



KRISTEN GREENBERG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - UA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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ON THE WEB

www.uarotary.org

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www.rotary.org

For make up locations, check the club web site or call the make-up hotline at (614) 470-1002.



Kristen Greenberg, Executive Director of the Upper Arlington Historical Society. The presentation coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Historical Society and the city's 100th celebration of its July 4th traditions.

1. The Origins (1923)

- The first Upper Arlington July 4th celebration was organized on June 22, 1923, by the Upper Arlington Civic League.
- Because Upper Arlington was small at the time (roughly 800 residents), neighbors from Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff were invited to join.
- The celebration evolved from an earlier "Field Day" tradition (started in 1916 around Flag Day), which featured unique events like pet shows, may-pole dances, and a "most well-proportioned baby" contest.
- The inaugural 1923 event ended with a fireworks display in Miller Park watched by 1,500 people.

2. The 1926 "Pause"

- There was no celebration from 1926 to 1929. In 1926, the event was canceled due to a "triple holiday" (July 4th, America's 150th anniversary, and the fact that July 4th fell on a Sunday). Believing residents would travel out of town, leadership paused the event until it was formally revived in 1930.

- In 1933, the Upper Arlington Civic Association (UACA) took over management of the tradition from the Civic League.

3. Evolution of the Parade Route

- The parade route expanded naturally alongside the city's geographical growth and annexations.
- 1920s–1930s: Centered around Miller Park and the "Civic Center" (Mallway, Jones building, and Fire Station 71).
- 1952: Following the annexation of the Lane Avenue shops property, the parade route shifted north to start at Lane Avenue.
- 1959–Present: With the opening of Kingsdale, the parade established the stable, 55+ year route down Northwest Boulevard that residents recognize today.

4. Key Traditions & Icons

- The Wake-Up Calls: Originating in 1923 with the firing of a sunrise cannon, it changed to a mobile "Paul Revere's Ride" in 1938 using cars and a motorcycle. Today, it operates as a popular UACA fundraiser.
- Spirit of '76: Inspired by Archibald Willard's famous 1876 painting, this trio has led the parade since 1935. Generations of local families have filled these roles. Notably, last year marked the first time a woman (Kelly Long) marched as the flag bearer.
- Miss Arlington: Running from 1949 to 1997, this popular pageant shifted from a pure popularity/fundraising vote to an interview-based scholarship and civic role. In 1999, it was officially replaced by the co-ed UACA Junior Director Program.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings

GREETERS

July 7

Bob LeBoeuf
Eve Petricoff

July 14

Alan Thompson
Mike Turnbull

July 21

Robert Hunt
Scott Emch

REGISTRATION DESK

July 7

Ted Foster
Brendan King

July 14

Rick Barth
Tom Westfall

July 21

Jim Winfree
Dave Shelby

CALENDAR

July 7 - Boat House/ZOOM
Kelly George – “On Safari in Africa”

Host: Bob Long

July 14 - Scioto CC/ZOOM
Joe Hayek, President & CEO of
Worthington Industries –
“Update on Worthington
Industries”

Host: Don Ross

July 21 - Scioto CC/ZOOM
Doug Godard, Founder &
President of Bonzy – Raising
Financially Confident Kids in a
Digital “Just Tap It” World

Host: Herb Gillen

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity
to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion
in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event
reminder to herb@herbgillen.com for
inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

OUR NEXT MEETING

JULY 7TH
Scioto Country Club / ZOOM

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



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5. Fireworks History & Safety

- The fireworks display moved locations over the decades due to growing crowds and safety demands: from Miller Park to Jones Stadium, then to the high school stadium on Ridgeview Road, and finally to Northern Park in 1968.
- A severe accident occurred in 1956 when aerial fallout injured 19 people at Jones Stadium, prompting stricter safety radiuses (currently a strict 500-foot perimeter around Northern Park).
- A budget increase pushed by leadership in 2015 significantly elevated the production value, allowing for multi-level vertical displays, ground set-pieces, and the inclusion of a pre-fireworks drone show. This year's theme is "Ohio's Greatest Hits."

Closing Remarks

- Historical Society Updates: The society is organizing an upcoming fall tour of Union Cemetery focused on 18th-century local history, and is currently assisting the local police department as they prepare to celebrate their 100th anniversary next year.

THE MEETING



The meeting began with a nod to the nation's 250th anniversary (America 250) and a recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Next Week's Program: The club will return to the Boathouse next week featuring speaker Kelly George, who will present on "Safari in Africa."

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bed Brigade: An upcoming service opportunity with Rock City Church is scheduled for Saturday, July 11th, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Volunteers with large vehicles are needed to help deliver approximately 120 beds to 40 families.

Personal News: **Chris Reinhardt** celebrated the birth of twin granddaughters, **Sawyer Lynn** and **Scarlett Ruth**.

Condolences & Transitions: **John Krauss** noted the passing of former member **Tim Donovan**

Quarterly Invoices: Members were reminded that quarterly invoices have been sent out.

AV Help Needed: The club is actively seeking a volunteer or assistant to help handle audiovisual duties for meetings.

Leadership: **John Krauss** officially passed the gavel to new President **Glen Duggar**

4th of July Parade Details: The club will have two entries in the upcoming parade (entries #203 and #205). Participants will meet at 7:30 AM at the north entrance queue on Northwest Boulevard. Rides back to Kingsdale will be provided at the end of the route.

