

## **Seen Around Town**

## iViva La Fiesta!

Spanish Days (OSD). To start the

Fiesta year off La Presidenta 2021 was

just announced, Stephanie Petlow.

She has lived here for many years

and served on the OSD board for 20

years. Her leadership team is prim-

er Alex Castellanos, vice presidente;

David Bolton, segundo vice presidente and el secretario; Casie Killgore,

treasurer; and division chiefs Janice

Howell (celebrations), Maria Cabrera

(dance and entertainment), and Gary

Fiesta is run by a volunteer board

of directors with only one full-time

staff member which is unique among

festivals. Their office is at the Carriage

Museum. The OSD board of directors

oversees operations, fundraising, and

the winter, especially if you were well-

to-do, but business lagged in the sum-

It all began in 1924 when the city

MacDonald (pageantry).

planning.



presidente David Bolton social distancing with La Presidenta Stephanie Petlo at the Santa Barbara Club

of The Magic Makeover, Tricks for Looking Thinner, Younger and More Confident -Instantly. If you have an event that belongs in this lumn, you are invited

to call Lynda at 969-6164.

the opening of the Lobero Theatre by Jose Lobero and so Old Spanish Days was founded. It celebrated our state's Rancho Period, a time of romance and hospitality displayed through pageantry, dance, music, costumes, and cuisine. In 2021 Old Spanish Days will take place August 4-8.

"I am extremely honored to lead OSD in our 97th annual Fiesta," Stephanie told me over lunch. "Our founding families have left and continue to leave an amazing and unique fathers (and mothers) decided they legacy for our beautiful city and for needed something to draw people to future generations to enjoy." Her goal Santa Barbara in the summer. In those is to educate our chidren and each days it was popular to come here for other to preserve our culture by learning our history.

One of the focuses is dance and mer. The Fiesta would also tie in with music, which is a year-round activity



Drummer Boy greeting members at the Santa

for many of our youth. Some of them have gone to Jerez, Spain for their flamenco dancing and to buy authentic Spanish dresses and traje cortos (suits). That's where my family lived for seven years and our fiesta wardrobes grew with the years and the kids, including an Andalucian horse name Alagria (it means happiness and our daughter was).

OSD is a platform for a variety of

local nonprofits to raise their necessary operating funds at the annual Mercado, Hopefully by next August there will be the usual food booths for the thousands of visitors as well as the arts and crafts at West Beach. "2020 has certainly made all of

us realize the importance of family, friends, and our special community of Santa Barbara," Štephanie said. "We are thankful for the continued support during this pandemic from our sponsors, the City of Santa Barbara, the County of Santa Barbara, and our community collaborators. The entire Board of Directors and past presidents are committed to presenting a safe and wonderful Fiesta 2021 to continue our rich history and traditions."

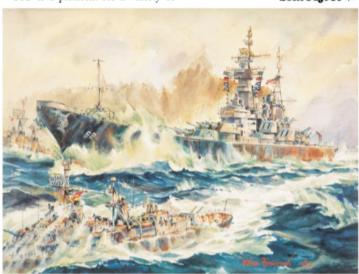
Pre-auditions for the Spirits of Fiesta will be held on January 9. La Prima Vera, the spring party, will be on May 15.

For information call 805-962-8101 or check out sbfiesta.org.

## Art of the Sea

There is a wonderful art exhibit of 55 naval paintings at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum awaiting

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After Pearl Harbor Beaumont's work supported the U.S. war effort and reflected dramatic life or death



Greg Gorga, the tor of the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, which is exhibiting 55 naval paintings ıntil May 2021

## Seen (Continued from page 14)



The naval paintings by Arthur Beaumont chronicle accomplishments of the U.S. Navy



Beaumont did three assignments as a correspondent for the Navy in the 1950s and '60s, painting frozen landscapes in Alaska and Antarctica

Gorga can unlock the doors. The

your visit as soon as lockdown is It's sponsored by George H. & Olive over and executive director Greg J. Griffiths Charitable Foundation, Mimi Michaelis, Alice Tweed Tuohy exhibit was scheduled to open Foundation and Wood-Claeyssens December 3, 2020 until May 30, 2021. Foundation.

"We were one of ten museums in the United States asked to participate and we are one of the top ten maritime museums in the United States," Greg said of hosting the naval paintings.

Obviously this is a proud accomplishment for the museum's 20-year history. In normal times, the museum has more than 40,000 visitors annually and provides year-round maritime history and marine science education for local youth. The First-Order Fresnel Lighthouse Lens from Point Conception is especially impressive. It took several world experts months to clean the lens and ready it for exhibition.

The exhibit artist is Arthur Beaumont and his paintings chronicle accomplishments of the U.S. Navy, from the USS Constitution to atomic bomb tests and expeditions to the North and South poles. This is the last show on the West Coast before its departure to the East. Beaumont uses impressionist techniques in painting the stunning images, capturing the majesty of the oceans and the vessels that sail them.

Arthur Beaumont (1890-1978) was born in Norfolk County, England and came to the U.S. in 1908 to study art at Berkeley, before moving to Los Angeles and opening his first commercial art studio in 1917. After studying more and teaching art and watercolor painting, he received a commission as a lieutenant in the Navy and became the "Artist of the Fleet" by 1933. After Pearl Harbor his work supported the U.S. war effort and reflected dramatic life or death struggles in the Pacific. In 1944 he was given the official title of war correspondent.

After World War II, Beaumont became the official artist for Operation Crossroads, documenting the Navy's first tests of the nuclear bomb and continued to travel and paint for the Navy on missions to . China and Japan. He also did work during the Korean War, in movies, and private and personal painting. He did three assignments for the Navy in the 1950s and '60s, painting frozen landscapes in Alaska and Antarctica.

Toward the end of his life he painted the RMS Queen Mary as it arrived in Los Angeles. He did a series of Revolutionary War-era sailing vessels and operations along the Mekong River during the Vietnam

My late husband was a carrier pilot, so my favorite paintings were showing the carriers launching airplanes off their deck - a small deck rolling in the waves and add night landings in the mix. Scary stuff. Many years ago my husband's squadron invited the wives for a Powder Puff Cruise from Coronado, California. A rare treat! Sadly I was in his stateroom being seasick the whole day and never got to see the

In addition to the paintings there will be a book of Beaumont's life and art written by Beaumont's son Geoffrey Campbell Beaumont and published by the Irvine Museum. On January 21, 2021 the author will give a presentation about the exhibit and his father's life.

Santa Barbara Maritime Museum is located in the Santa Barbara Harbor at 113 Harbor Way, Suite 190. For details visit sbmm.org or call (805) 962-8404. Hope to see you there soon.

1 - 7 January 2021

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"Even the strongest blizzards start with a single snowflake." - Sara Raasch

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