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**Sierra Madre, CA. June 2, 2009 -**



**Midge Morash – Parade Grand Marshal**  
Sierra Madre Fourth of July Parade

Midge Morash was named 2009 Fourth of July Parade Grand Marshal this week, according to Matt Bosse, Fourth of July Committee chairman. The entire committee participated in the selection.

This 48-year Sierra Madrean, known as "Mother Nature" in environmental groups, will lead the famous Fourth of July Parade down Sierra Madre Boulevard.

Midge is still on the board of Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council, a group she helped found in 1972. She has designed three of their brochures with information provided by Eaton Canyon Nature Center and helped develop information for the kiosk at Bailey Canyon. She devised a trail guide for Live Oak Nature Trail and Canyon View Nature Trail in Bailey Canyon, again with assistance from Eaton Canyon Nature Center.

Midge described the first recycling center located at the mouth of the road to the Rose Float barn where SMEAC sponsored collection of glass, paper and aluminum cans until the City instituted City-wide recycling.

Midge, with SMEAC, began Nature Awareness field trips once a year for all third graders in town, recruiting and training docents. Additionally, SMEAC continues to sponsor spring and fall Bailey Canyon Cleanup Day. Bailey Canyon's area starts at the top of Grove Street and expands north for the lower and upper hiking areas.

SMEAC also sponsored an ecology fair early-on as part of Earth Day, and, as usual, Midge was one of the leaders.

When the Morash children were small, she volunteered in all the usual school functions and was a leader for Brownie and Girl Scout troops for years. She also trained docents for the Nature Awareness program and was outdoor docent at Lummus Home near Los Angeles. For several years, along with her volunteer work, she was lab technician at the hospital when it was located in town.

Before his death in 1988, her husband Tal and she directed YMCA camps in the San Bernardino Mountains. She continues to assist folks, now volunteering with her daughter, Anne, at Casa Colina Hospital for Rehabilitation near Pomona for an outdoor adventure program.

Midge's focus has forever been on nature. "I have a passion for nature and teaching others about nature. Kids have to learn respect for nature and the knowledge of the environment, and to live respectfully."

She said, "It's a great honor to be chosen Parade Grand Marshal and I'm surprised to be chosen. It's nice to know people notice and appreciate what you do."

Forty-eight years ago Midge and Tal Morash "rolled into town" from Altadena and decided to raise their four children here. Tal died in 1988 and their three children (Anne, Kim and Paul) and three grandsons live in California. One son is deceased.

On February 13, 2009, Midge fell and broke her pelvis, and recently moved to The Oaks in Pasadena, a retirement center. Perhaps now she'll have more time to continue her interest in art, music and in clay sculpture.

She was chosen Sierra Madre Older American of the Year in 2000.

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