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Mayor Levy Prepares for Parade

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Pacific Palisades Honorary Mayor Eugene Levy, who has won four Emmys and been nominated 11 times, said in an interview for the PAPA Parade program: “As far as career highlights go, nothing compares to riding in the Palisades 4th of July Parade.

“I’ve been rehearsing the ‘royal wave’ for months now and I think I’ll be ready,” he said.

Although he realizes that this is really a “hometown” parade, his biggest hope is “not have to walk it. I think walking a parade is not all it’s cracked up to be. It’s fun for the first quarter mile but then you just wish you were home on the couch watching it on TV.”

“A convertible would be ideal,” Levy said. “Otherwise, I’d be hanging on to the hood of the car with one hand while trying to wave with the other. I’ve done that before, and it really is more dangerous than fun.”

He does speak from experience because he was in the Krewe of Tucks Parade at Mardi Gras in New Orleans, years ago. “Champagne started to be poured at 7 a.m. and my plastic cup was never again empty,” Levy said. “By 10 a.m. as the parade was well under way, one thought kept going through my head as I tossed beads out to the crowd—‘How does one take a bathroom break without stopping the parade?’

“The answer? You stop the parade.” (Editor’s note: Luckily, for the Mayor, no one has yet offered champagne for Palisades parade entrants: this parade starts at 2 p.m. and there are a few well-spaced porta-potties along the route.)

Although some of the Honorary Mayors have chosen to ride in the parade with family or friends, Levy said, “There are some things in life a man has to do on his own without the aid or support of others—and parade waving is one. So, this Honorary Mayor will be riding in the parade by his honorary self.”

His first brush with the Palisades parade was more than 30 years ago, when the family rented a house on Toyopa Drive. “We discovered the 4th of July Parade runs right down Toyopa! Where else in the world would you want to live if you love parades?”

Regarding the scofflaws who put out chairs days in advance along the parade route, the Mayor notes that is completely illegal, and that some might recommend 20 lashes for the law breakers, but “I would take a kinder, gentler approach to this issue. I would remind my fellow Palisadians that every front row spot taken in advance of 4 p.m. on July 3 is a spot taken from someone who is adhering to the rules.”

He worries that we need to nip this outlaw behavior, or it may get to the point where “we start to see chairs lining



Eugene Levy

Photo: Caitlin Cronenberg

the 4th of July parade route as early as Memorial Day.”

Although Levy is a Canadian and its Fourth of July celebration, Canada Day, takes place on July 1, “the one event I never wanted to miss on television was the American 4th of July celebrations. I would watch an entertainment packed program with the most dazzling fireworks display as Americans from coast-to-coast visibly celebrated their patriotism.

“The 4th celebrations are still a pretty hot ticket for entertainment,” Levy said. “For me it’s the second feature on a twin bill of food: BBQ on the 1st and BBQ on the 4th.”

For many residents, Levy’s show, *Schitt’s Creek*, written with his son Daniel, was the perfect antidote during the Covid-19 pandemic “stay-at-home” orders. The comedy revolved around a rich family that loses its fortune and relocates to Schitt’s Creek, a small town they once purchased as a joke. The show swept the Emmys with nine awards.

“I’ve often compared Schitt’s Creek to Pacific Palisades,” Levy said. “Oh sure, there might be a huge, whopping, gigantic difference in real estate prices, but the people are just as warm and friendly. I do find the citizens of Schitt’s Creek use their directional signals more when driving but now is not the time to dredge up pet peeves.”

Asked to answer tough questions, Levy was asked if there was any truth to the rumor that he agreed to be honorary mayor as a way to garner invitations to golf at the Riviera Country Club.

“There is absolutely no truth to the rumor,” Levy said. “It is one of the top golf courses in the country, but I however, am not one of the top golfers in the country. And even though I have spent my career in the field of comedy and loved every second of it, the last place I want to get a laugh is at Riviera while I’m swinging a golf club.”

Put under the microscope, he was asked about his accomplishments as mayor since being handled the gavel by former Pacific Palisades honorary co-mayors Janice and Billy Crystal.

“I would have to say my biggest accomplishment so far is not having screwed anything up—and I couldn’t be prouder of my record,” Levy said. “Of course, winding down from a Covid-laced year, there hasn’t been anything to screw up, but let’s not get too nit-picky about my accomplishments.”

Since Pacific Palisades is a popular tourist attraction for many people, the Mayor was asked where he takes out-of-

town guests.

“When anyone visits from out to town, the first thing I want to know is, ‘Were you invited?’ and ‘Do I know you?’”

Once those formalities are out of the way, Levy says, a hike is usually on the agenda “with three of the best hikes L.A. has to offer right here in our own backyard—Paseo, Temescal, and Will Rogers.”

Levy said that “A walk down to the bluffs at sunset overlooking that gorgeous coastline is a must. Follow that with an evening in our vibrant town center for people watching and a great meal and that’s what I call a Palisadian day.”



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Look for World War II Planes on July 4th

This air squadron will fly over Pacific Palisades on July 4 at 3 p.m.

Photo courtesy of Chris Rushing

By LAUREL BUSBY
Contributing Writer

For a second year, Palisadians can enjoy a Fourth of July flyover of WWII-era planes.

When the pandemic shutdowns hit last year, the Condor Squadron came to the rescue, conducting formation flights of the unique AT-6 airplanes back and forth over the town. Every family could stay home and still enjoy a Fourth of July treat with their fellow residents. This year, the popular flight is back.

The five pilots, led by the group's president, Chris Rushing, will zigzag over Pacific Palisades with Sunset Boulevard as their guideline.

"Last year, it was really special that we got to do it," Rushing said. "It worked out good for the pandemic. Again, this year, we want

to give everybody the chance to see us."

Sponsored by the Palisades Americanism Parade Association, the flight will occur at about 3 p.m. on July 4 and will go all the way to the ocean and over the Highlands. Rushing will be in the lead, and he will communicate to his squadron with numbered hand signals for line, diamond and fingertip formations. The name of the latter is inspired by the spread of one's fingertips.

In normal times, the squadron conducts flyovers at a wide variety of events, ranging from funerals to parades, but the pandemic sidelined most events for the volunteer organization last year.

"There were no funerals," Rushing said. "No parades. We were shut down for a year. We're a nonprofit. We work for holidays and parades and stuff like this. We're looking forward to getting going again."

Already, this year the group has taken to the sky for Memorial Day events, and they have an array of plans for the Fourth of July, including beach city flyovers ending in San Clemente.

The pilots will include Eric Zine and Rob Sandberg, both Alaska Airlines pilots, and Will Tinsley and Dustin Gelbard, who work as corporate pilots. Rushing, a former Air Force mechanic who spent three decades in the California Air National Guard, owns his own plane, which he has twice piloted to wins at the annual National Air Races in Reno.

The Condor Squadron allocates about \$700 per hour in operating expenses (gas, insurance, and maintenance) per plane to fly at events, Rushing said. Part of the club's appeal is that its approximately 50 members get the chance to fly these historical planes.

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

Some of the plane's challenges, Rushing said, include narrow landing gear, a center of gravity that "kind of moves around," and a single wheel under the tail, which requires special care on landing. For pilots with "tail wheel experience," flying the plane comes fairly easily, but typically planes today have a single wheel under the nose, which requires a different landing strategy.

Rushing moved to California from Tennessee in 1987, and soon after he joined the Condor Squadron to connect with other pilots. The squadron was formed in 1962 by former World War II fighter pilot Richard Sykes and fellow veterans. Sykes, who was

shot down over Hungary during the war but nevertheless returned safely home, has since died, but a new cadre of pilots has taken up the honor of sharing this plane and its history with the community.

Like Rushing, Sykes competed and triumphed in the T-6 category at Reno's National Air Races. Success at the races requires making substantial changes to old planes. For example, Rushing, who started racing in 2005, had to install both a lighter frame and a faster engine. The changes meant that instead of traveling at a typical cruising speed of about 138 mph, he could reach highs of more than 240 mph.

"You can make modifications that make it more aerodynamic," Rushing said, noting that the race features 15 airplanes flying five laps on a five-mile track over repeated heats. "The lighter the frame is, the faster it's going to go."



Chris Rushing set to take off in his Condor Squadron North American AT-6 plane.

Photo courtesy of Chris Rushing



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



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World-Renowned Skydiver to Jump Here on July 4th

By LAUREL BUSBY
Contributing Writer

Skydiving caught Anne Helliwell's imagination when she was 10 years old.

At an air show, "I saw big green parachutes exit a plane," the New Zealand native said. "For some reason, that snapshot stuck with me, and I wanted to do that when I grew up."

At 20 years old, the legal skydiving age in New Zealand at the time, she leapt out of her first airplane.

"It was scary," Helliwell, 61, said. "I remember sitting in the airplane being anxious, but as soon as I was out the door, it was exhilarating. I got down with a real happy buzz. Not adrenaline. I'm not an adrenaline junkie. It just felt right. It was a magnetic pull."

From then on, zipping through the air became a central part of her life. At 22, she moved to Southern California, because of the increased opportunities for skydiving here.

With Carey Peck in 1991, Helliwell became part of the first skydiving team to lead off a Pacific Palisades Fourth of July parade, and she remained a consistent part of the team for about 20 years, she estimated. After a few years away from the parade in recent years, she's back again along with new group leader Tom Falzone, who coaches the West Point parachute team, and Mary Tortomasi.

All three have been part of world-record large-formation skydives in which hundreds of skydivers link together and fall as one. Rich Piccirilli, who has also been a frequent parade skydiver, will be flying the



Anne Helliwell dives from the Petronus Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

plane this year.

The Fourth of July jump, which aims to land at 2 p.m. on Sunset near Swarthmore, is a fun, but challenging leap, for the team.

"The winds coming off the buildings are squirrely," Helliwell said. "Your avenue of landing has trees as well as power lines and buildings and traffic lights. Every year, the trees grow and make your avenue a little smaller."

But as an expert BASE jumper, Helliwell delights in tricky jumps. BASE jumping, which means leaping, not from an airplane, but from fixed objects, such as buildings, antennas, spans (bridges) or the earth, is even more difficult than skydiving. As they fall, participants have the extra challenge of avoiding the object that served as their jump-off point, such as a cliffside. In addition, their landing spot may be uneven or otherwise problematic.

"An airplane is basically a door to the sky, and then the sky is wide open," she said. "You usually have a groomed landing area . . . BASE jumping is a high-risk sport on top of a high-risk sport. I've hurt myself BASE jumping. I've never hurt myself skydiving."

Helliwell, who is also an emergency room nurse at Loma Linda University Medical Center, has on occasion had to use her medical expertise to treat fellow BASE jumpers.

And a couple of times, she's needed medical attention for her own injuries. She broke her foot twice when landing BASE jumps in the '90s. The first time was at an event called Bridge Day, during which people leap from a West Virginia bridge traversing a river.

"I was going for accuracy," she said. "I stomped the shoreline too hard and broke my foot."

The injury didn't deter Helliwell. She has now made more than 11,000 skydives and 1,700 BASE jumps. She may be the first woman to have passed 1,000 BASE jumps, although she said it's difficult to verify because BASE jumps aren't always documented like traditional skydives.

Some of the most inviting places to BASE jump are in Europe, she said. Residents are more welcoming of the sport and the scenery can be stunning.

"America has too many attorneys," she said. "Europe is more land of the people, so you can do whatever sport you enjoy."

Helliwell designed and built her own parachute to cater to the special needs of BASE jumpers, and with a friend, she founded a successful company, Basic Research (now Apex BASE), to market the chute. In addition, she is a pilot trained to combat forest fires, and she does acrobatics in her small



Anne Helliwell, who is one of the Palisades 4th of July sky divers, is shown in a free fall from a bridge in West Virginia.

plane, an endeavor that is taking up an increasing amount of her time.

Over the years, she has won various honors at BASE jumping competitions and has been part of two world-record group skydives. Her proud parents supported her efforts, posting medals and photos from her exploits on a wall in their home.

Fellow parachutist Falzone, who has known Helliwell for more than 35 years, said he was awed by her skills. "She is one of the most renowned BASE jumpers, not just female, one of the most renowned BASE jumpers in the world."

But plaudits are not the point for Helliwell. The real joy for her in both skydiving and BASE jumping comes from a combination of the exhilaration experienced during the activity and the connections she has forged with fellow jumpers.

"It ends up being a lifestyle," she said. "The other skydivers are your favorite friends. You have that camaraderie. It's a really close-knit family, and everybody cares for each other." And of course, it's a blast. "After my first BASE jump [at Auburn Bridge northwest of Sacramento], I was buzzing for months."



Weather conditions permitting, sky divers have started the annual Pacific Palisades 4th of July parade since 1991.

Photo: Cheryl Dimont

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Patriotic Pups Will Be Marching for 26th Year

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

With the exception of last year's Covid-cancelled parade, between 70 and 100 dogs trot along the parade route in the Patriotic Pups entry. Thankfully this year, dogs and their owners are invited to join the Fourth of July marching pack.

All potential marchers should call Marilyn Haaker at (310) 962-5830 and leave their name, telephone number and the pup's name.

People participating must sign a waiver before the parade (1 to 1:45 p.m.), and the forms will be available at the owner/canine meeting location, under the trees at Palisades Elementary, corner of Via de la Paws (Paz) and Bowdoin. Or waivers may be found on palisades4th.com and emailed to patrioticpups@palisades4th.com prior to the parade. Owners should bring water for their pets.

Haaker credits her sister Margaret for starting, back in 1995, one of the most popular entries in the parade. (The Haakers' parents, Julie and Ed, moved to Pacific Palisades in 1952 and had three children—Marilyn, Margaret and Julie, who grew up watching the parade.)

When Margaret approached PAPA about entering dogs in the parade, the idea was not well received. "My sister was told that the dogs would bite people and there was no one to sponsor it," Marilyn Haaker recalled.

Undeterred, Margaret took full responsibility, and her dog, Bijou, and Marilyn's dog, Timothy, were among the initial parade walkers.

"Every single detail was hers," Marilyn said about her sister's idea to form the brigade. "Margaret put so much effort into it." She thought of the name "Patriotic Pups"



These Patriotic Pups marched nicely in the 2019 parade.

Photo: Craig Weston

and ways to grow the entry.

"She sent out postcards to people who had marched in prior years and reminded them to participate," Haaker said.

Marilyn Haaker, who helped her sister for years, took over the event several years back. Her twins, who are now college age, helped her with the banner and the parade.

Although neither Margaret nor Marilyn now live in

the Palisades, Marilyn said "I debated doing it again this year," but ultimately decided that "I couldn't give up the event my sister started."

This year, her two small rescues Edgar and Murphy, will join other dogs in the Patriotic Pup entry.

(Editor's note: If you have never marched with the Pups, it's loads of fun. CTN has participated on several occasions.)

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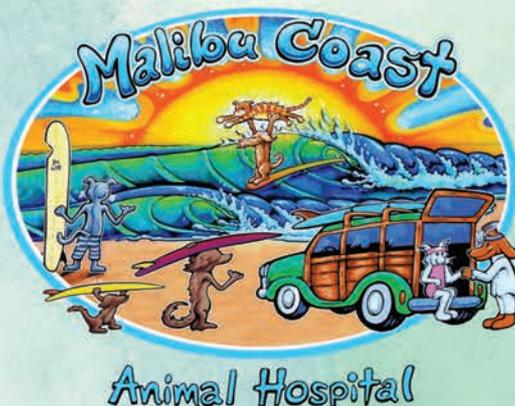
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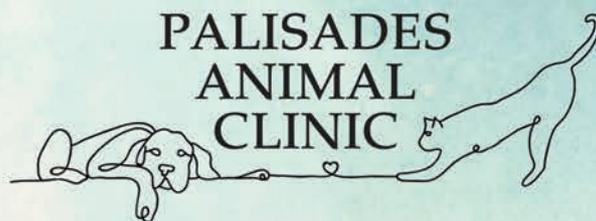
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The start of the 2019 5/10K Will Rogers Race took place by the Palisades Library early in the morning on the Fourth of July.

Photo: Craig Weston

Why No Will Rogers Fourth of July Race this Year?

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

The Palisades Will Rogers 5/10K Race had to be cancelled for the second straight year, but not from a lack of effort by Race Director Brian Shea and PAPA board member Rich Wilken.

Shea told *Circling the News* that it takes several months to organize a major 5/10K race. The process involves securing permits for street closures, obtaining “no parking” signage, hiring a timing company, finding volunteers, ordering T-shirts—and registering close to 3,000 runners of all ages.

Shea said that he reached out to Councilman Mike Bonin’s office in January, filed a race permit in March and then repeatedly sent emails to Bonin’s office to ask about the permit’s fate.

Shea wrote to the Councilman’s office on April 30: “We are fast running out of time to plan/put on/officially sponsor the 44th Palisades Will Rogers 5 & 10K Run.” He reminded them that the race committee would appreciate any help they could receive in shepherding the race permit through the City’s process.

On May 3, Shea received an email from the Councilman’s office stating, “I let Street Services Investigator Aguilar know that Councilmember Mike Bonin is supportive of the 7/4/2021 Palisades Will Rogers 5K & 10K Race.”

Shea kept reaching out to the City of Los Angeles asking

about the permit, and on May 10 he wrote to Juan Aguilar in Street Services: “What’s the status of our application for the Permit for the Race?”

Aguilar replied, “Good morning, Mayor’s ordinance still in effect. No changes yet.”

On May 11, Shea sent an email to the City of Los Angeles that he shared with *CTN*: “As the Race Director I cannot wait until you issue a Permit that is acceptable to myself. Therefore, I cancel the Race for 2021 and withdraw our Race Application for 2021.”

WILKEN STEPS IN:

Hoping to save the race, Wilken (who organizes the fireworks show for the Palisades Americanism Parade Association) wrote to the Mayor’s office on May 11:

Dear Mr. Mayor,

Why has your office delayed processing the permit request for the annual Palisades Will Rogers 5/10K 4th of July race?

As of today, the race was canceled due to the lack of response of your office in giving direction to the various needed city agencies.

WHY?!

Rich Wilken

Almost a month later, on June 7, the former Palisades Citizen of the Year received the following email:

From: Mayor Helpdesk <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>

Date: June 7, 2021 at 2:13:08 PM PDT

To: Richard Wilken <richwilken@mac.com>

Subject: Re: Palisades 10K Race Permit Delay & cancellation

Thank you for your email. We so appreciate your reaching out to us.

The Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors operates Will Rogers State Beach. Please visit their website for additional information. You may also call them at (424) 526-7777 Monday-Thursday 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

To learn more about what the City is doing to protect Angelenos during this health crisis—and to access additional resources—please visit our COVID-19 response website. You can also sign up for regular email updates from the Mayor.

We’re grateful for all you’re doing to help our city overcome this challenge. We will get through this together—in Los Angeles, we always do.

Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti

FOURTH OF JULY RACE SHIRTS:

Although this year’s race has been cancelled, T-shirts for the 44th Annual Will Rogers 5/10K are available. To those who donate \$20 (Visit: palisades10K.com) shirts will be distributed on July 2 and 3, in the lawn area of the Draycott Restaurant in Caruso’s Village. Proceeds will supplement the Optimist Club grant program that supports local nonprofits.

Martini, Halper to Ride

DR. MIKE MARTINI SERVES THE TOWN

By LAUREL BUSBY
Contributing Writer

Dr. Mike Martini, 96, is woven into the fabric of Pacific Palisades. Upon moving to town in 1954 to join Dr. Edwin Russell's pediatric practice on Via de la Paz, Martini treated children throughout the community for more than 40 years. A few even grew up to become doctors, and in recent years, he became their patient.

He has been a member of the Palisades-Malibu YMCA board since its inception. He's a past commander of American Legion Post 283, a former honorary fire chief, and a 1967 Citizen of the Year.

In addition, Martini has been active at Corpus Christi Church, and his long volunteerism inspired Monsignor Liam Kidney to recommend him for a papal blessing (Benemerenti Award), which he received in 2010. He is also the last surviving charter member of the Palisades Optimist Club, which was formed in 1956.

"I've been a happy, lucky guy here in town," he said. "I was very fortunate to move here."

And as such an active member of the community, he is of course a regular part of the Fourth of July Parade. He has ridden in the Station 69 fire truck, and for many years he marched with the Optimist Club troupe. In addition, he was parade marshal in 1990, an honor he'll be repeating this year when both he and Joe Halper will be sharing the duty.

Each annual parade has provided Martini with a special memory, but he recalls his antics with the Optimists with particular delight.

"We always tried to do something funny or different," he said. "Some years we had



Dr. Mike Martini has been active in many organizations in Pacific Palisades.

briefcases and we would throw them up and catch them. Other years we wore shorts and a top hat. Other times we performed with canes. We had a lot of fun. We called ourselves the imprecise drill team."

He and his late wife of 67 years, Elaine, who he met during medical school in St. Louis, also raised a large and devoted family. They first had three daughters, Kathleen, Barbara and Eileen, followed by three sons, Richard, Jim and Joseph.

Today, Martini has 15 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren. Another great-grandchild is expected to join the clan in July. The younger generation lives in various states, including Texas and North Carolina, and one granddaughter even lives in London.

"We're one big happy family spread all

over the world," he said. "We all love one another. I'm so grateful for all the love that's in this family."

Over the years, Martini traveled the globe, sometimes for pediatric conventions, and other times on family vacations with his adult children. He's visited numerous places, including Japan, Egypt, Israel and Rome.

On one special trip to Italy, he got the chance to visit his mother's hometown in Sicily. A number of his relatives there belonged to the Greek Uniate church. He said they came from Albania in the 1400s-1500s, and their priests retained the right to marry, even after they became affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church.

"So, I have great grandparents who were priests," he noted. His eldest son, Richard, is now a monsignor with the L.A. Archdiocese. Every Wednesday, he visits Martini to cook a big meal, while daughter Eileen lives with him full time to help him on a daily basis.

Over the years, Martini has had the occasional adventure. For example, after gradu-

ating from Loyola High in 1942 and earning a pre-med degree from UCLA, he joined the Navy reserve and worked in the Long Beach Hospital until the war's end. During the Korean War, he was called back into duty, and he became the doctor for a mine-sweeping squadron in North Korean waters.

One day, shells landed in front and behind the ship.

"The captain yelled, 'Go for cover. They've got us bracketed!'" Martini recalled. "The next shell hit us right in the middle of the ship."

Luckily, the placement of the blast happened to be fortuitous. The gangway was damaged, shrapnel hit the smokestacks, and a shell whizzed past someone's head as they worked in their office, but only one crewman was injured.

Upon returning home and finishing his residency, Martini learned about the opening at Dr. Russell's practice and his life journey in the Palisades was born.

"It's a great town to live in," he said. "The people are just a friendly group of people."

Through the years, Martini has dealt with some challenges, such as cancer; he recently had cancerous cells removed from his scalp. He also lost his oldest daughter, Kathleen, to the disease in 2008.

He has tried to help others during his retirement with some of their challenges. He attended to seniors by delivering food for Meals on Wheels and also worked as a Eucharistic minister for Catholic patients at UCLA hospital for many years.

After almost a century of life, he looks back on many joyful experiences raising his children and watching his patients, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren grow. The boys were active Little League baseball players, and his wife once calculated that she spent 23 years enjoying their games, while the girls preferred dance lessons and performances, which were also a pleasure to watch.

"I look back on a wonderful life," Martini said.



Dr. Mike Martini with a Palisades resident he inspired to become a physician—Dr. Nasreen Babu-Khan.

Photo: Sue Pascoe



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as Co-Parade Marshals

ACTIVIST JOE HALPER AIDS RESIDENTS

By LAURA ABRUSCATO
Contributing Writer

Palisadian Joe Halper was surprised and delighted to learn he was named co-parade marshal for this year's Fourth of July Parade. "I thought that was for movie stars," he joked.

Although the grand marshal is traditionally a celebrity, the parade marshal is a separate honor awarded to someone who has been active in the community. And Halper, who will be riding with co-parade marshal Mike Martini, certainly qualifies.

Halper, 91, was chosen for his continuing community and public service. He is currently one of five commissioners on the L.A. Park and Recreation Commission, overseeing the city's 480 parks. Prior to that he served on the West L.A. Planning Commission. He is past president of the Palisades Democratic Club and a member of American Legion Post 283 as a Korean War veteran as well as Post 118 of the Jewish War Veterans.

Highlands resident Steve Cron, the current Democratic Club president, has high praise for Halper.

"Joe has been a fixture in the community for several decades," Cron said. "He is a warm, caring individual with an astute understanding of election procedures and strategies, and has served as a mentor and confidante for every Democratic elected official on the Westside. Some of his proteges currently serve as members of the Los Angeles City Council, the State Assembly, the State Senate, and the United States Congress."

Halper and his wife Arline, who worked in special education, moved to the Highlands in 1972 from New York, for his job as director of the L.A. County Park System. With three sons, Arline chose Pacific Palisades for its high-quality schools.

The couple's oldest son, Jamie, began college at Stanford when the family moved west. Their younger two sons, Michael and Keith, attended Paul Revere and Palisades High,



Joe Halper came to the task force meeting addressing fire concerns on June 1. He greets Recreation and Parks Chief Ranger Joe Losorelli.

Photo: Sue Pascoe

and Keith was also an Eagle Scout in Troop 223. Michael is now a real estate developer in San Francisco, and Keith is a business owner in New Jersey. Jamie is the chair of stepuptutoring.org, which offers free online tutoring to LAUSD students in need.

Arline is also a volunteer tutor and is currently interviewing new tutors, as the organization has a need for more volunteers. In addition, she serves on the board of the Friends of the Palisades Library.

The couple, married 62 years, have 12 grandchildren, four of whom live in the Palisades. Their grandchildren range in age from the youngest, a rising college sophomore, to Matthew, 27, who is one half of the music duo Two Friends. The Halpers joke that they stand out from the rest of the crowd when attending his concerts.

Joe has received many honors such as being a member of the Presidents' Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, the L.A.

County representative to the USOC for the Olympics in 1984 and even a Swedish knighthood. He also received a proclamation from the LA County Board of Supervisors for his saving of millions of dollars after the budget cuts resulting from Proposition 13.

Halper not only works in recreation, he also practices it as a life endeavor. An avid skier ("until my wife took my poles away"), he continues to play tennis with a group of friends, and twice completed the Alcatraz Swim with his sons, swimming 1.2 miles from Alcatraz to shore at ages 80 and 85, when he was the oldest person on record to

do so. While vacationing in Fiji a few years ago, he was told he was the oldest person to be certified as a diver.

Halper was born and raised in the South Bronx, and one of his first jobs was as a life-guard at Coney Island. He later served as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. He co-wrote the textbooks *The Crisis in Urban Recreational Services* and *Strategic Recreation Management*.

Having grown up in a poor neighborhood, Halper is sensitive to the situation of youth in lower-income areas of Los Angeles. "Forty percent of the city don't have any local walking-distance parks," he says. "It's an equity issue." Halper had been working with LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner to open up school grounds as parks, arguing that the field of recreation and parks is a "community health system."

For their 50th anniversary, the Halpers organized a multi-sport trip to Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons with their sons and their wives and 12 grandchildren. This trip involved biking (20 bikes all together, riding single file), hiking, swimming, kayaking, horseback riding, camping and campfires.

Halper enjoys being a part of the Palisades community, recalling that during the shelter-at-home orders due to Covid-19, the neighbors on his cul-de-sac, who have a variety of political views, enjoyed sitting outside and having a drink together each evening. "That's a community," he says.

At the parade on July 4, look for Joe riding alongside Dr. Martini, the retired pediatrician, whose former patients include Halper's children.



Joe Halper, who serves on the Recreation and Park Board of Commissioners, has twice completed the Alcatraz Swim.

Photo courtesy of Joe Halper

**Happy 4th of July
to You and Your
Families!**



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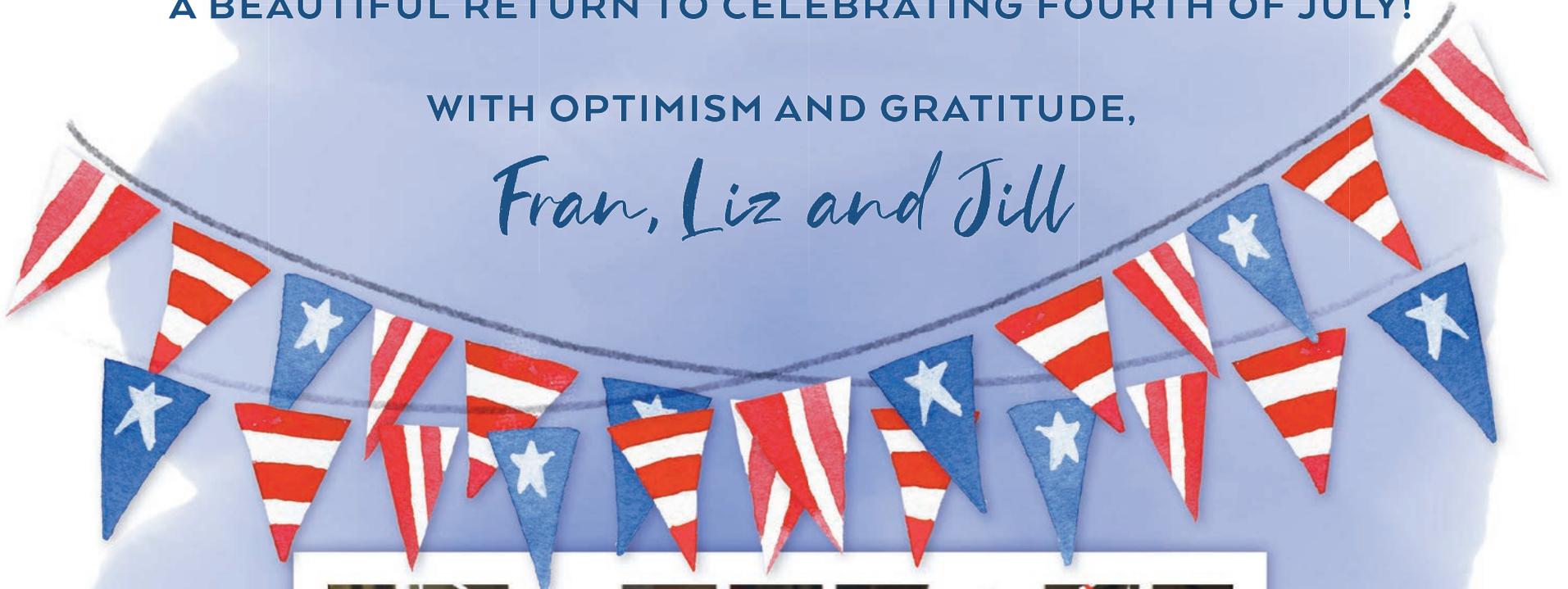
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COMPASS

Joan Sather, Susan Montgomery Sponsor Annual July 4th Home Decorating Contest

Display your patriotism, decorating prowess or just have fun by entering the annual 4th of July Home Decorating Contest sponsored by local realtors Joan Sather and Susan Montgomery.

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 Honorary Mayor Eugene Levy and last year's Grand Place Winners Bill and Cindy Simon will make onsite visits for the final judging.

On at least two occasions last year, a home was nominated by neighbors, which is also permitted.

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 Steinfeld, Kevin Nealon, Janice and Billy Crystal. Terrific judges, all. And funny!"

"As we drive from house to house in our golf carts, we discuss what we like about each decorated home," Sather said, noting that one year the winner was "decorated by the young grandson who happened to be visiting his grandparents."

Most of the decorations on this winning house were homemade. Initially the family wasn't going to enter, but they did and the judges loved the homespun approach.

In 2018, 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."



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

Montgomery and Sather share 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 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," Montgomery said. "Neighbors 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.

"It's all about community and family here, and the myriad choices of incredible schools, both public and private, are second to none," said Montgomery, who is now divorced.

Sather also started 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.)

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."

HOMETOWN STYLE

Bev Lowe and John Riley on Kagawa

Bev Lowe and John Riley, who have lived on Kagawa since 1983, are now two-time winners in the home decorating contest.

Lowe remembers entering the first time in 2013, when they won honorable mention. The following year they won the contest, but did not participate again until 2020.

There's a large cedar tree in the front yard that is usually decorated in some fashion. "I used to hang a lot more on the cedar," Lowe said. "It used to be the center of my decorations; however, we have gotten too old to climb up that high on the tree."

Husband John retired from UCLA in 2019, where he was a professor in the Department of Economics. He received his

doctorate at MIT and his work on auctions and game theory has been described as particularly influential. Lowe is also retired from her business, Baf Consulting (accounting services).

Their daughter Ali Riley, who attended St. Matthew's, Harvard-Westlake and Stanford, is a professional soccer player. She's captain of New Zealand's women's team and has played in the Olympics.

Lowe and Riley have nothing but accolades for Pacific Palisades. "I can easily run to the beach or onto the trails in Will Rogers and Temescal," Bev said. "I love living in a village where there is a sense of neighborliness."

(Continued on Page 30)



The Bev Lowe and John Riley home captured first in the Homestyle category.

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Oh, No! Optimists *Still* Not Wearing Pants!

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

With the parade returning after last year's cancellation, can someone please give those Fourth of July parade marchers pants? They wear patriotic boxer shorts—red, white and blue—but this is a family parade.

Oh, wait a minute. Pacific Palisades Optimist Club member Rich Wilken reports that club members will not be marching this year. He said there's not enough time for rehearsals to perfect the semi-precision marching that crowds have come to expect, which includes twirls, canes, hats, knobby knees and underwear.

Whew! Instead, the Optimists will ride on a float—but without their pants. Geez. Rate this parade adult-themed.

The Optimist Club has been participating in the parade since 1956, the year the Palisades Club was started, said Dr. Mike Martini, one of the club's founding members (and this year's co-parade marshal).

"We rode bicycles and the parade started on Via de la Paz, turned right on La Cruz and went over to the park," he recalled.

Realizing they might be a traffic hazard, the Optimists switched to a flatbed truck float for the next several decades. They always decorated it on July 3, which eventually led this generally optimistic group to start complaining about the work involved with crepe paper, chicken wire and flags.

Then one member had a brainstorm (though nobody actually takes credit for it). After several Optimists went to the Doo Dah Parade in Pasadena in 1980, they came back with an idea to dress in three-piece suits, carrying briefcases and walking in formation.

The late Arnie Wishnick, who was club president at the time, missed the first practice, but later got a call from Hal Vieau (another founding member), who said, "We're looking good. Oh, by the way, we're making one little change."

"What's that?" Wishnick asked.

"We're not wearing pants."

Wishnick, who rode in a car in front of the group, said he thought it was a terrible idea . . . until parade day. "The minute our



For many years, the Pacific Palisades Optimists performed in the parade as a semi-precision unit.

Photo: Craig Weston

guys came walking down Via, women started running up to them and giving them a kiss."

For the next 21 years the Optimists marched without their pants. Training was intense under drillmaster Peter Scolney, who rehearsed his troupe on Pampas Ricas on Saturdays before the parade.

Once again, there was some grousing in the ranks. Several members who had been marching in the parade for years complained that the routine seemed to be the same every year.

"It's similar, but different," Scolney responded. "It's like wine, there are slight variations from year to year."

After one member almost fell over and several others seemed to forget which way to turn, Scolney gave everyone a cane and told them to put it in their left hand. When they started marching, he reminded them, "The cane is in your left hand, so when I say start with our left foot, start with the foot on the side the cane is on."

In 1983, the Palisades Optimist Club's Briefcase Drill Team took first place in the

marching category, beating the Children's International Choir. The Palisades Lions Club won the antique auto division and special awards went to the Oom PaPa Marching Band and the Marquez Kazoo Marching Band.

The following year, Wishnick said, the group chanted: "We're number one, we beat the kids!"

In 2007, marching the entire parade route was becoming too difficult for many elderly members, so member Ramis Sadrieh (of Technology for You!), hired a horse-drawn trolley.

Along the route, the trolley would stop, and the Optimists would step onto the street and perform their drill magic. It was a banner year, because the drill team once again captured a prize—they took third in the Equestrian division. The judges apparently only saw the horses at work.

Taking this slight in Optimistic stride, the club proclaimed they had maintained their "Award-winning" status.

At some point, trophies were no longer

given out to parade entries, and although the Optimists wowed the crowds with their precision marching in 2019, they are going back to their "roots" on a flatbed truck.

This editor is predicting that pants or no pants, on a truck or on a street, the Optimists will continue to upstage everyone with their upbeat attitude and shapely gams.

Special July 4th Farmers Market

The weekly Sunday farmers market will be held on July 4, but only on Swarthmore. Hours will be from 7 a.m. to noon, only. There will be no market on Antioch in anticipation of the parade, which starts at 2 p.m.

Street parade closures, which start at 1 p.m., will include Via de la Paz, Antioch, Sunset, Swarthmore, Drummond, Toyopa, La Cruz and Alma Real. These streets will not reopen until after the parade route is cleared.

All of us at Café Vida are extremely grateful for the incredible support we received during the most challenging of times. Thanks to all of you, our Customers, today we are stronger than ever and thrilled to continue serving and being part of the Palisades Community.

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Jim Cragg Commands Post 283

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

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

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

He and fellow Legionnaires organized the parade as a big community bash, with marching bands, floats and convertibles packed with leaders from various Palisades organizations and businesses.

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

In the early 1960s, before it developed its real estate into substantial rental income (today's CVS and the U.S. Post Office), the Legion had trouble funding the parade, so in 1965 it turned to the Chamber of Commerce for help. This led to the creation of the Palisades Americanism Parade Association, which has staged the parade since 1967.

Over the past three decades, the Legion has resumed its tradition by being the lead sponsor for this annual event.

Current Legion Commander Jim Cragg, a Palisades resident, said that not only is the parade important as a way to remember the founding of the country, but also to celebrate community.

The American Legion family includes Sons of American Legion (which includes men and boys whose parents/grandparents



American Legion Commander Jim Cragg



American Legion Commander Jim Cragg rides in the parade with his family.

Photo courtesy of Jim Cragg

served in the military), the Auxiliary (people who have a relative who has been in the Armed Services), and the Legion (consisting of men and women who have served).

"We are dedicated to serving our nation by honoring our defenders, veterans and their families," said Cragg, who will start his second one-year term in July.

The national organization was founded in 1919, with its vision of maintaining law and order, to perpetuate 100 percent Americanism, to promote peace and goodwill on earth and to preserve the memories of the great wars.

The Palisades Legion Post was founded in 1928 with 20 charter members, including one of town's first residents, Clifford Clearwater, and Telford Work, founder of *The Palisadian* newspaper.

According to *Pacific Palisades: Where the Mountains Meet the Sea*, written by local historians Betty Lou and Randy Young, one of the Legionnaires' greatest concerns was fires and a fire broke out north of Peace Hill (above Via de la Paz) in September 1928. The closest city fire station was on Sawtelle in West L.A., and fire trucks mistakenly drove up Rustic and then Mandeville Canyons looking for the location. By the time firefighters arrived, residents had put it out.

The Youngs wrote: "Recognizing the need to acquaint citizens with the terrain, the Legion organized automobile tours of the mountains and began lobbying for a fire station. At the suggestion of charter Legion member Jack Sauer, the Santa Monica Land and Water Company donated property on Beverly (now Sunset) Boulevard for the new facility, which was inaugurated in 1929."

Police protection was also non-existent until Legion members badgered the Los An-

geles police department into renting temporary office space in the Business Block for \$10 a month. A year later, in 1929, a motorcycle officer was assigned to make nightly visits. *The Palisadian* reported: "Riding a saddle-seat made out of horse hide [the officer] sputters through here over Beverly Boulevard (now Sunset) about 11:30 each evening . . . Remember then the hour of Paul Revere's ride! He comes and goes at 11:30. Schedule your misfortune, tragedy, hard luck, or whatever it may be, accordingly."

The town didn't have a post office until after World War II, when the building was

"Since our founding, we have been a driving force in Pacific Palisades, enhancing the lives of our veterans and providing leadership to our community."

— Jim Cragg

constructed by the American Legion.

Cragg noted, "Since our founding, we have been a driving force in Pacific Palisades, enhancing the lives of our veterans and providing leadership to our community."

His vision is "to continue developing projects that will enrich the lives of our veteran members, their families and the community they live in; the standing of Ronald Reagan-Palisades Post 283, and the branding of the American Legion as a vital part of American culture."

Annually, the Legion supports the community by providing financial assistance to public schools, scholarships to graduating seniors, an oratorical contest, supporting Boys and Girls State, and the parade. Almost

every nonprofit in town, including the Village Green, Meals on Wheels and the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness, has received support from the Legion.

Cragg is reaching out to all community members who may have a veteran in the family to join and be part of this thriving organization. "We work together as a family and continue our mission of veteran service to the community."

After attending both West Point and UCLA, Cragg served as an officer in Special Operations in Afghanistan, where he became a lieutenant colonel. He later founded a charity called Vets Corps/Green Vets LA that works closely with the Veterans Administration.

Cragg also started a business, Special Operations Technologies, based in Carson, and now all Army soldiers and Marines deploy wearing his patented internal magazine chest harness designs.

He received the 2009 Veterans Small Business Champion Award, which is presented annually in each state to individuals who have fulfilled a commitment to advancing small business opportunities for Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.

In addition, Cragg helped modernize programs of the Association of the U.S. Army GLAC as vice president of the board. He is on the UCLA West L.A. VA Advisory Group and has worked with Mayor Garcetti's Office of Veterans Affairs to bring funding to Los Angeles related to vocational training that would include veterans.

Cragg wishes everyone a happy Fourth of July as we poignantly celebrate Independence Day by coming out of the pandemic lockdowns successfully, and as a community.



OFFICIAL PARADE PROGRAM

“The Sparkle Returns!”



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Ronald Reagan Palisades Post 283 Commander — Jim Cragg

Ronald Reagan Palisades Post 283 SAL Commander — Richard Klein

Ronald Reagan Palisades Post 283 Auxiliary

26th Mounted Operations Detachment (Equestrian Unit)

Warriors Road (Equestrian Unit)

Scout Troop 223

Parish of St. Matthew

Patriotic Pups *(Paws N' Claws)*

Optimist Club of Pacific Palisades

Chabad of Pacific Palisades

Pacific Palisades Rotary Club

Palisades Charter High School 4th of July Band *(Midwin, Vogel & Nathason)*

Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church

Kaiser Permanente (Santa Monica)

Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce — Chairwoman Sarah Knauer

Palisades Lutheran Church

Luxe Homecare

New Orleans Traditional Jazz Band *(Elyse Walker)*

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Palisades Precision Grill Team

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THANK YOU

The Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) thanks the supporters and community members who are helping our nonprofit put on a streamlined July 4th Parade and Fireworks in 2021, on short notice. PAPA tentatively started planning our celebrations a few weeks ago, when it seemed as if the City of L.A. *might* issue permits after June 15th.

Our appreciation to those who will serve as parade banner carriers and to the PAPA People/July 4th volunteers who will make things possible, as well as the staff of Pageantry Parades, Palisades Charter High School and Pyro Spectaculars. We especially look forward to our parade starting with the FreeFall Sangria skydiving team of Tom Falzone, Mary Tortomasi and Annie Helliwell. Their July 4th jump into the middle of Pacific Palisades will signal the start of a new, post-pandemic era for us all.

Very special thanks to those who helped create content for, put together, edit and raise funds for the Official July 4th Program – *the only local publication that supports and directly helps fund our community's July 4th events* – including Sue Pascoe, Manfred Hofer, Bill Bruns, Laura Abruscato, Laurel Busby, Cheryl Dimont, Shelby Pascoe, Craig Weston, Grace Hiney and Jeff Ridgway.

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PAPA would like to recognize the community groups who assist on July 4th, including the Pali High Football team, Pali Ambassadors, Boy Scouts and other Pali groups and teams who serve as parade banner carriers. PAPA also appreciates the on-going support of Ralphs, Gelson's, local civic and community organizations, as well as the personnel of the West L.A. station of LAPD and LAFD Fire Stations 23 and 69.

PAPA also thanks the following businesses, companies and individuals for their advertisements in the Official July 4th Program: The Edlen Team (Michael Edlen) • Caruso Palisades Village • Cox Paint (Santa Monica) • Dan Urbach, Realtor • Fran Flanagan Group • Kaiser Permanente • Palisades Will Rogers 5 & 10K Run Foundation • Rodeo Realty (Pacific Palisades) • Anawalt Palisades Hardware • BOCA • Brett Duffy Real Estate • Café Vida • Circling The News (Sue Pascoe) • Collections Antiques (Martha Strang) • Cheryl Kanan Family •

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The PAPA People/July 4th volunteers listed below will make our 2021 celebrations possible. Those who have helped prep and/or committed to work on July 4th include: Mary & Barry Allwright, Lynn Anderson, Kurt Bierschenk, Susan Blake, Lorna Boyd, Sylvia Boyd, Nancy Brennan, Joy Daunis, Terry Dimich, Jeanne Elfant Festa, Andy Frew, Greg Frost, Morgan Genser, Bob Gold, Linda Grant, Daphne Gronich, Manfred Hofer, Rosalie Huntington, Mike Kafka, Lou Kamer, Nina Knierim, Sam Lagana, Linda & Ed Leblanc, Mary Martin, Eli Nagle, Paul Nagle, Kevin Niles, Dora O'Brien, Sue Pascoe, Kimi Petrick, Bill Prachar, Jeff Ridgway, Matthew Rodman, Max Rodman, Katherine Saslow, Bill & Cindy Simon, Eli Soufo, Keith Turner, Rob Weber, Rich Wilken. (*Our apologies to anyone who may have been inadvertently omitted.*)

Donations will always be gratefully accepted by PAPA at P.O. Box 1776, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272, online at palisades4th.com/parade/donate, or via the Zelle app, directed to palisadesparade@gmail.com.

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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.'"

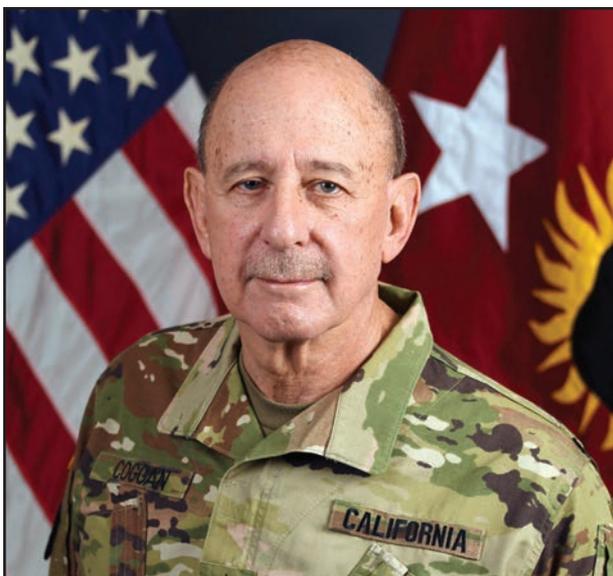
Coggan immediately decided to devote himself to helping soldiers full-time as a JAG—judge advocate general—for the California State Guard. He noted that often soldiers are "so worried about what is going on at home, that they are not being safe" while serving.

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 nine 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, 72, 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."

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Paws N' Claws Sponsors 'Patriotic Pups'

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

(Editor's note: Going through our parade files, we came across an article that quoted Barbara Buck-Marting, owner of Paws N' Claws on Marquez Avenue: "My introduction to the parade was years ago, when I first put the twins, Laurie and Leslie, in the stroller and walked to town to entertain them. I still remember that day and how the marching bands, music, crowds and picnic atmosphere brought tears to my eyes. That was 30 years ago, and I have attended ever since. I feel honored to live in this wonderful town and serve the community as a business merchant.")

Barbara Buck and Henry Marting, who have lived in Pacific Palisades since 1969, bought their dog grooming salon in 2001 and promptly began sponsoring the Patriotic Pups brigade in the parade, a tradition they have continued.

Daughter Leslie (one of the twins) is now a groomer and has taken over that portion of the business while Barbara (and Henry) continue to manage the pet boutique, from behind the scenes.

A third generation is now involved in the family business with Leslie's daughter, Devyn Delgado, working as a bather.

With Covid-19 impacting large and small businesses alike, "last year was awful,"



Paws N' Claws grooming team takes care of pets' needs.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

Leslie said. "But we've survived."

When a dog is taken in for grooming, they are washed and dried, have their nails done, ears and anal glands cleaned, and teeth brushed.

"Custom haircuts are available," Leslie said. "Grooming dogs is a challenge, and

patience and energy are definitely required."

One customer wrote on Yelp: "I feel lucky to have Leslie to bring my little guy to. As a rescue dog he was scared of the process, but she was gentle and now he looks at it as his 'spa day.' I've taken him to other places but have found for the money she is the only

one I will trust my pup with."

Another popular offering is the non-anesthesia dental cleaning the store offers once a month. A mobile van with a vet on board gives a free health wellness exam prior to cleaning, and then dogs can have their teeth scaled and cleaned.

Paws N' Claws also supports several local animal shelters, including the West L.A. Animal Shelter. From time to time, a drive is held, which allows residents to drop off needed items, such as blankets and dog beds, at the front of the shop. Volunteers then deliver to the shelters.

The boutique will once again offer various patriotic dog clothing as well as booties for dogs that prefer footwear while walking on hot pavement in the parade.

When Barbara was asked about the store's long-term sponsorship of Patriotic Pups, she said, "For me it's the high point of the year."

This year the twins, Laurie and Leslie, will carry the banner for the parade entry. In addition, Leslie will be walking with Gucci, a Chihuahua.

Paws N' Claws Grooming Salon and Boutique is located at 16634 Marquez Ave. and offers bathing and grooming services.

Contact: (310) 459-2009 or visit pawsnclawspacificpalisades.com.

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Thank you, PAPA, for decades of wonderful July 4th celebrations. We have enjoyed each and every parade and festivity since 1964! Wishing the Palisades a Different Kind of Celebration in 2021!

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Cheryl Kanan and Family

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PPWC Often Enters Parade Novelties

(Editor's note: The Pacific Palisades Junior Women's Club and the Woman's Club combined to become simply the Woman's Club in 2012.)

When the Junior Women and the Woman's Club members were segregated (because of their age), the Junior Women decided to build a log cabin for the Fourth of July parade. The log cabin "playhouse" would then be raffled off during the annual Holiday Home Tour.

Co-chairs Marjorie Graham and Susan



Kathy Later is the club president this year.

Mazzarella were in charge of that 1999 float committee, which also included Luann Williams, Lisa Price, Cecilia Peck, Lisa Rosenblatt and Melanie Dean.

The log cabin kit arrived at the Rosenblatt home and included 2,600 pounds of water-proofed pine logs, a front porch, three windows and a door. The log cabin, when completed, would be 8-feet tall, 8-feet wide and 12-feet deep.

The little house was purchased from a company in Thompson Falls, Montana for \$900. Mazzarella's husband, Anthony, who served on the ad hoc construction committee said, "Initially it seemed a daunting task, but really it's quite simple. Basically, it is a cabin made out of giant Lincoln Logs. All of the logs are notched and fit together."

"It's tremendous fun to work on these houses," said Marjorie Graham. "By raffling the playhouse, we raise additional money to distribute to the community."

After the cabin was put together, the women added "prairie" touches that include wagon wheels and barrels painted with flowers.

The house was placed on a float for the parade, and complete the prairie theme, club members dressed in long dresses and sunbonnets and walked next to their creation.

Fast forward to 2021: Woman's Club president Kathy Later said the group has submit-



The former Junior Women's Club constructed a log cabin one year for the parade and then later auctioned it, giving the funds back to the community.

ted an application for the upcoming parade.

"We will participate but the details are yet to be determined," she said. "Hopefully we'll have a car, a banner and lots of women wearing red, white and blue. At least, that's our

goal at the moment."

Annually, the Woman's Club donates to several dozen local nonprofits and over the decades has awarded more than \$1.5 million to various groups.

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Movies in the Park: Goodbye and Hello

When Movies in the Park didn't have a season last year because of Covid-19—and there were no movies planned for Saturdays in August this year, some residents worried that the 17-year tradition might be going away.

No worries. It will be back in 2022, and here are a few movies that deal with goodbyes and the start of something new—just like life.

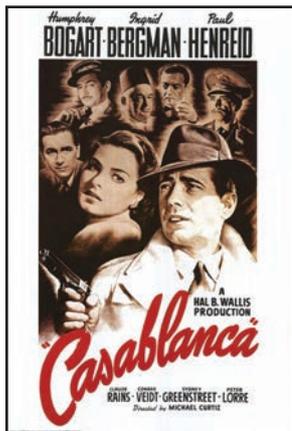
Toy Story 3 starts with Andy Davis, 17, now leaving for college. After he handles his toys, Sheriff Woody (Palisadian Tom Hanks) and Buzz Lightyear (Tim Allen) the last time, they are mistakenly delivered to a daycare center.

This film's goodbye hit the audience hard because even though we want things to stay the same, changes happen—not only for Andy, but for the toys—and for us.

E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial, directed by another Palisadian, Stephen Spielberg, features a young boy, helping an alien that is stranded on the earth. E.T.'s wish to go home is strong and with help from the boy (even as they are being chased by a governmental task force),

he does. Even though the young boy loses a friend, E.T. gives him a hug, lights his finger and points it at Elliot's head—signifying that he'll "be right here."

There is no more memorable goodbye than the final scene in *Casablanca*. Rick Blaine's former lover Ilsa walks into his bar, accompanied by her husband Victor Laszlo, the head of the Czech Resistance. Set in World War II, it is a tale of duty and love. Can Rick give up the love of his life? Will Ilsa say farewell?



Rick: Last night we said a great many things. You said I was to do the thinking for

both of us. Well, I've done a lot of it since then, and it all adds up to one thing: you're getting on that plane with Victor where you belong.

Ilsa: But, Richard, no, I . . . I . . .

Rick: Now, you've got to listen to me! You have any idea what you'd have to look forward to if you stayed here? Nine chances out of ten, we'd both wind up in a concentration camp. Isn't that true, Louie?

Capt. Louis Renault: I'm afraid Major



In 2019, Pacific Palisades residents gathered on Saturday evenings in August for free Movies in the Park.

Photo: Sue Pascoe

Strasser would insist.

Ilsa: You're saying this only to make me go.
Rick: I'm saying it because it's true. Inside of us, we both know you belong with Victor. You're part of his work, the thing that keeps him going. If that plane leaves the ground and you're not with him, you'll regret it. Maybe not today. Maybe not tomorrow, but soon and for the rest of your life.

Ilsa: But what about us?

Rick: We'll always have Paris. We didn't have, we, we lost it until you came to Casablanca. We got it back last night.

Ilsa: When I said I would never leave you.

Williams assures the community that movies will be back on Saturday evenings in August 2022.

"We will do the same as we did in 2019," Williams said. "We will have community input for the 'Arnie Wishnick Community Choice.'"

In honor of the late Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Arnie Wishnick, in the event's inaugural year, more than 300 people voted for *Back to the Future*.

Starting sometime in March/April, people can leave movie suggestions and choices on MITP's facebook page (Movies in the Park-Pacific Palisades) and on the Nextdoor app.

There will be free hot dogs and "we are hoping to have the Palisades High School football team back for its fundraiser selling all the Movie goodies we all love," Williams said, noting that the group is always looking for help, especially on movie nights. "We are always looking for sponsorships to help pay for the costs each year. If anyone is interested in sponsoring, they can reach out to moviesintheparkpacificpal@gmail.com.

"We are very excited to keep the tradition going," Williams said.



Movies in the Park is a nonprofit founded in 2004 by David Williams and John Wirth and then joined by Andy Frew and Brad Lusk. Why no movies this year?

Co-founder David Williams explained in a June 15 email that in order to show movies in the park, they need a permit. "This needs to be done in February, maybe March at the latest," he said. "At that time, the park was not issuing any permits for 2021 especially for an event that had between 600-1000 people all close together."

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Above: Firefighters battled the Highlands Fire this May.
Left: The Via de las Olas fire also burned in May.

Photo: Gary Baum
Photo: Sue Pastoe

2020 Parade Marshals Were Firefighters

The two most recent fires, one in the Highlands on May 14, 2021 and a second on the Via de las Olas bluffs on May 24, 2021 saw our local heroes, Pacific Palisades firefighters, once again jump into action.

Last year, although there was no parade, the Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) designated the people who work at Fire Stations 69 and 23, as honorary parade marshals.

The 53 honored in 2020, not only fight fires, but are also called to the scene of traffic accidents, work with FEMA, rescue hikers from local mountain trails and respond whenever there's an emergency, such as when an unconscious homeless individual is discovered.

Although these men have retired (Capts. Erik Schneider and Robert Bates; firefighters Eric Dillon and Greg Cueto), PAPA gives a shout out to our heroes.

TOM KITAHATA (B-Shift) has been with the LAFD for more than 32 years. He has worked in Hollywood, Echo Park/Rampart, South Central, Westlake, Van Nuys, East L.A. and downtown L.A. He is also a member of FEMA's California Task Force One Urban Search and Rescue Team. He was deployed to New York City after the World Trade Center attacks. He helped run Covid-19 testing for the city.

ERIK SCHNEIDER (C-Shift) joined the force in 1986 and has spent most of that time in South Los Angeles and downtown L.A.,

before coming to Station 69 in August 2016. "The thing that surprises me most about the area is that the streets are so tight it really slows our response time," Schneider said.

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

FIRE STATION 69

JEFF BROWN (A-shift) came to Station 69 from the North Hollywood Station in 2017 and has served with LAFD for more than 30 years. He currently helps train new recruits. Along with serving the LAFD, Brown was also part of FEMA's Urban Search and Rescue Task Force for 10 years and worked the Los Angeles riots in 1992.

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

Getty Center along the 405 Freeway. Hired in 1990, Kesterson went to East L.A., then rotated through South L.A., the South Fernando Valley and North Hollywood.

ROBERT BATES (B-shift), hired in 1987, has worked at stations all over Los Angeles. Before coming to the Palisades in 2016, he spent seven years at Station 98 in Pa-coima. Although he has enjoyed the many places he has worked, this area holds a special place in his heart. "I love to surf, I love the ocean and it's only a mile away," he said. "It's a blessing."

Fire Station 69 Crew

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



In October, a fire at the library was rapidly extinguished.

Photo: Sue Pascoe

FIRE STATION 23

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

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

KURT VOSBERG (C-shift) is the newest addition to FS 23, coming to the Palisades about nine months ago. He began his LAFD career in 1988 and has worked downtown, Hollywood and North Hollywood, where he was based during the 1992 riots. He was on duty during the Northridge Earthquake and during the Pan Pacific Park fire in 1989. He praised the Palisades Task Force on Homelessness: "They deal with the people the right way."

Fire Station 23 Crew

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



The Simon residence with its own parade on the front yard took the top prize in last year's home decorating contest.

GRAND CHAMPION AWARD

Bill and Cindy Simon on Toyopa

In 2016, the first year Bill and Cindy Simon decorated their home on Toyopa, they received an honorable mention. They won the following year because "The judges appreciated the clever, homemade look and the wonderful detailing."

In 2020, the Simons painted red, white and blue figures that paraded along the fence and were the unanimous favorite

among the judges.

The Simons are always busily involved in the town's Fourth of July celebration, usually as one of the sponsors of the Will Rogers 5/10K Race and then announcing the passing entries at a location along the parade route.

"One day I was whining about there being no 5/10K race and parade and it hit me that I could create my own and share it," Cindy

Simon told *Circling the News*. She noted that her garage was full of Amazon boxes and wine cartons that people had dropped by for her artistic endeavors. "So, I started cutting them up to make figures and devised my own parade of Palisades characters. It was especially fun to make the marching band member with the trombone!"

Simon said that her friend Donna Fol suggested the red, white and blue colors and she hired handyman Lorenzo Argueta to attach her cardboard creations onto wooden poles and stick them into the front

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)
- 2019 Farnham/Robletto (Via de la Paz)

lawn hedge.

"Lorenzo really got into the project and was suggesting I get balloons for the lady, whirligigs for the men, a fire engine to bring up the rear . . . all great ideas!" Simon said, noting that her husband as usual was her biggest champion.

"He would come outside several times a day to 'get the mail' and then stop to chat with passers-by, sharing 'Oh, my wife made these.'

The Simons, who moved to the Palisades in 1990, have three adult children: Willie, Lindsay and Griffith.

"We've lived on the same street for 30 years," said Bill, who works in investments and is also a professor of economics at UCLA.

Katie O'Neill's Fine Art Studio



835 Via de la Paz

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Judges loved the masked figures at the Hassett home.

Photo: Sue Pascoe

PROOF THROUGH THE NIGHT

Sharon and Dennis White on Chautauqua



This Chautauqua residence was judged the best nighttime home decorating display.

IN THIS TOGETHER

Hassett Family on DePauw

Once again, the Hassetts on DePauw showed their Fourth of July spirit by capturing the "In This Together" category.

The Hassetts were runners-up in 2011 and won the contest in 2012 and 2016. This year they impressed the judges with their lawn figurines wearing Covid-19 masks.

"Kate, 16, and I have been making masks

since the beginning of the pandemic," said mom Jackie. "At first we were just making them for ourselves and then also donated them to a teen homeless shelter in Hollywood. Now we are sending them to our family across the country and Kate, who attends Harvard-Westlake, has also started selling them as part of her clothing business."

"At the beginning of Stay at Home, our

sunroom was converted to an art studio and sewing center," Jackie said. "Since wearing masks is the most patriotic thing you can do right now, we thought it was appropriate that our figures would wear them."

For son Jack, 18, a senior at Harvard-Westlake, and a pitcher on the baseball team, Jackie said, "The team started the season off really well, sweeping Loyola in the opening series of league play. It was so sad that the season had to end so early."

Jack played PPBA at the Recreation Center and his dad, Jim, a partner at Apollo Global Management, used to coach in the league. Jackie said that her son "will be playing baseball next year at NYU."

In 1996, the Hassetts moved to the Palisades from an apartment in Westwood. "The 4th was our first holiday we celebrated here, and I was just so excited to decorate our house," Jackie said. "I've been doing it ever since and still get excited."

Proud Sponsors of the 4th of July Home Decorating Contest

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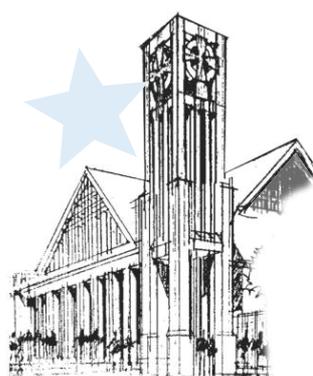


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Yogurt Shoppe Will Sponsor Kids on Bikes

The challenge for kids is on in 2021. Last year's top three places in the Fourth of July bike decorating contest went to Henry Isola, Chloe Lee and Arthur and Rosie Angola (tied). For those looking to claim a prize this year, be alerted that this wasn't Isola's "first rodeo."

In 2019, when Isola was 7, he also captured first with his decorated bike (and a trailer that he pulled behind the bike), wowing not only the judges, but parade spectators lining the route.

Will the 2020 winners once again try to claim the top prizes, or will it go to creative efforts by other youth?

All kids are invited to decorate their bikes/scooters and come to the corner of Bowdoin Street and Via de la Paz at 1 p.m. on July 4 (by Palisades Elementary). Waivers will need to be signed. Bikes will be judged before entering the parade. The top three winners will receive \$50 gift certificates to The Yogurt Shoppe on Swarthmore.

After the judging, the kids will be among the first on the parade route.

For nine years, Yogurt Shoppe owners Kevin and Jennifer Sabin sponsored the Kids on Bikes contest. Last year and in 2021, the store's new owners, Christine and Adam Wolfson, sponsored the event.

When given the opportunity to carry on the tradition, the Wolfsons, who have three kids and are transplants from New York,



Photographer Craig Weston captured this shot of one of the participants in an earlier parade.

Photo: Craig Weston

didn't waver.

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

this long tradition."

Christine added, "We'd like to thank our amazing community for continuing to come out and support us."

The Yogurt Shoppe, like most businesses

in town, struggled during the Covid-19 shutdown.

"We were lucky to have a dedicated staff and a supportive community," Christine said. "Without which, we would have had to close down."

Now that summer is underway, this is a good time to stop by The Yogurt Shoppe on Swarthmore and try their regular flavors: chocolate with activated charcoal, Jennifer's vegan peanut butter (both are dairy free), fudge brownie, original tart, honey Greek, salted caramel and vanilla.

Weekly, the store also offers one new flavor, a sorbet and a Carb D' Lite of the week (sugar free).

The toppings range from fruit and nuts to cookies and candy—and all look yummy.

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

The store will also cater events and gatherings. For information email info@theyogurtshoppe.com.

Summer store hours are Sunday through Thursday from noon to 10 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. The store is located across from Sav-On. Call (310) 459-0088 or visit: theyogurtshoppe.com.

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Historical Army Vehicles to Roll in Parade

The Ronald Reagan American Legion Post 283 is sponsoring a World War II Army Jeep and a 1953 M37 Dodge ¾-Ton Cargo Truck in the parade.

The 1942 Jeep was developed after an Army request in 1940 for a general purpose vehicle that was small, light-weight, had four-wheel drive and was capable of carrying a light machine gun.

The Army had less than 100 Jeeps in 1940, but 8,500 were built the next year. Then late in 1941, the Jeep was standardized with a Spicer-sourced four-wheel transmission, a Go-Devil engine and Ford bodywork. When the war was over, about 647,925 Jeeps had been built.

The Jeep was used in different capacities, including allowing special forces to conduct raids behind enemy lines and as the method of transport for generals and other officers. Historians agree that the Jeep was an important factor in helping the Allies achieve victory during WWII.

It was thought that Nazi generals admired the Jeep more than any other U.S. vehicle, and it was the one the German soldiers most liked to capture for use, according to the Warfare History Network.

President Dwight Eisenhower once called the Jeep “one of the three decisive weapons the U.S. had during WWII.” He wrote that his senior officers regarded it as one of the five most vital pieces of equipment to success in Africa and Europe.

SUV’s and 4WD’s are said to be inspired by Jeeps. In



The M-37 Dodge ¾-Ton Cargo Truck was utilized in Korea.

2010, the American Enterprise Institute called it “one of the most influential designs in automotive history.”

The Dodge M37 truck was used extensively during the Korean War. The first truck came off the assembly line in 1951 and over the next 18 years, more than 115,000 trucks were built.

The truck was based on the World War II G502 WC series but corrected many of the issues discovered during that war. Major improvements include a waterproof ignition system and better weather protection.

The ¾-ton truck was built to be able to ford high waters for crossing streams and rivers, which was essential on the

Korea peninsula. It weighs nearly 5,700 pounds without the optional winch. The cruising speed is 45 mph with a maximum speed of 55.

Averaging just six miles a gallon, the 24-gallon fuel tank has a maximum range of 150 miles before refueling is required.

Post 283 Commander and Palisades resident Jim Cragg said these vehicles will be in front of the Post on La Cruz from noon to 1 p.m. (before the parade) and will also be there for two hours after the parade.

Kids and their parents are invited to stop by to climb in them, to take pictures and to ask questions of the historians who will be on site. There will be no weapons on the vehicles.

Pacific View Rights Center

The Pacific View Rights Center is a collaboration and exchange of information regarding view and related property rights between property owners and developers, real estate brokers, attorneys and architects. It is hosted by Pacific Palisades resident Keith Turner (310-454-6190).
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PAPA Extends Special Thanks To Donald and Nancy De Brier

PAPA (Palisades Americanism Parade Association) is the all-volunteer non-profit committee that organizes and oversees the parade, concert and fireworks.

PAPA People, originally called the "personnel division" in an early parade program, was founded by the late Wally Miller in 1983. Locals volunteer wherever they are needed on the Fourth and are sought every year. To get

involved, please visit palisades4th.org.

In addition to finding volunteers, PAPA must raise well over \$100,000 this year to cover the cost of staging its events. The fireworks show alone runs more than \$35,000, including the fee to Pyro Spectaculars by Souza, permits (including City personnel), insurance, security and a payment to Palisades High.

In addition to receiving donations from residents, PAPA is supported by contributions from nonprofits and civic organizations such as the American Legion, Ronald Reagan-Palisades Post 283, the Woman's Club and the Optimist Club, and from local businesses, such as Festa Insurance, Village 76, On Stage Talent, Midwin, Vogel & Nathanson, Elyse Walker, Luxe Home Care, Turner Law, ACS, Pali Patrol, Palisades Insurance (Mike Solum), the yogurt shoppe, Paws 'n' Claws, and Joan Sather and Susan Montgomery.

For the past eight years, Pacific Palisades residents Donald de Brier and his wife Nancy have stepped up with a generous personal donation.

PAPA would like to specifically acknowledge the family's kind gift: "We extend warmest thanks to our community angels—Nancy and Donald de Brier—for their family's long-standing and generous support of the July 4th parade and fireworks, year after year. Your generosity and civic-mindedness are inspirational."



Palisades Fireworks Reminders

Photo: James R. Souza for Pyro Spectaculars by Souza, <http://pyrospec.com>

Fourth of July last year was a nightmare, as many L.A. residents ignored the fact that fireworks are illegal in Los Angeles City and County, and set them off during the Covid-19 shut-down. Police said there were more than 1,000 fireworks complaints in different LAPD Divisions.

This year, the Souza fireworks show returns to the Palisades High School stadium, and residents are urged to leave the fireworks to professionals.

A limited number of tickets (\$5) will be sold in advance. There will be NO tickets sold at the gate and anyone without a ticket will be turned away. (Visit: palisades4th.com.)

A reminder for those who have tickets, the stadium will open at 8 p.m. No food, drinks, large bags, silly string, poppers or stick chairs will be allowed.

This year, instead of the normal 13.45 inches of rain (measured at the end of June), the total is only 4.26 inches—which means the mountains around the town are tinder dry. Let professionals set off the fireworks and keep the community safe.

Program Publisher
Palisades Americanism Parade Association

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HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!!!

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Look for me in the parade!

Ramis Sadrieh, MBA • Personal Technology Consultant
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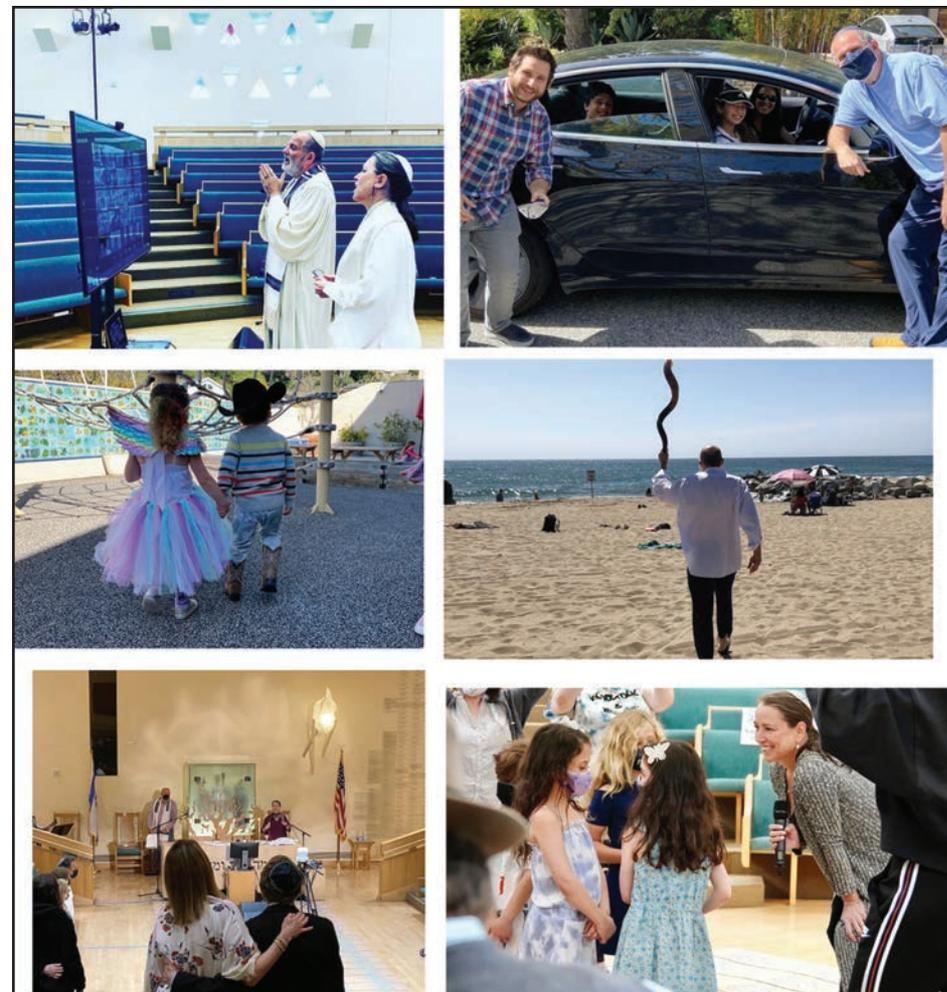


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Rich Wilken's mother, Myrtle (backseat waving the flag), is unaware that her 14-year-old son is driving a car behind the Soroptimists women's club. Photo courtesy Rich Wilken

Resident Recounts First Palisades 4th of July

Marnie Wuttken and her late husband Burt moved into a house in the 400 block of Via de la Paz on July 1, 1970. In an offhand manner, the real estate broker told them, "Oh, by the way, we have a Fourth of July parade every year."

"Wonderful," Marnie responded and immediately put it out of her mind.

The next day, her husband and a friend began cutting down several unwanted trees in front of their house. They were still sawing away on the morning of the Fourth when Marnie went out to talk to them about 10:30. Suddenly two large buses pulled up in front of the house and high school band members began unloading their instruments on the front lawn.

A member of the Chamber of Commerce soon stopped by with lemonade for the band members, but unfortunately in those years there were no porta-pottys. The band leader asked Marnie if the students could use her bathroom.

She had two bathrooms in the house, so she designated the front one for girls and the back one for the boys.

Learning that the parade would start at 2 p.m., the Wuttkens decided to walk down Via to watch the festivities begin in front of Palisades Elementary School. They left the side door of their house open so that the band members could continue to use the bathrooms.

As the Wuttkens walked back from the parade, they passed the kids in the band just starting out along the parade route. "It was so cute to see them marching down the street," Marnie said. "They had their instruments in their right hand, and their left hand was supposed to be straight down by their side, but when we passed them, they all waved at us."

Eager to get involved in the community, Marnie joined PAPA (Palisades Americanism Parade Association) and was a for years, serving twice as president. The Wuttkens even rode as parade marshals in 1997, less than a year before Burt died.

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

— Ronald Reagan

Rich Wilken Parade Memory

As a past parade marshal, Rich Wilken in a 1994 interview with the *Palisadian-Post* remembered his debut in the parade.

As a 14 year old, he was supposed to ride in the parade with his junior baseball team. The players were set to ride in a station wagon with the coach driving. As the time came for the car to enter the parade on Via de la Paz, there still was no coach.

Using quick thinking, but perhaps not the best judgment, Wilken came up with a plan. He took the keys, started the car and drove his teammates. He waved to delighted friends along the parade route, sitting behind the wheel. His mother, riding two cars back as the president of the Soroptimists Club, had no idea that her unlicensed son was driving.

Happy 4th of July from

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PACIFIC PALISADES BASEBALL ASSOCIATION



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

Palisades Americanism Parade Association Message

The Sparkle Returns! After a year and a half, the Pacific Palisades 4th of July Parade returns for its 73rd year, along with our annual Independence Day Fireworks celebration. The Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) welcomes you to join us.

During the past year, our community members have witnessed and, in some cases, personally experienced pandemic-related challenges that affected their health, finances and overall well-being. Many of us have lost or seen illness in people we love, work with, or just know. Our community members have also had injustice thrust to the forefront of our consciousness in a way that it hasn't been since the civil rights movement of the 1960s. We also confronted fear when destruction and violence disrupted peaceful demonstrations. Through it all, our resilient community came together.

Thankfully, the time has come for us to recognize the progress made this past year, as well as the work still ahead of us. We are a fortunate community. One in which people look out for, protect, care, and rely upon one another. We are all stronger because we can come together as a community. This July 4th celebration is for all of you who give back and pitch in to make our town better. Whether you help to run a community service organization, or volunteer for one, you keep the engine running in the Palisades.

We weren't sure if the July 4th festivities could really happen this year. We have benefited from the downward trajectory of COVID-19, the preemptive approach of PAPA's Executive Board members, and just dumb luck. Now, we're ready to celebrate! A special thank you to Board Treasurer Daphne Gronich (recognized as Citizen of the Year a few years back) for working tirelessly every day with me to make our July 4th celebration a reality. Executive Board members Kevin Niles, Rich Wilken, Keith Turner, Ramis Sadrieh, and advisors Rob Weber and Andy Frew are also indispensable in bringing you this great day.

Our July 4th events can't happen without all our neighbor-volunteers who come out to help, and who are the unsung heroes of the day. Our celebrations continue every year because of the incredibly hard work and countless hours of these folks, too. If this sounds interesting to you, please join us in 2022 by volunteering, and maybe even taking on a greater role. This is a true community day, the best day in the Palisades, and you can be involved. Just email us, if you're interested, or sign up to be on our mailing list!

The Official July 4th Program features great stories, memories and information by our stellar team of returning professionals, including Sue Pascoe, Bill Bruns, Manfred Hofer, Laurel Busby, Jeff Ridgway and Grace Hiney. The cover artwork is by our resident painter, Katie O'Neill.

Finally, and most happily, the American Legion—Ronald Reagan, Palisades Post 283 continues to generously support the Parade, just as they've done since 1948. We simply could not do this without the generous financial support of the Legion, other community groups and individual donors. If you would like to support the July 4th events, you may do so by visiting www.Palisades4th.com for donation details.

So, The Sparkle Returns and the excitement is back. Enjoy the day, take care of your neighbors, and volunteer to help our community be its best!

—Matthew Rodman, PAPA President

Parade Grand Marshals Since 1990

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1990 Ann Martin: TV news co-anchor | 2004 Rafer Johnson: Olympic Gold Medalist |
| 1991 Eddie Albert: Actor | 2005 Linda Blair: <i>The Exorcist</i> Actress |
| 1992 Jon Hartin: TV news co-anchor | 2006 Patti Page: "The Singing Rage" |
| 1993 Michael Jackson: Radio talk show host | 2007 Pat Boone: Singer/actor |
| 1994 Monty Hall: Co-creator of <i>Let's Make a Deal</i> | 2008 Marion Ross: <i>Happy Days</i> actress |
| 1995 Jan Murray: Comic storyteller | 2009 Katie Stam: Miss America |
| 1996 Paul Moyer: TV news anchor | 2010 Jim Brown: Football player |
| 1997 Casey Kasem: Radio personality | 2011 Jeffrey Tambor: Actor |
| 1998 Larry Elder: Radio talk show host | 2012 Jerry Mathers: Actor |
| 1999 Anthony Hopkins: Actor | 2013 Ed Asner: Actor |
| 2000 Michael Richards: <i>Seinfeld</i> co-star | 2014 Steve Kerr: NBA Coach |
| 2001 Dennis Tito: Space tourist | 2015 Bill Handel: Radio Personality |
| 2002 Art Linkletter: Radio/TV personality and author | 2016 Kevin Nealon |
| 2003 Barbara Billingsley: <i>Leave It to Beaver</i> actress | 2017 Giada De Laurentiis—Celebrity Chef/Author |
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Fireworks Light Up 4th of July Sky

By LAUREL BUSBY
Contributing Writer

After a year without fireworks, Pyro Spectaculars by Souza will be back this summer to provide a patriotic explosion of color across the night sky.

At approximately 9 p.m. on July 4, the 20-minute show will feature an array of patriotic songs plus a wide selection of fireworks to wow viewers.

“Pacific Palisades is going to be happy,” said customer service manager Marco Montenegro. “Residents can expect an extremely fun and colorful show with all the oohs and aahs of previous years.”

Pyro Spectaculars’ employees are thrilled to be back to conducting not only the Palisades show, but more than 250 pyrotechnic extravaganzas around the country, including the nation’s largest, the Macy’s show in New York City.

Last year, their income dropped precipitously due to the pandemic, Montenegro said. More than 70 percent of their Fourth of July shows were canceled. In addition, fireworks displays for baseball teams and football teams were terminated.

“It was absolutely devastating,” Montenegro said. “It was a miracle that we could keep our doors open.”

The downturn meant that most of the



Every year PAPA sponsors a fireworks display in Pacific Palisades.

Photo: James R. Souza for Pyro Spectaculars by Souza, <http://pyrospec.com>

company’s office staff and warehouse workers in Rialto had to be let go in March of last year, Montenegro said. There was a brief hope later in the spring that some shows might go forward, and they hired some people back, only to have to release them again in late June.

As the economy reopened this spring,

Pyro Spectaculars scrambled to both hire back former employees and find new ones, since many people had already taken other jobs. Although business has blossomed again, it has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels.

“We aren’t at full capacity like 2019,” he said. “But it’s night and day from 2020.”

In 2019, the company, which was

founded in the early 1900s by Manuel de Souza, coordinated more than 400 fireworks shows on the Fourth of July and another 1,500 throughout the year, setting off more than 100,000 pounds of explosives, according to Chris Souza, the great-great-grandchild of the founder.

The business started in the Bay Area in de Souza’s kitchen, where he mixed fireworks “recipes” to bring pizzazz to local Portuguese celebrations. He earned the name Papagaio, which means parrot in Portuguese, in honor of his colorful shows.

The family’s name was eventually anglicized to Souza, but the dedication to fireworks has remained the same, passed down from father to son over five generations.

They now set off vibrant displays for everything from high school graduations to sporting events, Souza said. Over the years, the company has orchestrated fireworks at not only several Super Bowls, but the Olympic games in Athens, Salt Lake City and Atlanta. They even lit up the night sky for the 100th and 125th anniversaries of the Statue of Liberty.

But the Fourth of July is by far their biggest day of the year. Across the country in a normal year more than 3,500 technicians will be working on shows, Souza said. “We have shows from sea to shining sea—from Atlantic City to the Hawaiian Islands.”

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Katie O'Neill Paints the Cover

For the past three years, Katie O'Neill's paintings have graced the cover of the official PAPA 4th of July Parade Programs. This year she used photographer Mark Galasso's photos of the Palisades High School band to paint the cover. "His photos are so joyous, it just makes you want to join the band," O'Neill said.

O'Neill, the daughter of Thomas (now deceased) and Virginia, grew up in Pacific Palisades and attended Marquez Elementary, Paul Revere and PaliHi.

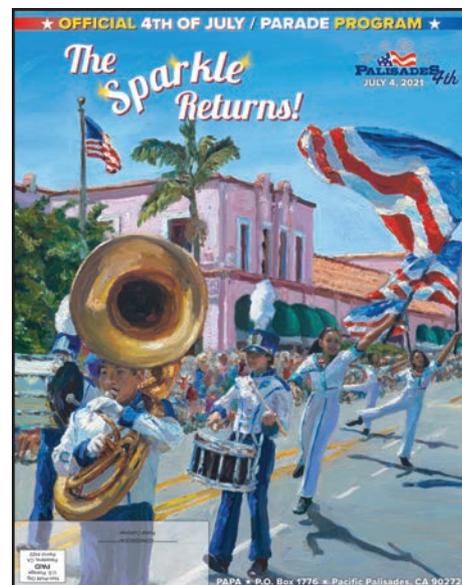
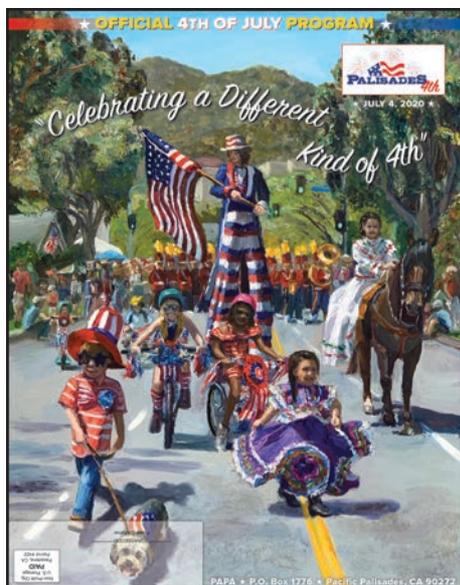
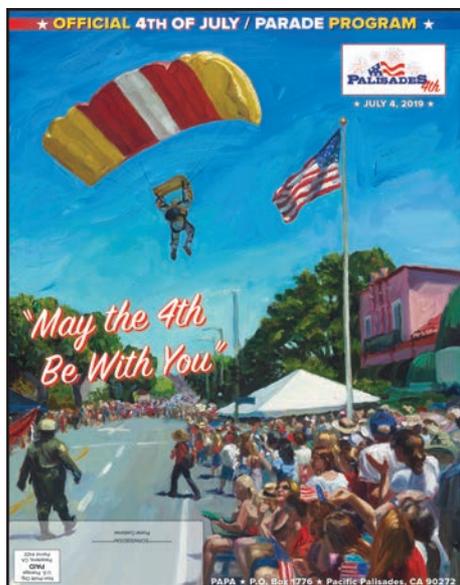
"Pacific Palisades has to be one of the most beautiful places to live," the artist said pointing out that the Pacific Ocean frames one side of the town, while the Santa Monica Mountains and two state parks frame the other.

"I've found my niche here," said O'Neill, who has a studio at 835 Via de la Paz, teaching adults and youth.

She was one of five kids and her mom taught her how to paint. "I took it for granted growing up here," she said. "I had an idyllic Palisades childhood in the 1970s and 1980s."

As a youth, "I did a lot of commercials and a short-lived sitcom," she said, noting that her acting "paid for USC film school."

The sitcom was called *Together We Stand*, until they killed off O'Neill's TV father, Elliot Gould, and retitled the show *Nothing Is Easy*



For the past three years, Katie O'Neill has designed the covers for the official PAPA Fourth of July Program.

with Dee Wallace Stone as a single mom.

After graduating college, O'Neill worked as an assistant editor and in development in Los Angeles. She then moved to New York, where she "dog-walked by day" and was the house manager for Classic Stage Company, an off-Broadway theater.

After a year, her mom called and asked, "Do you want to open an art studio with me?" She returned home and the two opened a studio in Malibu.

Eventually, O'Neill had two young sons

and had to decide whether to keep the Malibu studio and move the family there or relocate the studio to Pacific Palisades. "I wanted to raise my kids here," she said. One son just graduated from PaliHi and the other is a freshman.

The Covid-19 pandemic forced her to close her doors in March 2020.

"I still had rents to pay and kids to feed," said O'Neill, who switched her focus from teaching to her art. "I've been painting seven days a week and selling enough [to

cover the rents]. So far I've been able to survive with my paintings."

"After it rains, I will run down to the bluffs," O'Neill said, noting she takes numerous photographs of the area and brings them back to help her create the painting. "I get all the pieces—it's like problem solving—and I put them together."

"It brings joys to look at all the vistas and views," O'Neill said.

Visit: oneillsfineart.com or call (310) 459-1030 or email katieoneillart@yahoo.com.

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