

Ms. Senior California

The Age of Elegance



California State Pageant
Sunday, June 9, 2019
1:30 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO
Joan Kroc Institute for
Peace and Justice Theatre

Rita Pardue, Ms. Senior California 2018

*Congratulations to
Ms. Senior America
Celebrating their 40th Anniversary!*



“The Age of Elegance”

The purpose of Senior America is to develop, foster and promote programs and activities that dispel the myths of aging by enhancing the lives of senior Americans by providing them the opportunities to grow mentally, physically and spiritually and drawing on their experiences from the past, their knowledge of the present and their continuing enthusiasm of the future.

The philosophy of Senior America is based upon the belief that seniors are the foundation of America and our most valuable treasure.

www.senioramerica.org

FAREWELL, RITA PARDUE

Ms. Senior California 2018

As a storyteller, I enjoy sharing true-life tales. This story was one that inspired the path for my year representing California.

In 1910, General William Booth who was the founder of the Salvation Army in London, England, was near the end of his life. He was in poor health and was not going to be able to attend the Army's annual convention. Someone suggested he send a telegram or a message to be read at the opening of the convention as an encouragement to the many soldiers of the Salvation Army that would be in attendance. Booth agreed to the idea. Knowing that funds were limited, Booth decided to send a one-word message. He thought about what one word would summarize his life, the mission of the Army and encourage the others to continue on. When the thousands of delegates met, the moderator announced that General Booth would not be present due to failing health and eyesight. The announcer read the message from General Booth. One word only—"Others." General Booth knew that true joy came from helping others.

That is exactly what my year of representing the great state of California has been about—volunteering and serving others:



Rita with The Valley Schools children in Van Nuys, Calif.

- Pasadena Firefighters "Spark of Love Toy Drive"
- Assembly Member Chris Holden with "Shoes That Fit" Charity
- Walt Disney Concert Hall "Big Sing"
- Los Angeles Dodgers Senior Day representing seniors
- Miles for Melanoma 5k Run
- Tournament of Roses Docent for the La Canada Float
- Waves of Appreciation & USO volunteer at Christmas
- Stars Mentoring Program Fundraiser Supporter
- USC Trojans Gala - Keynote speaker
- Kiwanis Morning Group and Nooners Speaker
- Women's Club of Pasadena Speaker
- Jefferson Elementary School Saturday AM Reading Club Speaker
- Macy's Go Red For Women and the American Heart Association
- Modeling for Chico's, Macy's and Venus de Fido
- Book Club for Kids Podcast Guest Reader

Parades included Coronado Island July 4th, Tustin Tiller Days, Doo Dah and Montrose Christmas Parade and entertaining at Senior Centers, speaking to school groups, service organizations, receiving Congressional Recognition from Congress Woman, Judy Chu, television interviews on "Eye On The Desert" and "Pink Lady Presents," and honoring veterans, firefighters, politicians and military personnel.

After hearing many stories from seniors, their concerns include affordable housing, isolation, drug and alcohol abuse are prevalent, and high health care costs.

In conclusion, how do you survive and thrive being a senior: Remind yourself, "You're never too old to have a dream." In fact, "Dream Big!" Have courage to try something different.

Finally, thanks to Elvia Harris, CEO/Pageant Administrator, Jane Wagner, Board Member, Peggy Padilla, mentor, Jack Failla, coach and Cameo Club pageant sisters Lori Stangel, Pauline Allen, Reina Bolles, and Cheryl Valenzano. It truly takes a village. God bless all of you!

BLESSINGS,

Rita Pardue, Ms. Senior California, 2018

A Message from Elvia



Ms. Senior California of America extends a warm welcome to the Outstanding Class of 2019 Preliminary Pageant Finalists joining us today in this exciting and memorable event. The winner of today's California State Pageant will go on to compete in the Ms. Senior America Pageant in New Jersey later this year for the coveted title of Ms. Senior America 2019.

We want to thank Dr. Al Mott, founder of the Senior America Pageant, for creating this Pageant Program for Senior Women; this National Pageant is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year! What a terrific way to honor a commitment to senior women by showcasing their life's accomplishments, talent, and dreams! You will see our California finalists on our stage today - doing just that - to determine who will represent California nationally in October 2019.

It has been a fabulous year meeting these exceptional women who are intelligent, energetic, and living life to the fullest. I'm excited to share their stories with you today because senior women are making a difference in this world.

A sincere thank you to Rita Pardue, Ms. Senior California 2018 for her dedication and commitment to use her title and crown to promote the "Age of Elegance" pageants and the mission statement of Senior America of bringing honor and recognition to senior women. We wish Rita the best of luck and continued success in her life's journey.

We wish to extend a very special thank you to Pauline Allen, Ms. Senior Orange County 2018, who made it her mission to meet 14 mayors in Orange County during her reign and share her joy of being a senior woman and how winning the title of Ms. Senior Orange County and Ms. Congeniality have given her new energy and self-confidence. Thank you, Pauline!

And now, we thank each of you for being here today. We know you will enjoy the pageant and will cheer on our beautiful Pageant Finalists as they take the stage and demonstrate how they each celebrate life! Sit back and enjoy!

Warmest regards,

Elvia Harris

Ms. Senior California Pageant Director

Meet Our Ms. Senior California of America Board of Directors



Jane Wagner
Good Will Ambassador



Bobbi Dion
Treasurer



Marilyn Anderson
Circle of Royalty Chair
Photographer



Lindy Hodges
Secretary

Pageant Program

Welcome to the Age of Elegance!

Ms. Senior California of America Emcee: **Elvia Harris**, Director/CEO

Ms. Senior California of America Co-Emcee: **Pamela Wheeler**, Ms. Senior California 2010

The Pledge of Elegance

Our National Anthem

Introduction of Judges: **Pamela Wheeler & Elvia Harris**

Pageant Opening Number

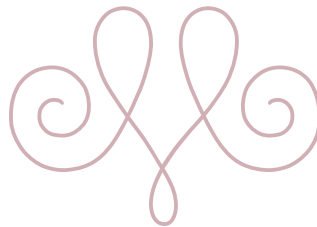
Finalists' Presentations: **Philosophy of Life / Modeling of Formal Attire**

Musical Interlude: **Pamela Wheeler, 2010**

Finalists' Presentations: **Talent**

Our Reigning Queen Bids Farewell & Performs: **Rita Pardue, Ms. Senior California 2018**

Recognition of Volunteers: **Elvia Harris**



Ms. Senior California State Pageant Awards

Miss Congeniality

Talent

Second Runner-Up

First Runner-Up

Winner - Ms. Senior California 2019

Queen's Song



Meet Our 2019 State Finalists



Rose King

Residence: Palm Desert
Talent: Monologue
Special Interests: Loves to cook, dance, and sing. Loves to wear hats. Loves writing children's books. Models for charity events.



Pauline Allen

Residence: Anaheim Hills
Talent: Monologue
Special Interests: Aspiring Senior Actress, Life Style Model, passionate about working out four times a week, loves white clouds, wearing big bold jewelry, and loves spending time with her grandchildren.



Kathleen Rockney

RESIDENCE: Fountain Valley
Talent: Dance
Special Interests: Health Chairperson for Fountain Valley Women's Club, Columnist for Fountain Valley Living, loves to hike, sing and dance.



Cheryta Moss

Residence: National City
Talent: Vocalist
Special Interests: Loves education, drawing, sewing, and singing. Sings with California Women's Choir, Sweet Harmony Chorus, San Diego Follies, San Diego's Got Talent, Presenting Positive Parenting to "Help I'm Going To Be A Mommy" program.



Corinne Rogan

Residence: Los Angeles
Talent: Monologue
Special Interests: Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, Volunteer for Mayor's Office, On The Move Metro, Aspiring Senior Actress, Brain Surgery Association.



Rebecca Sullins

Residence: Buena Park
Talent: Monologue
Special Interests: Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Committee, event coordinator, decorating, retreat hostess, bake sale hostess for local pre-school.

Ms. Senior California Royalty

Over 30 Years of Royalty
1986-2019

The Ms. Senior California Program salutes the former Ms. Senior California Queens. California Royalty members perform at preliminary pageants and the State Pageant, and greet the audience at all the pageants.



Ms. Rita Pardue, Ms. Senior California 2018 crowned by MJ Wilkerson, Ms. Senior California 2017

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 2018 - Rita Pardue | 2007 - Susan Cashman | 1996 - Frankie Stewart (MSA 1996) |
| 2017 - MJ Wilkerson | 2006 - Patricia Starr | 1995 - Gloria Perez-Paris |
| 2016 - Joyce Schumaker | 2005 - Pamela Vale Abramson | 1994 - Ruth Lubin |
| 2015 - Reina Bolles | 2004 - Phyllis Lovit | 1993 - Undine Wildman |
| 2014 - Dr. Gayla Kalp-Jackson | 2003 - Paula Swornay | 1992 - Alice Wade |
| 2013 - Alise Richel-Adler | 2002 - Dr. Klyda Hill Mahoney | 1991 - Jackie Harrison |
| 2012 - Elisabeth Howard, MSA 2012 | 2001 - Dorcas Preston (MSA 2001) | 1990 - Jane Lindsey* |
| 2011 - Norma Morein | 2000 - Patti Gallagher (MSA 2000) | 1989 - Wilma Self |
| 2010 - Pamela Wheeler | 1999 - Donna Nesheim | 1988 - Harriet Fox |
| 2009 - Peggy Padilla | 1998 - Lida Henne | 1987 - Marla Gitterman |
| 2008 - Shirley Pearson | 1997 - Dee Lee* | 1986 - Elda Barry*, Founder Ms. Senior California |



*Deceased Queens

Preliminary Pageants for Ms. Senior California of America

The **Ms. Senior America Pageant** is the world's first and foremost pageant to emphasize and give honor to women who have reached the "Age of Elegance." It is in search for the gracious lady who best exemplifies the dignity, maturity and inner beauty of all senior Americans. The Ms. Senior America philosophy is based upon the belief that seniors are the foundation of America, and our most valuable treasure. It is upon their knowledge, experience, and resources that the younger generations has the opportunity to build a better society.

The **Ms. Senior California State Pageant Program** is the largest state program in the nation. California boasts between three-seven preliminary pageants during the pageant season. In 2019, we hosted three Preliminary Pageants. Those preliminaries were held in San Diego, Palm Springs, and Orange County.

2020 Preliminary Pageants

AREA	VENUE/DATE
Palm Springs	TBA
San Diego	Paradise Village/Founder Hall, Feb. 28
Orange County	Norman Murray Senior Center, March 28
Santa Barbara	TBA
Sacramento	TBA

*Please follow our website and facebook page for updates
on the 2020 Pageant dates/times/locations*

facebook.com/MSSRCA/
www.mssrcalifornia.net

The Judging Process

Personal Interview: 30% - Each Contestant meets with a panel of Judges. The judges' task is to select the woman whose personality and interpersonal skills best meet the ideals of Ms. Senior California.

Evening Gown: 20% - This segment of the competition allows each woman to demonstrate her poise, grace, and stage presence. The judges look for the contestant who best represents the "Age of Elegance."

Philosophy Of Life: 20% - Each contestant shares her Philosophy of Life, timed at 35 seconds, so the judges can develop an insight into her personal beauty.

Talent: 30% - Each contestant has the opportunity to demonstrate that the gifts of talent do not diminish with age. Contestants share their unique talents - vocalists, musicians, dancers, poets, comedians, or artist. The judges must determine which woman offers the most vitality to this portion of the competition.

The Mission of the Ms. Senior California Pageant is to celebrate the joy that accompanies the Age of Elegance and inspire women to stretch beyond their reach, give back to their communities, and share their unique gifts with the world.

Meet Our Esteemed Pageant Judges

Bryen Boremen has a 16-year career in the Hospitality Industry for the Seven Mile Casino in Chula Vista, Calif. He is currently managing the food and beverage operations. Bryen is a dedicated professional, having started his profession from the bottom washing dishes and working himself into a management level position. During this time, Bryen has helped create the company's Ethics Code and multiple employee recognition programs. An avid outdoorsman and dedicated father of three, Bryen spends much of his off time taking his kids on road trips and camping at many of America's great outdoor national parks. During the summer Bryen coaches his sons' special needs soccer team.

Dr. Kimberly Ho is the first Vietnamese-American woman to be elected to the Westminster City Council 2016 and became a Vice-Mayor in 2018. She is also the chairwoman of the Miss Westminster Scholarship Competition Organization and is credited for bringing back the Competition after a 34-year hiatus. In addition, she has been a successful businesswoman in Westminster for nearly 30 years as a pioneer in her field as a researcher aesthetic dermatological and pharmacology.

Dr. Ho combined her experience and education to launch a revolutionary process for skin restoration and beauty care which she grew into a successful international skin care company. She is a radio and television personality on local and Direct TV and could be heard nationwide on "The Doctor Kimberly show."

Lewis Higgs was born and raised in the middle of a corn field in Iowa. As soon as he could, Lewis went in search of more excitement and found San Diego. Lewis attended San Diego State University majoring in psychology. While at school, Lewis was hired at the Park & Recreation Department of the City of San Diego. He held the position of Recreation Specialist with Senior Citizen Services, from 2008-17, responsible for senior programming events. In that position, Lewis was involved with the first Ms. Senior California as the co-sponsor. Lewis has truly found his calling working with seniors in the community and ensuring their golden years are golden! He feels honored to be here today.

Pat Brown is living her motto, "Life is not a dress rehearsal." You may remember her as Chief Weather Anchor at ABC-Channel 10. Now Pat is exploring new horizons including leading trips for Daytripper Tours around California.

Previously, Pat was NBC 7's main Weather Anchor, KyXy radio's morning DJ and Channel 8's "PM Magazine" co-host, traveling from the rainforests of Australia to the Alps of Austria. Here in San Diego, she scuba dived with sharks and flew supersonic in a Navy F-14 fighter jet, earning five Emmy Awards along the way.

She is also a credentialed teacher and taught 5th grade in Solana Beach. Even now, she volunteers regularly, reading to students in Mira Mesa.

Pat served on the boards of the MS Society, Alzheimer's San Diego, and the Burn Institute.

With a passion for helping animals, she uses her Facebook page, patbrownsmiles.com, to post photos of adoptable kitties at the San Diego Humane Society helping them find loving homes.

Life is indeed an adventure to Pat. Next on her list? Photographing the Northern Lights and exploring the Galapagos Islands. Until then, any beach in San Diego will do just fine.

Stephanie Sabin has been a performing vocalist for 30 years and has been teaching singers of all levels for just over 25 years. She is currently the President of the NATS San Diego Chapter (National Association of Teachers of Singing). In addition to performing and teaching, Stephanie has been Music Director and Conductor for local schools and theaters. Find her on FaceBook: @Sabin Studio or online www.sabinvocalstudio.com.

Anissa Harris (Judge Alternate) is a graduate from Smith College and holds a bachelors degree in psychology. After graduating, she discovered a passion for working with children and began her career working with youth in group homes. She then transitioned into the field of probation, and 22 years later she is still working with juveniles. Working with those who have faced significant obstacles makes her appreciate the opportunities she has been given. As Anissa comes to the close of her career in the field of probation, she is looking forward to life's next precious journey.

Meet Our Pageant Production Team

State Pageant Director, Emcee	Elvia Harris
Ms. Senior California 2010 Co-Emcee	Pamela Wheeler
Assistant to State Pageant Director	Dr. Gary Ballou
State Pageant Sound Engineer	Ed Harris
USD Operations and Events Manager	Jeffery Huggers
Judge's Foreman	Karen Freeman
Pageant Program	Elvia Harris
Pageant Program Graphic Design	Jolene Crowley, Crowaboutit Creative
Pageant Photographer	Jonathan Cervantes
Board Photographer	Marilyn Anderson
Pageant Videographer	Geoff Huston
Ticket Sales Chairperson	Bobbie Dion
Stage/Lobby Decor	Harris Designs & Associates
Floral Bouquet Designer	Susan McKee
Contestant Assistant Chairperson	Liz Keller

Thank You to Our Supporters...

Circles of Royalty: Thank you for joining our elite level of giving. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Ms. Senior California Board of Directors: Thank you for your valuable volunteer service in managing Ms. Senior California of America, Inc. Pageant Programs.

USD Staff: Thank you to Jeff Huggers and the USD staff for your assistance in management and production in the state-of-the-art Joan Kroc Theatre for Peace and Justice.

Ms. Senior California Classic Divas: Thank you for raising funds with your performances to support our pageant programs in California.

Jolene Crowley, Crowaboutit Creative: Thank you for your mentoring and artistic state program book design.

Bobbie Dion: Thank you for underwriting the Welcome Party for the contestants on Friday and for Rehearsal lunch on Saturday.





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*Ms. Wheeler won the
Ms. Senior California title in 2010!*



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KATHLEEN ROCKNEY
Ms. Senior Orange County 2019

A love note...

My heart is filled with gratitude for the many people who have helped lift me on this journey! At age 66, I can truly attest that it is never too late for further adventures!

Special heartfelt thanks go to my two sponsors:

- Susan Saurastri of Seven Gables Real Estate in Fountain Valley, CA
- David Truong of Mimi's Jewelry in Fountain Valley, CA

I also wish to thank the following for "above and beyond" help:

- Lynn and Curt Seeden of Seeden Photography and the *Fountain Valley Living* magazine in Fountain Valley, CA
- Shannon Brooke and Bunny Barth for costuming assistance
- Natalie Rokos for uplifting, positive-energy conversations

And, of course, my husband Bill for watching multiple iterations of my dance number, for taking care of dinner while I work on my projects and for cheering me on at every turn!

I look forward to paying all of this forward!

Much love,
Kathleen

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Ms. Senior California 2019 Pageants




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BOOKING INFORMATION

Elvia Harris

eharris5@san.rr.com

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“THE MELODIANS”

Dorcias Preston, vocalist and Ruthann Simmons, pianist/arranger, are excellent musicians who inspire audiences with "songs to remember". They perform Broadway Hits, Pops, Oldies, Patriotic Songs, Gospels, Jewish Medleys and Piano Classics, along with other timeless songs of the Century. They provide a combination of vocals and piano solos that will keep your heart singing long after the music ends. They perform for: Retirement Communities, Women's Clubs, Colleges, Country Clubs and Benefits for Charitable Organizations. They are considered to be two of the most highly praised concert performance artists in their field. Vocalist and Pianist have joined their talents to perform familiar songs from the past and music of inspiration

DORCAS PRESTON (MS.SENIOR AMERICA) VOCALIST

Dorcias Preston, has vast performing experience which spans decades of radio, television and live musical events. She has performed with the Pacific Chorale, The Grand Ole Opry, The Crystal Cathedral, and the Laguna Pageant of the Masters. She has also performed at the Orange County Performing Arts Center, the lead of Mabel in Pirates of Penzance, and leading roles in Operas. She is noted for her singing of the National Anthem at the Anaheim Ducks games. She has appeared in Budweiser commercials with Ed McMahon. She was crowned Ms. Senior America, which promoted her singing throughout the USA and the world. Her CD's include "Love Songs" and "A World In Harmony".



RUTHANN SIMMONS, PIANIST



Ruthann Simmons, Ph.D., studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with Adolph Baller, accompanist for the world-famous Yehudi Menuhin. She accompanied singers from San Francisco Opera Company, accompanist for the Oakland Light Opera Company and concertized throughout the Bay Area. Currently she is Pianist for Dorcas Preston and performs piano solos for their concerts. All vocal accompaniments and piano solos are arranged by Dr. Simmons. Recordings include "Mendelssohn Piano Concerto in G Minor, Op 25", "Piano Interludes", "Songs To Remember" "The Dynamic Duo" and "Musical Moments".

Ruthann Simmons, P.D.
949) 683-9287
Ruthann 778@aol.com

PAULINE

Allen

MS SENIOR

SAN DIEGO 2019

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OF YOU AND WISH YOU WELL IN
YOUR FUTURE COMPETITIONS

★CONGRATULATIONS★