on the West Coast. It's a massive show that takes weeks to set up."

The family name was Americanized to Souza, and great-grandchild Chris Souza designed the Pacific Palisades 20-minute show with all the technological advancements of modern society, including computer design.

"By using computer simulation, I've been able to fine-tune the show so that every burst falls just where I want it to," Souza said. "This year's show has so many moving moments . . . I found myself being inspired scene after scene.



"Cascade of Cerulean Stars"

Photo courtesy Pyro Spectaculars, Inc.

The colors and effects will be incredible."

Since the late 1970s, fireworks shows have commonly included music, and it takes about an hour to design each minute of the show on a computer, Hanson said. The process includes Souza selecting specific fireworks from the vast Pyro Spectaculars catalog and choosing where in the music he would like them to light the sky. Then the computer backtracks the timing of the firework based on the time it takes from launch to eruption, so

that the explosion will match the music.

Souza can then watch a simulation of the show to make sure the timing, look, and feel is as desired.

"I love painting in fireworks," he enthused.

This year's theme is "From Sea to Shining Sea," and it will include many traditional songs like "America the Beautiful" and "Stars and Stripes Forever." In addition, America-themed pop songs will be featured, such as "R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A." by John Mellen-

camp, "Living in America" by James Brown, and "Back in the U.S.A." by Chuck Berry.

The fireworks will include many standard ones, but it will also include varied new additions. For example, "Cascade of Cerulean Stars" is a combination of low-level and aerial fireworks that washes the sky in a rich blue, which is the most difficult color for fireworks to create.

"The Consummate Concussion" will include a heavy barrage of titanium salutes in the finale for "the noisiest 20 seconds in America." "Thousand Blooming Flowers" during "America the Beautiful" will have an opposite effect with gently showering varied pastel colors.

This year marks an expansion for Pyro Spectaculars in terms of the types of fireworks displayed, because they have purchased firework shells from a larger variety of countries.

"Originally most shells were manufactured in China, but we're having to look elsewhere, including France, Portugal, and Germany," Hanson said. "We've always done that, but we're doing more of that now, which provides more variety of shells, more variety of looks, and more colors."

Chris Souza's cousin, firefighter Randy Souza, will be lighting the Palisades display joined by a crew of approximately eight workers. Safety is paramount for the family, which

(Continued on Page 31)

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Fireworks

(Continued from Page 30)

has developed its own three-course program for training technicians to provide safe displays. Across California, the company will be handling some of the largest displays, including the Rose Bowl, the San Francisco Bay show, and the Big Bay Boom in San Diego.

About a decade ago, Hanson said the company didn't provide the fireworks for the Big Bay Boom one year. That year became the Big Bay Bust, as the other company's fireworks malfunctioned, and "the entire thing went up in 10 seconds," Hanson said. "It was kind of scary, but fortunately no one was hurt. That was the one year in the whole history of the show that happened. The ones we did, both before and since, have been very successful."

This year, hundreds of Pyro Spectaculars certified technicians will be loading the fireworks and assuring the safety of the displays across the country. Papagaio's tradition, which began by creating fireworks "recipes" in his kitchen, has grown through four generations of his family.

First Papagaio's son Bob, who died 1½ years ago, took over and "really brought the company into the modern era," Hanson said, and currently Papagaio's grandson Jim, and Jim's sons, Chris and Paul, are continuing to expand the founder's work.

"In the 1970s, Jim and I were the young upstarts," Hanson said. "Now time has gone, and Jim and I are the old men while there's a new generation coming on."

Martinez Cohen Debuts on Main Stage

By LAUREL BUSBY
Contributing Writer

Music and activism go hand in hand for Arielle Martinez Cohen, 17.

The Palisadian, who was the valedictorian from New West Charter School this year, is headed to Brown University, where she plans to continue to combine those interests, concentrating her classes on music, environmental studies, and perhaps communication.

Thus far, one of her favorite ways to share both music and activism has been through playing at festivals geared to specific issues, such as climate change and women's equality.

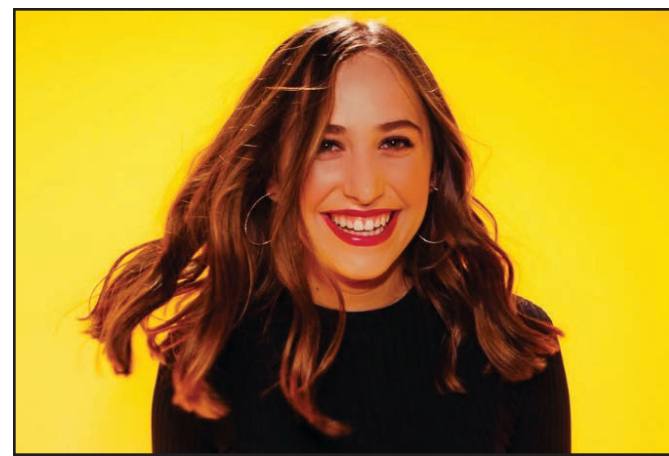
"There's such an incredible energy in the activist community," Martinez Cohen said. "Everybody does their best to accept everyone else. Everyone has a smile on their faces. It's really, really great. They're coming together for one cause."

Over the past year, she has performed at events aiming to address gun violence, including March for Our Lives in Los Angeles and the Zero Hour March in DC where she performed her original song, "Two Minutes to Midnight."

In addition, this year, she has shared her music at the Sunrise Rally and the Youth Climate Strike, which address climate change, while in last fall, she performed at both the Youth Creating Global Change concert in San Francisco and the Biodiversity for a Livable Climate Conference in Boston.

At Palisades Rocks the Fourth, she will mainly be interpreting covers, such as "Mercy" by Duffy, "Toxic" by Britney Spears, and the Annie Lennox version of "I Put a Spell on You," but she will also play one original song, "We Will Rise, which is a protest song."

"The Fourth of July is a good time to talk about the true meaning of patriotism, and that song does that," Martinez Cohen said. "In my opinion, patriotism doesn't mean loving the United States blindly. It means by loving your country,



Arielle Martinez Cohen

you fight to make it better and fight for all of the citizens to have better lives. It's a beautiful thing."

Martinez Cohen, whose parents are home remodeler Karen Martinez and attorney Barry Cohen, has one sibling, Max, 14, who is a homeschool student. Almost two ago, the Skirball fire brought ashes and smoke near their home near the Riviera. The incident, which unfortunately destroyed six structures and 422 acres, also inspired one of her songs, "The Fire."

"I remember seeing ashes on our porch; I wanted to capture that feeling," said Martinez Cohen, who initially started writing songs at 13 at the urging of mentors. At first, when writing songs, "I didn't know what I was doing, but it turned out to be something that I really loved to do."

Her activism has also progressed as she's grown, and she's increasingly seen the benefit of adding music to causes.

"I've always wanted to help people," she said. "Speeches can be great with people sharing their stories, but I think music with that added element of melody . . . can help get people inspired."

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Freedom Ledges Headlines Festival Stage

By LAUREL BUSBY
Contributing Writer

More than a little bit of freedom will be present at Palisades Rocks the Fourth this year.

The Freedom Ledges, a band that gets its name from a locale in Freedom, Maine, the hometown of Deacon Ledges, one of its founders, will take the Festival Stage with a dirty blues, rock'n'roll sound that includes a horn section.

Playing somewhere on the Fourth of July is a yearly tradition for the group.

"It says freedom right in our name," said Ledges, a guitarist/pianist/vocalist, who co-founded the band with Juan Lozano. "It's a great holiday that fits with us very well. We're excited to be here."

An established band that plays throughout California, the Freedom Ledges headline the Festival Stage with their full sound, including Catt Christine, who has an "amazing rock 'n' roll bluesy voice," Ledges said. "She's done a lot of musical theater, so she can belt as well."

The horn section includes a trombonist (Lozano) and a tenor/baritone saxophonist,



Ben Childs, who also plays harmonica. In addition, the band has a drummer (Lunchbox), a separate percussionist (Frank Gallegos), a bassist (Kyle Breuhl), and an additional guitarist/vocalist, also Lozano.

Freedom Ledges' repertoire includes a number of cover songs with popular appeal, such as music from James Brown and Amy Winehouse. In addition, the group may share a couple of their own songs that "are fun, danceable stuff."

The band's 6:40 p.m. show will cap off a particularly strong sequence of Festival Stage performances, including Palisadian singer/songwriter Willa Kaplan (4:25 p.m.), Detoure, a hard rock'n'roll teen trio, (4:55 p.m.), The Jacob Winthrop Experience, a combination of traditional and alternative rock, (5:30 p.m.), and the rock, R&B quartet Hutchinson (6:05 pm.) (see article on this page).

Hutchinson Plays Pop, Rock and Originals

By LAUREL BUSBY
Contributing Writer

Palisadian mom Talia Arnold and an eclectic band of musician friends will be sharing their mix of popular tunes and original music on the Festival Stage this year.

Arnold, a partner in an advertising firm, met her Hutchinson bandmates via Craigslist, and they strangely enough had little in common artistically aside from a love of music.

"We're all so different," Arnold said. "Arthur Walton [lead guitarist] is a really traditional jazz guy, and then you have Joe Watson [vocalist/songwriter], who is blues and reggae. [Bassist] Paul Cline was in a major punk rock band in Hawaii, and then there's me. I'm a singer/songwriter and indie rock. I introduced them to Dolly Parton's 'Jolene. We're all influencing each other by introducing each other to different styles of music."

The group, which is called Hutchinson, started playing together with the intention

of creating fresh takes on covers to perform at clubs around Los Angeles, and after just a year, they have had success doing just that. They have also been creating originals, and Arnold describes their style as "a mix of pop, rock, R&B, with some hip hop and reggae thrown in."

Arnold and her son, who will start kindergarten at Marquez this fall, moved to Pacific Palisades in 2017, and they enjoyed Palisades Rocks the Fourth last year. With the event coming up, she realized that Hutchinson would be a perfect fit for the show.

After the event planners heard their music, Hutchinson was soon added to the lineup on the Festival Stage, where they will open for Freedom Ledges at 6:05 p.m.

"I love this community," Arnold said. "I love the Fourth of July traditions every year and am so happy that my son gets to grow up in this town of ours. We're so grateful to the festival for having us this year, and we're going to make sure it's a blast for everyone."

Hutchinson member and Army veteran Joe Watson shared his thoughts on the Fourth of July:

"During this time of year, I always find myself reflecting on freedom, how blessed we are to have it, and what it takes to achieve and maintain it.

"I think back to my time in Afghanistan and how shocking it was to me, and most of my battle buddies that basic freedoms we took for granted everyday were sometimes matters of life and death. It makes me realize how proud I am to be an American. I'm proud to have served a nation that stands for freedom not just in its own borders, but around the world. I'm proud of religious freedom, freedom of speech and freedom of the press. I'm proud of the constitution and the values it stands for.

"And I'm proud of my fellow Americans for upholding these values and demanding that they be kept. As we celebrate, let's pause for a moment to remember the sacrifices it took to get here. And then let's raise our glasses in celebration that we ARE here and toast the brave men and women who cannot be here because they are defending our freedom on a foreign battlefield. Happy 4th of July!!!"

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PAPA also thanks the following for donating prizes (as of June 19): Black Ink, Cinopolis, Denise Carolyn, George & Company, a private hair studio, Gift Garden Antiques (Susan Carroll), Gorus, Palisades Barber Shop (Joe Almarez), The Massage Place, Matthew's Garden Café, McConnells, Ogden's Cleaners (Pacific Palisades), Palisades Gas 'n Wash, Pharmaca, Puzzle Zoo, Regal Cleaners, Rosie & Nails, The Sew Chateau, the yogurt shoppe (Pacific Palisades).

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PaliShades Headlines Main Stage

By LAUREL BUSBY
Contributing Writer

This year, PaliShades, a for-one-night-only band, will bring their grooves to the Palisades Rocks the Fourth day-long concert event.

Made up of a bevy of skilled, professional musicians, the headlining PaliShades will play a combination of fun popular dance hits and some '80s and rock classics. Drummer Adam Topol and guitarist/singer Tom Freund will lead the group, which also includes singer Lucy Schwartz, a PaliHi grad, keyboardist Chris Joyner, who is fresh off the road with Heart, bassist Ethan Phillips, and Emile Millar on vocals and guitar.

"I'm always happy to be asked to play," said Topol, the drummer for Jack Johnson, who will be appearing for the third time at the event. "It's a family atmosphere. It's really well planned. It's a great time to get together and celebrate."

Before PaliShades takes the stage, four other acts will entertain the audience from the main stage. The National Anthem will be sung at 6 p.m. Then, the PaliHi Concert Band will play a 25-minute set.

Next Skull Rock, named after the rock in the Santa Monica Mountains seen from the Temescal hike, will play classic rock by Bruce Springsteen, Tom Petty and others, while



teen Arielle Martinez Cohen (*see story page 31*) takes the stage at 7:10 p.m.

The PaliShades will then come on at 7:40 p.m. with songs by varied artists such as Prince, Cyndi Lauper, the B52s, and the Rolling Stones, ending with the perennial favorite, Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land."

With each band, cover songs will be pre-eminent, including 100 percent covers from

the PaliShades. All of the musicians also have other individual and group endeavors in which they play original music, but for this family event, they are looking forward to exploring familiar, popular music.

"It's social music," Topol said. "Most people don't go to an event like this to dig new music or look at a band. I'm quite happy to play covers and contemporary things . . .

People forget that John Coltrane and Miles Davis and Frank Sinatra played covers. They made history playing covers."

Topol, who will soon be releasing a new solo album, *Cuando*, treasures the variety of experiences playing music brings to him. In addition to Jack Johnson, he has fun playing as part of the Culver City Dub Collective. For live shows, he might play a quinceañera in Boyle Heights one day, and a coffee shop in Pasadena the next. Recently he returned from an Australian festival that Jack Johnson, Iggy Pop and Ben Harper co-headlined.

"The point of playing music is getting out in the community and sharing music on every viable, fun, healthy level," Topol said. "If it means playing some well-known covers at an event like this, I enjoy that, or I'm happy to support another artist in their vision, but I also need to express my own feelings as well. So, I need to balance all of it."

And Palisades Rock the Fourth has become an important part of that stream of music.

"Everybody will be celebrating the country without an agenda," Topol said. "People are going to put aside a lot of different political things and just enjoy. I like that. Love and music are forces that can bring people together. None of the songs we're playing have any agenda aside from love, joy, and togetherness."



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CONCERT INFORMATION/EVENING TIMELINE

Photo courtesy Pyro Spectaculars, Inc.

4:00 p.m. Gates Open — Food Truck Foods Available

The venue for the concert/fireworks is the Palisades High School baseball field, 15777 Bowdoin St.

FESTIVAL STAGE

4:25 p.m. Willa Kaplan

A Palisades native, Kaplan is a singer-songwriter studying at Berklee College of Music in Boston this summer. She performed a 45-minute set with a professional band at Genghis Cohen in January 2019.

4:55 p.m. Detoure

The group was founded in 2014 by childhood friends Sam Edelman, 16, (drums) Niko Nicholas, 16, (vocals, lead guitar), and Jersey Sullivan, 15, (bass). These guys play hard-hitting rock n' roll with a fresh, 21st century sound, and just finished recording their debut EP at The Steakhouse Studio with producer Brent Woods.

5:30 p.m. Jacob Winthrop Experience

Jacob, who has played the Festival Stage the past two years with his band Phat Trick, has formed a band to play with him (since other Phat Trick members are out of town). Emilio Anamos, drummer from the band Cohort, who played on the Festival Stage the last two years and Alex Biederman on guitar will join Jacob in playing classic rock.

6:05 p.m. Hutchinson

This will be the band's first appearance at the Fourth of July concert, with fresh takes on popular rock, R&B, and reggae tunes plus uplifting original music. The band is recording their first all-original EP this year, and a tour is scheduled, starting in Hawaii. (See story page 33.)

6:50 p.m. The Freedom Ledges

This is a Los Angeles-based "Dirty Blues and Rock & Roll" collective. Founded by Deacon Ledges and Juan Lozano, with lead singer Catt Christine, the band plays bluesy rock with inflections of jazz, country, punk, funk and gospel. (See story page 33.)

Field/Concert Ticket Information

Tickets for the Palisades Rocks the Fourth Concert and Fireworks Show are on sale at palisadesrocksthefourth.org. General admission tickets are \$10 (cash) or \$11 (credit cards), and kids 2 and under, are free. A limited supply of reserved parking passes are available (they sell out early every year). Visit: palisades4th.com.

Ongoing from 4 to 9 p.m.: Children's events on the Palisades High School baseball field. Food trucks available on the basketball courts between the PaliHi baseball field and gym.

Palisades Rocks the 4th started in 2008 with one band playing on the stadium floor, and has grown with PAPA's support to being the best July 4 event in Los Angeles, with over 300 minutes of live music on two stages, with stages, professional sound and lights and even a jumbotron.

MAIN STAGE

6:00 p.m. National Anthem

6:05 p.m. Palisades High School Charter Band

The PaliHi Band will play a variety of marches, patriotic songs and crowd favorites, which emphasizes the fact that this concert is indeed a family-friendly event. Under the direction of Alex Dale, the band also marched in the parade.

6:35 p.m. Skull Rock

A band formed this year that is named after a rock outcropping in the Santa Monica Mountains. It includes Scott Humphrey (guitar/vocals); Shel Cohn (guitar); Julian Brew (bass); "Chili" (drums); and Rob Weber (drums). Four of the five band members are current or former Pacific Palisades residents.

7:10 p.m. Arielle Martinez Cohen

She performed on the Festival Stage last year and will be performing pop cover songs with a four-piece band. (See story page 31.)

7:40 p.m. PaliShades

Professional musician Adam Topol, whose main gig is as Jack Johnson's drummer, has put together an all-star band called "PaliShades," the concert headliner. Other musicians include Tom Freund (vocals, guitar), Ethan Phillips (bass), Emile Millar (vocals, guitar), Chris Joyner, Lucy Schwartz and surprise guest stars.

The audience will be treated to songs from artists such as the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Ray Charles, Cheap Trick, the Strokes, the Chainsmokers, the Black Keys, MGMT, Sublime, Bruno Mars, David Bowie and the Go-Gos.

8:55 p.m. Finale

Salute to Veterans; "This Land Is Your Land"

9:00 p.m. Fireworks

See story page 30.

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 Law for Naturalization of Strangers; 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 Quartersing 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 detaching 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 Attention 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.

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