

# Daily Pilot

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022 /// dailypilot.com



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**CAROL ALBRIGHT** paints in her kitchen nook studio where she keeps the memory of her late husband and artist Russ Albright through her own art work and the work that adorns the walls of their home. Memories in the Making is a program of Alzheimer's Orange County.

## Art 'speaks' for O.C. families, individuals facing dementia

Memories in the Making is the signature art program of Alzheimer's Orange County.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

When Carol Albright's late husband, Russ, was diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment in 2015, his neurologist encouraged them to attend the Early Memory Loss class at Alzheimer's Orange County.

The organization, based in Irvine, provides support to Orange County families and individuals effected by Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

"I fought it for a while," said Albright, who has a background working with seniors. "Finally I caved in and called, and we went through a six-week intro program and then we were invited to the all the activities."

Memories in the Making, the signature art program of Alzheimer's Orange County, was among those activities, and the art class made an impression on the couple.

"The art was wonderful for him. It was his favorite program," Albright said.

Memories in the Making was created in 1988 to provide meaningful activity for persons with dementia, while focusing on creative expression as a form of communication. Often the disease can affect language, and art can become a more suitable form of expression, a way for those with dementia to "speak."

Russ Albright used art to express himself throughout his life. He taught high school drafting and later in life took up sculpting after seeing a piece in a gallery that he wanted to buy but couldn't afford.

Today his sculptures fill Albright's Irvine home.

"He did all of these stone sculptures; they are different colors of alabaster," said Albright.

Russ sold his sculptures in galleries in

See **Art**, page A5



**BEN ALLEN**, programs and education specialist of Alzheimer's Orange County.



**PAINTINGS BY** Carol Albright, who works with Memories in the Making, the signature art program of Alzheimer's Orange County which provides a meaningful activity for persons with dementia while focusing on creative expression as a form of communication.

## H.B. City Council recall effort stymied

O.C. Registrar of Voters reports efforts to oust 3 City Council members do not meet minimum signature requirements.

BY MATT SZABO

Three Huntington Beach City Council members vowed Thursday to move forward, a day after they learned that a recall effort against them had failed to collect enough valid signatures.

The Orange County Registrar of Voters informed city officials Wednesday that the recall petitions against Mayor Pro Tem Mike Posey and City Council members Kim Carr and Dan Kalmick did not meet the minimum signature requirements to trigger a special election.

The number recall organizers had to reach was 13,352 signatures, which is 10% of registered voters in the city. After verification, the Registrar found that recall proponent Save Surf City had collected 12,306 valid signatures to oust Carr. There were 12,201 valid signatures on Kalmick's peti-

See **Recall**, page A2

## Weapons, narcotics seized in F.V., man arrested

Redlands resident is suspected of possession of narcotics for purposes of sale as well as various weapons violations.

BY MATT SZABO

Fountain Valley police seized a large scale of narcotics and several firearms during a drug bust Monday in Redlands.

As part of an ongoing investigation, the Fountain Valley Police Department Crime Suppression Unit developed information regarding an individual who was involved in large-scale narcotics trafficking throughout the Orange County area. With the assistance of the Redlands Police Department, the special unit obtained a search warrant for the suspect and his residence, FVPD Sgt.

See **Seized**, page A2

## Pacific Chorale hits a high note with Grammy award win

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

When the Costa Mesa-based Pacific Chorale took home a Grammy on April 3, the renowned choir fulfilled a nearly 25-year-old dream.

"I was talking to a former board chair, and he said 25 years ago, they were all in a board meeting and said if we were to dream what would happen years from now it would be to win a Grammy award," said Pacific Chorale Artistic Director Robert Istad. "And it happened."

Last Sunday, Pacific Chorale, the resident chorus at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, shared the 2022 Grammy Award for "Choral Performance" at the 64th annual Grammy Awards presented in Las Vegas.

"I am absolutely elated and feelings so honored," said Istad, who was at the ceremony to accept the award, "to even have been nominated. So many of the

people in my category are my idols, people that I have looked up to my entire career."

The Grammy was awarded for a recording of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 8 in E-flat Major, "Symphony of a Thousand," a piece the group recorded along with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Los Angeles Children's Chorus, National Children's Chorus and eight soloists, under the baton of conductor Gustavo Dudamel.

"Mahler's 8th Symphony was called 'Symphony of a Thousand' by the original concert promoter because it is such a huge piece," said Istad. "It is written for this gigantic-sized symphony orchestra and a double symphony chorus with a children's choir ... usually when they perform this piece it is an all-hands-on-deck community effort."

See **Award**, page A4



Photo by Drew Kelley

**THE GRAMMY** Award-winning Pacific Chorale performs. The resident chorus at Segerstrom Center for the Arts shared an award for a recording of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 8 with other area classical music groups.



# Enjoying a sunny day at the beach



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**BEACH-GOERS WALK** through a reflection off the wet sand from the Hotel Laguna during low tide at Main Beach in Laguna Beach on a recent afternoon.

## WORD

Continued from page A3

means adjectives. In “the gray cat,” the word “gray” is an attributive adjective. But nouns can do the same job. For example, in “the cat toy,” “cat” is modifying a noun that comes after it, so it’s functioning attributively, making it an attributive noun.

Coffee break. Shrimp toast. Wedding day. There are lots of examples of attributive nouns acting like adjectives in front of other nouns.

Grammarians point out that we do this because we have no choice — or at least, none of the choices offered by other languages. Latin, for example, had a formula for turning a noun into an attributive modifier: You tack on a suffix like “-alis” or “-anus.” English doesn’t have a formula for this. So we cut out the middleman and just use the unaltered noun as an adjective.

But then we do something even stranger: If the noun is plural, we usually make it singular. Hence “knife drawer,” “auto mechanic,” “tree surgeon,” “supply closet” and on and on. None of my refer-

**“Homo sapien forebears” sounds better than “Homo sapiens forebears” for the same reason it sounds wrong to say you bought your loafers in a “shoes store” or you took your dog to the “pets hospital.”**

ence books explains why we do this or how it came about. They just make note of it.

“It seems that the norm has been to have singular nouns used as attributives — ‘billiards,’ for instance, even lost its -s to give us ‘billiard ball,’” notes Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary of English Usage.

There have always been exceptions — scissors grinder, physics laboratory, Civil Liberties Union, and mathematics book are among Merriam’s examples. But recent decades have seen a trend toward more plural nouns used attributively: weapons systems, communications technology, operations program, systems analyst, singles bar, enemies list.

“The plural form seems to be chosen to differentiate the meaning of the combination with the plural from whatever the singular attributive might connote,” Mer-

riam writes. This is especially evident in “a singles bar,” which would be less clear if you called it “a single bar.”

Because so many attributive nouns take the singular form even when the meaning is plural, it sounds natural to drop the S: dog groomer, pizza parlor, drug dealer. That’s why “sapiens” sounds wrong in “Homo sapiens forebears.” But unlike “dogs,” “pizzas” and “drugs,” Homo sapiens isn’t plural. It’s singular. So if you drop the final S from sapiens, you’re not turning a plural into a singular like you do for so many other attributive nouns. Instead, you’re just misspelling a word.

**JUNE CASAGRANDE** is the author of “The Joy of Syntax: A Simple Guide to All the Grammar You Know You Should Know.” She can be reached at [JuneTCN@aol.com](mailto:JuneTCN@aol.com).

## ART

Continued from page A1

Laguna Beach and Palm Springs during his lifetime.

“These are the ones that didn’t sell, believe it or not,” Albright said of the collection in her home.

Eventually a bad back and arthritis prevented Russ from sculpting, but he continued making art thanks to Alzheimer’s Orange County’s art program.

“Memories in the Making was a nice outlet for him. He couldn’t do sculpting anymore, but he loved painting,” said Albright. “And he was with a community of people he could relate to.”

Although Russ had an art background, art experience isn’t required for Memories in the Making participants.

“When I am leading a session I am creating an atmosphere that allows the artist to be free to play,” said Ben Allen, programs and education specialist at Alzheimer’s Orange County and Memories in the Making coordinator.

While there is a structure to the class, Allen said facilitators will use techniques to help individuals get started, whatever their ability.

“There are ways to help people without doing it for them,” said Allen. “We’ll have an image, typically from a calendar, and we’ll find an image that they connect with, even if they are nonverbal, their eyes light up ... Overall, it is a way to engage someone who has Alzheimer’s or another form of dementia.”

In fact, Allen said he has heard and experienced many stories of connection during his five years of facilitating that were made through art when other forms of communication had begun to fail.

“One example that comes to mind, is an artist who would paint the same scene every week and the facilitator wondered, ‘What is this?’” said Allen.

The facilitator talked to the adult daughter about what her father was painting, and she knew the scene that was being described.

“That’s my parents’ honeymoon,” she said.

Allen said in many ways the classes are also for the families

because they get to share and learn things about their artists.

“The benefits for the care partners are huge,” Allen said.

Classes are held in person at various care facilities and host sites and also virtually on Zoom. They generally use watercolors, Allen said, because they are nontoxic.

Some paintings created in the program are submitted for entry into art exhibitions. An upcoming exhibit featuring work from Memories in the Making will take place at Main Place Mall in Santa Ana on April 30.

Besides art classes, Alzheimer’s Orange County also provides support groups, workshops and other resources including a help line staffed by social workers. Albright said she and her late husband benefited from support groups offered by the organization.

“Even though Russ was very shy, he became more comfortable talking with other people about his struggles and expressing his feelings. He also learned techniques to help him cope with his declining memory,” Albright said. “For me, I learned so much from others in the group and was able to provide support to others.”

Russ has since passed away, but Albright continues to paint with Memories in the Making, often sitting in the same spot Russ would to paint.

“I love the art sessions. Listening to nice music and focusing on the painting has been so relaxing. I’ve so appreciated all the care and support that I’ve received from all the staff.”

Albright has become a volunteer art facilitator with Memories in the Making.

“I have only done it once because they closed the program down,” she chuckled, referring to the pandemic shutting down in-person classes. She plans to continue volunteering now that classes have resumed. She also hopes to help people connect through art the way she and Russ did.

“He used art to express his feelings, and that became what happened with the painting later on,” said Albright. “That was how I saw into his soul.”

Learn more about Memories in the Making at [alzoc.org](http://alzoc.org).

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