



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Topanga Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner

Topanga's Chamber of Commerce is honored to announce the 69th Annual Awards Dinner, honoring the best of the best in our community. Founded in 1948, the Topanga Chamber of Commerce is a dynamic community organization dedicated to serving Topanga residents, businesses, neighbors and visitors by prospering together, embodying Topanga's spirit and preserving its unique way of life.

WHAT: 69th Annual Awards Dinner

**WHERE: Topanga Community Club
1440 N Topanga Canyon Blvd**

WHEN: April 21, 2018, 6:30 – 10pm

<http://www.TopangaChamber.org>

Awardees will be honored with a special community dinner, recognition by state and county officials and musical entertainment.

Tickets are \$55 for members, \$65 for non-members and tables of 10 are available for \$500. Ticket price includes dinner, drinks and entertainment. Visit www.TopangaChamber.org for details and to purchase tickets.

Citizen of the Year – Joseph Rosendo

Ever since Joseph Rosendo first came to Topanga in 1970 to perform at the Bohemian Fair (a precursor to Topanga Days) – he has been in love with our canyon home. His dream of living here came true when he and his wife, Julie, moved in more than a decade ago. All this pent up “Topanga-Love” propelled him into Topanga's civic life. He has served the Topanga Chamber as President, Membership chair, and now as Community Liaison and was the force behind the evolution of the Chamber into the service and business organization it is today. He's a member of the Topanga Association for a Scenic Community, the Topanga Creek Watershed Committee and a founding member of the Topanga Canyon Boulevard Roadside Committee, which stopped Caltrans' herbicide use along Route 27. He initiated and shepherded the effort to make “Our Main Street” a California Scenic Highway, the first so designated in LA County in 45 years. With Roger Pugliese he began the Topanga Canyon Boulevard Trash Warriors, who have removed two tons of trash from along the boulevard, and has been in the forefront of the fight to protect, preserve and promote Topanga's scenic landscape, cultural spirit, rural setting, living trees and unique wildlife. With a handful of Topangans he has fostered communication between Caltrans, State and County agencies and the Topanga, which has benefited all. When he's not eating, sleeping and breathing Topanga, he directs, hosts and writes the 6-time Emmy award-winning PBS travel series, *Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope*, which has twice featured Topanga. He is one of Topanga's most enthusiastic cheerleaders, fearless champions and ferocious defenders.

Business of the Year – Canyon Bistro

The Canyon Bistro, the local destination for French-style cuisine, boutique wines & live jazz is celebrating 10 years in Topanga. The owner, Larry Cohn, began his association with Topanga at the popular Mimosa Café fourteen years ago. The Canyon Bistro was born from Cohn's personal desire to serve gourmet food at affordable prices, and the need for more dining choices in the Canyon, a frequent request made by Café Mimosa customers. The Canyon Bistro & Wine Bar was created as a full service restaurant with an atmosphere that Topangans can call home as well as serving commuters and visitors from the Valley, the Westside and Malibu. Canyon Bistro has an eclectic menu of gourmet comfort foods, prepared with mastery by the kitchen staff. Cohn's many trips to France when he toured with various French artists as a pianist and music director gave him a love of the French family meal, where everyone comes together, no matter their schedule, to share a meal. That experience is what Canyon Bistro presents in a contemporary setting here in Topanga.

Non-Profit / Service Organization of the Year – Topanga Historical Society

The Topanga Historical Society was organized in 1974 by a group of community leaders who recognized the need to collect and preserve Topanga's history. In 1992 they published THE TOPANGA STORY, a history of Topanga edited by Louise York, and in 2012 they published THE TOPANGA STORY EXPANDED EDITION edited by Michele Johnson that contains new and updated material written by Johnson and many Topanga volunteer writers. The Society operates a Topanga history archive center in Pine Tree Circle and gives quarterly local history programs including their annual fall picnic held at historic sites. For more information visit www.topangahistoricalsociety.org and their Facebook page. Longtime Society president Buz Tarlow officiates at the well-attended and lively monthly board meetings held at its archive center.