

keith pitts photography

June 2009 - the kid issue

In this issue:

Page 1

Victoria Canada -
event planner
extraordinaire

Page 2

History of
Father's Day

Photography Tip

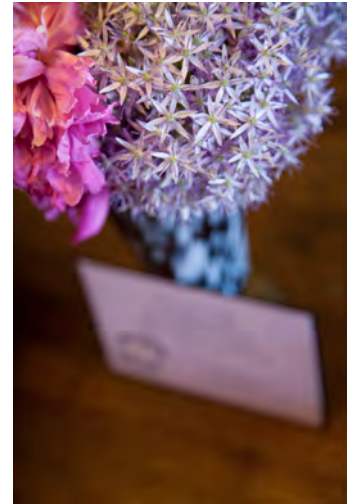
"How do I take
great pictures of
fireworks"
page 3

Best resorts for
kids - take your
vacation right here
in Arizona!

Page 4 - Where to
view fireworks this
July 4th!

"Imagine a world
without
photography, one
could only imagine."

-Berenice Abbott



victoria canada: event planner extraordinaire!

By Melissa Madden

You have such a glamorous job - when did you realize that event planning was your calling? "I have been organizing events since 1994. I think it started back farther than that. My Mom swears it started in Brownies as I was the official sign maker. I just have always loved a good party. I love all the elements that go into any good events- it could be 5 people or 500- A good event has its own vibe!"

How did you get your start? "So how did I really get into this? Back in Texas I did events for a company I worked for, and then I helped friends with their weddings. I loved it! But... doing what you love for a living? That is just crazy! Well, it turns out it is not so crazy."

You have won numerous awards as Victoria Canada Weddings & Events, including Wedding Coordinator of the Year, Best Wedding Event Planner, the list goes on...and you still found time to start Bright Event Gallery. Give us a brief description of what Bright is: "Our event experts will discuss all aspects of your event and offer sound advice regarding décor, location, ways to personalize your event, timeline, vendors, etc. We create a customized vendor list for you that ultimately saves you time and gives you a planning jump start. plan your next event all in one place!

Planning an event? Looking for a fabulous idea for your child's next birthday party? Your husband's 40th around the corner? Call Victoria and plan your event all in one place!

A few brilliant tips from
Victoria for your next kid's
party...

- have a start AND end time for the party on the invitation (you will save your sanity!)
- allow a 2 hour time limit for kids parties (further preserving your sanity!)
- supply name tags for parents (great idea! It seems like I'm always being called "Isabella's mom" - and of course I in turn do the same to her friend's parents!)



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History of Father's Day

(taken from fathersdaycelebration.com)

A Brief History of Father's Day: It would be interesting to know how Father's Day came into practice and celebrated worldwide with an equal sincerity and respect as any other significant holidays. Here's a short history on the holiday, and meaning of the different colors of roses to be worn that Day. You may even refer the page to others to share the information by clicking on the link given below.



About 4,000 years ago a young boy named Elmusu wished his Babylonian father good health and a long life by carving a Father's Day message on a card made out of clay. No one knows what happened to Elmesu or his father, but the tradition of having a special day honoring fathers has continued through the years in countries across the world.

The Countries, where the Catholic Church were of significant influence on the culture of the society, Father's Day is celebrated on St. Joseph's Day (March 19). However, a more secular celebration which is not associated with any religion is followed in recent times to highlight the increased diversity among people from all over the globe coexisting together in one place.

Father's Day is celebrated

popularly on 3rd Sunday in June in many parts of the world. The idea for creating a day for children to honor their fathers began in Spokane, Washington. A woman by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd thought of the idea for Father's Day while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Having been raised by her father, Henry Jackson Smart, after her mother died, Sonora wanted her father to know how special he was to her. It was her father that made all the parental sacrifices and was, in the eyes of his daughter, a courageous, selfless, and loving man. Sonora's father was born in

June, so she chose to hold the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane, Washington on the 19th of June, 1910.

In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. President Nixon, in 1972, established a permanent national observance of Father's Day to be held on the third Sunday of June. So Father's Day was born as a token of love and gratitude that a daughter

cherishes for her beloved father. Roses are the Father's Day flowers: red to be worn for a living father and white if the father has died.

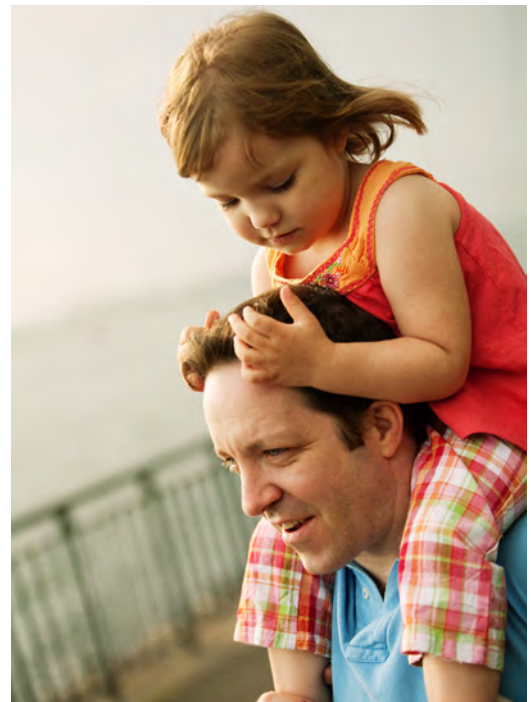




photo by Cristina Wilson

Ask Keith...

Answers to your photographic questions from our resident expert.

By Keith Pitts

How do I take great pictures of fireworks?

With July 4th around the corner, now is the time to brush up on your Firework picture taking skills! Using a digital camera to take pictures of fireworks can be tricky - but with a couple pointers, it can become a bit easier.

1. LOCATION, location, location! carefully choose where you position yourself. Make sure you have an unobstructed view, try not to be in the middle of the crowd (not so easy at most celebrations!).
2. Avoid ambient lighting. For example, try not to be standing under a street light, avoid any other forms of artificial light.
3. Use a tripod if you can! If not, try and brace your camera against something to keep it steady. Exposures this long are almost impossible to shoot without stability!
4. Use the manual control if you can - vary your exposure settings.
5. Turn the flash off.
6. Shoot when the fireworks launch - to get the best chance of capturing the burst or the full flower effect with stalk and all. (as shown above)
7. Remember, the best fireworks are at the end - plan accordingly, extra batteries!
8. Take lots of pictures! A certain amount of luck is involved!

best resorts for kids...

By Melissa Madden

If you are planning a mini vacation (right in our own resort-filled backyard) with the kids - then you need to know who has the coolest pools! Here is a mini version of the article that ran in Phoenix Magazine, June 2009 (but adapted by me for relevance!) In no particular order!

1. JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort: 1,600-foot long - lazy river pool, several cool pools, Nickelodeon Activity Zone, and dive-in movies - plus a cool adult pool!
2. Fairmont Scottsdale - something for everyone, negative edge spa pool, resort pool, and family pool that is suitable for all ages - cool slides, zero entry for little ones, dive-in movies - plus the Fairmont offers the National Geographic Explorers Summer Camp! Note: their Kids Club program is complimentary for kids ages 5-12!!! Big Bonus!
3. Sheraton Wild Horse Pass - cool "111-foot long water slide - sends kids into their own squash-shaped mini pool" - parents will love the Hanjo Mojito and Beer Bar!
4. The Arizona Grand Resort - 7 acres!!! Wow - this place was "recently named one of the top 10 water parks in the NATION by the Travel Channel!" Highlights are: 3 towering water slides, 10,000 sq ft wave pool, Zuni River for relaxing and lazy pool experience, Wild Cat Springs play area for smaller children, dive-in movies, they have covered it all!
5. Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort - waterfalls are everywhere, 3.5 acres, 138 ft water slide, "best of all, you don't have to stay at the resort to enjoy the pool.. \$10 admission fee Sun-Thurs , buffet offered Fri for \$12 adults, \$6 kids 12 and under - DEAL!



"Great framing. Rich contrast. Dynamic and dramatic depth of focus. Of the more than 600 pictures on our proof page (taken over those two amazing days) not a single one was a miss. You... are the real deal.

Thanks for giving us these ambrosial images to cherish".

Shalini & Andre



The History of July 4th

Independence Day in the U.S., is an annual holiday commemorating the formal adoption by the Continental Congress of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia. The Fourth is traditionally celebrated publicly with parades and pageants, patriotic speeches, and organized firing of guns and cannons and displays of fireworks; early in the 20th century public concern for a "safe and sane" holiday resulted in restrictions on general use of fireworks. Family picnics and outings are a feature of private Fourth of July celebrations. Enjoy!

July 4th is around the corner...

Where to view fireworks this Independence Day!

By Melissa Madden

Tempe: The July 4th attractions include: live bands, food, and The Kiwanis Club of Tempe 58th Annual Fireworks Spectacular will present the best fireworks show in the Valley shot from Mill Avenue bridge. The spectacular family night Fireworks Show will be choreographed to patriotic and classical music. Gates open 4pm. Tickets are \$6 - (available at any Fry's), \$8 day of the event.

Chandler: July 4th, "A Star Spangled Shoot Out!" - 5:30pm - 10pm Celebrate your independence this July 4th western style with us right here at Rawhide! If it's a party yer lookin' for, we've got you covered with cowboys, gunfights, food, fun, family and fireworks! Admission and parking is Free.

Live music throughout town, Face Painting, Best Dressed, Cowboy & Cowgirl Costume Contest Action Packed Performances, Aerial Fireworks Display

Phoenix: July 4th, 6 - 10:00 p.m. *Rain or shine** (Fireworks begin at 9:20) Steele Indian School Park 3rd Street and Indian School Road Central Phoenix. The city of Phoenix is proud to bring you this fabulous event for the 24th straight year on Saturday, July 4 from 6 to 10:00 p.m. at Steele Indian School Park. Entertainment begins at 7 p.m.

This premier family event will feature great local entertainment, a giant misting area, inflatable rides, Kid's World stage, Classic Car exhibit, and one of the biggest fireworks displays in the state! Festival goers also can enjoy food and beverage vendors. The Phoenix Fire Department will be cooling people down in the water spray zone.

(fireworks and aircraft photos credit: Tempe July 4th website/photos)