For years, the KVCR staff has enjoyed coming together and eating enchiladas, tamales, appetizers and sweets, to celebrate the holidays. Thanks to COVID, an in-person celebration couldn’t happen this year. But, that didn’t mean the fun was cancelled. On December 16, KVCR staff put on their most festive attire including Santa hats, ugly sweaters, Christmas light necklaces- the works! Then, after choosing a holiday-themed background, met together on Zoom for a Virtual KVCR Holiday Gathering - COVID Edition!

It was good to see everyone again and celebrate in a fun and playful way. They were gifts, games, music, and prizes! First, staff voted for their favorite holiday-themed Zoom background. There were too many good choices- creating a three-way tie. Eventually, KVCR’s Shareen Awad won the popular vote and the first prize with her Christmas tree at the base of the Great Pyramid of Giza background. Perhaps everyone was missing travel?

Next was a game of BINGO! The stakes were high- both the top and bottom rows of their BINGO cards had to be filled before they could call out, “BINGO!” After a tense and exciting battle, Shareen managed to conquer the game and take home another prize!

Finally it was time for trivia. Before the party began, every staff member was asked to submit their favorite Christmas movie and favorite Christmas song. Their favorite Movie was *It’s A Wonderful Life* and the favorite song was *The Little Drummer Boy*.

Then we played a game of trivia related to Christmas movies. It was a run off between Interim General Manager Alfredo Cruz and KVCR-TV’s Program Manager Ben Holland. With three bonus questions on hand to break the tie, Ben was the winner of this game, quickly answering questions about *It’s a Wonderful Life*, *Miracle of 34th Street*, and *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, to name a few.

KVCR’s engineer Sal Castillo shared a video of his impressive Christmas light display he and his family installed on their home--it was a true Winter Wonderland! KVCR-FM’s Program Manager Rick Dulock shared a photo of the Christmas present he bought himself, a white and red 1966’s pickup truck!

We took a group photo, Zoom style, and expressed well wishes and appreciation for the hard work and perseverance staff showed among difficult circumstances. It’s easy to say that spirits were lifted! Though separate, we were still connected. KVCR staff looks forward to meeting again in person next time, for good cheer… and tamales.
COVID-19 Outbreak Prompts Disability Rights CA to Demand Patient Release - A worsening COVID-19 outbreak at Patton State Hospital in San Bernardino has prompted the nonprofit Disability Rights California to demand the hospital release a sizable portion of its patients.

San Bernardino Community Garden Aims to Nourish the City’s Underserved Population - The “Jardín de la Salud,” Spanish for “Garden of Health,” is an initiative of Loma Linda University’s Community-Academic Partners in Service, or CAPS, which is part of the university’s Institute for Community Partnerships.

Local Tribe Partners with Yurok Tribe in New Business Venture - The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is continuing their long-running partnership with the Yurok Tribe to sell the Northern California tribe’s Mad River Brewing Company ale.

San Bernardino County Unveils Memorial Plans for Terrorist Attack Victims - San Bernardino County supervisors unveiled concept renderings for the planned memorial to the victims of the Dec. 2, 2015 terrorist attack in San Bernardino.

Facebook’s Coronavirus Map Puts Riverside and San Bernardino Counties in ‘High Risk’ Category - Facebook has created an interactive map that forecasts the spread of coronavirus across the entire United States – and it puts Riverside and San Bernardino counties in its “high risk” category. We spoke with Facebook Policy Manager Laura McGorman.

Corona Men Receive Carnegie Hero Fund Honors - Two men from Corona who pulled a man from a burning SUV in 2018 were awarded the Carnegie Medal for their heroism.

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over - The Riverside Police Department is enforcing safe driving this holiday season with its “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign.

Palmdale House Party Ends in Almost 160 Arrests - LA County deputies arrested nearly 116 adults and 35 minors who attended an illegal house party in Palmdale, said to be a super-spreader event. Deputies also found weapons and an alleged sex-trafficking victim.

EDD Fraud - Bank of America says California has likely paid at least $2 billion in fraudulent unemployment benefits.

Riverside County Asks Residents to Recycle Christmas Trees - The Department of Waste Resources says residents can ensure trees are turned into “nutrient rich” mulch by participating in the agency’s curbside pickup program, or taking seasonal firs directly to the Badlands and Lamb Canyon landfills east of Moreno Valley.


Jessica Muñoz, Executive Director of Voices for Children in Riverside County, talks about their CASA program—Court Appointed Special Advocates | Adam Monahan, a longtime producer of the popular PBS show Antiques Roadshow, talks about the new podcast DETOURS.


Chef, author, and nutritionist Mareya Ibrahim talks about her new book, Eat Like You Give a Fork: The Real Dish on Eating to Thrive, and gives tips on how to kick cravings.
End-of-Year Giving

Production team members have been busy producing a series of End-of-Year Giving spots. While spots like these are produced throughout the year to encourage viewers to make a tax-deductible donation to KVCR, these end-of-year messages are unique in that they are incredibly time sensitive, as the donations must be received by 11:59 pm on December 31st to be deductible on a 2020 tax return.

SBVC Extended Basic Police Academy Virtual Graduation

Our team members were happy to assist the San Bernardino Valley College Film, Television & Media department in their production of the Virtual Graduation for the SBVC Extended Basic Police Academy Class #39. Many of the speeches for the graduation ceremony were recorded in the KVCR-TV studio.

Final Phase of Strong Workforce Program

The Strong Workforce Program consists of 12 community colleges. It serves as a regional framework to communicate, coordinate, collaborate, promote and plan career education and workforce and economic development in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. The region chose to collaborate and develop a regional marketing plan to define and raise awareness about the variety of occupational pathways available through career training programs at the region’s community colleges.

The second and final set of five videos was targeted to a social media audience and showcases the appreciation that current students have for the CTE programs they attend. For the videos, we asked students to film themselves with their cell phones and provide their thoughts and experiences.

Hillary

A biography of Sir Edmund Hillary, best known as the first man to conquer Mount Everest. Andrew Munro stars as Hillary, with Dean O’Gorman as his lifelong climbing companion, George Lowe. Wednesdays at 8:00 pm starting January 6

Daryl Hall and John Oates: Live in Dublin

Join the number-one selling duo in music history for this sold-out concert filmed in Dublin, their first performance in Ireland. Hall & Oates perform a set list of hits including “Maneater,” “Private Eyes,” “I Can’t Go For That (No Can Do)” and more. January 12 at 8:00 pm

Covid Diaries on the Front Lines

An African American nurse faces two crises at once: COVID-19 and racial tensions in the US. Rhonda Lee, a visiting nurse in Ypsilanti, Michigan, treats coronavirus patients after they leave the hospital. As a front line worker, she risks her well-being and that of her family. Rhonda documents her emotional experience as racial tensions boil over during the pandemic. January 13 at 7:30 pm

The Queen and the Coup

It’s 1953, the first anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II’s reign. Little does she know she is about to be deployed in a secret plot to topple Iran’s democratic leader in favor of an all-powerful Shah. Planned by MI6 and executed by the C.I.A., the coup that follows destroys relations between Iran and the West. Using newly declassified documents this film unravels this secret for the first time. January 18 at 8:00 pm

All Creatures Great and Small

A classic drama about a British veterinarian. Follow Dr. James Herriot at the start of his storied career in rural Yorkshire in the 1930s. Mondays at 9:00 pm starting January 18

In Concert at the Hollywood Bowl

Experience iconic moments from the archives at the Hollywood Bowl, since attending in-person is currently not an option due to COVID-19. The six episodes feature the “best of” live performances from the past 10 years at the Bowl. Tuesdays at 8:00 pm starting January 26

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COMMUNITY MATTERS

Says You! Radio Show Will Stream Virtual Event

As 2020 comes to a close, the KVCR Radio staff plans to continue serving Inland Empire listeners with the information they need to make decisions regarding the pandemic, reporting on education, public safety, economics, and regional services. There is no time to rest. We have turned the page to 2021 and are working hard with important local news gathering, even as we continue to broadcast information from NPR and elsewhere about national and international news, including plans for the new administration entering the White House. KVCR’s popular weekend word game, Says You! presented Still Home for the Holidays, on January 2nd. An annual event for 25 years, it was converted in 2021 to a Virtual Event streaming coast to coast due to the pandemic. We helped with promotion and shared some tickets with loyal KVCR supporters. We also enjoyed the LIVE show online!

Also this month, KVCR Radio is planning a short on-air campaign with a Plant A Tree ‘cause donation’ pledge drive. As in our recent Feed Your Radio, Feed A Family Campaign, this version results in MOST of every donated dollar supporting the station with a few cents earmarked to support reforestation for fire ravaged areas in and around the Inland Empire. It’s been a few years since we’ve tried this one and we hope it goes well!

Station Members Nominate KVCR for $5,000 Grant!

The Inland Empire Community Foundation will randomly select three nonprofit organizations in the Inland Empire to receive a $5,000 grant. IECF is calling community to “Lift Up Local” during this trying year.

On our website and through email, we asked listeners and viewers to show their support by nominating KVCR for the “Lift Up Local” end of year grant. Nominating is quick and easy- all it takes is filling out a quick form at iegives.org/lift-up-local, and then sharing with family and friends.

Nominations ended on December 31, 2020 and winners announced on January 7, 2021. A $5,000 grant will help KVCR continue to bring more local programming and news in 2021!

Posted on our Social Media Radio

TV production students from two Fontana Unified School District High Schools overcame the challenges of the pandemic to win honors in the Directing Change Film Contest, reported by KVCR’s Megan Jamerson (top right). Johanna Acosta (top left) is one of the teachers and is also a former KVCR Producer. Way to go!

Posted on our Social Media Television

First time in PBS history, the holiday classic A Charlie Brown Christmas was broadcast on PBS KVCR. Welcome to public television Charlie Brown!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
at 7:30P on Channel 24
Not available on KVCR stream
**Programs in January**

**Fit First Marathon**

*Fit First* helps tackle mind, body and spirit issues behind obesity and bad nutrition in Canada’s Aboriginal communities. Under the guidance of trainer Kent Brown, a group of adults take part in physical and spiritual challenges that take them out of the conventional gym setting. *Fit First* gets up close and personal with participants as they make a commitment to getting healthy inside & out! **January 1st starting at 10:00am**

**Guinea Blast Off**

The European Space Agency’s launch pad in South America has caused controversy ever since it was established. **January 11 at 9:00pm**

**Israel’s Mabo** — Conflicts over land in Israel are almost as old as the land itself. Despite living in the Negev Desert long before modern-day Israel was formed, Bedouin who want to live here are being accused of ‘trespassing’. **January 11 at 9:10pm**

**Fighting for Survival**

All across India, farmers are being forced off their land to make way for new developments. But the Ho, one of India’s surviving indigenous tribes, refuses to go quietly. **January 11 at 9:30pm**

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**IN PRODUCTION**

**FNX Now**

The *FNX Now* series continues to produce a half hour news magazine and a few short format segments. Subject matter this month included a conversation about voter turnout for the 2020 presidential elections, a film release, a PBS children’s show and a newly released children’s book.

Featured is a children’s book, “Grandmother Spider Brings the Sun” (1997), the Cherokee creation story told by Navajo actress Geri Keams (The Outlaw Josey Wales, Northern Exposure). It describes how the sun and different animals came to be on this earth. The book was animated by FNX staff and currently airs nation-wide on FNX.


MC RedCloud and Crystle Lightning are the musical duo “LightningCloud” seen on FNX’s music series, The AUX (Aboriginal Unity Experience), and provide the show’s opening and closing theme.


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**Top Social Media Post on FNX**

**Happy Holidays**

*All the kids on the rez keep saying the same thing “I want my land back, I want my land back”*