

★ OFFICIAL PARADE PROGRAM ★

PALISADES NEWS

July 4, 2016 • *Uniting the Community with News, Features and Commentary* • Circulation: 17,000



“Independence Day — The Palisades Way”

This illustration, titled “Yankee Doodle,” originally appeared on the cover of the June 21, 1917 issue of Life magazine. Courtesy of Peter Kreitler (See story, page 8).

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After the 5/10K race is underway, kids (10 and under line) line up for a half-mile race through the Huntington Palisades neighborhood.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

Timeline: July 4 Highlights in the Palisades

6:30 to 8 a.m. Bib number pickup and late race registration for the Will Rogers 5K & 10K Run. (Palisades Recreation Center—small gym).

7 to 9 a.m. Kids' Fun Run registration.

8:15 a.m. 5/10K Race Start.

A tradition since 1977, the races begin and end at the Palisades Recreation Center entrance on Alma Real Drive. The title sponsor is Providence Saint John's Health Center and additional sponsors are William E. Simon & Sons, Santa Monica Orthopedic and Sports Medical Group, TrueCar, Will Rogers Institute and Farmers Insurance. The Kids' Fun Run is sponsored by Caruso Affiliated.

All races are organized by the Palisades Will Rogers 5K & 10K Run Foundation and

assisted by the Pacific Palisades Optimist Club. Proceeds from the race are donated to the Optimist Club Foundation, which distributes them to youth and community nonprofits.

9:15 a.m. The half-mile Kids' Fun Run starts. This noncompetitive run starts and ends on Alma Real Drive at Toyopa Drive.

12:30 p.m. VIP Pre-Parade Luncheon at the Community Methodist Church, 801 Via de la Paz. Dignitaries, politicians, guests and major donors are invited to a buffet luncheon that includes introductions, short speeches and great food. (Invited guests only.)

2 p.m. Parade. Skydivers land on Sunset Boulevard at Swarthmore Avenue to start the mile-long parade.

The Fourth of July parade tradition was started in 1948 by American Legion Post 283. In 1961 the loosely organized event was turned into a larger community celebration by Legion commander Russell Olsen, who garnered marching bands, floats and dignitaries.

In 1965, the Chamber of Commerce took over the parade, and in 1967, the nonprofit PAPA (Palisades Americanism Parade Association) was formed to organize the event.

Two food trucks will be available at Sunset and Swarthmore.

4 p.m. Food trucks will be available at the Palisades High stadium. Paid activities for kids include spin art Frisbees, balloon animals, bounce house and glitter tattoos. Food trucks are available. Concert starts on the upper stage at 4 p.m. with Cohort, which includes bassist Jack Ross and Tula Jussen (Palisades High School), guitarist Harry Clennon and Emilio Anamos. They will be followed by Trinity Rose, an award-winning

teen singer/songwriter. Last up is Randy Chance, a popular Palisades music teacher. Stadium gates open at 4:30 p.m.

6 p.m. Palisades Rocks the Fourth Concert.

The main concert stage starts with the award-winning Palisades High School Band and continues with the 2016 Palisades All-Stars under the direction of Tom Farrell: the group will perform classic cover songs.

Next up is Emile Millar, Adam Topol (Jack Johnson band) and Ethan Phillips (Brett Dennen). The evening's headliner is We Are the West (*see story, page 35*). The \$10 admission (children under 12 are free) helps pay for the cost of the fireworks show and benefits the PaliHi music program.

9 p.m. Fireworks Show. Once again the internationally renowned fireworks company, Pyro Spectaculars by Souza, will supply the special effects for one of the top Fourth of July shows in Los Angeles. Show creator Chris Souza promises some new fireworks that will wow even the most jaded of spectators.

Fourth of July Street Closures

RACE CLOSURES: Will Rogers 5K/10K race closures will start at 7 a.m. The Huntington Palisades neighborhood including Alma Real Drive, Corona del Mar Toyopa Drive and Pampas Ricas will be closed. Drummond Street from Toyopa to Chautauqua; Ocampo from Drummond to Alma Real will also be shut down.

Sunset Boulevard from Amalfi Drive to Monument Street will be closed in both directions. Chautauqua Boulevard north of Sunset until Drummond and Drummond from Chautauqua to Toyopa will also be closed. The roads will reopen after the race course is closed about 11 a.m.

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

CONCERT/FIREWORKS CLOSURES: Westbound Bowdoin Street, in front of Palisades High School, will be closed at noon (or before, depending on the arrival of the fireworks) and there will be no vehicle access from Temescal Canyon Road to the stadium. The eastbound lane of Bowdoin will close at 4 p.m. and not reopen until after the fireworks show. North and southbound Temescal Canyon Road will close shortly before 9 p.m. to Palisades-bound traffic (no turns off Pacific Coast Highway).



Carey Peck skydivers make a precise landing at Swarthmore and Sunset Boulevard to start the parade.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY



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Will Rogers 5/10K Registration Ongoing

Registration for the town's traditional Fourth of July Will Rogers 5/10K Run is now open.

Online preregistration is \$50 for the 5/10K and \$25 for the half-mile Kids' Fun Run. Online registration deadline is June 29.

For those who register by those deadlines, packet pickup is at Bentons The Sport Shop on Saturday, July 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Online late registration is Sunday, July 3 by midnight and the cost is \$60 for 5/10K and \$30 for the kids' run. Packet pickup is day of race.

Day of race registration is from 6:30 to 8 a.m. at the Palisades Recreation Center. Cost is \$60 for 5/10K and \$30 for the kids' run.

Honorary Mayor Kevin Nealon will be the race starter (*see story, page 18*). Palisades Indy driver Townsend Bell will drive the pace car.

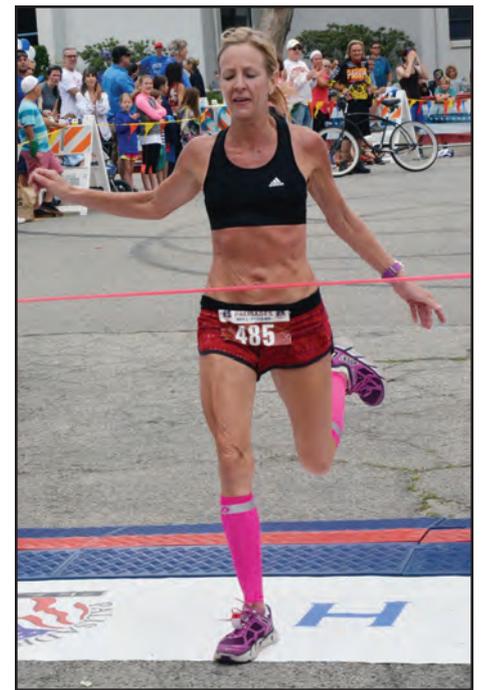
Palisadian Kelsey Ross, who works at Optimissports PT on Sunset, will sing the National Anthem (*see story, page 7*).

Last year 2,522 runners took a quick loop through the Huntington Palisades, and then 800 10K runners continued onto the switchbacks at Will Rogers State Park. Villanova junior Drake Johnston won the men's 5K (15:56) and Grace Graham-Zamudio won the women's 5K (18:34). 10K winners were Tonny Okallo and Susanne McNeil Eng.

Visit: palisades10K.com or email admin@palisades10K.com



In 2015, Tonny Okello won the 10K (32:56) for the second year in a row. Susanne McNeil Eng won the women's 10K (40:33).



Photos: Shelby Pascoe



Kids of all ages ride in the parade.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

Kids on Bikes, Trikes Can Win Prizes

Kids, decorate your bike, Razor/scooter or tricycle in a patriotic motif for the Fourth of July parade and you could win first prize (\$75), second prize (\$50) or third prize (\$25). The winner will also have his/her photo printed in the *Palisades News*.

The Yogurt Shoppe at 873 Swarthmore Ave., and now also at 11726 Barrington Ct. (Brentwood), has hosted the Kids on Bikes brigade for the past five years.

"We're excited to sponsor this event again," said storeowner Kevin Sabin. "We are trying to run things as efficiently as possible to ensure that all kids who participate in decorating are judged."

Youths who want to enter the bicycle decorating contest must come to the Yogurt Shoppe at 873 Swarthmore Ave. (across from CVS) with a fully decorated bike be-

tween 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. on Friday, July 3. Authorization forms will be handed out and a photo of each entry will be taken.

Judges will scrutinize photos, and awards will be presented on July 4 as bikes are assembling for the parade. Only those who have had their photos taken on July 3 will be eligible for prizes.

Everyone is welcome to ride in the parade, as long as they are wearing a helmet and have a completed authorization form, which must be picked up prior to the parade at The Yogurt Shoppe.

The winners can use their gift card at either Yogurt Shoppe location.

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

Yogurt Shoppe Happy Hour Aids Parade

The Yogurt Shoppe is supporting PAPA (Palisades Americanism Parade Association) by hosting a full month of fundraising with its frozen yogurt Happy Hour. From June 26 through July 23, a percentage of all sales between the "happy hours" of 5 to 7 p.m. will go directly to the parade association.

Owner Kevin Sabin has also hosted the Kids on Bikes brigade for the past five years.

The Yogurt Shoppe is now at two locations: 873 Swarthmore Ave. and 11726 Barrington Ct. (Brentwood).

Sabin said, "We pride ourselves on being a part of the local community and are huge advocates for community support and outreach programs."

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

Patriotic Pups To March in Parade

If you have a dog that gets along with other dogs and doesn't panic when it sees a horse, then consider marching with the Patriotic Pups in the Fourth of July parade.

For the past 21 years, between 70 and 100 dogs trot along the parade route with their owners, wowing the crowd with their resolute cuteness. All potential marchers should call Marilyn Haaker at (310) 454-6430 and leave their name, telephone number and the pup's name.

Shortly before the parade begins at 2 p.m., owners and canines meet under the trees at Palisades Elementary, corner of Via de la Paws (Paz) and Bowdoin. Owners should bring water for their pets.



Dogs of all sizes join owners in the Fourth of July parade.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

Saint John's Sponsors the Race

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

One might think that staging a 5/10K run is an inexpensive proposition. Well maybe, if you ran it in your back yard. Realistically, you would need people to register runners; permits and barricades to close off streets; police, parking officials and medical staff at the race; water and toilets; timing equipment; and it might be nice to have T-shirts and medals.

Registration fees cover only a portion of the Will Rogers 5/10K race costs—the rest is made possible by sponsorships, such as the support provided by Providence Saint John's Health Center. Since the race began in 1977, Saint John's has been the title sponsor.

"This is a community hospital," said longtime Palisadian Bob Klein, president and chief executive of Saint John's Health Center Foundation in Santa Monica. "Community outreach is part of our mission—and so many Palisadians are involved with the race and with the hospital."

Klein said the initial push to sponsor the race came from two Palisadians, Jerry Epstein and his late wife Pat. The patriotic couple were a big supporter of this country and its history and Fourth of July celebrations. They had purchased and contributed early American documents to Williams-



Providence Saint John's has been a race supporter since 1977. Photo courtesy of Saint John's

burg, a town and vision they supported.

The Epsteins had also been involved with Saint John's for 45 years. Jerry has been a member of the Foundation's board of trustees since 1975 and served as chairman in 2006 and 2007. Pat, who passed away last July, was one of the founding members of the Irene Dunne Guild.

The hospital, which was founded in 1942 by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, was transferred to Providence Health & Services in 2014. But the support for the race continued because of the Epsteins.

Additionally, "Part of our mission is to

take care of the sick, but wellness and health support is also important," Klein said, noting that every Fourth of July, Saint John's employees and their children participate in the Will Rogers 5/10K.

"There are lots of trustees and board members who should also be recognized for their support, including Bill and Cindy Simon [Race Sponsor]," Klein said. "There's also Rick and Tina Caruso [Kids Fun Run] and Jordan Kaplan [color guard sponsor]."

The medical tent at the race is staffed by Saint John's doctors and nurses—many of whom are Palisadians.

Klein said he asked his friends, Teddy and John Kindle, if they would be in charge of T-shirt distribution and they willingly agreed to help out.

"The next generation of Palisadians who are running the race are emerging," Klein said. "Michael Solum, who grew up here, Peter Hogan, who has won the 10K, brothers Jimmy and Patrick Klein, Jeff Lemen, Brian Wood and Andrew Klein—all ran the race when they were younger and now their children are running in the race."

Klein, who played tight end at USC and then in the NFL with the L.A. Rams (1969 to 1976) and San Diego Chargers until his retirement in 1979, has been a constant at Saint John's. He has been a Foundation trustee since 1988.

"Providence is the third-largest health institution in the United States and the largest in the Western U.S.," said Klein, who noted that it is comparable to Kaiser in facilities and research.

The Saint John's service area embraces 29 zip codes and includes Venice and West L.A. "We care for the underserved," Klein noted. "We partner with the Venice Family Clinic and OPCC (Ocean Park Community Center)."

Visit: California.providence.org/saint-johns.

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PALISADES WILL ROGERS 5K & 10K RACE COMMITTEE

Ross Starts Day with National Anthem

By LAURA CARR
Special to the Palisades News

Palisadian Kelsey Ross was taken by surprise when organizers for the Will Rogers 5K/10K race reached out to her and asked her to sing the National Anthem on July 4.

“It was lovely, though, because as a kid I always wanted to sing the National Anthem before the race,” Ross said. “The Fourth of July is one of my favorite holidays because of the traditions like the race in the Palisades.”

Ross, 31, grew up taking dance classes at Fancy Feet Dance Studio and performing in youth musicals through Theatre Palisades Kids. She has participated in the Palisades’ Fourth of July festivities for most of her life.

“The fireworks are my favorite part,” Ross said. “We stay in the Palisades the entire day. I’ll be biking around the Palisades party hopping. We go to my best friend’s house to watch the fireworks, and from that house it’s such a gorgeous view [off Lachman].”

That friend is Virginia Levanas, whom Ross has known since Theatre Palisades Kids.

“Not only is Kelsey beautiful and has a voice that easily moves people to tears, she has a charisma, passion and zest for life that

translates into an incredible stage presence,” Levanas said. “I remember crying during her soulful solos in *Les Miz* in high school and I feel so lucky to enjoy her talents still as she rocks out with her cover band. She really gets the crowd going! She can move you to tears.”

Ross attended Marymount High School her freshman and sophomore years, but transferred to Palisades High School for the drama department.

She landed the role of Éponine in the school’s production of *Les Miserables* and she participated in festivals held by the Drama Teachers’ Association of Southern California. She was also a member of the volleyball team.

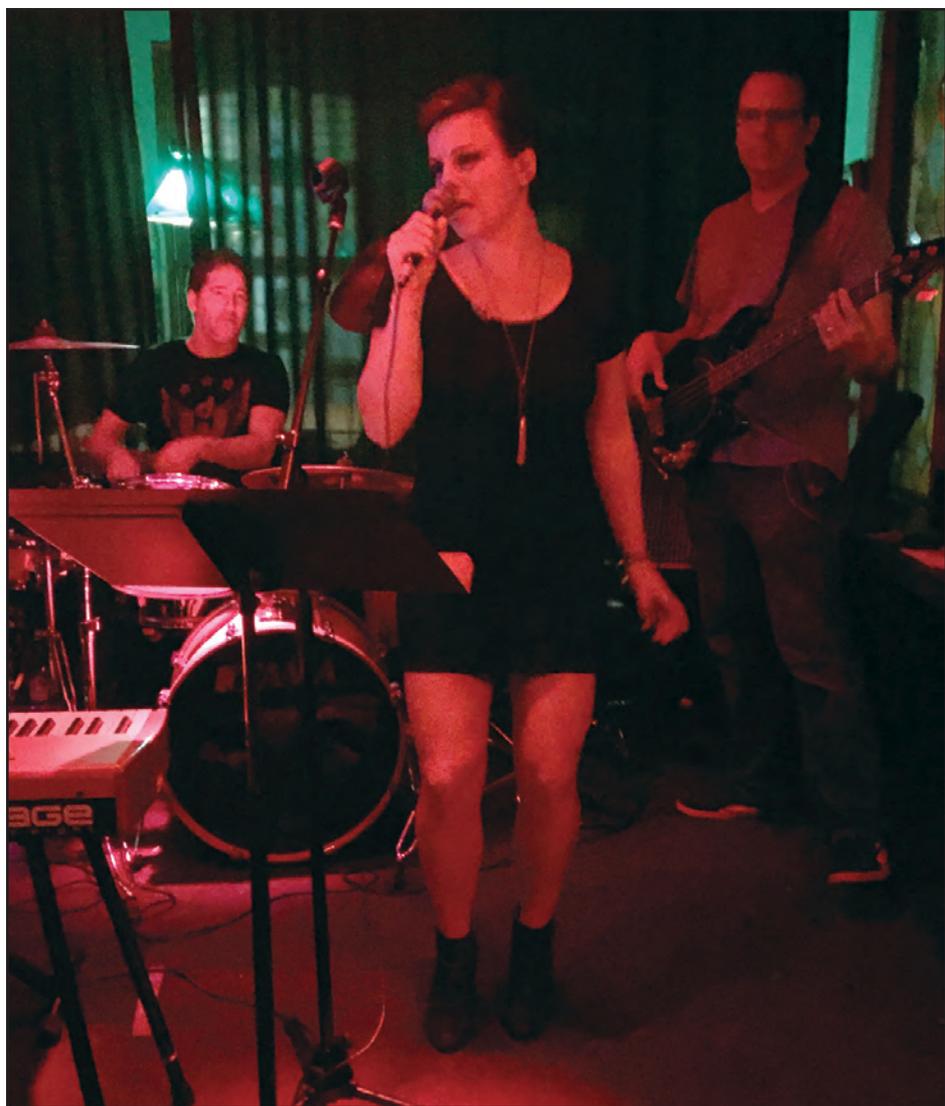
After graduating from PaliHi in 2003, Ross attended Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. During college, she sang with a co-ed a cappella group, The Chasers, and she was in a musical theater group called Company. She graduated in 2007 with a bachelor’s degree in international studies and a minor in vocal performance.

“I was involved in a capella before it became cool—because of *Pitch Perfect*,” she said. “Now there are all these hilarious movies about it.”

Ross spent eight months abroad. She ran a bed and breakfast in Panama for four months and then sailed to Colombia and continued to backpack through South America. She came back to the Palisades because “I would never live anywhere else. I’ve lived in a ton of places and nothing beats here.”

Despite her many accomplishments in music and theater, Ross is most proud of her doctorate in physical therapy that she received from Midwestern University in 2014. She is now a physical therapist at OptimisSportPT (off Sunset next to Village Photo).

“I have always loved helping people, but I’m also an athlete, so it allows me to help people physically,” Ross said. “I grew up dancing at Fancy Feet, and now I’m working on dancers at Fancy Feet, and I’m working on kids in the drama department from PaliHi, so it’s kind of like beautiful bookends.”



Kelsey Ross, a physical therapist at OptimisSportPT, performs at local venues with the cover band Model Citizen.

The last two years, Ross has been singing in a ‘70s/’80s cover band called Model Citizen. The band performs at Rusty’s Surf Ranch on the Santa Monica Pier, Joxer Daly’s in Culver City and Brennan’s Pub in Marina del Rey.

“I did consider [pursuing a career in music], but then I realized I wanted a stable job. But I wanted to keep singing for fun,” she said. “Singing is my number-one passion.”

Her weekend leading up to her performance at the Will Rogers race is packed. “I have a gig on July 2 until 2 a.m. On July 3, I’m at the Bel-Air Bay Club Fourth of July

party, and on July 4, I’m waking up really early to sing the National Anthem,” she said. “Normally I’m singing at night and my vocal cords have warmed up, but I’ll just practice singing in the morning over the next couple of weeks.”

After Ross finishes singing the National Anthem, she will make her way to the starting line to run the race.

“I’m not worried about singing and running,” she said. “Everyone in the Palisades is so supporting and loving. I’m excited to see friends and family, and people [patients] I’ve helped be able to run a 5K.

Desperately Needed!!

Adults, students and kids (ages 10 and older) are needed to carry banners in the parade. Sports groups are also welcome—join the Palisades High School football players who will once again participate. A banner introduces the next float, musical group or politician and this year a group that normally participates is not available. DIRE SITUATION! No experience necessary and community service is offered. Call Sylvia Boyd at (310) 454-9556, email info@palisadesparade.org or come to the Methodist Church at 801 Via de la Paz at 1:30 p.m.

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United We Stand: Working Towards Unity

By PETER KREITLER
Special to the Palisades News

July 4, the day set aside to remember the nation's birthday, will perhaps take on a greater significance for all of us if we take time to reflect on the unity of a disparate group of people long ago that led to a United States of America.

Perhaps the efforts of the revolutionaries of 1776 should be talked about this Independence Day because at no time in my 7-plus decades on this earth has there been division in our nation like there is today.

Political polarization is at an all-time high and the name calling among and between America's finest men and woman seeking the highest office in the land has been nothing short of despicable. As the words of Lincoln ("A house divided cannot stand") or from a 1927 issue of *Treat 'Em Square* ("United We Stand, Divided We Fall") ring in our ears, they seem to be falling on the deaf ears of millions of Americans.

Is it not time to raise our flag that speaks to the unity that fostered a nation unique in its diversity? The stars and stripes ask all of us to stand united.

Since the Founding Fathers drafted the Declaration of Independence, there have been two publishing events that used our nation's most iconic symbol to promote the concept that all Americans are rowing the same boat.

The first and most comprehensive was the United We Stand Campaign, which featured the American Flag on the cover of close to 1,000 magazines, trade journals and periodicals in July-August 1942. A comprehensive collection of these magazines has been donated to the Smithsonian's Museum of American History by Mr. Pete Claussen of Tennessee, and Katy and Peter Kreitler.

The second campaign came after the terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001. Many magazines featured the Flag and the words "United We Stand" on their covers.

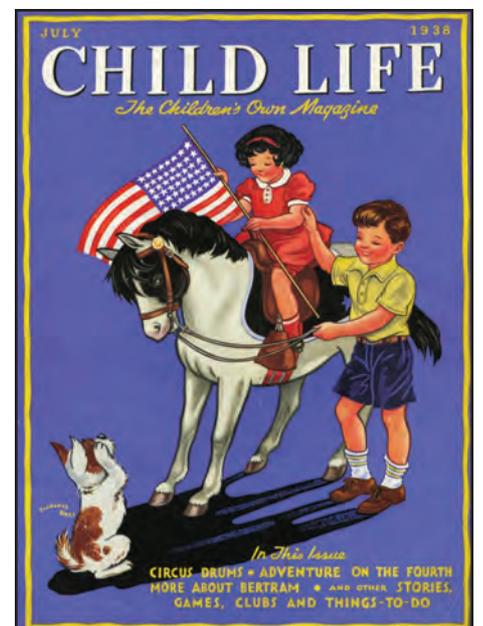
In both situations, the over-arching theme of unity broke down the political



July 1942



July 1900



July 1938

differences, ethnic or religious variations among our populace, and fostered a sense of cooperation.

Perhaps the magazine covers from the Kreitler Collection (examples are shown here) and the large body of work at the

Smithsonian could be utilized to bring our nation together in these challenging times. The Flag waves over all of us regardless of where we came from, our religious persuasion, and our ethnic heritage. This above all is what the United States Flag represents.

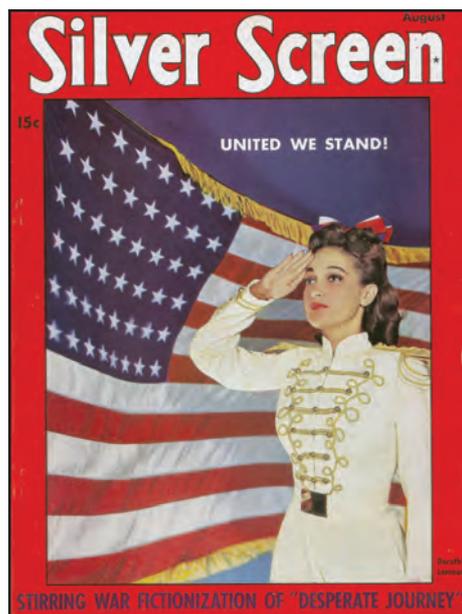
History has taught us that once in a great while the voice of someone we least expect offers words that resonate across all levels of society.

"Why can't we all just get along?" are words that still ring loud and true at a time in our national story when division rather than unity seems to mark the times.

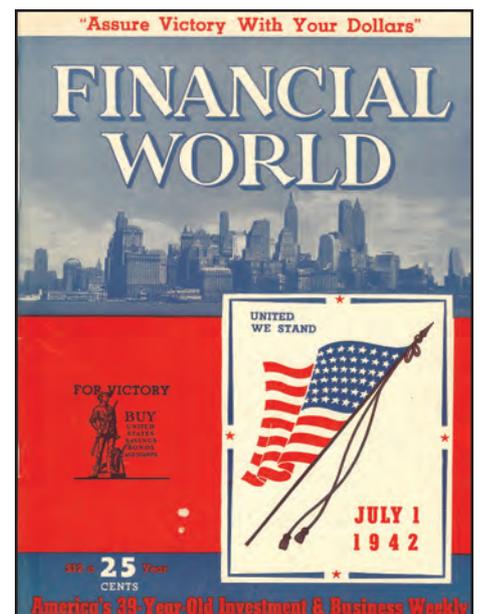
Under the guise of facing the threat from terrorists, and within the framework of fear raised by increasing global violence, we have seen a new form of jingoistic nationalism destined to increasingly divide rather than bring together these united states of America. Rather than fostering consensus, or molding a unified strategy within our own borders for the common good, caustic vitriol has dominated the airwaves as the hope of unity fades daily. Civility in public discourse has taken a back seat to unpatriotic name-calling and mean-spirited behavior.



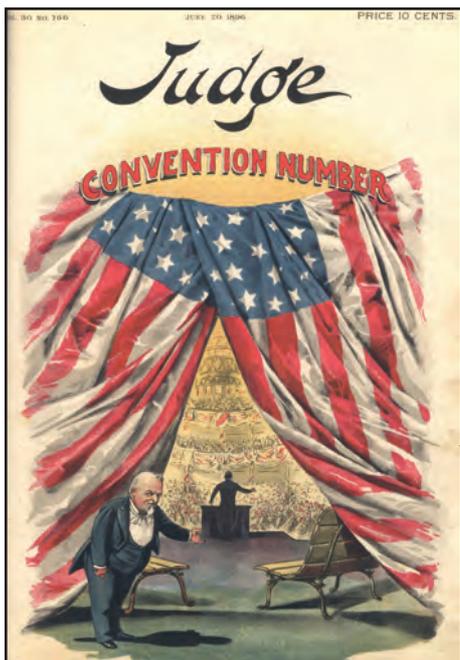
July 1942



August 1942



July 1942



June 1896



July 1925



July 1890



July 1906

divided against itself” created our nation’s darkest hours from 1861-65. From within grew the seeds of discontent so that the home-grown terror on our soils disrupted the united states of America and the scars 150 years later still remain.

Now we are 50 states, not 13, yet the possibility of a repeat of when brother fought brother has become of great concern to many. In essence, the flag that flies over all in this great nation, the one with the stars and stripes, represents unity above all else. Perhaps, we need our flag to come to our rescue once again. Odd perhaps that a sim-

ple piece of cloth attached to a stick can have the power to evoke strong emotions, but a simple viewing of the statue replicating the raising of the flag on Iwo Jima in 1945 can stir the hearts of millions.

Our American Flag and the history attached to it affords all of us the option this Fourth of July to look back on our story, reflect and re-awaken to a time when it was calling to us to stand united.

In The Kreitler 1777 Magazine Collection featuring the United States Flag, one single publishing event stands out above all others. Under the auspices of the Treasury Depart-

ment, the Publishing Association, and the United States Flag Association, the country in summer 1942 was awash in magazine covers flying “Old Glory” in some fashion.

Trade journals highlighting the diverse professions and avocations as diverse as *Taxes, Silver Screen, Sport Story, Electrical Manufacturing, Milk Plant Monthly, Banking, Specialty Salesman, Manufacturers Record, Feed Bag (Farming), Financial World (Wall Street), Motor Transportation, Skyscraper Management (Real Estate), Our Navy, Flower Grower and Musical Courier*—to name just a few—all shared two

things in common: the Flag was on the cover of the issue nearest to July 4 and each one printed the phrase “United We Stand” on the cover as well.

Perhaps we could prevail upon the three entities from the 1942 campaign to reinstate a similar campaign. “United We Stand” is not anachronistic, nor should it ever be, because from our diversity, unity emerges as the greatest attribute of our proud nation.

(The Rev. Canon Peter Kreitler, an author and environmental educator, has lived in Pacific Palisades since 1974.)

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HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY, PACIFIC PALISADES!

Palisades Village will be knee-high by (next) Fourth of July.

I look forward to many memorable celebrations together
and thank you for your warm welcome to the neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Rick Caruso

PalisadesVillageCA.com |  *PalisadesVillageCA*

LIFE • STYLE • CARUSO

Brigadier General Lathrop Reviews Parade

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Brigadier General John Lathrop, who is now the Assistant Division Commander, 40th Infantry Division of the California National Guard, will be the reviewing officer for the Pacific Palisades Fourth of July parade.

Unlike most of the generals who participated in past parades but had never before visited the Palisades, this will be Lathrop's second time in town. "I was there when I was about 23," he said. "My mom used to do a lot of antique hunting and the town had quite a few stores."

Lathrop's family has lived in California since the 1930s, when both sets of his grandparents moved west during the Depression. He grew up in Bakersfield, but his parents had been raised in El Monte. His father was drafted and served during the Cuban missile crisis in 1961.

Lathrop attended UC Riverside and was a member of the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) through the Claremont Colleges. He graduated in 1986 with a degree in political science, and in December received his Army commission.

He was sent to South Korea as a survey officer and then as a fire direction officer of the B Battery, 1st Battalion.

In 1990-91, as a member of the Active Component, he served in the Demilitarized Zone in Korea and in Southwest Asia during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm (the Persian Gulf War).

Lathrop then returned to California for assignments in Van Nuys, Bakersfield and Los Angeles with the National Guard.

During the Los Angeles riots and the aftermath of the

Northridge earthquake, Lathrop served as a traditional Guardsman. He commanded the 115th Regional Support Group and served as Chief of Staff for the 40th Infantry Division.

In 1998, Lathrop received a master's degree in business from the University of Redlands and was sent to Fort Leavenworth for a command and general staff officer course.

He completed an international strategic studies program at the Fletcher School of Diplomacy at Tufts University in 2005.

Immediately after completing the course, Lathrop was deployed to Balad, Iraq, as the Deputy Commander, 40th Corps Support Group in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom IV.

As a member of the Active Component, he served in the Demilitarized Zone in Korea and in Southwest Asia during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service, Army Commendation, Army Achievement medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terror Service, Kuwait Liberation Medal and Combat Action Badge.

Lathrop was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in August 2000, and five years later he made Colonel. A year ago, he attained the rank of Brigadier General and is currently based in Los Alamitos.

Most people expect holidays such as July 4, Memorial Day and Labor Day to be days off, but not Lathrop. "I am always doing something on the Fourth of July," he said. "Someone always asks for a military officer to be present at a ceremony."

This July 4, Lathrop had a choice between going to Los



Brigadier General John Lathrop

Alamitos, starting at 5 a.m., or coming to Pacific Palisades. He chose the Palisades, because he's been invited to the Orange County location and has attended several functions there, but this would be his first official function here.

Lathrop admits he hasn't been in many parades. He remembers one in Roseville, California, when the family rode on an antique firetruck. For the Palisades parade, he'll be accompanied by his wife Mary.

"I'm not at all practiced with the Cinderella wave," he said. He was told that Palisadians were friendly and were just thrilled he would be in the parade.

If you have a VIP ticket, you can meet the Brigadier General at the luncheon before the parade. Earlier, he will meet with members of American Legion Post 283 at their hall on Antioch.

13th Annual MOVIES IN THE PARK 2016 SEASON

<p>August 6 (PG-13)</p>	<p>August 13 (G)</p>
<p>August 20 (PG-13)</p>	<p>August 27 (PG)</p>

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Weiss Pens Parade Theme Slogan

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Eric Weiss is a radio guy, and he enjoys tossing around ideas for slogans. When he read about the parade theme contest in the *Palisades News*, Weiss asked his sons, Benjamin, 10, and Zachary, 7, to help him think up some ideas. Unfortunately, they weren't too interested, so he played around with some slogans for a few minutes on his own and came up with "Independence Day—the Palisades Way."

"I love slogans, and so when I saw the article, I took five minutes to brainstorm," said Weiss, who currently operates a talent agency for radio personalities. His slogan won, and his prize is the chance to ride with his family in the Fourth of July parade fire truck. "This is the first time I've ever entered a slogan in a contest," but at work, "a lot of time is spent brainstorming things like this. That's fun for me."

Riding in the parade will also be a treat. The event is a favorite for Weiss, his wife, Jacqui Bell, a realtor with Gibson Realty, and their sons, who attend Village School. Weiss grew up in the small town of Berlin, N.J., which also had a similar parade. Since moving to Pacific Palisades in 1989, he has regularly watched the local festivities, but this year will be his first time being in the parade.

"I love the parade," Weiss said. "When I ended up moving to the Palisades, it brought back all of those memories of a small-town Fourth of July parade, and I enjoy going to it."

Weiss spent the first half of his life on the East Coast, first in his hometown, which is just outside Philadelphia,



Eric Weiss

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

and later at Rutgers University in New Jersey. He attended law school at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and his first job was at Mutual Broadcasting, also in D.C.

However, about a year later in 1985, the company was acquired by Westwood One, the nation's largest radio network, and Weiss moved to Los Angeles to become the company's head of business and legal affairs. He spent 10 years at Westwood One before transferring to his own endeavors, which continued to connect to radio. He became the CEO of AME, Inc., a producer and distributor of nationally syndicated programming, and then he was vice chairman of Premiere Networks,

also a producer and distributor of nationally syndicated programming, which was purchased by Clear Channel Communications in 1997.

Afterwards, he ventured away from radio to take control of an infomercial company, National Media, and then was the CEO of buyitnow.com. In 2001, he returned to radio to represent talent with his business, The Weiss Agency, which is located in the Palisades.

His first client was radio personality Casey Kasem, and Kasem's daughter, Kerri, also a radio and television personality, is currently his client. The Weiss Agency represents a number of local radio personalities, including former Palisades parade Grand Marshal John Kobylt from KFI's John and Ken show, which is the nation's most popular talk radio show; Tim Conway, Jr. also on KFI; Jillian Barberie Terri-Rae Elmer and Doug McIntyre of KABC; Lisa Stanley of KRTH; Valentine from MYFm; and both Heidi Hamilton and Frank Kramer of KLOS.

"In addition to negotiating their deals, I assist some clients with building their brands and finding new opportunities," Weiss said. "Marketing and programming is something I'm very involved in."

Locally, Weiss volunteers on the Marketing Committee at Village School, and his wife is on the board of the Palisades Country Estates Homeowners Association in the Highlands. Weiss also has coached for both rookie and bantam league basketball at the Palisades Recreation Center. The parade slogan contest has given them a new way to be involved with the community.

"I was pleasantly surprised to hear that my slogan was chosen," Weiss said. "I'm looking forward to coming to the parade this year."



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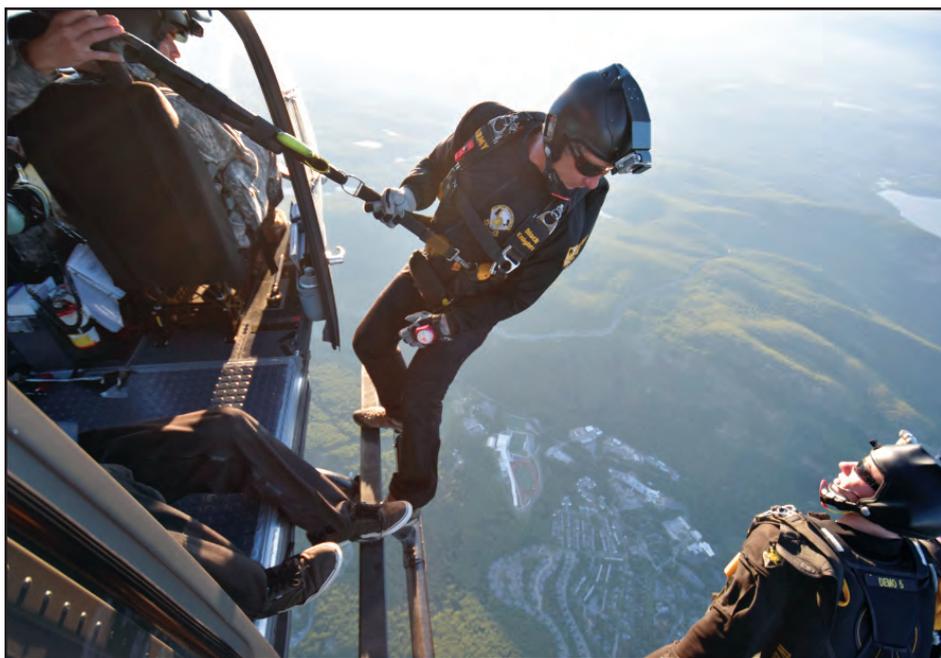
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Coach Tom Falzone oversees the West Point team as he and the team jump into MetLife Stadium at an NFL Jets game last year. Falzone, who graduated from Palisades High School in 1979, will be one of the skydivers landing at the intersection of Swarthmore and Sunset Boulevard to start the Fourth of July parade. Photo courtesy Tom Falzone

Falzone: Skydiving onto Sunset

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Parachuting has been the focus of Tom Falzone's life for 30 years. "The sport grabbed me and never let me go," said Falzone, 56, who first decided to try skydiving after seeing it on television. For the next two years, every weekend, he was parachuting downward. "I never missed a weekend."

By 1988, he had completed 500 jumps and was invited to participate in the world's largest free-fall formation, which at that time consisted of 144 people holding each other as they floated downward. He later participated in a record-breaking 356-person effort in 2004. The record has since climbed to 400 parachutists.

Falzone's enchantment with the sport also led the 1979 PaliHi graduate to his current job as coach of West Point's parachute team. The team recently won the collegiate national championship, an honor the U.S. Military Academy at West Point has held for four out of the six years Falzone has coached the team.

Again this year, "We beat Air Force, which was a big deal," he said. "They're usually dominant. We call them the Yankees of skydiving."

Falzone will return home to join Carey Peck and Rich Piccirilli as the parachutists who launch the Pacific Palisades Fourth of July Parade this year—a job he requests from Peck whenever possible.

"It's a great honor," said Falzone, who noted that it's also a challenge due to traversing winds that make landing tricky along Sunset at Swarthmore. But he enjoys the jump, and the visit home. "I see friends I haven't seen in a long time. How corny is it to say I'm dropping in to say hello?"

For Falzone, leading the West Point team meant moving from Los Angeles to New York, but he welcomed the opportunity and treasures working with the cadets, most

of whom have never parachuted before joining the team. He both trains and joins them on jumps, which include landings in the school's Michie Stadium for football games and also formation jumps into places like Yankee Stadium and Belmont Park on the day of the famous horse race.

The team practices seven days a week, and weather permitting, every weekday, the cadets make three or four jumps plus 12 to 16 jumps each weekend day. The commitment requires that cadets also join the team for practices during summer, Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks.

Despite the demands, the competition to join the team is fierce. About 250 of the school's incoming freshmen try out for the sport. Once they learn how much time they must devote, about half of them drop out. Then, the remainder is whittled down via interviews to about 50 who try out for 10 freshmen spots, Falzone said. The sophomore, junior and senior cadets run the tryouts and choose their teammates—generally a diverse group consisting of two or three female cadets plus a mix

of ethnic and religious backgrounds among the 10 members.

The reasons that some cadets don't make the team are varied. For some, "their fear factor is a little overwhelming," Falzone said. Others "might not have the ability to work under that type of pressure, or they might not enjoy it . . . Skydiving is not for everybody . . . Everybody wants to be on the team, but not everybody has that temperament or personality for it."

Even the chosen group of 10 doesn't necessarily stay with the program all four years. Usually some leave because it's difficult to maintain their participation on the team and also contend with the school's academic demands. "They came here to be cadets, not skydivers," Falzone noted.

On average, about 8 of the 10 from each class graduate as team members, although sometimes as few as five have stayed with the team through four years, he said. The whole team generally consists of 30 individuals.

The group practices using helicopters instead of airplanes, because runways weren't part of the original campus, which is 50 miles north of New York City and was



Falzone lands at the 2010 Army/Navy game.



Tom Falzone about to land at the beginning of the 2014 parade. Photo: Shelby Pascoe

established in 1801 by Thomas Jefferson. By the time team members reach their senior year, cadets generally have accumulated more than 800 jumps and have earned a chance to do the premier skydives, including landing in Yankee Stadium. "You don't get your turn. You have to earn your turn," Falzone said.

The coach, who was born in Chicago but moved to Brentwood when he was 6, is right there with them on these big jumps and as they develop skills as leaders and individuals through parachuting and attending West Point.

"I always say to my cadets, 'I'm living my dream,'" Falzone said. "I'm so very lucky and honored at this stage in my life to work with this academy and work with incredible men and women. The kids who make it to this academy are pretty phenomenal . . . Their commitment to this country and their teammates and the academy is phenomenal. It's really a joy."

Weber Chosen as Parade Marshal

By BILL BRUNS
Palisades News Adviser

Attorney Rob Weber, who brought boundless energy, enthusiasm and creativity to the Fourth of July parade/concert/fireworks committee (PAPA) for over a decade, has been selected to ride as this year's parade marshal.

"Rob served three times as president and has been an important mainstay of PAPA," said Daphne Gronich, the non-profit's president since 2014. "He inspired several new events that broaden the day's appeal, he brought new members to our board and he worked hard to increase our financial support."

When Weber and his wife, Karyn, moved to Pacific Palisades in 2001, they bought a house on Alma Real next to the Recreation Center, not realizing that the parade route ended across the street.

Weber initially joined PAPA because he wanted to help bring more crowd-pleasing marching bands to the parade. Growing up in the Chicago area, he had been a drummer with the champion Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corps and he was now able to use his contacts to bring similar bands here.

A graduate of the University of Illinois, Weber earned his law degree at Chicago-Kent College of Law, where he met Keith



The Weber family, left to right: Josh, Tamar, Karyn and Rob.

Turner. They both worked for the same Beverly Hills law firm after graduation and both eventually settled in the Palisades.

When Weber signed on with PAPA, he asked Turner to join him, but his friend replied, "Only when you're president of the organization." That came four years later, in 2008, and Weber persuaded Turner to

organize a live, pre-fireworks musical show in the Palisades High stadium. The Palisades Rocks the Fourth concert is now a major musical event and entertains more than 6,000 people on two stages.

Weber also instigated a Fourth of July home decoration contest in 2008 (for which he still serves as a judge), and when

he returned as PAPA president in 2009, he was able to secure the reigning Miss America (from Indiana) as parade grand marshal. Weber volunteered a third time as president in 2013, during which time he improved PAPA's use of social media while also pursuing major donors. He's now a committee adviser.

"This is not the Rose Bowl Parade, with million-dollar floats coming down the street, but it is one of the best hometown parades you're going to see," Weber told L.A. Times reporter Martha Groves in 2013.

A year later, he was honored as Citizen of the Year by the Pacific Palisades Community Council, which cited "his successful efforts to increase the scope and visibility" of the parade, the concert and the fireworks show.

Weber, 48, is a securities litigation partner in the global law firm DLA Piper, the world's largest law firm. He has an international practice with a significant focus on Chinese and other Asian clients involved in U.S. litigation and SEC enforcement actions.

The Webers have two children, Tamar, 12, and Josh, 11, and Rob hopes they can all join him along the parade route. In 2014, he was set to ride as Citizen, but PAPA needed a last-minute replacement for one of the parade announcers, and guess who filled in?



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Crowds Love Patriotic Pups

By DEBBIE ALEXANDER
Staff Writer

The Patriotic Pups will mark their 22nd year marching in our town's Fourth of July parade, which may inspire many along the parade route to finally get a dog.

"We're very popular because people like dogs," said organizer Marilyn Haaker. "However, I won't say that we're the most popular group in the parade."

"It's definitely a reason to get a dog, and kids always want one," suggests co-founder Margaret Haaker (Marilyn's sister), who imported the idea for dogs in the parade from her former home in Mill Valley, California.

"I had just returned to the Palisades, where I grew up," Margaret said. "My daughter was young and I figured, why not include dogs in the parade here, too. Up north, the group is so huge that the dogs are actually divided by breed."

The sisters co-founded Patriotic Pups together, working super hard to create a dedicated following, "I had one man tell me that he has joined us in every parade," Marilyn said. "We put notices in the local newspapers and put up some flyers. As people call us, we tell them to join us and bring a few friends."



Sometimes older dogs need a lift.

Photo: Tom Hofer

Annually, the Patriotic Pups attract somewhere between 60 to 80 dogs along with their owners. The sisters don't feel this number really warrants dividing up the pooches by breed. Most certainly, the Haakers' four dogs will be marching alongside the others.

Participants need to gather under the trees at Palisades Elementary by about 1:15 p.m. with their dog on a leash, before lining up in the parade.

Owners should bring water for themselves and their dogs, Marilyn said, "and possibly socks for paws too, if hot pavement

is a concern. We also carry some extra water because we're very sensitive to the needs of the dogs."

"If a dog looks unhappy," Margaret shares, "we insist upon resting in the shade."

The tradition remains very much a family affair because Marilyn's 15-year-old twins are active helpers.

"In the past, they've made and carried our banners," she said. "They also help keep our area obvious and the dogs together."

Each dog receives a patriotic bandana courtesy of Paws N' Claws on Marquez,



Photo: Shelby Pascoe

which has sponsored the Pups brigade for at least 10 years. The sisters also discourage dressing the dogs up, feeling that the bandanas create a cohesive pack unity among the pups.

"We've been lucky because the dogs always get along," Marilyn said. "They lose the territorial aspect once they are gathered together. The parade is a lot of stimuli for them, so they chill and relax."

With all that exercise, those Patriotic Pups probably won't need a walk before the annual fireworks show scheduled for after nightfall. But pet owners are warned that many animals are sensitive to the noise and to make sure their animals are secure in the house or yard that evening. Every year someone's pet bolts, resulting in a search.

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Build a Float? Sure, It's Easy

By SARAH STOCKMAN
Palisades News Reporter

Streamers flutter in the wind as music drifts through the air. Dancers spin, mimicking papier-mâché figurines rotating so the crowd can see them from all angles. People cheer as the float rolls by, the marching band in front, cowboys on horses behind.

This is the classic image of a float sailing through a parade. The two are synonymous. You cannot say the word “float” without thinking about a parade and all that comes with it.

Every year the Palisades Fourth of July Parade brings joy to children and parents alike. From skydivers to camels, the parade never ceases to surprise and amaze. However, every year it is strangely lacking in floats.

Perhaps this is due to the supposed cost of floats or the expected decadence required to create a proper float, but floats really are not that complicated. They don't have to be covered in flower petals as in the Tournament of Roses Parade or sport a giant floating character as in the Macy's Day Parade.

Instead, a float can be anything you want it to be, and relatively easily, too. After all, floats are essentially made of a moveable



Seven Arrows Elementary School's float was a welcome entry in last year's parade.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

base decorated thematically.

The hardest part about making a float is choosing a theme. Although a theme is not required, it makes it easier to construct a

float when there's a focus. Do you want to send the Palisades a message? Do you want to shout to the world how much you love dogs? Do you want to brag about your gar-

dening skills? A float is definitely the place to do one, or all, of these things.

Once the theme has been chosen, then you
(Continued on Page 17)



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One year Palisades High School students decorated a Chevy Suburban in an effort to raise money for a swimming pool on campus.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe



For many years the Radcliffe float, decorated by families who lived on the street, graced the parade.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

Floats

(Continued from Page 16)

can decide how best to showcase your idea.

First things first, you must choose a base. A base can be composed of almost anything that moves, including a human. A “classic” float uses a flatbed trailer or a hay wagon, but don’t feel limited by what has already been done. Shopping carts, golf carts, cars and truck beds work equally well and, for a more unique float, use a boat sitting on its trailer.

Once the theme and vehicle are chosen,

then the real fun begins. Decorations are what turn a golf cart with a cat theme into a feline masterpiece.

Decorations can be anything you want them to be. They are also the most dangerous part of the float because it’s easy to walk into a Michael’s and want to buy everything.

Floats, especially on the Fourth of July, tend to be bejeweled with pomps, a.k.a. tissue paper designed to look like paper starbursts. The best way to create a collection of pomps is to spray chicken wire with adhesive and then stuff the pomps into the holes. The chicken wire can then be easily

wrapped around something or nailed to a piece of plywood.

The basic materials of a float might include crepe paper, craft paper, paint, wood, papier-mâché and spray paint. They can also be items you have lying around the house.

Do you have old records that don’t work anymore? Glue them into a statue and make them part of your creation. Are you sick of your lace tablecloth? Use it as skirt for the base of the float, or decorate the windows of the vehicle carrying your creation. Do you have half a dozen balls of

yarn you’re never going to make into that complicated sweater? Wrap them around a papier-mâché figurine or knit them into a cover for the cab of your flatbed truck.

The finishing touches will be costumes that match your theme and maybe even some music, played through a boombox attached to a portable generator.

The point of a float is not to have the most artistic float or even the most expensive, but instead to have a float that is creative and fun to make. No matter what your float becomes, people watching this coming parade will cheer you on.

Happy 4th of July to You and Your Families!



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‘Mayor’ Nealon Rides as Grand Marshal

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Selecting a grand marshal for the Palisades Fourth of July parade is somewhat of a mystical process. Some say conjuring goes on, others compare it to waiting word about a new pope, standing outside the Chamber of Commerce office and watching for white smoke signifying a new honoree.

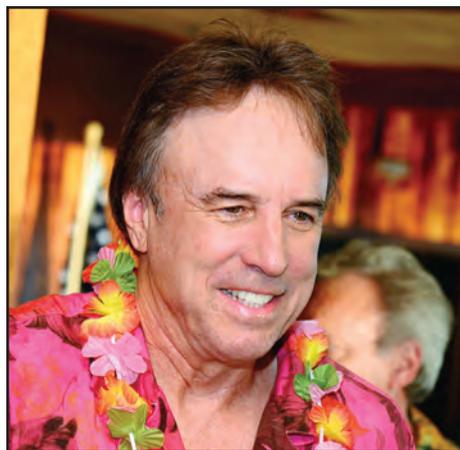
The wait is over. After Honorary Mayor Kevin Nealon’s triumphant six-month fight to rid Pacific Palisades of crime, he was the unanimous selection for this year’s Fourth of July parade.

A popular *Saturday Night Live* star, comedian and actor, Nealon talked to the *Palisades News* from the Bonnaroo festival, a comedy and music event outside of Nashville that routinely draws 80,000 people.

He felt honored by the unexpected parade title. “I don’t know what’s coming next,” Nealon said. “Honorary mayor, grand marshal—crossing guard?”

He said he was stressed out about the law enforcement duties of being a marshal because “I’ll have to give out tickets and arrest people along the parade route.”

Nealon’s jam-packed Fourth of July weekend starts on July 2 when he will headline at the Ice House Comedy Club in Pasadena. The next day he will help judge PAPA’s Patriotic Home Decorating Contest. On July 4, he will wield the starter pistol



Parade grand marshal Kevin Nealon
Photo courtesy Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce

for the 5/10K Will Rogers Race and then ride in the parade with his wife, actress Susan Yeagley, and their son Gable.

Since his selection as honorary mayor in January (by the Chamber of Commerce), what have Nealon’s official duties included? “Fundraisers and helping clean out a few attics,” he quipped.

On the Conan O’Brien show in April, Nealon spoke about his life as honorary mayor and his pledge to fight criminal acts. For example: residents who take little sample cups of frozen yogurt at and keep refilling them, without purchasing anything.

He also vowed to get tough on drugs in Pacific Palisades—specifically, the rampant use of botox. And he promised to rid the

town of those who forget to bring their own shopping bags from home and must purchase a paper bag.

Nealon is also working to stop our neighbors to the south from invading the Palisades and will ask Santa Monica’s honorary mayor to pay to put up a wall. (The O’Brien segment can be viewed on YouTube.)

Born in St. Louis, Nealon was raised in Bridgeport, Connecticut. His father worked for a helicopter company and Nealon, from the time he was six until he was 10, lived in Germany, where he learned to speak the language fluently.

“I learned how to swim in Greece, ski in Austria and argue in Italy,” Nealon said.

Growing up, “I always wanted to be a musician,” said Nealon, who plays guitar. After seeing the movie *Deliverance*, he also taught himself to play banjo. “I was too intimidated to sing on stage, but started going to clubs and telling jokes.”

After attending Sacred Heart University in Connecticut, Nealon moved to Los Angeles, hit the comedy-club circuit and soon appeared on Johnny Carson and David Letterman. He was a cast member on *SNL* from 1986-95.

Nealon made his film debut in the 1987 romantic comedy, *Roxanne*, with Steve Martin and has starred in more than two dozen comedies, including *Happy Gilmore*, *The Wedding Singer* and *Daddy Day Care*.

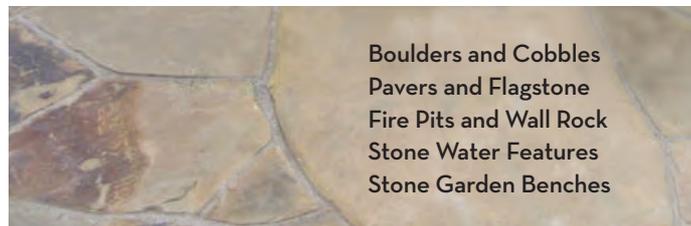
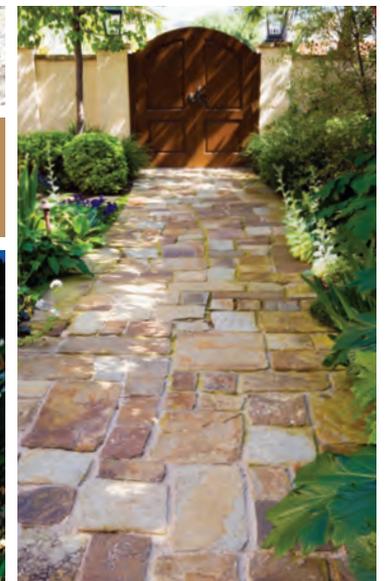
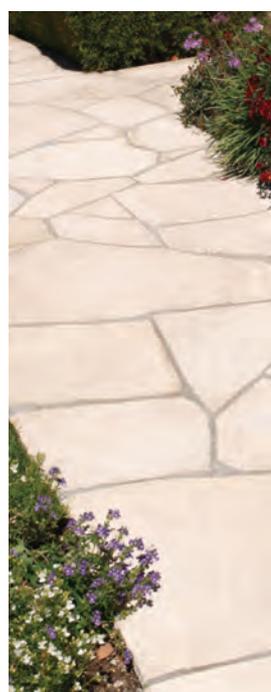
Visit: kevinnealon.com.

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- 1995: Jan Murray, Comic storyteller
- 1996: Paul Moyer, TV news anchor
- 1997: Casey Kasem, Radio personality
- 1998: Larry Elder, Radio talk show host
- 1999: Anthony Hopkins, Actor
- 2000: Michael Richards, *Seinfeld* co-star
- 2001: Dennis Tito, Space tourist
- 2002: Art Linkletter, Radio/TV personality and author
- 2003: Barbara Billingsley, *Leave It to Beaver* actress
- 2004: Rafer Johnson, Olympic Gold Medalist
- 2005: Linda Blair, *The Exorcist* Actress
- 2006: Patti Page, “The Singing Rage”
- 2007: Pat Boone, Singer/actor
- 2008: Marion Ross, *Happy Days* actress
- 2009: Katie Stam, Miss America
- 2010: Jim Brown, Football player
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- 2015: Kevin Nealon, Actor



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Together with the advertisers in this Official Parade Program, the people and entities listed below helped fund the 2016 celebrations. The *Palisades News* is also donating the net ad sales revenues of this Program to PAPA.

Contributions may still be made by check to PAPA, P.O. Box 1776, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272, as well as at www.palisadesparade.org. A future edition of the *Palisades News* will list donations received after June 23.

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PAPA also thanks the following local businesses, companies and individuals for supporting and for donating food, drinks and other items for the VIP pre-parade luncheon and/or the Pali Rocks the 4th concert performers (as of June 23):

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PAPA also thanks the following for donating prizes (as of June 23): Bay Club, The Dry Bar, Gift Garden Antiques (Susan Carroll), Gorous Yoga (Gretchen Lightfoot), The Massage Place, Palisades Gas 'n Wash, Palisades Pit Stop Detail & Car Wash (Alex Zorensky), Portraits of Hope Spheres at MacArthur Park (Massey family), Robek's (Pacific Palisades), Joan Sather, the yogurt shoppe.

PAPA Board: Daphne Gronich (President), Arnie Wishnick (VP), Keith Turner (VP, Concert), Rich Wilken (VP, Fireworks), Scott Wagenseller (VP), Cheryl Kanan (Treasurer), Sanjay Bargoetra (Secretary); Matt Rodman, Ramis Sadrieh and Rob Weber (Advisors), Sylvia Boyd (PAPA People); Marge Gold, Robin Weitz (Luncheon coordinators)



Evening Timeline



Trinity Rose

MAIN STAGE: 6 to 9 p.m.

6 p.m. National Anthem

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

The Palisades High School Charter Band, under the direction of Arwen Hernandez, has grown from 17 members in 2008 to a current 84-member squad. In December, the band finished first in division 3A of the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association competition. In addition, the school's music program now offers a color guard, a drum line, a wind ensemble and a concert band—all of which have placed well in competitions. "The participants in marching band are extremely enthusiastic," said Hernandez, who noted that the more seasoned players mentor the new players. "They spend a lot of time with us to hone their abilities. Everyone in band performs in every show. We have no bench."

6:40 p.m. 2016 Palisades All Stars

The 2016 Palisades All Stars will feature up-and-coming musicians from the Westside. Directed by local musician and educator Tom Farrell, the group will perform classic cover songs such as America's "Ventura Highway" along with other more contemporary hits by groups like the Black Keys. The group will consist of PaliHi's Tula Jussen (vocals and guitar), Conrad Smith (vocals), Emma O'Neil (violin) and Jack Ross (bass); Harvard-Westlake's Kylie Magnis (vocals and guitar); Santa Monica College's Emil Torres (lead guitar), Santa Monica High School's Dylan Ollivier (saxophone) and Harry Clennon (guitar); Culver City's Vanessa Gottlieb (vocals and acoustic guitar) and teachers/professionals Dylan Ryan (drums) and violinist Reiko Nakano.

7:10 p.m. Emile Millar with Adam Topol and Ethan Phillips

Emile Millar is a prolific composer for film and television; his music and songs have been featured in *The Avengers*, *Waitress*, *Sunshine Cleaning*, *Deadfall* and *One Tree Hill*. Millar is currently recording his fourth album and this summer he'll be on stage in L.A., Santa Barbara, Austin and the East Coast.

Adam Topol, who headlined last year's Palisades Rocks the Fourth with Tom Freund, has been a drummer for everyone from Eddie Vedder, Joey Santiago, Ziggy Marley and Jack Johnson to legends like Jimmy Cliff and David Gilmour. He has explored Afro-Cuban rhythms, dabbled in dubby electronic reggae with Culver City Dub Collective and to the far edges of soul-jazz with "Blue Painted Walls in Faraway Places."

Ethan Phillips, a bassist, is currently recording and touring with singer Brett Dennen, hip-hop legend De La Soul and Los Angeles Soul Afro Funk band Orgone. He has also performed on *The Late Show with Letterman*, *The Conan O'Brian Show* and *Jimmy Kimmel Live*.

7:45 p.m. We Are The West

(See story, page 35.)

**9 p.m. Concert Finale
Fireworks**



The 2016 Palisades All Stars.

Photo: Lisha Riabinina

UPPER STAGE: 4 to 6 p.m.

4 p.m. The Cohorts

The Cohorts began as a class at Sound Roads Music in Santa Monica with bassist Jack Ross (Palisades High School) and guitarist Harry Clennon. Tula Jussen (PaliHi) joined as a vocalist and the band debuted at Witzend in Venice. Jazz/funk drummer Emilio Anamos recently joined. The group's music is rooted in the classic rock genre of Led Zeppelin, Cream and The Rolling Stones.

4:30 p.m. Randy Chance

Randy Chance, whose digital recording studio is located in Topanga, has composed six feature film scores, including *Treachery* and the soon to be released *She Rises*. He has been part of the Los Angeles music scene for more than 30 years, including working as the lead guitarist for The Lovin' Spoonful, The Box Tops and P. F. Sloane. Chance is also a popular Palisades music teacher and many of his students have gone onto professional careers, including Harrison Kipner, who has written the hit songs, "O.K." and "Hey, Porsche" for the hip-hop artist Nelly.

5:25 p.m. Trinity Rose with Chris Nordlinger

Trinity Rose, 13, recently performed at the Anaheim Children's Festival, sponsored by the City of Anaheim and Disneyland. She lives in Malibu and plays regularly at open mic night at Malibu Music Nights. A year ago, she recorded her first record, and her cover song "In the Pines" beat out more than 7,000 entries in Unsigned Only's Fandemonium 2015 international music competition. Trinity Rose sang "God Bless America" for L.A. Marathon participants, and sang for Mayor Eric Garcetti on Valentine's Day, 2016. Her YouTube singing channel has more than 100,000 views.



We Are The West

Photo: Lesly Hall

Field/Concert Ticket Info

Paid and free activities for the kids include face painting, "wax hands," bounce houses, balloons and carnival games. Food trucks will be available starting at 4 p.m. (For a full list, see page 29.) Tickets are \$10 and are on sale now online or can be purchased at the gate. Children ages 6 and under are free. No dogs or other pets allowed. Visit: palisadesparade.org.

PAPA Makes It All Happen

Since 1967, the Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) has been organizing, financing and overseeing the town's Fourth of July parade, concert and fireworks.

The vital goal of this nonprofit organization is to ensure that the tradition of a parade and fireworks that celebrate Independence Day continues in Pacific Palisades.

The all-volunteer group starts planning six months in advance with monthly meetings. All residents and business owners are invited to participate, and new volunteers are constantly sought for this massive fundraising and planning event.

PAPA's activities are funded entirely through donations by local residents, businesses and civic groups. PAPA receives no funding from government or other sources.

This year's Parade Marshal Ron Weber, a securities litigation partner in the global law firm DLA Piper, joined PAPA in 2004 expressly to help bring more bands to the parade. Not only did he achieve that purpose, he later served as PAPA president for three years. If you have new ideas, please join and work to make this parade even more spectacular.

PAPA also presents the evening's Palisades Rocks the Fourth concert and 20-minute fireworks show at Palisades High.



PAPA people include (front row, left to right): Joy Daunis, Ramis Sadrieh, Daphne Gronich, Cheryel Kanan, Lee Calvert, Natalie McAdams, Terry Dimich, Ron Hart and Jeff Ridgway. Back row (left to right) Keith Turner, Richard Greenberg, Rich Wilken, Bill Bruns, Bill Prachar, David Sarell, Arnie Wishnick and Andrew Frew. (Not pictured): Sylvia and Jon Boyd, Marge and Bob Gold, Rob Weber, Kevin Niles, Robin Weitz, Joan Sather, Sanjay Bargoetra, Bobbie Farberow, Matt Rodman and Kurt Bierschenk. Photo: Lesly Hall

PAPA committee members orchestrate these events, with each person given a particular assignment, ranging from permits, insurance, security and traffic control to marching bands, celebrities, fundraising and the pre-parade VIP luncheon.

Past treasurer Daphne Gronich is serving her third term as PAPA president. Her board includes 1st Vice President Arnie Wishnick, 2nd VP Keith Turner (concert),

3rd VP Rich Wilken (fireworks), 4th VP Scott Wagenseller, secretary Sanjay Bargoetra and treasurer Cheryel Kanan.

Weber and Ramis Sadrieh (a former PAPA president) serve as advisors, and Pageantry Productions is hired to secure and organize the parade lineup.

Sylvia and Jon Boyd, who have chaired PAPA People (parade-day volunteers) for nine years, are once again seeking volunteers

to help on the Fourth. Sanjay Bargoetra needs more volunteers to help with the concert and fireworks. Contact: info@palisadesparade.org.

Robin Weitz is in charge of the food and serving at the VIP luncheon and Marge Gold is handling decorations.

To make a donation to PAPA, please visit: Palisadesparade.org. PAPA is a 501(c)3 corporation, federal identification number 23-7317255.



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Variety of Bands Enliven Parade

By LAURA ABRUSCATO
Contributing Writer

Twelve bands will be marching in this year's parade, including one from as far away as Minnesota and two from Pacific Palisades.

One of the new bands to watch for is the North Valley Military Institute Marching Band, consisting of 25 members who had never played an instrument before last August. Overcoming this initial lack of experience, the band (representing the only military charter public school in LAUSD) has now played and marched in seven events, and will be performing an American Armed Forces Medley and a Patriotic Medley.

Speaking from Camp Pendleton, where the school has a summer camp, superintendent Dr. Mark Ryan said he oversees 520 students in grades 6-12. "We're a college prep school. One hundred percent of our first two classes were accepted to college."

"It's not our purpose for students to join the military," Ryan continued. "Our objec-

tive is to prepare them for the rigors of college using a military framework. They wear uniforms every day, and have increasing rank and responsibility. We teach those characteristics that serve the military and also serve college students. The idea is that when they begin college they will look sharp, be disciplined, on time, prepared and focused on accomplishment, work well as a team, be a good listener, and get assignments in on time."

PAPA, the parade organizing committee, works with Pageantry Productions, an events company with considerable parade experience, to have a variety of new and returning bands and styles of music in the parade. Pageantry's David and Elizabeth Sarell are coordinating the parade line-up, as well as the Huntington Beach parade that morning, and several bands will be marching in both.

The Watchmen Drum & Bugle Corps will be marching in the parade for the first time, although the group's executive director, David Becker, marched here in his youth with the Sound Machine of the In-



The North Valley Military Institute Marching Band.

Photo courtesy Dr. Mark Ryan

land Empire. The 84-member, Riverside-based group will play "America, The Beautiful," "My Country, Tis of Thee" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic." The drumline will play throughout the entire parade.

Another parade newcomer will be the Zumbrota-Muzeppa Marching Cougars, comprised of 78 students from a high school with a total enrollment of 300. This Minnesota band, directed by Scott Cory, will be playing a variety of tunes, including "American Woman," "Mustang Sally" and "Hosts of Freedom March."

The band travels every other year, and

this will be their first visit to the West Coast. In addition to marching twice on July 4 (first in Huntington Beach, then in the Palisades), the students will be spending their free time at the beach and visiting Disneyland. "We're very excited about it," says Cory. "Most of my kids have never been out west."

The Cougars are a concert band for most of the year. During the summer, the students practice marching from 6:15 to 9 a.m. for six weeks, and play local parades most weekends.

The New Orleans "Traditional" Jazz Band
(Continued on Page 27)



The Oom PaPa Marching Band is a home-spun favorite.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

Oom PaPa Marching Band

People who play an instrument can still join the Palisades' own Oom PaPa Marching Band, a group of local musicians that was founded in 1975 by local realtors Sandy Schaffer and Louise and Gene Romig. The group continually evolves as it mixes longtime members with new members. Co-chairs Phyllis Schlessinger and Margot Morrison are both original members, and Schlessinger will be marching with her clarinet for the 41st time. "I'll keep doing it as long as I can," she says. "We'd love to have new people. I'm sure there are a lot of parents out there who used to be in bands in high school. It's a lot of fun."

The band also welcomes flag and banner

holders and younger children who walk behind holding small American flags. Rehearsals will be held at Pampas Ricas and Ocampo on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and Sunday at 6 p.m. "The evening before the parade, we march through the Huntington and everybody comes out to greet us," says Schlessinger.

Wearing their white shirts and red hats, and led by veteran drum major and band director Mark Eisenberg, the band will play "76 Trombones," "You're a Grand Old Flag" and "Louie, Louie" in the parade.

For information on joining the Oom PaPa Band, contact Phyllis at (310) 613-0194 or Margot at (310) 459-3516.

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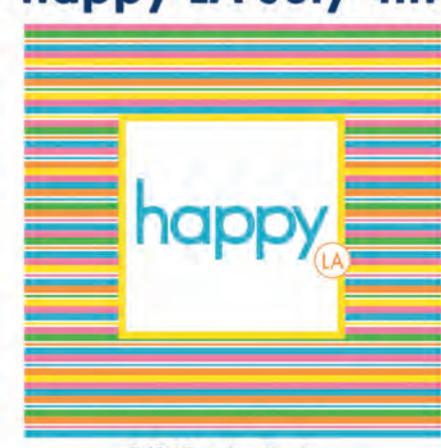


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The Zumbrota-Muzeppa Marching Cougars of Minnesota. Photo courtesy Pageantry Productions

Bands

(Continued from Page 25)

will make its 12th appearance, playing crowd favorites such as “When the Saints go Marching In.”

“It’s our favorite parade—beautiful and well-organized,” says bandleader Hilarion Domingue Sr. “We interact, we’re friendly and we enjoy it.”

The Villa Park High School Band from Orange will make its fourth appearance in the parade. The Marchin’ Spartans, dressed in their cadet-style white, black and blue uniforms, are an 80-plus member unit, under the direction of Charles Jay.

Attorney Rob Weber, this year’s parade marshal and a former PAPA president, is also a musician who has a passion for the parade’s bands.

“I think the music is the best part of any parade, just the beat of the drums, the feel,” Weber says. “It gets people’s hearts beating and hands clapping.”

The Mountain Fife & Drums are returning for the second time. “There are very few groups like this on the West Coast,” says Weber. “It’s a real treat to get a group like this; they capture the spirit of the day with their tri-cornered hats and red, white and

blue Revolutionary War-era costumes.”

Also returning will be the Incognito Drum and Bugle Corps from Garden Grove, the Norwalk All-City Youth Band, Rancho La Laguna (equestrian/banda) and the Pasadena Scottish Pipes & Drums Band.

The Combined Palisades High School Paul Revere Marching Band has also been a beloved part of the parade for more than a decade. The award-winning PaliHi band plays at weekly football games and enters marching band competitions throughout the year.



The Mountain Fife & Drum band, a popular entry two years ago, returns to Pacific Palisades.

Photo: Tom Hofer



The award-winning Palisades High School marching band is a crowd favorite. Photo: Shelby Pascoe

Parade Announcers At Four Locations

If you want to hear a description of the parade entries, position yourself close to one of the following intersections and listen to the announcers.

This year’s parade features Manfred Hofer and Sue Pascoe (Via de la Paz and Antioch Street); Rich and Kendall Wilken (Sunset Boulevard and Swarthmore Avenue); Sam and Cienna Lagana (Sunset and Carey at Ralphs Market); Bob Benton and Dr. Kimi Petrick (Drummond Street and Toyopa Dr.)

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UCLA Medical Center Supports Parade

(Editor's note: UCLA Medical Center has been a key sponsor of the Pacific Palisades Fourth of July parade since 2009. Spokesperson Ted Braun said, "The event is one of the most festive July 4th celebrations throughout Southern California and a great opportunity for our health system to celebrate Independence Day with our friends and neighbors in the Palisades.")

Companion Care Program

One of the more popular programs at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, is the Companion Care Program, which was launched a year ago.

According to Valerie Yeo, RN, director of the hospital's inpatient Geriatrics Unit, many elderly patients feel isolated. Some don't have family in the area, while others' family members are unable to spend much time at the hospital because of work or other commitments.

The program now provides 45 companions, with a goal of having 200 volunteers who can donate at least one four-hour shift each week.

Yeo said poor nutrition and feelings of loneliness, depression and isolation are prevalent in the geriatric population, and the program seeks to counter these and reduce patient stress by providing one-on-one companionship, assistance and access to activities.



Julia Torrano participates in UCLA-Santa Monica's Companion Care Program.

Photo: Reed Hutchinson

"Sometimes volunteers are assigned to patients who actually do have family members and friends, but those visitors may need a break. Maybe just an hour to grab lunch or run home and take a shower," said program manager Pedro Jimenez. "They may be reluctant to leave their loved one

even for that amount of time. A volunteer can step in and provide a bit of respite."

Volunteer companions read to patients, play games with them, assist with feeding and perform other tasks, such as accompanying patients on walks under a nurse's supervision.

Typical is volunteer Julia Torrano, 24, who comes to the hospital every Friday for the Companion Care Program. "I love talking to these older patients who share their wisdom and life experiences," said Torrano, a Santa Monica resident who's planning to attend medical school. "This is the most rewarding volunteer program in which I've ever participated. Most of the patients just crave talking to people. They love talking about their lives, and I love hearing about them."

"One day, an older gentleman who had no family, began talking about his passion for music and ballroom dancing. He explained that it had gotten him through a divorce and other bumpy patches in his life. He was so enthusiastic and animated that it got me wanting to learn ballroom dancing, myself."

Volunteers must acquire CPR certification, receive specialized training in the needs and care of the geriatric population and attend a two-hour orientation program. Even with their training and skills, volunteers are not assigned to high-risk patients.

The Companion Care Program is currently available only at UCLA's Santa Monica campus. To volunteer: call Jimenez at (310) 351-2527 or email pdjimenez@med-net.ucla.edu or visit geronet.ucla.edu/companioncare.

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Pinch of Flavor: tacos, burritos and quesadillas, with vegan options available. Specialties include the lobster quesadilla (grilled lobster with avocado cilantro and blueberry chipotle sauce), nachos (fresh chips with grilled onions, meat of your choice, melted Monterey Jack and side of fresh homemade guacamole and a pickle jalapeno) or Philly Sandwich (steak with melted Monterey Jack grilled jalapeno, onions and spicy mayo on ciabatta).

At the Stadium (on the Palisades High School parking lot above the stadium, beginning at 4 p.m.):

Food trucks include:

Baby's Badass Burgers featuring the classic Original Beauty with Swiss, grilled onions, sautéed mushrooms and Baby's special sauce. Visit: babysbadassburgers.com.

Cousins Maine Lobster, which special-



The Bacon Mac from the Richeeze truck will be available at the parade and concert.

izes in lobster rolls and tacos. Visit: cousinsmainelobster.com.

Hungry Nomad's menu features flavors from the far corners of the globe, with American, Mediterranean and European influences. Try a zaatar wrap, spinach salad, fattoush salad, fries or a beef pocket. Visit: hungrynomadtruck.com.

India Jones Chow Truck serves authentic Indian food. Look for chaats, curries and naan. Visit indiajoneschowtruck.com.

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Richeeze, grilled cheese and more (see description above). Visit: Richeeze.net.

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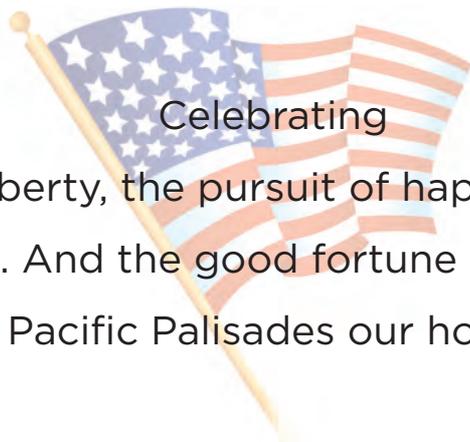
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PAPA President Gronich Marks 3rd Year

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

If every resident of the Palisades donated just \$10 and one volunteer hour, we wouldn't need to fundraise nor worry about manpower," said Daphne Gronich, who is completing her third year as president of the Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA).

Gronich, who previously served as PAPA treasurer, has spent countless hours securing permits and insurance, helping with organization and fundraising, directing volunteers, even storing the parade marching banners in her garage.

Asked what was the one thing about the parade/day that most Palisadians don't understand, Gronich replied, "How much work goes into all aspects of the parade, concert and fireworks and how few people actually do the work—and how much it costs."

"Even after all the public appeals, news articles and conversations, people still take the day for granted," said Gronich, who oversees a dedicated 20-person PAPA committee.

Born in New York, Gronich was raised in Europe after her father, Army Lieutenant Colonel S. Frederick, served during World War II. When it ended, he researched German documents for evidence of war crimes,

which led to the "Hill Project" investigations conducted by the United States, United Kingdom and Canada.

Gronich graduated from the American School of Paris with a degree in international affairs, earned a juris doctorate from Hofstra University School of Law in New York, and later a master of laws degree from New York University. She worked at an intellectual property firm in New York before moving to Los Angeles and eventually becoming the head of intellectual property at Fox Group.

Gronich took a year off when her son, Eli, was born 13 years ago and then worked as general counsel for toy company MGA Entertainment. She left the company in 2007 to care for her mother.

While Eli was at Palisades Elementary, Gronich co-chaired the booster club and was on the charter school's governing council. Now at Revere, she serves on the PRIDE booster club and is the parent representative on the Charter Council.

"The biggest challenge is finding enough time to juggle all my volunteer duties with family time, and time to work on individual legal consulting projects [in the intellectual property area]," she said. "I've also been doing a lot of pro bono work."

Gronich is also president of the Palisades Charter Schools Foundation, an organization that works to unite and support the five



Daphne Gronich.

Photo: Lesly Hall

public schools in the Palisades (as well as Palisades Complex members Topanga Elementary and Kenter Canyon Elementary).

Gronich and her husband, Paul Nagle—a longtime television executive and faculty member in the UCLA Department of Film, Television and Digital Media—moved to the Palisades in 1997.

What's the best part of being the PAPA president? "Getting to meet and work with so many icons of our community," said Gronich, adding that her biggest struggle is "to get people to donate money to fund

the festivities or to take an hour or two out of personal time to help the small group of people who make it happen.

"Some of the PAPA volunteers have been doing what they do for more than 20 or 30 years because others don't feel that they can devote the time," said Gronich. "People like Sylvia Boyd [who organizes parade volunteers] and Rich Wilken [who works on the race, announces the parade and oversees the fireworks show] are stretched thin."

She noted that many people feel tired after supporting their children's activities, schools and other nonprofits during the year and that "they don't want to work the Fourth."

Gronich acknowledges that "July Fourth is a family holiday and a great opportunity to bring families and friends together—to enjoy it and to work together to volunteer to make the festivities happen." More specifically, "that the Fourth is part of what makes our community such a great place to live."

Next year, Gronich looks forward to handing the reins to someone new. "I will support whoever takes over and will help them in any way I can," she said. "My family has supported me and enabled me to head the parade/fireworks committee and to devote hundreds of hours to it for the past few years. But, it's time for us to be able to be able to plan a summer trip that can start before July fifth."

PALISADES NEWS

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Turner Masterminds Evening Concert

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

When Keith Turner headed to law school, he sold his drum set.

“I thought it was over,” said Turner, who had played drums since sixth grade. “I did not play again for over ten years.”

However, a 1998 move to the Palisades and a wise playgroup mom brought the drums back into his life. Turner’s daughter Emma, now 20, was about four years old at the time, and his son, Max, now 16 and a PaliHi junior, was just a toddler when the playgroup was formed. One of the playgroup moms, Lisa Turcillo, took note of the interests of the group’s parents and had some ideas.

“She formed a book club for the women, and she somehow figured out that a bunch of the dads played instruments,” so in 2000 the guys picked up their instruments and started to jam again. Sixteen years later, “our core group is still together,” Turner said.

The musicians, who eventually named themselves The House Band, became the main attraction for the first annual Palisades Rocks the Fourth concert in 2008. Rob Weber, Turner’s Chicago-Kent College of Law buddy, had brought Turner into the



Keith Turner Photo: Lesly Hall

fold of the Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) when he became president that same year, and Weber tasked Turner with creating a live, pre-fireworks show for the event.

Bill Bruns, now advisor for the *Palisades News*, suggested to Turner, “Why doesn’t your band play before the fireworks?” The idea took root, and The House Band entertained with a mix of original songs and covers.

“The first year was a success, and it keeps

growing and growing and growing,” said Turner, who noted that about 7,000 people attended last year’s show, which featured two stages and a wide range of local acts, including PaliHi’s band program. In addition, last year, 12 food trucks fed the guests, who paid \$10 to attend.

With the growth, the work has increased for Turner and a strong team of volunteers, who include Rich Wilken, PAPA President Daphne Gronich, Sanjay Bargota, Justin Escano, and of course Weber. Event coordinator Natalie McAdams now also takes charge of many aspects of the event as a paid provider.

“In the first years, I was lining garbage cans myself, doing whatever was needed,” said Turner, an attorney with his own firm that now includes music law as part of the practice. “We have a loyal, wonderful group of people who volunteer, but with this many people coming, you need professionals involved too.”

The trash is now off Turner’s plate, but there is still plenty to do. “Every year insurance is a hassle,” he said, and some of the other things to be arranged are city permits, toilets, ticket takers, barriers, security, a sound company, vendors, including food trucks and Wi-Fi providers for credit card charges.

The concert and fireworks show, which

costs about \$85,000 to produce, is looking for a corporate sponsor to ease the fundraising for future years. “Some major brand could own the stadium that day,” Turner said. “I hate to commercialize it, but that would make it a lot easier.”

A fun aspect for Turner is choosing the bands to perform. Bands are required to have a Palisades connection, and this year Turner, whose wife Michelle grew up in the Palisades, has received more than 30 solicitations from acts, including a vibrant hip-hop band, garage bands and “some that are incredibly polished,” including “teenage girls with press kits like you wouldn’t believe.”

In previous years, Reggae artist Rocky Dawuni performed, as did Chris Shiflett of the Foo Fighters. Since the first year, “This Land Is Your Land” has been a mainstay, with guest stars coming onstage to lead the audience in a community-connecting rendition of the song that features the headlining band’s unique style.

“It is a great moment of the entire stadium singing along,” said Turner, who noted that Weber had the initial idea for the tradition. The entire concert “is a festival atmosphere” that is a delight for most bands to play. “It’s like having this mini-Woodstock/Coachella. It’s what the day needed. The race in the morning, the parade and this.”

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'We Are The West' Headlines 4th

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

In a sense, We Are The West had to travel far to find their way home.

The three members of the evocative, melodic band grew up many miles from each other. Singer and guitarist Brett Hool was raised in Pacific Palisades, upright bass player John Kibler hailed from the small town of Warsaw, New York, and the final member, drummer Elizabeth Goodfellow, grew up in Stockton.

They each then lived in varied places, such as the Bay Area, New York, Paris and Amsterdam. Kibler and Hool met first and became a duo, then three years ago, they were introduced to Goodfellow.

From the moment the trio played together, they hit a groove. "We played through every song we had cooking," Hool said. That included about 25 songs in a "wash of incredible music, a playground of fun songs," Goodfellow added.

Left to right:
John Kibler,
Brett Hool
and Elizabeth
Goodfellow.

Photo: Lesly Hall



The three jammed in a Santa Monica underground parking garage that is We Are The West's home for the monthly immersive concerts they play on the Saturday before each full moon. On the Fourth of July, the band will bring its experimental folk to the 9th Annual Palisades Rocks the Fourth in a concert that will mix subtle, warm songs with some familiar covers. Guest stars, including saxophonist Sylvain Carton and pedal-steel guitar player Tim Walker, will join the mix to entertain Palisadians on their favorite day of the summer.

"We're honored to be a part of it and to be chosen to bring everyone together on that night," Goodfellow said. "It'll be so exciting to play a set and have the fireworks go off right afterwards."

Event organizer Keith Turner heard We Are The West at one of the band's monthly concerts, and he was so impressed that he invited them to headline the show. "I have seen We Are The West perform three separate times," Turner said. "Each show was incredible. These are top musicians who are on the verge of breaking through to the next level."

The band's journey thus far has been gentle, yet meandering. Goodfellow had perhaps the most straightforward path. Growing up playing traditional jazz at her Central Valley schools, she later studied at San Jose State and simultaneously played with the 561st Air National Guard Band of the West Coast. After a few more years in the Bay Area, she moved to Los Angeles in 2013.

"I came here to focus on playing music I loved instead of saying yes to every gig that came along," Goodfellow said, and the choice couldn't have worked out better for her. "It's heaven—everything I thought it would be. I'm meeting top-caliber musicians that I want to play with. I feel like I'm finally making the kind of music that is true to who I am."

Palisadian Hool, whose parents are Lance and Linda Hool, began taking guitar lessons as a kid growing up with his siblings Jason and Veronica. As an adult, his focus on music continued to blossom. He earned creative writing degrees at Stanford University and then Columbia University, but his growth as a musician and lyricist occurred mostly through his own explorations and

shot forward during a year he lived in Paris from 2002-03.

"I had a band where I was rehearsing five days a week," Hool said. "But it was over before I knew it. I moved back to L.A., and I didn't know anyone to play with here."

In 2006, he met his eventual bandmate and fellow lyricist Kibler through a mutual friend in the Santa Monica music scene. Kibler had an extensive musical resume. He had majored in music at Ball State University in Indiana, studied at a music conservatory in the Netherlands, and earned a master's in music performance at the University of Michigan in 2003.

Locally, he taught music at Malibu High School, including five years as the orchestra director, and played in the band Ghost of Electricity. Kibler and Hool began playing some together, but their music really gelled in Holland and New York. In Holland, they rented a shipping container on a sheep farm and spent a month playing together.

"It was our studio," Kibler said, and in a sense the unusual aspect of that setting be-

came a signature for them. When they moved back to the U.S. and began playing around New York and Brooklyn, they found their more delicate sound was not at first the best fit with the loud club scene.

"It wasn't working," Kibler said. "We wanted to create environments that fit the music, so the minute you're there, you're open to something new. It started out of necessity," and turned into a good method to connect with concertgoers. We Are The West played concerts in an abandoned convent, an impound tow lot, a Masonic temple, and now their regular gig in the Santa Monica parking garage.

Since then, their music has matured, and they have played at more traditional venues, such as the Troubadour and The Fonda Theatre, while also continuing to use unique spaces like an old silent movie theater in Buffalo. "We've definitely moved on from there, but that's the philosophy of where it started," Kibler noted.

"We've been patient with allowing this to grow," Hool added. "It feels solid, because we're doing it in our own time and our own way."

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Schoolhouse Supports Public Education

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

The Little Red Schoolhouse, long featured in the Palisades Fourth of July Parade, was built by Lionel Ruhman of the local Masonic Lodge, a group that prizes public education.

“Since 1920, the Masons of California have backed or promoted public schools,” said Ron Hart, a 48-year member and current Master of the Lodge. “We were mainstays in the founding of Public Schools Week and Public Schools Month, which is April . . . Everybody’s got to get a good education.”

Ruhman, a member of the Palisades Americanism Parade Association, died on March 1. The Little Red Schoolhouse will have a tribute to its builder, who is remembered on page 40 of this program.

The Riviera Masonic Lodge 780, which will celebrate its 60th anniversary next year, is part of the fraternal organization started in 1717 in England and brought to the U.S. by settlers.

Locally, the Masons annually provide \$1,000 to \$2,000 scholarships for six to 10 Palisades High graduates and \$2,000 to \$5,000 to each of the booster groups for the five local public schools. In addition, the lodge contributes to the Boy Scouts, the Village Green, the Palisades-Malibu YMCA, Meals on Wheels, Westside Food Bank, and



The Little Red Schoolhouse will once again be in the parade.

Photo: Tom Hofer

the downtown Midnight Mission homeless shelter.

The members, who number just over 100, meet monthly at the American Legion to conduct business. The organization has three levels of Mason—apprentice, fellowcraft and master mason. Members must be men at least 18 years old and “be of good report,” Hart said. The organization is faith-based, but not religious, so members must “believe in a supreme being, but could be Muslim or Hindu or whatever.” The group does not seek members, but instead people

who are interested seek out the Masons.

“You have to say, I’m interested, give us an application, get voted on, and then brought in,” said Hart, 81, a master mason. “It has to be of your own free will and accord.”

Three connected organizations are Order of the Eastern Star, which includes both men who are master masons and women with some affiliation with Masons, ranging from a wife or daughter to a great-great-granddaughter of a master mason. Job’s Daughters and Rainbow Girls are youth organizations for girls and young women

from 10 or 11 to 20, who can then join Eastern Star upon leaving their youth group.

Nationwide, the Masons have had some famous members over the years, including George Washington, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S Truman, Douglas MacArthur, Mark Twain, Irving Berlin, Charles Lindbergh and Henry Ford. The local lodge has also had some well-known members, such as U.S. Congressman Leland M. Ford, Sr., actor Glenn Ford, and television personality Michael Richards.

Secrecy is also historically part of the organization. Originally, “Masons would build cathedrals and houses, and people didn’t know how they did it,” Hart said. Masons “understood the laws of geometry before they were common knowledge . . . Signs were kept secret, so you could prove that you were what you said you were.” In addition, “what you say from one Mason to another stays secret.”

In today’s world, the traditional secrecy “really isn’t true any more,” but other aspects of the group’s historical roots have remained, Hart said. For example, being an honorable person is important to Masons, who also value wisdom, strength and beauty. Charity has also been integral to the group through historically providing for the elderly and orphans.

For more information about the Masons, contact Bill Branch at (310) 454-2054.



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Souza Fireworks Return to PaliHi

By LAUREL BUSBY and SUE PASCOE

For more than 100 years, Chris Souza's family has been delighting Americans with fireworks.

"I'm fifth generation," said Souza, one of the family members who help oversee Pyro Spectaculars. "I was born into it—a tradition passed on from father to son."

His great-great-grandfather, Manuel de Souza, started concocting his own fireworks in San Francisco in the early 1900s, and this year the company will light the skies with more than 100,000 pounds of explosives across the country.

The company still creates its special Souza brand of fireworks, but now, instead of lighting them strictly in the Bay Area, technicians set off more than one million fireworks worldwide each year.

When the *News* spoke to Souza on June 22, he was overseeing the loading of the fireworks that will travel to the East Coast from company headquarters in Rialto.

Souza has designed the July 4 show at Palisades High School, carefully crafting music to time with shell explosions, but that day he will be in Atlantic City.

"I will be shooting our show from two barges and a land site," Souza said. Other family members will supervise the country's largest Fourth of July show: Macy's New York City production along the East River.

Souza said if Palisadians can't attend the PaliHi show, they should watch Macy's TV broadcast, a 25-minute show, fired from five barges on New York City's East River. A new arrangement of "America the Beautiful" will feature Jennifer Holliday and the USAF Band.

People in the Palisades will see a new shell—"a very nice gold bow tie with a ring surrounding it," Souza said, explaining that this firework is perfect for this location because it is a smaller caliber shell.

He said he enjoys putting together a show, selecting the music and the shells to accompany it. "It's a medium of art that not many people get to experience, and best of all, at the end of the day, I make people happy."

This year, the 20-minute Palisades "sky concert" is called "An American Salute."

"There is a strong emphasis on military appreciation," Souza said, noting that the show includes the song "Soldiers of America" by Madison Rising. Visit: .



Fireworks shells are stacked on the PaliHi quad during the day on July 4. Photo: Shelby Pascoe

"(Somebody's sister or brother/Father, son. . .daughter or mother (come on)/ They are the soldiers of America/They put their lives on the line/Gave up their own right to freedom/So you could have yours and I could have mine (alright). . .")

To pull off these various fireworks events all occurring the same night, Pyro Spectaculars trains crews via its Pyro University. It recruits technicians and starts training classes with about 50 students to teach them how to follow California rules and guidelines in order to become independent contractors.

By the end of the classes, which cover set-up, site considerations, mortar boxes, finale racks, ground devices and set pieces, 12 to 16 students usually finish the course

work and are ready to work on shows.

Pyro Spectaculars keeps busy throughout the year doing other fireworks displays, which can range from high school graduations to sporting events.

Over the years, the company has orchestrated the fireworks at several Super Bowls and the Olympic games in Athens, Salt Lake City and Atlanta. They also illuminated the sky for the 100th and 125th anniversaries of the Statue of Liberty.

But the Fourth of July is by far Pyro's biggest day of the year. Across the country, more than 3,500 technicians will be working to create more than 400 fireworks extravaganzas, Souza said. "We have shows from sea to shining sea—from Atlantic City to the Hawaiian Islands."

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Sather Sponsors Home Decorating Contest

Will you be the eighth winner of PAPA's Fourth of July Patriotic Home Decorating Contest, sponsored by Sotheby's Realtor Joan Sather?

All Pacific Palisades homes are eligible to enter. Simply upload a photo of their decorated home to the "Pacific Palisades Fourth of July Celebration" page on Facebook, or email the photo to info@palisadesparade.org, and it will be uploaded to the Facebook page.

From those photos, the 12 most promising homes are chosen, and judges visit each address, usually on July 3.

The winner receives an American flag that has been flown over the nation's Capital, gift certificates, a story in the *Palisades News* and participation in judging the 2017 contest. Last year's winner was the Jack and Sharon Sutton home on Galloway.

A year ago, Las Casas residents Scott and Susan Corwin and their son Joshua won the inaugural Sponsor's Award, presented to "the home which best expresses effort above and beyond," Sather said. "This includes extra exuberance in décor, energy and enthusiasm expressed, while taking into consideration prior participation and commitment to the original intention."

"The whole point of this contest is to get people to decorate," said former Palisades Americanism Parade Association president Rob Weber, who serves as one of the contest judges.

"Last year, I was impressed by how the tradition of decorating homes on the Fourth



Joan Sather sponsors the town's Fourth of July Home Decorating contest. Photo: Lesly Hall

has really blossomed on certain streets, such as Toyopa, Alma Real and Monument, where almost every home was festooned in red, white and blue in some fashion," Weber said.

"Seeing that patriotic spirit generates a wonderful feeling of pride in our community. It would be great to see at least a flag flying from every home and shop."

Sather, who has been a realtor in the Palisades for 27 years, has been sponsoring the contest since 2012. "I wanted to become more involved in the parade," she said. "With my relationship to houses, this was a natural segue."

The daughter of a naval officer, Sather has lived all over the United States, including Hawaii, and also spent three years in France. She attended five elementary schools, two middle schools, two high schools and two colleges before graduating from UC Berkeley. She met her husband Kent in San Francisco and they moved to an apartment in Brentwood.

Through friends, they heard about Pacific Palisades and started house-hunting. "We looked quite a while before we found some-

PAST HOME DECORATING 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)

thing we could afford in the Marquez Knolls area," said Sather, who was pregnant with her first child. A major drawback was a long set of stairs to reach the home.

It was then she developed the buying philosophy she shares with clients. "There were more things about the house we liked than we didn't like," Sather said. "Even looking at a \$10-million home, you won't find a totally perfect house. You have to decide where you compromise."

Sather tells her clients about the Fourth of July celebration. "It's a wonderful portrayal of Pacific Palisades. There is enthusiasm, community spirit and everyone enjoys the day together."

To reach Sather, call (310) 255-5450 or e-mail joan@joansather.com.



The Scott and Susan Corwin home on Las Casas won the 2015 Sponsor's Award.



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We look forward to seeing you on the parade route!



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