



Jack Wallin



## Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association

P.O. Box 2287, Garden Grove, California 92842 (714) 638-0981

[www.strawberryfestival.org](http://www.strawberryfestival.org)

### CONTACT:

Judy Cooper – 949/280-6545 cell; [jcpr@pacbell.net](mailto:jcpr@pacbell.net)

**HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD at** <http://www.strawberryfestival.org>

### 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GARDEN GROVE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL NAMES

**JACK WALLIN PARADE THEME GRAND MARSHAL  
AND MICKEY MOUSE AS CELEBRITY GRAND MARSHAL**

**-- Fifteen Additional Celebrities to be Honored --**



Mickey Mouse

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. – May 1, 2018 – The 60<sup>th</sup> annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival parade will be held on Saturday, May 26, 2018. This year’s theme is **“Celebrating 60 Years of Fun and Funding Charities,”** and in support of the theme, **Jack Wallin**, who has been on the board from the beginning, has been named Theme Grand Marshal. In addition, the festival board has named the world-famous Mickey Mouse as the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival’s Celebrity Grand Marshal. Disneyland Resort, the festival’s neighbor, also recently celebrated their 60th Anniversary Diamond Celebration in 2015. The four-day festival will be held Memorial Day Weekend Friday, May 25 through Monday, May 28, 2018.



Aparna Brielle  
[A.P. Bio](#)

Fifteen celebrities will also be honored in the parade: **Aparna Brielle** (*A.P. Bio*); **Mackenzie Hancsicsak** (*This is Us*), **Parker Bates** (*This is Us*); **Humberto Luna** (Hispanic Radio Personality); **Emily Skinner** (*Andi Mack*); **Kristin Carey** (*Scandal*); **Kimrie Lewis** (*Scandal*); **Nancy Linehan Charles** (*Minority Report*, *Young Sheldon*); **Nicole Bilderback** (*Good Girls*); **Sally Pressman** (*Army Wives*; *Good Girls*); **Molly Jackson** (*Andi Mack*); **Maya Jade Frank** (*Bizaardvark*); **Sanai Victoria** (*The Paynes*); **Paul-Mikel Williams** (*The 15:17 to Paris*; *Westworld*); and **Jonathon Blum** (U.S. Men’s Olympic Ice Hockey Team).



Mackenzie Hancsicsak  
[This is Us](#)

**Jack Wallin**, the 2018 Garden Grove Strawberry Festival parade Theme Grand Marshal, has served continuously on the festival board for 60 years. Every year since being on the board, Wallin, 89 years young, spends two solid weeks setting up the festival as board member in charge of grounds and rides. He coordinates layout and ride setup with the carnival company, and he works the grounds all four days of the huge Memorial Day weekend event. Wallin says he’s honored to have been part of an organization for the past 60 years that has done so much good for the community. “Last year alone we raised over \$300,000 for local charities,” he says.



Parker Bates  
[This is Us](#)

**Mickey Mouse:** Alongside Disney Ambassador Mikey Trujillo, everyone’s favorite pal Mickey Mouse will be the Celebrity Grand Marshall of this year’s 60th Anniversary of the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival.

**Aparna Brielle** currently stars on the NBC comedy *A.P. Bio*, produced by Seth Myers and *Saturday Night Live*’s Lorne Michaels. She plays the role of Sarika Sarkar, a career-driven student who is obsessively trying to do everything right and climb the educational ladder. A native of Portland, Oregon, Aparna has also appeared on NBC’s *Grimm*, TNT’s *The Librarians* and Fox’s *Cooper Barrett’s Guide to Surviving Life*.

**Mackenzie Hancsicsak** is a ten-year-old actress who currently appears as Young Kate on NBC’s hit show *This is Us*. The cast won a SAG award this year for Best Ensemble for a Drama Series. The show will be



Humberto Luna  
*Hispanic Radio Personality*

coming back for its third season this fall. Mackenzie plays one of the little “Big 3” alongside castmates Parker Bates who plays Young Kevin and Lonnie Chavis who plays Young Randall. In her free time, this fifth grader loves her elementary school which recently won a local contest for donating needed supplies to 30 local charities. This year she reached her goal of selling over 1,000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies and is being honored with a group called the “Elite 1000” with a trip to Disneyland.

**Parker Bates** is a ten-year-old actor who can currently be seen playing Young Kevin, son of Rebecca (Mandy Moore) and Jack (Milo Ventimiglia) in NBC’s hit show *This is Us*. Up next, Parker will star in the film *Magic Max* as Tim Hart opposite Jud Tylor and Barry Corbin, releasing later this year.



Emily Skinner  
*Andi Mack*

**Humberto Luna** is a legend in Los Angeles Spanish language radio. His cast of characters, "Lunaticos" have entertained Southern California Hispanics for more than 35 years. He now has a show on La Ranchera 96.7 FM every Saturday and Sunday. In 1990, Humberto became the first Hispanic entertainment personality to receive a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. Humberto also has appeared in 25 motion pictures, has hosted *Hablemos de Cine* on Univision and his own television talk show *La Hora Lunatica* on the Telemundo network.

**Emily Skinner**, who began her acting career at the age of seven, has a major recurring role as Amber on Disney’s show *Andi Mack*. Most recently, she appears on Brat’s newest show, *Total Eclipse*, starring McKenzie Ziegler and Lauren Orlando. Emily has also guest starred on *Numbers*, *CSI*, *Criminal Minds*, *Mindy Project*, *Shake It Up*, *Austin and Ally*, *Shake It Up*, and *Sam and Cat*.



Kristin Carey  
*Scandal*

**Kristin Carey** has a recurring role as Brooke Foster on the ABC Show *SCANDAL* and has most recently guest starred on *Blackish*, *Bull*, *Speechless*, *Dr. Ken*, *Newsroom*, *CSI CYBER* and *Blunt Talk*. She is presently shooting the new Amazon Series *Too Old To Die Young* with acclaimed director Nicolas Winding Refn opposite Miles Teller. Kristin has appeared in over 60 national commercials and numerous TV shows, films and stage productions. Another current venture is a scripted comedy podcast *Soul Full of It* in which she portrays Dr. Delia Houston.



Kimrie Lewis  
*Scandal*

Actress-writer-comedian **Kimrie Lewis** has played Reporter Ashley on ABC’s *Scandal* for five years. Kimrie has made numerous TV guest appearances, including on *Superstore*, *Two Broke Girls*, *The Mindy Project*, *New Girl* and *Raven’s Home*. She starred with Kerry Washington, Craig Robinson and David Alan Grier in the Lionsgate film *Peebles*. Kimrie has a series regular role on the new ABC comedy *Single Parents*. She will also appear on IFC’s *Brockmire* with Hank Azaria. As a writer, Kimrie recently wrote for Kevin Hart’s LOL Network. She also performs stand-up comedy regularly at Flappers in Burbank and at clubs and colleges across the country.



Nancy Linehan Charles  
*Minority Report*

**Nancy Linehan Charles** has been a working actress in New York and Los Angeles for 30 years. During her career Nancy has appeared in many guest star or recurring roles on TV shows such as *Young Sheldon*, *Life In Pieces*, *Bosch*, *Getting On*, *NCIS: LA*, *24*, *Criminal Minds*, *Vice Principals*, *Kevin From Work*, *Growing Up and Down*, *Longmire*, and *Better Things*, to name a few. Nancy has worked with Steven Spielberg (*Minority Report*), the late, great Mike Nichols (*Charlie Wilson’s War*) and Rob Zombie (*Lords Of Salem* and *Testify*). She has won the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award and the coveted Ovation Award for her work on the stage.



Nicole Bilderback  
*Good Girls*

**Nicole “Nikki” Bilderback** has recurring role as Dr. Serden on the new NBC series *Good Girls*. She has guest starred and had recurring roles on hit television shows such as *Bones*, *Perception*, *The Mentalist*, *Human Target*, *Castle*, *Heroes*, *Numb3rs*, *House*, *Boston Legal*, *Without a Trace*, *Cold Case*, *Dawson’s Creek*, and *Dark Angel*. Film credits include *Clueless*, *Can’t Hardly Wait*, *Legally Blonde 2*, *Cruel World*, and *Bad Girls From Valley High*. Nicole is probably most recognized as the cheerleader Whitney in the blockbuster mega-hit *Bring It On* starring Kirsten Dunst.

**Sally Pressman** can currently be seen on the NBC dramedy *Good Girls* and on the TBS comedy *The Detour*



Sally Pressman  
*Good Girls*

and will have a recurring role on the new season of Netflix's *13 Reasons Why*. Sally also recurs on the comedy *Younger*. Best known starring for seven seasons as Roxy LeBlanc in the hit *Army Wives*, Sally was also the lead of 20th Century Fox's half-hour comedy *Joe, Joe and Jane*. Additional television credits include recurring roles on ABC's *The Catch*, *Greys Anatomy*, *Scandal*, and the CBS drama *Pure Genius*. She has also been seen in HBO's *Girls*, *Man Up*, *The New Adventures of Old Christine*, as well as *Once Upon a Time* and *Persons of Interest*.



Molly Jackson  
*Andi Mack*

**Molly Jackson** is a prolific young teen actress with roles ranging from comedy to science fiction and horror. Performing since age five, she enjoys all types of acting including TV, movies, theater and voice-over. Molly appears as Iris on Disney's *Andi Mack*, as Paige Wodecki on Netflix's *American Vandal*, and on Nickelodeon shows *Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn* as Brianna and *Game Shakers* as Jenna. Besides school and acting, writing and singing, Molly works towards many causes, including human rights and helping stray and abandoned animals.



Maya Jade Frank  
*Bizaardvark*

Sixteen-year-old **Maya Jade Frank** is best known as Belissa on Disney's *Bizaardvark*. She is also recognized for her roles on Broadway as Jane Banks in *Mary Poppins*, *Evita* with Ricky Martin, and on the 25th Anniversary Tour of *Les Miserables*. Maya is a Daytime Emmy Nominee for her voiceover work on Nickelodeon's *History & Heritage* and has guest starred on *My Haunted House* and *The Battery's Down*.



Sanai Victoria  
*The Paynes*

**Sanai Victoria** stars as Lynn in Tyler Perry's new sitcom, *The Paynes* on OWN. She will also star in the feature film *XX Dead Rabbits* to be released this year. She was most recently seen in Lifetime's remake of *Beaches* as Tory. Sanai has also appeared on ABC's *Blackish*, and on the Disney network's *Lab Rats Elite Force*, *Girl Meets World* and *Bizaardvark*. At age six, Sanai placed second Runner-Up Queen in the National American Miss Pageant. In 2015, she was crowned Junior Pre-Teen/Miss Teen Los Angeles.



Paul Mikél-Williams  
*The 15:17 to Paris*

**Paul-Mikél Williams** played young Anthony Sadler in Clint Eastwood's award-contending film, *The 15:17 to Paris*. He is best recognized for his recurring role of Charlie in HBO's *Westworld*. Paul-Mikel also made a guest appearance on CBS' *Training Day* and starred as Joel in the short film *Streetlights*.



Jonathon Blum  
*Olympic Hockey Player*

Professional hockey player **Jonathon Blum** is the first ever NHL first-round draft pick that was born and raised in California. He was the 23rd overall selection in the 2007 NHL Draft, selected by the Nashville Predators. In 2009, he was chosen as the Canadian Hockey League Defenseman of the Year. After playing 122 games in the NHL for both the Nashville Predators and Minnesota Wild, Jonathon signed a contract in Russia's Kontinental Hockey League in 2015. He was named to the league's All-Star team in 2016. In 2018, Jonathon was selected to compete for Team USA Hockey in the Winter Olympics.

**Miss Garden Grove Sarah Bui** and **Miss Garden Grove Outstanding Teen Sophie Nessary** will ride on a float with their courts. **Sarah Bui** is a 22-year-old graduate from Keck School of Medicine of USC with a Bachelor's degree in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Studies and a Master's degree in Global Medicine. Sarah has volunteered over 1,400 hours of community service towards non-profit organizations and events. An advocate for girls' rights and education, she lobbied for policy change on Capitol Hill, and ran in the LA Marathon in a collaborative effort, and raised over \$4,000 for the United Nations Foundation campaign "Girl Up." **Sophie Nessary** is a freshman honor student at Orange County School of the Arts who enjoys being part of their Acting Conservatory. Her platform is the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) promoting kind and proper pet care and pet adoptions.

A parade favorite, **Wiley the Wolf** from Great Wolf Lodge, returns to charm the children.

### ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The festival will be held Memorial Day Weekend Friday, May 25 through Monday, May 28, 2018. Friday hours are 1:00 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Monday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is free. Special one-price ride-all-day wristbands will be offered for all festival days at



Sarah Bui  
*Miss Garden Grove*



Sophie Nessary  
*Miss Garden Grove  
Outstanding Teen*



Great Wolf  
Lodge's Wiley  
the Wolf

\$30 per wristband on Friday and \$35 each on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Tickets for individual rides can also be purchased separately at \$1 per ticket.

The four-day event, which is the second largest city festival in the Western United States, will be held at the Village Green between Main Street and Euclid Avenue in downtown Garden Grove. Last year's attendance was over 200,000. Highlights include the Friday evening official giant strawberry cake cutting ceremony at 6:00 p.m. at the Showmobile (Acacia & Main streets) when free cake is served to over 2,000 people. Saturday morning begins with a **5K Run** followed by an 8 a.m. **VIP celebrity breakfast** at the Garden Grove Community Center, with proceeds going to We Give Thanks. Next is a **parade** at 10 a.m. with floats, bands, equestrians and characters. Film and TV celebrities will be honored in the parade and will sign autographs following. All four festival days will include 35 carnival rides, 4 contests, over 200 food and sales booths, games, music and live entertainment in the amphitheater and Showmobile. Contests, held in the festival's 550-seat amphitheater, include the **Berry, Berry Beautiful Baby Contest, Redhead Roundup, Strawberry Idol Karaoke, and Tiny Tots King and Queen.**

**Sponsorship** comes from Great Wolf Lodge, GGTPC, Great Destinations, Clear Channel Outdoor, Parenting OC, El Panamericano, Korea Times, Nguoi Viet Daily News, OC News and its community newspapers, OC Weekly, Farandula USA, Miniondas, and radio stations Radiocentro 93.9 KXOS-FM; Air 1 Radio; KOST 103.4; MYfm; KLYY Jose 97.5 FM; KSSE 107.1 FM Super Estrella; JACK FM; K-EARTH 101; 94.7 The Wave; Amp Radio; KWVE; KDAY-FM; and KWIZ.

For additional information, call (714) 638-0981 or visit [www.strawberryfestival.org](http://www.strawberryfestival.org). # # #