

Kent State Shootings Witness Recalls May 4, 1970

Peter Jedick, author of "Hippies," talks about relationship with student killed by Ohio National Guard

By [Matt Fredmonsky, Patch Staff](#)

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In just a few short days, a flood of memories will come rushing back — like they do for most — for one witness to the May 4, 1970 shootings at .

Peter Jedick, author of the book *Hippies*, will speak Friday during the university's commemoration of the shootings that killed four students about his relationship with Sandy Scheuer, who was one of the four gunned down 42 years ago.

You can [listen to an interview Jedick did with Patch.com](#) by following this link. Jedick also wrote about [his relationship with Scheuer](#) for the Cleveland Plain Dealer in 2006.

The following events will be held this week on campus to commemorate the 42nd anniversary of the shootings:

Kent State University will mark its 42nd annual May 4, 1970, commemoration on May 3 and 4. The commemoration events are an opportunity for students and the community to gather and reflect on the tragedy and adapt the lessons learned to current events.

An activist forum, hosted by the May 4 Task Force student organization, is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, May 3, in the Kent Student Center Kiva. Panel speakers include Melba Beals of the "Little Rock Nine;" Sandy Rosen, lawyer for the students in 1977; Howie Emmer, activist activities; and Kent State anthropology professor Mark Seeman, of the May 4 historic site preservation.

The annual candlelight vigil is planned for 10:30 p.m. starting at the Victory Bell on the Kent State Commons on May 3. The walk loops the campus and pays tribute to those wounded and lost on May 4, 1970. Following the walk, people stand at the spots where the four students fell and hold vigil until noon Friday when the commemoration events begin at the Commons.

On Friday, May 4, a book signing of "Democratic Narrative, History, and Memory," edited by Carole Barbato and Laura Davis, will be held from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the University Bookstore in the Kent Student Center. Barbato, who was a Kent State student in 1970, is a communication studies professor for Kent State University at East Liverpool. Davis, who was a freshman at Kent State when the May 4 events occurred, is an English professor and the university's faculty coordinator for May 4 initiatives.

The commemoration event, also hosted by the May 4 Task Force, begins at noon, May 4, on the Commons. The Kent Student Center Ballroom will serve as the rain location. This year's commemoration theme is "Don't Give Up the Fight!"

Multiple speakers will discuss the effect of May 4 on the Kent State community, as well as college campuses nationwide. The featured speakers include Beth Vild for Allison Krause; Bryan Staul for Jeffrey Miller; Barbato for Sandra Scheuer; Jim Mueller for William Schroeder; Sandford "Sandy" Rosen, attorney for families and victims in 1977; Maia O'Meara, student representing Project Vietnam from Kent Roosevelt High School; Joe Cullum, witness to May 4; Joe Lewis, witness and victim of May 4; Davis; Jon Schluapp, Warriors Journey Home; and Howie Emmer, 1960s activist.

Friday's itinerary also will consist of the Kent State chronology followed by the ringing of the Victory Bell and tributes to the four deceased students. Melanie Safka will perform the day's music.