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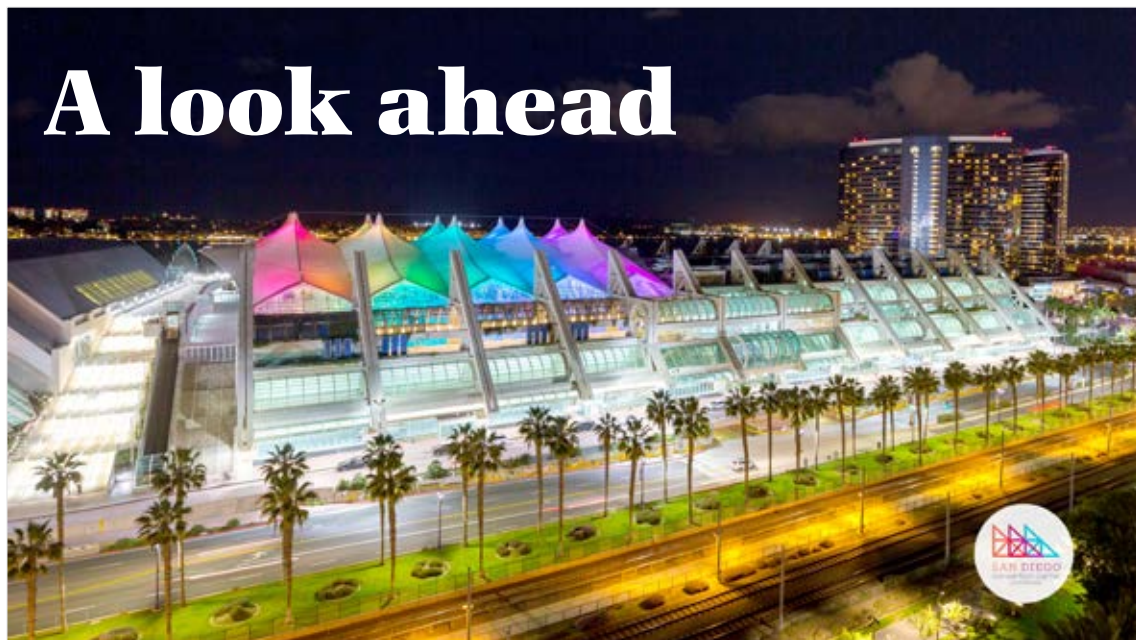
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A look ahead



The San Diego Convention Center with the Sails Pavilion's revamped LED light display (Photo courtesy Oliver Yambao, San Diego Convention Center Corporation)

Convention center's strength will provide muscle in the next 30 years, COO says

DAVE FIDLIN | DOWNTOWN NEWS

For 30 years, it has loomed large on the San Diego Harbor skyline, serving as the host venue for everything ranging from the internationally known Comic-Con to gatherings for medical professionals to the auto show.

The events and visitors have been disparate since the doors of the San Diego Convention Center

first opened in 1989, but Karen Totaro, chief operating officer, said there are some common threads that have solidified success over the past three decades and will help pave the way for similar results in the next trio of decades.

In an email interview with Downtown News, Totaro said she attributes three factors to the convention center's strength,

including an all-hands-on-deck, collaborative approach between the hundreds of staffers who work in a number of different professions.

But there are other external factors, Totaro said, that also have played into the venue's popularity — not just locally, but across the U.S., and beyond.

SEE CONVENTION CENTER, Page 15

Downtown architecture projects awarded Orchids and Onions

DELLE WILLETT | DOWNTOWN NEWS

In early October, the San Diego Architectural Foundation (SDAF) recognized this year's best and "not so best" projects throughout San Diego County at the 43rd Annual Orchids & Onions Awards Ceremony held at the historic U.S. Grant Hotel. The ceremony was emceed by state Assembly member Todd Gloria.

The projects awarded Orchids and Onions were nominated by the design community and the public. A jury made up of architects, landscape architects, interior designers, a historic preservation architect, a developer, a visual artist, an architecture professor and a student conducted a daylong tour of short-listed projects, followed by deliberations. This process resulted in this year's awards.



Makers Quarters Block D (Photo by Nick Merrick)

Along with the jury-selected awards, there were three people's choice awards selected by the public through an online voting process.

A total of 14 projects were awarded Orchids or Onions in architecture, interior design,

SEE ORCHIDS & ONIONS, Page 6

CEO keeps innovative high school on track

KENDRA SITTON | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Every day, students at e3 Civic High are greeted by a familiar face. After trekking up six flights of stairs in the San Diego Central Library to reach the school, Dr. Cheryl James-Ward meets them with a therapist by her side.

Even as her role has expanded — she was recently promoted from serving as chief impact officer and principal of the charter school to its CEO and chief engagement and innovation officer — she still takes time for this morning ritual.

"Four hundred-plus kids come up the stairs. So those are the ones that I greet every morning. I say a 'good morning,' it's a bump fist. You look in the face to make sure that they're ready to go," Dr. Ward explained in an interview conducted in an open lounge in the middle of the school. "If they're not ready to go, then I have my therapist on the ground with me."

Students facing a crisis can immediately head up to the therapist's office, but otherwise, a note is made and they are brought to his office throughout the day. Dr. Ward said having the therapist on-site is important in addressing the unique needs of the student body, many of whom come in with "a lot of trauma."

Meanwhile, Dr. Ward is visiting classrooms and seeing what is going on between meetings. She does not get a chance to open her email until late in the workday, which for her often stretches past 12 hours.

e3 Civic High is in its seventh year, and has continued to pioneer new methods of teaching to help accommodate the diverse group of students walking through its bright halls. Dr. Ward's predecessor Helen V. Griffith has moved on to be the inaugural executive director of The Preuss School UC San Diego, a middle and high school that enrolls 800

SEE E3 CIVIC HIGH, Page 19



Marina District Downtown, 1BR/1BA | \$689,000-\$715,000



Gaslamp District Downtown, 1BR/1BA | \$399,000



Marina District Downtown, 2BR+Den/2BA | \$1,149,000



Normal Heights, 2BR/1BA | \$619,900



Marina District Downtown, 2BR/2BA | \$790,000



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San Diego nonprofit combats neglected diseases

KENDRA SITTON | DOWNTOWN NEWS

The small San Diego-based nonprofit Drugs & Diagnostics for Tropical Diseases (DDTD) held its second annual gala event Health For All Humanity atop the University Club at the Symphony Tower's roof Downtown on Oct. 6. The charity aims to direct philanthropic dollars toward neglected diseases that affect millions in impoverished countries. Many of these diseases have known cures, but the impediment to getting people treatment is properly diagnosed them first. The organization's team works on developing diagnostic tools that are affordable, fast, and can be used en masse so that other organizations, like the World Health Organization, knows where best to focus on conducting a mass drug administration like a cavine or other preventative medicines. DDTD's tools also helps create maps after a mass drug administration (MDA) so health officials know if the targeted disease was successfully eradicated.

The event honored other people whose work helps fight these oft-overlooked (in the West) diseases that affect vulnerable populations. The Field Award was given to Dr. Matthew Waxman, an assistant professor at UCLA, for his international volunteer work, which includes working in an Ebola treatment center in Sierra Leone during the 2015 outbreak and serving at a trauma stabilization unit in Iraq during the battle to take Mosul. Waxman pointed out that during the Ebola epidemic, 30,000 people in Sierra Leone died from Ebola but in that same time period in the same country, 200,000 people died of malaria. While in the U.S., he researched the outcomes of people who were co-infected with malaria and Ebola (they were more likely to die than if they had just one of the diseases).

The second honoree was Dr. Barry Dunin, the founder and CEO of Collaborative Drug Discovery (CDD) Vault, who received the Passion in Science Award. The Vault is a way for scientists around the world to work together to find the cure to diseases. In his speech, he shared about a scientist in South Africa who discovered a compound that could treat drug-resistant strands of malaria. By uploading his work to the Vault, he was able to make a series of connections that eventually led him to an executive at Pfizer. The executive was able to share what already FDA-approved medicines had that compound in them, even if they were used for other purposes. With this knowledge, those medicines were repurposed to fight the deadly disease because they were already known to be safe in humans, which helped avoid up to 15 years of testing and approvals if the scientist had developed an entirely new drug.

Guests were fed chicken tikka masala and entertained by Indian

dancers in between presentations by the honorees and DDTD founder and CEO Marco Biamonte. Biamonte shared about current projects the group is taking on and gave specific metrics of what they have accomplished so far. Currently, they are working to detect the diseases Laois, river blindness, Buruli ulcer, and lymphatic filariasis in order to help eliminate them. Through ticket sales, the silent auction, and an ask at the end, the nonprofit hoped to raise \$25,000-\$30,000 — the money needed to manufacture 5,000 of the diagnostic tools so they can be deployed in four countries to test their accuracy. The group invented the diagnostic tool and have preliminary data it works, but it has yet to be tested in the field. According to numbers provided by DDTD, the gala far exceeded that—raising around \$51,000.

DDTD is filling a missing niche in global efforts to eradicate neglected diseases that plague impoverished countries. The philanthropic event supported their future work as they collaborate



Guests mingled ahead of the program at the top of the Symphony Tower. (Photos by Kendra Sitton)

with other health organizations.

"Our objective is to bring the assays that are currently in development all the way to the finish line... We also want to keep innovating, not just in terms of the numbers of diseases we want to look at, but I think it's very important to bring new technology to test for multiple diseases at the same time," Biamonte said. "The burden of these neglected tropical diseases is immense and we at DDTD are trying our best to address them."



Dancers entertained guests before dinner.



Emcee for the evening was veteran Emmy Award-winning journalist Peggy Pico, former reporter for KPBS and NBC San Diego.

—Kendra Sitton can be reached at Kendra@sd-news.com.

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Interview: 2020 San Diego Council District 3 candidates

WILLIAM E. KELLY | UPTOWN NEWS

The four candidates running for the District 3 City Council seat being vacated by Chris Ward in 2020 are Toni Duran, Adrian Kwiatkowski, Chris Olsen and Stephen Whitburn. Each was asked to state the experiences that prepared them to serve District 3, two or three priority issues and how they would address them. In closing, they were asked if an aging population and climate change were threats to San Diego and if so, what steps they recommend to reduce those threats. What follows are the summaries and quotes of their answers by topic in alphabetical order by candidate last name.

EXPERIENCE:

Toni Duran: “I have served the communities of District 3 as a representative for Toni Atkins in her Assembly and Senate offices for nearly six years and know the communities, organizations and issues. By working on housing, veterans’, women’s, human trafficking, LGBTQ and arts and culture issues, I’ve dealt one-on-one with ordinary people in crisis and built solid relationships. Having personally struggled with housing insecurity, I have had to move nine times in San Diego in order to find affordable housing. I have experienced many of the problems our community members

face and [am] committed to solving them.”

Adrian Kwiatkowski: “I’m a homegrown San Diegan with a track record of results and a history of experience spanning over 25 years as a city volunteer and professional. I have served as a town council president, on a planning board, on a park and recreations council and on a maintenance assessment district. I helped establish a clean needle exchange program, I was one of the authors of San Diego’s Strong Mayor-Council government, helped establish the smoke-free beaches and parks ordinance and worked with the VA San Diego Healthcare System to open the VA Aspire Center in Old Town, a facility for military veterans with post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury and most recently helped to continue the protections for the La Jolla harbor seals.”

Chris Olsen: “My experience in public service and the city’s Office of the Independent Budget Analyst has made me ready to lead on the City Council beginning on day one. I know the details of the city budget, city operations, and how to make the city work smarter for all of us. I’ve worked in local government for 15 years including over five years in San Diego. I also teach budget and fiscal policy to students at the San Diego State University School of Public Affairs. I am the candidate who

can deliver results.” Olsen said, “San Diego needs to be a leader on addressing climate change, housing, and most importantly, homelessness.” He stressed, “I will always take a balanced approach to tackling San Diego’s most pressing issues.”

Stephen Whitburn: “I have lived in District 3 for nearly 20 years; involved in the vibrant neighborhoods of the district, bustling Downtown, and iconic Balboa Park; engaged with the community professionally as director of the American Cancer Society in Southern California; [and have been] a volunteer, vice-chair of the North Park Planning Committee, vice president of the American Civil Liberties Union in San Diego, and president of the San Diego Democratic Club. I have also participated in many community group activities and recognize each neighborhood features unique qualities and challenges.”

PRIORITIES:

Duran stressed, “The crushing weight particularly on the working class and the elderly of a lacking supply of affordable housing. It is time to take a comprehensive look at city zoning and land-use regulations slowing the building of new affordable housing and it needs to be a very public discussion between San Diegans and the politicians they elect to make

decisions that determines what our city will become over the next decade.”

Duran pointed out, “San Diego has one of the most aggressive climate action plans in the country, but is missing the milestones. We have to quickly get back on track a plan for doing so and the city’s move into Community Choice Aggregation is the right one.

Of homelessness, Duran said, “Homelessness is a critical challenge and the housing-first model (permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing) is the right approach. People can’t improve their lives or handle other needs when they have no roof over their heads.”

Kwiatkowski prioritized the homelessness crisis and the employee and organizational crisis at City Hall stating, “We have to develop real solutions to increase housing stock and availability. I will pursue a holistic approach that includes a little bit of love and a little bit of tough love to address the homeless crisis, I will pursue housing policies that speed up the approval and entitlement process and I support the \$900 million housing bond on the November 2020 ballot. We also need to stabilize the city as an organization and manage the employee crisis and stop the brain drain through a combination of pension restoration and having the city re-enter the Social Security system.”

Olsen stated, “Addressing and adapting to climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. I will turn plans into action, working with city staff to develop funding mechanisms that can help achieve real progress on getting us to a sustainable future. Creating new housing opportunities at all income levels can welcome new neighbors while respecting the character of our neighborhoods. District 3 has some of the best neighborhoods in all of San Diego. We need to keep what is great and improve what is not.

Whitburn shared, “San Diego does not have a comprehensive plan to address homelessness. We need one. It’s the only way we’ll make permanent progress on this issue. I’ll make it a top priority for the city to adopt and implement a comprehensive, proactive plan that will efficiently and effectively marshal the city’s resources to end large-scale homelessness.

“Even people who have a home are struggling to make ends meet. We have to build more housing that is affordable to people with low and moderate incomes. There appears to be broad public support for a proposed bond measure to fund affordable housing, which is a good start.

“We also need to fix up our streets and especially our cracked sidewalks, which are dangerous particularly for our older residents who are more susceptible to falls. We can accelerate these repairs with additional revenue from the hotel surcharge paid by tourists, which is lower than that of comparable destination cities.”

CLIMATE CHANGE AND AN AGING POPULATION:

Duran: “I see climate change as a very real threat and one of my three priorities. With regards to our growing older population, it is expected to have approximately 1 million people aged 65 and older living in San Diego in the next decade – which is double that of today’s senior population. Having the city of San Diego sign on to be an age-friendly community is a positive step forward to ensure that we address the needs of our older community members. This means partnerships between government and local nonprofits will be making positive change around transportation, housing, outdoor spaces and buildings, community support and health services, respect and social inclusion, communication and information, and civic participation and employment.”

Olsen remarked, “I’m ready to turn plans into action to achieve our climate goals. As a city, San Diego also needs to be proactive in making sure our infrastructure and residents are prepared to adapt to shifts that will occur with an aging population. I think many of my campaign’s key

Connecting generations through technology

2. Video Chat

Video chat makes you feel as though everyone’s in the same room. Use apps like Skype or FaceTime to have a video conversation from virtually any device, and share life events such as graduations or weddings.

3. Gaming and Creativity Apps

Apps like Magisto and PhotoFunia allow you to personalize photos and videos. Looking for some friendly competition with your grandparents? Try a gaming app like Wheel of Fortune or Minecraft. Or keep your grandparents updated with an app like Keepy, an interactive platform for sharing school projects and artwork.

Use family tree apps like Ancestry to discover photos and stories together as you navigate your family history.

4. Social Media

Start a private Instagram account where you can post photos and videos. Grandparents have lots to share as well, so encourage them to make their own Instagram handles and record their stories. This can be a unique way to learn about your grandparents’ past, pass down family memories or share family recipes.

Snapchat is another option for sending and receiving custom pictures or videos with a variety of fun filters and lenses.

How to Help Your Grandparents

Only 44% of grandparents identify as tech-savvy.

Teaching non-tech-savvy family members how to use video chat and social media can be a bonding experience. You can also set your grandparents up with useful home features like the SURE Universal Remote, which allows them to control their TV and other devices from their smartphone. Less tech-savvy grandparents may not realize they can watch their cable TV content from their mobile device or schedule DVR recordings with apps like Cox Connect.

Giving your elders the power to connect helps build relationships with the people you love most, and that’s priceless at any age.



Four easy ways tech can help grandparents bond with younger family members

Grandparents: a word often associated with presents, special outings, yummy food and unconditional love. Yet many Americans don’t talk to, or see, their grandparents as often as they’d like.

Here are four ways technology can help you connect with your grandparents.

1. Messaging Apps

A recent study revealed that 73% of grandparents own smartphones. Messaging apps like WhatsApp or Talkatone are a great introduction to texting for grandparents.

With messaging apps, you can send and receive text updates, photos and videos in one place. When there’s time for a longer conversation, you can use these apps to chat for free, as most don’t use cell minutes.

District 3 City Council candidates discuss pressing urban issues at public forum

LANA HARRISON | DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO PARTNERSHIP

Nearly 100 people gathered at Quartyard in East Village on Oct. 23 for the chance to hear from the candidates running for City Council District 3: Toni Duran, Chris Olsen, Stephen Whitburn, and Adrian Kwiatkowski.

With less than six months until the primary election and current City Council member Chris Ward forgoing re-election in pursuit of a chance at the California state Assembly, the race for the seat is shaping up to be a competitive field.

The free public forum was hosted by the Downtown San Diego Partnership, City Center Business Improvement District, East Village Association, Gaslamp Quarter Association, Hillcrest Business Association, Mission Hills Business Improvement District, and Quartyard. It gave candidates the opportunity to interface with the public and share where they stand on issues critical to the district and the region.

“How did you get here tonight?” was the first question posed by moderator Scott Lewis, CEO and editor in chief of the Voice of San Diego.

Kwiatkowski took the trolley; Whitburn drove and braved parking; Olsen hustled over on foot from City Hall; and after failing to secure a ride from Circuit (formerly FRED), Duran opted for ride-sharing.

In addition to climate change, Balboa Park, and the proposed Grand Central station, candidates weighed in on their stances on two of the urban core’s most pressing issues – homelessness and transit.

HOMELESSNESS

Two tax increases and the recent council-approved Community Plan on Homelessness were the focus for the night on the topic of homelessness.

The candidates expressed support for the Community Action Plan on Homelessness, putting the Yes! For a Better San Diego tax on hotels — which will help fund the expansion of the convention center as well as provide revenue for homeless services — on the March 2020 ballot, and the \$900 million housing bond proposed by the San Diego Housing Federation.

Whitburn highlighted the idea that the Yes! For a Better San Diego initiative and the housing bond will enable the homelessness plan to be put into action.

“The current plan was months in the making,” said Whitburn. “We can’t wait until one of us gets elected and then start the process all over again to try to come up with a plan. We need to start executing the plan now.”

Duran drew on her personal experience as a North Park resident struggling with the ongoing reality of affordable housing.



A crowd gathered to hear the debate between District 3 candidates moderated by Scott Lewis. (Photos courtesy Downtown San Diego Partnership)



The four Democratic candidates in District 3 faced off.

“I’ve had to be that person, like other residents in the district, who have had to try to make the decision between paying a bill, going to get groceries, or paying rent,” said Duran. “There are still people out there that I know who are struggling with that, who are one step away from homelessness.”

When asked about the capacity of District 3 to absorb additional permanent supportive housing, Duran expressed optimism, citing the old Mission Hills library as a location to consider for development, while also drawing on the rhetoric that resources and housing need to be distributed throughout the districts.

TRANSIT

Candidates offered cautious support of the proposed MTS tax.

“Before we start talking about expanding public transit, we need to make it work in the urban core,” said Kwiatkowski, who is open to the tax, pending specifics of the transit plan.

While all candidates agreed on the need for improved bike infrastructure and support the bike lanes on Sixth Avenue, there was some disagreement about plans for the protected bike lanes on 30th Street.

Whitburn, Duran, and Kwiatkowski expressed varying levels of criticism for the approach the city took in implementing those bike plans, noting a need for improved communication with residents and businesses. Olsen was the dissenting voice in full support of the protected bike lanes on 30th Street.

“It’s a situation where the loudest voices are not representing the majority of residents,” said Olsen. “We cannot continue to have the climate action plan and say, ‘Yes this is great and we’re going to cut our greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2035,’ but then say, ‘Not on this block, not today, it’s not the right time.’”

To learn where the candidates stand on more issues, visit the Downtown San Diego Partnership’s Facebook page for access to full video coverage of the forum.

—Lana Harrison is the communications coordinator for the Downtown San Diego Partnership. She can be reached at lharrison@downtownsandiego.org❖



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Guest Editorial

Let's be a big city

Earning our title 'America's Finest City'

HANEY HONG | SDCTA

Last month's season opening of our San Diego Symphony was a significant milestone that put us on the big city map. It was exciting to welcome an internationally renowned conductor and feel like we're a part of something so culturally important.

It was a nice contrast to my day-to-day duties as the president and CEO of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association. Insiders here often say that we San Diegans behave like small-townners.

I understand why. I've been at the association for only four years out of its 74-year history, and I already have observed we sometimes get in our own way of progress as we repeat the same old political fight songs. And I'll be the first to admit that I have sometimes contributed to this lack of progress, playing my instrument in the way I'm familiar.

But there's some serious work to do here in the region, and we need to get past some of the ever-repeating verse and chorus of the same public policy issues. That's how we get to be world class like our San Diego Symphony.

The recent lawsuit by the unions of city of San Diego employees starts what will be the last refrain of this movement in the local pension reform "symphony." We are going through the playful scherzo of political and legal strategies

that will likely result in the invalidation of Proposition B from June 2012. The third movement of this public policy symphony will likely overturn the voter-approved measure that shifted city employees to 401k-style retirement programs from the legacy pension-for-life programs that are turning out to be unsustainable.

Now the question is whether we as a community are going to write a fourth movement finale that would be considered world class.

A boring and unremarkable finale is easy to compose. This is one where organizations like mine keep trying to highlight the financial unsustainability and risks of the current setup. We'll remind everyone of the first movement in this piece called "San Diego is Enron by the Sea." Governments all across the country had underfunded pensions while being over-generous with salaries and benefits. Maybe after that refrain, we'll get folks excited about the second movement of Proposition B and bring those versus and choruses back.

But if this discussion on numbers and analysis of risk is the melody ever present, it will be hard to focus on it when the trumpets of partisanship turn this issue into a left or right issue. The candidates and elected officials on the right will talk about public employees like librarians making more in retirement than when they were working, and their

counterparts on the left will be expected to dig in and stand the picket line with the public employee unions.

If this is how the finale goes, we won't compose anything worth remembering. And this will be yet another example of San Diego going into the archives of same old and unoriginal songs, because we won't solve the public policy challenge.

But now since we've got this world-class orchestra in our fair town, maybe instead we can write an epic finale, one that other municipalities can play themselves to transition from small town to big city.

We can orchestrate a finale in pension reform where civic leaders on all sides can get together, lay out their differences, and develop a reasonable way ahead. I have ideas, but more important is that we agree to stop our traditional dissonance and try to get to some harmony. It means leadership and meaningfully working through the give-and-take while committing no one will leave the stage mid-performance. If Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill could figure out a way in the '80s to talk about social security reform, we in San Diego can figure out today how to be sustainable financially while also compensating top-notch public employees fairly. That's how we become the world-class city we can be.

That means we have to stop the same musical refrains by being open-minded and developing new ideas. It means that I personally might have to be OK with taxpayers accepting some risk, while public employee



Haney Hong, CEO of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association, a nonprofit, non-partisan organization.

union leaders have to exercise some forbearance on what they fight for in terms of benefits and salaries. It also means that we have to be empathetic with one another as we agree that a world-class city should have solid financials and solid public servants at the same time.

We can match the musical prowess of the San Diego Symphony if we toot our horns differently in repeating public policy problems. That's the new chord we need to play.

—Haney Hong is president and CEO of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association, a nonprofit, non-partisan organization, dedicated to promoting accountable, cost-effective and efficient government and opposing unnecessary new taxes and fees. For the last 74 years, SDCTA has served as "San Diego's Taxpayer Watchdog Group" by educating the public and helping save the region's citizens millions of dollars. You can reach Haney via email at hdhong@sdcta.org.

Orchids & Onions

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

landscape architecture, public art, place making and architectural detail.

The following are in the Downtown area:

Makers Quarter Block D (office building), 15th St. Orchid for Architecture. The owner/developer is L2HP and the architect is: BNIM Architects. The jury felt from the beautiful exposed concrete structure and street-level activation to the clever perforated movable panels on the façade, Maker's Quarter Block D is a "demonstrable example of great design."

Miller Hull San Diego Studio, N. Harbor Drive, won an Orchid for Interior Design. The owner/developer and architects are Miller Hull Partnership. The jurors felt this office is as environmentally sensitive as it is beautiful, a calming space with a simple design that highlights the beautiful shell of the building and the bay just beyond the windows.



Miller Hull Studio (Photo by Chipper Hatter)

Shift Apartments on Island won an Onion for Architecture and People's Choice Onion. The owner/developer is LMC Communities (Lennar Corp.); the architect is Carrier Johnson + Culture.

The jury felt this project was an architectural miss, lacking cohesiveness. They agreed that both the choice of color and the building's execution left a lot to be desired.

The complete list of 2019 Orchids & Onions awards is at orchidsandonions.org/archive/2019-awards/



Shift Apartments (Photo by Ian Patzke)

Orchids & Onions is an educational and fundraising program of the San Diego Architectural Foundation (SDAF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to educate and promote outstanding architecture, landscape, interior, and urban design to improve the quality of life for all San Diegans.

SDAF sponsors public programs throughout the year, including youth programs, architectural tours, and community events. Orchids & Onions has been one of SDAF's most successful and

longest-standing programs for more than four decades. It serves to raise awareness and encourage practical discourse about the built environment, thereby effecting positive change and more thoughtful design. To learn more about SDAF and Orchids & Onions, visit sdarchitecture.org.

—Delle Willett has been a marketing and public relations professional for over 30 years, with an emphasis on conservation of the environment. She can be reached at dellewillett@gmail.com.

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EDITOR

Kendra Sitton

858-270-3103 x136

kendra@sdnews.com

COPY EDITOR

Dustin Lothspeich

WEB / SOCIAL MEDIA

Jeff Clemetson

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Jeff Clemetson x130

Tom Melville x131

Emily Blackwood x 133

Dave Schwab x 132

ADVERTISING CONSULTANTS

Mike Rosensteel

(619) 961-1958

mike@sdenn.com

Heather Fine, x107

MARKETING DIRECTOR

Francisco Tamayo

(619) 961-1958

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Diana Cavagnaro

Dave Fidlin

Christopher Gomez

Lana Harrison

Haney Hong

William E. Kelly

Jean Lowerison

Vince Meehan

Frank Sabatini Jr.

Sandee Wilhoit

Delle Willett

BUSINESS CONSULTANT

David Mannis

(619) 961-1951

david@sdenn.com

ACCOUNTING

Heather Humble x120

accounting@sdnews.com

PUBLISHER

Julie Main x106

julie@sdnews.com

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Little Italy unveils brand new tree design at the 21st annual Tree Lighting and Christmas Village

Little Italy News
By **CHRISTOPHER GOMEZ**

On Saturday, Dec. 7, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., kick off the holiday season in San Diego's Little Italy at the 21st annual Tree Lighting and Christmas Village. After years of bringing holiday joy to the community, the Little Italy Association is making enhancements to the annual event with the reveal of a new 25-foot-tall Christmas tree display. The new display will bring even more Christmas magic for guests to experience during the fun-filled night of holiday festivities. In addition to the unveiling of the new tree, attendees will enjoy an evening of festive décor, seasonal vendors, live music and entertainment, horse-drawn carriage rides, holiday treats, a surprise visit from Santa and more!

Specially designed by California artist Joshua Hubert, the new Christmas tree display will be in Little Italy's Piazza Basilone. Standing tall at 25 feet, the innovative display will dazzle with colored rays shining bright

throughout the entire evening and shimmer during the day. As guests walk around the tree, the reflection of the colors will change based on their perspective and view. The display will also adorn holographic fringe, topped with a stunning Moroccan star. At 6:30 p.m., the community is invited to gather in the heart of the neighborhood — the Piazza della Famiglia — to light the living, 25-foot permanent live tree, which will sparkle every night going forward throughout the holiday season.

In addition to the two Christmas trees, all of India Street in Little Italy will be decked out in white snowflake projections and enhanced pole-to-pole lights — transforming this hip and historic neighborhood into a true winter wonderland. There will also be live entertainment, 10-foot-tall nutcrackers on street corners and more seasonal surprises.

One of the surprises attendees can look forward to is a visit from Santa. From 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in "Santa's Living Room," little ones can share their Christmas wishes and get pictures taken with the man who checks his list twice.



Pictures from last year's event
(Photos courtesy Office of Christopher Gomez)



Right next door to Santa's Living Room, kids can also participate in arts and crafts activities with ArtReach San Diego, a nonprofit aimed at increasing equity in visual arts education for K-8 schools in San Diego County. Meanwhile on India Street between W. Cedar and W. Fir streets, guests can wander through the Christmas Village and pick up last-minute holiday

goodies and stocking stuffers from seasonal vendors and select Little Italy Mercato vendors.

Prepare for a tree-mendous time at Little Italy's Tree Lighting and Christmas Village with a special unveiling of a new



holiday addition and seasonal fun with family and friends. Don't miss out on celebrating the most wonderful time of the year in one of San Diego's premier neighborhoods.

To stay connected with Little Italy, check out

what's going on in the neighborhood by following the community on Instagram and Twitter: @LittleItalySD and Facebook: LittleItalySD. To learn about more things happening in the neighborhood, visit LittleItalySD.com.

—Christopher Gomez has been Little Italy's district manager since 2000. Reach him at chris@littleitalysd.com.





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SANDEE WILHOIT | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Most of us can't walk more than two or three blocks without stumbling across one of the many chain drugstores that populate our cities. Indeed, in the Gaslamp alone there are three CVS establishments. However, these 21st-century convenience

stores aren't the first chain drug emporiums to grace our city. Most don't realize that the Brunswick Drug Company, which opened for business in 1908, was actually part of a chain that originated in Los Angeles.

From its original ownership by Mr. A.E. Horton (Alonzo Horton), the property changed hands often.

It first had a frame structure on the lot and listed as tenants such businesses as a Chinese laundry, the Montana saloon, the "City of Paris" bakery, and wholesale grocers.

In June of 1899, Mr. B.A. Arnold acquired the property and started excavation for a two-story brick building. As soon as the first building was completed, he planned on building a second structure. The cost for both

buildings was projected at \$75,000. Arnold had intentions of creating a spacious business block, but his dream was abruptly halted when he unexpectedly died. His widow did not wish to go forward with the project, so she sold the parcel to Frederick W. Braun, owner of the F.W. Braun Company of Los Angeles. The company specialized in the wholesale drug business, catering primarily to miners, assayers and chemists. It was the biggest establishment of its kind on the Pacific coast.

As the excavation had been completed and the basement put in place before Arnold's death, Mr. Braun continued with the construction. The new structure, later to be called the Brunswick Building, was a two-story brick building. The third story was added in 1925. The completed building was to house Mr. Braun's branch store in San Diego. It was of red brick and red mortar with a traditional storefront of iron columns and show windows. Divided storerooms were put on both floors and a total of 27,000 square feet of floor space was provided. Two hydraulic freight elevators were also installed and are considered some of the city's oldest freight elevators. The building was completed on Dec. 8, 1900. The F.W. Braun Company opened its doors as a drug and wholesale paper business and operated as such until 1908. At this point, Mr. Braun decided to retire, and sold his business to the company's longtime first vice president, Mr. Lucien Napoleon Brunswick. He did, however, stay on to assist with growing the wholesale portion of the business. The new company, the Brunswick Drug Company, boasted branches in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Phoenix and Tucson. Mr. Brunswick was more interested in the retail side of operations.



Key historic figures are featured on the historic mural on the Brunswick building, which is not visible to the general public. (Photo courtesy the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation)

Brunswick Drug Company

363 Fifth Ave.

Architectural Style - Spanish Revival

Architect: William Quayle - 1900

Quayle Brothers - 1925

become pharmacists. They were usually told to look over the prospective client, determine if they were a "rational sort," and then go ahead and sell them carbolic acid or large quantities of laudanum or whatever they requested. As these assistants were often left unsupervised, they had ample opportunity to practice their future trade. Customers were at their mercy and discretion.

Mr. Brunswick was a great inventor of commercial medications and patent medicines, which he also supplied to many of the city's pharmacies. He additionally donated the School of Pharmacy at USC.

In 1915, the Brunswick Drug Company lost its second story as a result of a fire said to have been caused by alcohol, ignited not consumed. The building was repaired, and a third story was added in 1925. At this time, the inscription "1888" was put in place at the top of the front facade of the structure to indicate the date of the founding of the company. The Brunswick Drug Company continued to operate in San Diego until 1960. Mr. Brunswick passed away in 1943 and is buried in an elaborate mausoleum in Metairie Cemetery in New Orleans.

In 1970, the Brunswick Drug building was purchased by Mike Farres, wine connoisseur and Gaslamp entrepreneur. He quickly realized that the basement of the building would make a perfect wine cellar, and consequently stocked it with varieties of wine from all over the world. He opened the Wine Bank on the

ground floor, which became, and continues to be, a very popular wine store and showplace for fine spirits. As the Gaslamp was a very shady and rundown area in the '70s, Farres kept his door locked



The Brunswick Drug Co. building (Photo by Tim Trevaskis)

As today, pharmaceuticals were a tricky business. There were pharmacy laws in place, which "prohibited the selling of poison without proper precaution or using unregistered pharmacists." These unregistered pharmacists were often young boys studying to



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'Handbagged' delights at Moxie Theatre

JEAN LOWERISON | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Some people think the Queen of England has an easy job, riding around in a carriage, giving that famous imperial wave, and taping a nice Christmas message every year.

But Moira Buffini's "Handbagged" gives a different picture while drawing a portrait of the current queen's somewhat rocky relationship with Margaret Thatcher during the tumultuous 11 years of Thatcher's tenancy as Prime Minister.

Kim Strassburger directs the strange and wondrous "Handbagged," which plays through Nov. 17 at Moxie Theatre.

Since what goes on between those two leaders has historically been kept private, we'll probably never really know the queen's opinion about the Iron Lady, either now or during Thatcher's 1979-1990 reign as PM.

But Buffini offers a riveting and mostly amusing glimpse at what they might have thought of each other at the time. She does it in a most unusual way: with two actors playing each woman. In the script, the younger queen is called Liz (and played here by Debra Wanger), while the older queen is called Q (played by Sandy Campbell).

Likewise, Thatcher the younger, called Mags, is played by Lisel Gorell-Getz, while the older Iron

Lady is called simply T and played by Linda Libby. The dual characters often speak to each other, to the other duet and to us directly – and they frequently contradict each other. It's a fascinating theatrical gambit that requires a bit of attention, but is well worth it.

"Handbagged" is one of the best plays of the year.

There are also two men in the play, who offer some 17 instant characterizations of servants, ministers, husbands or whatever the script calls for. They are magnificently played by Max Macke and Durwood Murray. Though in the play primarily to provide illustrative or historical notes for those who weren't around at the time, they get their chance too, most especially when portraying U.S. President Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

Rupert Murdoch, the right-wing millionaire who in 1981 bought London's major paper The Times, also shows up in amusing ways.

The title refers not to the use of a handbag as a weapon, but to the use of a "verbal attack to crush a person ruthlessly and forcefully." Both of these women are capable of first-class handbagging.

Buffini sees the main problem between Thatcher and Elizabeth as a philosophical difference about the purpose of government. Thatcher is more interested in individual rights than social cohesion. She wants as little regulation of business as possible and is horrified when Liz suggests that "we in the Commonwealth are fortunate enough to belong to a worldwide comradeship."

Their styles differ too. The queen is subtle and reserved in her word choices, whereas Thatcher's unflinching, bull-in-a-china-shop approach earned her the nickname "Maggietollah" from British Member of Parliament Neil Kinnock.

"Handbagged" started as a one-act in 2010. It was revised and toured in 2013. It seems that a few comments have been inserted that, shall we say, have relevance to U.S. policy today.

Director Kim Strassburger is blessed with a powerhouse cast that seems to take delight in presenting this delightfully peculiar piece. If I had to pick a favorite, it would have to be Murray, whose array of characters is absurdly, wonderfully varied and he is terrific at each one. But they are all brilliant.

The design team is excellent as well, especially in the costume and wig departments (credit Danita Lee and Missy Bradstreet, respectively).



The male cast members playing several characters. (Photos by Daren Scott)

Julie Lorenz's set design is simple and unobtrusive, with a big jagged Union Jack at the rear and very little furniture. Lighting and sound are well handled by Cynthia Bloodgood and Mason Pilevsky. And credit Vanessa Dinning with the coaching of all those accents.

Get your tickets now. "Handbagged" is one of the best plays of the year.

—Jean Lowerison is a long-standing member of the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle and can be reached at infodame@gmail.com.



The play focuses on the relationship between Margaret Thatcher and Queen Elizabeth II at different ages.



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Food & Drink Blotter.

BY FRANK SABATINI JR.

Our city's largest gastronomic event is taking place this month with the return of the **San Diego Bay Wine + Food Festival**, from Nov. 9-17.

Now in its 16th year, the festival features lunches and dinners, cooking classes, panel discussions, plus wine, beer and spirits tastings conducted at various local venues. The biggest attraction, however, is the "grand tasting" held on the grassy lawns of **Embarcadero Marina Park North**. (400 Kettner Blvd.)

That event is scheduled from noon to 3 p.m., Nov. 16. It will bring together more than 60 restaurants and chefs, along with 200 wineries, breweries and distilleries — all doling out samples of their latest and greatest creations.

Among the Downtown kitchens taking part are **Lionfish**, **Grant Grill**, **Eddie V's Prime Seafood**, and **Social Tap**.

New to the grand tasting is the Miyokos Plant Based Zone spotlighting vegan food options and "natural" wines. Also, the **Cohn**



The annual San Diego Bay Wine + Food Festival promises an abundance of wine and food. (Courtesy photo)

Restaurant Group will present "Camp Cohn" featuring food samples from restaurants within the company, and another area will feature a chef's table from which dishes by local chefs are consumed and discussed.

General admission to the grand tasting is \$135 (or \$175 for admission one hour earlier). The price for VIP tickets is \$250, which includes special tastings and live entertainment in a designated tent.

For details and prices on the festival's citywide events, and to purchase tickets, visit sandiegowineclassic.com.

A new chef de cuisine has landed at **Vistal Restaurant + Bar** in the **InterContinental San Diego** hotel, located on Downtown's bayfront.



Gil Manipon has joined the team at Vistal Restaurant + Bar. (Courtesy photo)

Gil Manipon hails from **Viejas Casino and Resort's Grove Steakhouse**, where he achieved an AAA Four Diamond Award. He will work alongside Vistal's executive chef, Amy DiBiase, who helped launch the nautical-inspired restaurant a year ago. In aiming for seasonal menu spins, Manipon has introduced dishes such as wood-smoked duck breast with honey-turnip puree; house-made corn agnolotti pasta with prosciutto and brown butter; and angel food cake "French toast" with fig-tequila anglaise.

The restaurant also revamped its cocktail list, using liquors from local distilleries such as You & Yours, and Cutwater Spirits. 901 Bayfront Court, 619-535-0485, vistalsd.com.

Brews will be flowing from two bars and a beer garden from 2 to 11:30 p.m., Nov. 9, at the first-ever Cali Love Music & Arts Festival at **10 Barrel Brewing Co.** in the East Village.

The event pays homage to the brewpub's top-selling Cali Love IPA. Organizers say they will transform the space into a festival reminiscent of KAABOO, with three stages for live reggae and indie-rock performances, plus a silent disco, and noshes such as craft tacos and pizza from 10 Barrel's kitchen. Entry is free, although "skip-the-line" VIP tickets are \$15 each. 1501 E St., 619-578-2311, 10barrel.com.



This East Village brew house is debuting a beer and music festival in early November. (By Frank Sabatini Jr.)

The Gaslamp Quarter's only open-air rooftop bar is up and running atop **Theatre Box**. The space, named **5th and Sky Rooftop Gardens & Lounge**, features lush Japanese-style flora and comfy seating with views of the surrounding skyline. A full bar offers crafty cocktails, craft beers, and wines from a curated list. A variety of shareable plates featuring sushi and smoked filet carpaccio toast are available as well. 701 Fifth Ave., 619-814-2225, theatrebox.com.



A rooftop bar with inner-city views (Wicked Creative)

Condé Nast Traveler recently turned its attention to our prolific

dining scene by citing the "25 best restaurants" in San Diego County — from Oceanside and right on down to our urban core. Seven establishments in Little Italy received shout outs.

The restaurants were cited for everything ranging from the souffle pancakes at **Morning Glory** and the opulent steakhouse environment at **Born and Raised** to the wide-ranging local seafood choices found at **Ironside Fish & Oyster** and the

experimental cuisine of celebrity chef Richard Blais at **Juniper & Ivy**.

Blais also took honors for his free-range chicken and egg dishes dominating nearby **Crack Shack's** menu. The other Little Italy restaurants named were **Herb & Wood** and **Monello**.

To see the complete list and their summaries, visit cntraveler.com and enter into the search field "25 best restaurants in San Diego."

—Frank Sabatini Jr. can be reached at fsabatini@san.rr.com.❖



The Crack Shack drew honors from an established travel publication. (Facebook)

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Waffle head

Cafe 222 thrives on original recipes and artful branding

Restaurant Review

By FRANK SABATINI JR.



Not long after Terryl Gavre opened Cafe 222 a few blocks west of the Gaslamp Quarter in 1992 did her attractive, angular face begin appearing on billboards throughout San Diego. If it wasn't for the round waffle tipped perfectly on the crown of her head — like a chic saucer hat from the 1940s — people would have assumed she was the new glamour model for Lamcôme Paris.

Gavre was instead flipping eggs and whipping up waffle batter seven days a week at her new whimsically decorated cafe, which blossomed into a nationally recognized breakfast-lunch destination for locals and tourists alike.

It had been a few years since I ducked inside for some “green eggs and Spam” or Gavre's famous pumpkin waffle, which was featured in Gourmet Magazine. Later, her peanut butter and banana-stuffed French toast would snag the palate of Food Network's Bobby Flay in an episode of “The Best Thing I Ever Ate.”

But it isn't the cafe's limelight that should steer you here so much compared to Gavre's reliably homey food. Her inherent knack for cooking and baking dates back to working in restaurants since the age of 15, and to a food-catering business she ran afterwards for affluent bachelors in her native Seattle.

In addition to Cafe 222, she co-owns Bankers Hill Bar + Restaurant, and operated two former East Village ventures: Bake Sale Bakery and ACME Southern Kitchen.

‘Tis the season I recently came knocking for that pumpkin waffle as a prelude to my favorite Thanksgiving pie. Though available year round, the waffle carries pretty much the same ingredients as a scratch-made pumpkin pie — canned pumpkin, eggs, milk and the requisite spices.

The waffle's thin, crispy veneer leads to a smooth, fluffy texture inside. You can order it with whipped cream, butter, or both. For an optimum experience, go with the latter.



Eggs over house-made corned beef hash (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

House-made corned beef hash was recently reinstated. I ordered it with two eggs over-medium, and thick-sliced rye toast that was super fresh and airy. (The breads are sourced from the fabulous Galasso's Bakery in Riverside County.)

Strewn with tender potatoes and sautéed peppers and onions, the shredded corned beef holding everything together sported a nice crust. But it tasted under-brined. I couldn't detect so much the meat's classic

curing spices such as coriander, peppercorns and mustard seed.

Considerably more flavorful was the new “Mexicana” sandwich melt that I toted home for later. It's among seven other “melts” on a lunch menu that's available from 11:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Thinly sliced turkey, not of the watery ilk, is layered inside buttered and grilled sourdough bread with melted jack cheese and a soft Ortega chili. There might have been some sort of seasoning lurking in there too. Either way, it made for a terrific and filling sandwich despite its simplicity.

The melts come with a choice of Caesar or chopped salad. I chose the latter after seeing a fresh batch made in a big silver



(l-r) The pumpkin waffle is a top seller; The Mexicana melt (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)



Terryl Gavre's iconic image (Photo courtesy of Cafe 222)



An unassuming facade conceals an industrious kitchen. (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Cafe 222

222 Island Ave. in Gaslamp

619-236-9902, www.cafe222.com

Prices: Waffles, pancakes and French toast, \$9.25 to \$13.50; egg scrambles and breakfast specialties, \$11.25 to \$15.95; soups and salads, \$4.25 to \$12.25; sandwich melts, \$9.95 to \$13.95

On days that lines form, usually on weekends and when big conventions roll into town, the wait pays off with homespun fare, fast service, and perhaps some new ideas for edible fashion.

—Frank Sabatini Jr. is the author of ‘Secret San Diego’ (ECW Press) and began his local writing career more than two decades ago as a staffer for the former San Diego Tribune. You can reach him at fsabatini@san.rr.com.



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'Stories in Cloth'

Fashion Files

By DIANA CAVAGNARO



"Stories in Cloth" is a steam-punk-inspired exhibit at the Visions Art Museum located in Liberty Station. Marty Ornish created this amazing work with wearable art, sculpture and assemblage. The talented Ornish repurposes patchwork quilts, antique linens and other textiles to breathe new life into them. The result is a new birth to these abandoned fabrics that are transformed into wearable art.

One of the standout pieces was called "Let Me Mend Your Ways." It consisted of a red plaid over the top dress with a chatelaine and a pincushion hat that is equipped with the tools of the trade. The bottom of the skirt had an embroidered sewing machine that was inspired by her mother who loved to sew. Another creation was "They Had It Coming," which had many miniature hats nestled in a large hat along with tiny hats running down the side of the skirt. The exhibit portrays a time in history when outlaws notched their holsters with the number of their kills and this woman in the

exhibit keeps small hats as her trophies. The male outfit in the exhibit was called "Attorney Lamb." The 1895 quilt was originally made for a man called Attorney Lamb. His wife Mrs. G.W. Lamb sewed this antique quilt.

In the exhibit is a child-sized backpack called "Her Mother Said 'She Is a Real Help to Me.'" This speaks to children in sweatshops who had their childhood stolen from them way too early in their life. Ornish also has a



Designer Marty Ornish is pictured with "they had it coming." (Photos by Diana Cavagnaro)



"Let me mend your ways" red plaid dress with pin cushion hat



Man's outfit with top hat named "Attorney Lamb"

high-tech intergalactic washstand and cabinet of curiosities containing vintage sewing and fashion knickknacks. The walking canes were commissioned by Larry Nuzum and constructed from found objects. Ornish works to have sustainable sourced textiles with zero-waste design. She used her art to make a difference in this society of fast-fashion waste. This exhibit is not to be missed and runs through Jan. 5, 2020.

Two additional exhibits are shown in this gallery simultaneously. One is called "Jumping Boundaries" by Sandra Lauterbach, which is constructed with thread and fabrics. The other exhibit is called "Interpretations 2019: Rhapsody," which consists of a juried show of 29 art quilt works from nearly 250 entries around the globe. During the opening reception, six awards were handed out:

The Sebastian Family Award for Color Artistry – Betty Hahn for "Quarks"

The Rosie's Calico Cupboard Award for Artistic Ability that Extends the Medium – Lea McComas for "Soul Mates" (this award is presented by Rosie Gonzalez)

Upcoming Events

Nov. 10, 2019 - Wedding Party EXPO at the Hilton San Diego Resort at 1 p.m. There are 20,000 square feet of wedding experts to help. For tickets visit: sandiegoweddingparty.com

Nov. 16, 2019 - "The Autumn Allure Beauty and Fashion Expo" at the Hilton San Diego Gaslamp Quarter at 401 K St. <http://bit.ly/2MLKmrK>

The Miriam Machell Award for Beauty – Dan Olfe for "Color Square #1" (this award is presented by the Starseed Foundation)

The Visions Giving Circle award for Excellence – Dianne Firth for "The Kiss"

The Visions Board of Directors Award in Honor of Jill Le Croisette – Victoria Findlay Wolfe for "A Year of Moments"

In the Abstract Award – Jill Kerttula for "Urban Voyeur: Night on Second Street and Water" (this award is presented by Andrea Bacal and Sue Robertson)

Visions are open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday and noon-4 p.m. on Sunday. It has free admission. For more information, visit visionartmuseum.org

—Diana Cavagnaro is an internationally renowned couture milliner based in the historic Gaslamp Quarter. Learn more about our hat designer, teacher and blogger at www.DianaCavagnaro.com

Brunswig

CONTINUED FROM Page 8

at all times, even during business hours. A prospective customer had to ring a buzzer, show himself at a window, and Farres would then make a determination as to whether he was a client or a crook before allowing him admittance. He perpetuated the statement that one had to be very wary where you walked in the Gaslamp. Talking down the neighborhood enabled him to purchase large quantities

of Gaslamp real estate at bargain prices, and he became a wealthy land developer. He finally sold the Wine Bank to Paul Karcho in 2006. Karcho, a Michigan transplant, had been haggling with Farres for eight years before Farres relented and sold him the Wine Bank. Mr. Farres passed away in 2010. The Wine Bank is still going strong!

—Santee Wilhoit is the historian for the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation. She can be reached at swilhoit@gaslampfoundation.org

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New venture BuzzBuggy hits the streets Downtown

VINCE MEEHAN | DOWNTOWN NEWS

San Diego is a tourist mecca and as such, features many unique ways to tour our city. One of the latest companies to offer guided treks is BuzzBuggy, which began operating earlier this year. Laura Rovick is owner and operator of BuzzBuggy, which features clean and green electric open-air vehicles that shuttle riders across Downtown as well as the surrounding communities.

Rovick has a leg up on the tourism business due to her experience with a similar company. “I also own Social Cycle – those big party bikes that 16 people sit on and pedal around – and so I was just looking for another unique way to tour and travel around San Diego,” Rovick said, explaining the conception of BuzzBuggy. “I was able to get a [Transportation Charter Permit] license on this, which is kind of like a limo license so you can [bring your own booze], we just ask for no glass for safety reasons. It comes with a professional certified driver we can tour pretty much Downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods, so South Park, Golden Hill, North Park, Hillcrest, Bankers Hill, Balboa Park, Little Italy – we’ve gone over to Ocean Beach before, which we can do – and even Point Loma.”

BuzzBuggy features two “Tuk Tuks,” which you can book, as well as four electric golf carts. Tuk Tuks are unique vehicles that are popular in Asia, and look like a cross between a motorcycle and a rickshaw. The Tuk Tuks are head turners as they glide silently through the Downtown urban

landscape. Rovick was intrigued by the idea of the Tuk Tuks, and set out to try and bring them to San Diego.

“I actually found out about them from another owner of the bikes I have, who is operating out of Grand Rapids, Michigan. I found out about those and was able to get in touch with the manufacturer,” Rovick said. “They are built in Thailand and then finished off in Denver to make them [Department of Transportation] compliant to be on the road. So I went out to Denver and did a site visit, drove them around. And nobody was doing them here in Southern California so I figured I’d jump on the opportunity right now before somebody else does.”

The Tuk Tuks carry six passengers as well as a driver, and the golf carts are set up for five passengers and one driver. The vehicles are equipped with Bluetooth so passengers can play their own music set list while sipping on wine or beer. “We’ve got 75 different partnerships with bars and restaurants around the city, so if they opt to stop off at any of those places, we put wristbands on them and they get discounts on food and drinks,” added Rovick

Depending on the success of BuzzBuggy, Rovick may plan to expand to other SoCal locales. “Right now, I’ve been getting this off the ground. With our bike company Social Cycle, we have locations in Palm Springs and Santa Barbara, so once I get this kinda going and get at least a year under our belt, then I might look at bringing these to those other markets where we’ve got the bikes and you know... always

be on the look out for unique opportunities.”

As Rovick points out, BuzzBuggy is a hit with everybody from tourists to corporate teams and wedding parties. “Every group we get is unique and different from birthdays, bachelors, bachelorettes, anniversaries and families that want to do some sight seeing and check out some cool murals – Instagram stuff – stop off at museums, bar hopping, you name it!”

To book your BuzzBuggy tour, go to BuzzBuggy.com.

—Vince Meehan can be reached at vinniemeehan@gmail.com.



Laura Rovick, owner/operator of BuzzBuggy, and Jeff Chernoyetz, BuzzBuggy director of social media and marketing, man the Tuk Tuk. (Photo by Vince Meehan)

D3 candidates

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

issues, such as improving access to housing and transportation, definitely overlap with concerns about aging. We need to preserve and build neighborhoods that allow multiple generations of families to live near one another and move around easily with a variety of different mobility options. This has the dual benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and allowing family members to care for one another.”






Kwiatkowski: “Yes, climate change is real and population growth needs to be managed effectively. They are both threats and opportunities to, and for, San Diego. We are not prepared enough and our city can be a leader in our state, which is a leader in the country on climate change. The city needs to set an example by having a zero-carbon footprint as an organization before 2040. We need to manage population growth via smart density in the urban core near mass transit and walkable, bikeable, scooter-able housing and commercial density.”

Whitburn: “Demographic and climate changes pose unique challenges to San Diego for which the city is not yet prepared. The number of San Diegans aged 65 and older is expected to nearly double over the next decade. Many of these seniors will be retired and have fixed incomes, and the need for affordable housing will be even greater than it is today. Many will become less mobile as they get older, and there will be an increased need for housing near shops and services, safe pedestrian walkways, accessible community spaces, and additional transit options. Furthermore, rather than allowing older residents to become isolated, we should create opportunities for seniors to use their valuable experience, knowledge, and time to improve San Diego through civic engagement. The city must also contribute to efforts to reduce climate change. The city should continue to implement its adopted climate action plan.”

—William (Bill) Kelly is a freelance community reporter who has lived in San Diego for 22 years. He can be reached by email at wekbill@yahoo.com.



Here are some things you can do this season to save between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. when energy prices are highest:

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-  Caulk/weatherstrip doors and windows to save 10-20% on heating.
-  Let hot foods cool off (1hr max.) before placing them in the fridge.
-  Turn off computers, TV's and other electronics when not in use.
-  Prepare meals in a slow cooker outside the hours of 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Find more tips at [sdge.com/whenmatters](https://www.sdge.com/whenmatters)



Time to save.

Atkins: year of housing production ahead

Calif. Legislature addressed historic preservation and renter protections

KENDRA SITTON | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Governor Gavin Newsom tries to not overuse the word “crisis” because it can tend to normalize an issue. At a press conference in San Diego on Oct. 9 where he signed SB 113, a bill that allows \$331 million in state funds to be used by renters and homeowners for legal aid, Newsom said he normally steers clear of the word, but the issue of affordable housing in California has truly become a crisis.

His visit to San Diego came amid his housing tour where he signed 18 bills aimed at addressing different parts of the complex housing issue. Senate Pro Tempore Toni Atkins joined him at the press conference. The San Diego politician ensured bills protecting renters, cutting red tape on building new housing, and upending single-family zoning made it to his desk in the first place. Since Newsom vetoed Atkins’ signature piece of legislation this year (an ambitious bill keeping in place the environmental standards of the

Obama administration), she said the work to address the housing crisis (a term she freely uses to describe the issue) is her proudest accomplishment from the last legislative session. In addition to addressing climate change and coastal erosion, her goal next year is to boost production of new housing now that stop-gap measures to prevent “price gouging” of renters are in place.

Atkins has spent much of her own career shaping the language used around housing, and thus the vision of how government needs to address it. In 2002, when she was on the San Diego City Council, she led the rest of the Council to declare a State of Housing Emergency. She resubmitted the declaration each week to keep the issue at the forefront of her colleagues’ minds, even as they grew weary of her insistence on addressing it. Atkins also tallied how many affordable housing units were approved by the Council each week.

“I felt like I really was there to be able to push the city of San

Diego to develop more units and a lot of them were developed in my district,” Atkins said in an interview in her Downtown office. Her efforts meant much of the new housing was produced in North Park, City Heights, Normal Heights and other areas along transit corridors that embraced her vision.

“All we’ve done since then is lose ground,” the Senator said.

San Diego has continued to fall short of building enough units to sustain the population, leading to higher rents and housing costs as well as an increasing homelessness crisis.

“[Housing] is the most important issue because it impacts so much of everything else about our lives,” Atkins said. “If we can’t afford the rents, if we don’t have a house, if we’re forced to live in our cars now because of high rents or losing our home or foreclosure issues, you can’t do anything else.”

For her, housing is most significantly connected to the economy. She cited predictions that the next downturn California faces will be

because employers will not be able to afford to keep workers from leaving the state.

She also connects housing to mental health. People trying to stabilize their mental health will have an impossible time doing so while also facing the stress of housing insecurity.

Fixing housing has been Atkins’ singular career focus even before she was elected into office and working in the office of then-City Council member Christine Kehoe. Despite each new position, from City Council member, to interim mayor, to Assembly member, to Assembly speaker, to Senate pro tempore and even briefly acting governor,



Senate Pro Tempore Toni Atkins in her Downtown office (Photo by Kendra Sitton)

the problem has only worsened around her.

Last year, she shelved an ambitious — and controversial — effort to increase housing production by limiting the powers of local governments to impede development. Atkins guaranteed that work would continue on SB 50 and it would come up in committee again in January or February. She said the bill’s author, Senator Scott Weiner, is going over the bill again while on break.

“We may need to undo some of the exemptions and compromises that have been made. Scott’s taking a fresh look,” Atkins said.

Under the latest form of the bill before it was turned into a two-year bill and set aside, 80% of the city of San Diego was exempt from it due to being a high-fire risk zone, according to Atkins. SB 50 also differentiates between small and large cities, a move Atkins agrees with.

“I don’t think one size fits all. I think small cities and large cities are different.”

The only path forward she sees to passing the bill is by involving more people in the process, including having conversations with communities that do not want to add any housing.

“The crux of this is really going to be can you bring other stakeholders to the table and get them to agree on how to do this,” Atkins explained. “The dilemma is how do we get broad support from legislators to support a bill that basically pushes — maybe incentivizes, I don’t know what the bill turns out to be at the end of the day but pushes — for actual development to happen where it needs to happen.”

For her, senators need to figure out a way to accomplish the goal of adding production through a broad piece of legislation that

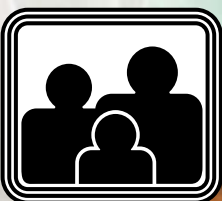


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Atkins housing

CONTINUED FROM Page 14

impacts the lowest levels of government, including the 42 community planning groups and areas in San Diego.

“We are not going to be able to take a sledgehammer and just beat it over the heads of every city. We’ve gotta be more precise about it. And that’s what makes SB 50 difficult because I don’t think one size fits all. But I do think there is a way to do this,” she said.

Atkins believes that without the crisis, housing advocates would not have made as much

progress as they even have on SB 50 because the conversation around housing was so different just three years ago when then-Governor Jerry Brown added a by-right housing proposal to the budget.

“I think the [Yes In My Backyard] movement [and] the crisis have given us the bandwidth to go further than we might’ve gone before,” Atkins said. “Many people feel like, ‘Great, we should have done it 10 years ago, 20 years ago.’ In fact, I said this decades ago and nobody was listening to me.”

—Kendra Sitton can be reached at kendra@sdnews.com.✴

Convention Center

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

“San Diego truly embraces a hospitality culture, and we work together to ensure a warm and inviting, action-packed and accessible place to be,” Totaro said. “The third key to our success is the fact we have so many repeat clients who have grown along with the convention center and look to San Diego as a second home.”

While Totaro and others within the convention center are pausing to commemorate the milestone, Totaro said officials are not resting on their laurels. A series of goals, she said, are on the horizon as the venue enters its next chapter.

“Our hope in the coming years is to give our clients what they need and what they repeatedly ask for, which is more space,” Totaro said.

Environmental stewardship, Totaro said, is another goal that has been emphasized more recently and will continue to be honed in on closely in the immediate future.

A goal among center organizers is to achieve LEED Platinum status in the near future through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program.

“We are a sustainable force in the San Diego community,” Totaro

said. “We divert more than 60% of our waste on a regular basis, sort our own waste on-site and compost or donate all leftover food.”

While the convention center is oftentimes associated with San Diego’s Downtown, Totaro in the recent interview said she wanted to emphasize how the venue is intricately linked to all areas of the city.

“I would love for people to know more about the team that works at the convention center, as they represent almost every neighborhood and take such pride in the center,” Totaro said. “In fact, we have several generations of families, working side by side. Our average employee has worked here for 10 years, which is so rare in this industry.”

Barrio Logan resident Grace Zuniga is among the center’s 427 full-time and part-time employees. Zuniga, a member of the center’s cleaning services staff, has been working at the venue almost from the beginning; her 30-year anniversary is in February.

“I have met presidents and musicians,” Zuniga said in a statement provided to Downtown News. “I will never forget helping James Earl Jones find his way when he was lost in our building. The best part are the people who I have met who became my family

of friends. That’s something you take with you.”

When asked what perhaps lesser-known facts she would like San Diegans to know about the convention center, Totaro pointed to the professionalism and commitment of the people who work at the venue, day in and out.

“I think if everyone knew how talented this team is, they would be truly proud of the work done by the people within the walls of the San Diego Convention Center,” Totaro said.

The hundreds of staffers who call the convention center their place of employment were recently treated to a thank-you luncheon.

A more visible, communitywide celebration is on the docket. The convention center is hosting a festive gala, Season’s Showcase: A Parade of Lights Watch Party, from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at the venue, 111 W. Harbor Drive.

“It is a free event, and the Port of San Diego is providing free parking underneath the convention center,” Totaro said. “We’ll feature live entertainment from several districts across San Diego and holiday-themed food and beverage.”

—Dave Fidlin is a freelance journalist with a special affinity for San Diego and its people. Contact him at dave.fidlin@thinkpost.net.✴

PUZZLES ANSWERS ON PAGE 17

SUDOKU

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process elimination to solve the puzzle.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | | | | | 3 | 9 | | |
| | | | | 6 | | | 7 | 5 |
| | 9 | 7 | 2 | 5 | | | | |
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Level: Advanced

CROSSWORD

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| | 63 | 64 | | | | | | 65 | | | | | | | |
| | | 66 | | | | | | 67 | | | | | | | |

- ACROSS**

1 Flat-topped hill

5 Fire usually accompanies it

10 Talked

12 Skillset

14 Unembarrassed

16 Where teens spend their days

18 Boxing’s GOAT

19 Used to anoint

20 Rust fungi

22 Panthers’ signal caller

23 Forests have lots of them

25 Lentils

26 One’s self-esteem

27 Where you entered the world (abbr.)

28 High school test

30 Large, flightless bird

31 Expectorated

33 Some practice it

35 Prickly shrub

37 French river

38 Told on

40 Steep hillside

41 Peyton’s little brother

42 Soviet Socialist Republic

44 Welsh river

13 B complex vitamin

15 Go quickly

17 Toast

18 A team’s best pitcher

21 A Philly culinary special

23 Small child

24 Unhappy

27 Trims by cutting

29 Weepee

32 It might be on the back

34 Spy organization

35 Female body part

36 Came back from behind

39 Fall back or spring forward
- 45 Witness

48 Brews

50 Orange-brown

52 Separates DNA and RNA

53 Mexican agave

55 Self-contained aircraft unit

56 Encourage

57 Atomic #52 (abbr.)

58 About latitude

63 Trivial gadget

65 Film a scene again

66 Small blisters

67 Dark brown

40 Famed traveling journalist

43 Where the current is fast

44 Withstand

46 A Philly football player

47 Records brain activity

49 Aromatic powder

51 Circular panpipe

54 Ship as cargo

59 Bar bill

60 Adult female

61 OJ trial judge

62 One’s grandmother

64 Hot, massive star

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e3 Civic High

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

low-income students who are aiming to be the first in their families to graduate from college. Griffith was the founding executive director and CEO of e3 Civic High.

The school's success in helping students — who have experienced trauma and struggled with learning in the past — reach college comes as the role of charter schools has become more controversial under Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.

Data analysis by Voice of San Diego and the UC San Diego Extension Center for Research and Evaluation showed charter school teachers on average are half as experienced as those in traditional public schools in San Diego Unified School District. In Los Angeles and San Diego, an online charter school fraud scheme stole \$50 million from the state. Students' education has been disrupted by sudden charter school closures. Governor Gavin Newsom recently signed a comprehensive rewrite of the charter school law, which requires more transparency and accountability. Assembly member Shirley Weber's goal in the next legislative session is to fix school funding across the board. Charter schools have long been accused of taking needed resources from public schools.

Dr. Ward points out charter schools are more agile and can more quickly utilize new teaching methods. She has worked in both public and charter schools and sees the need for both in meeting individual students' needs.

While e3 Civic High's method of teaching changed from being project-based to something called "design thinking," from its start, it incorporated technology and cutting-edge research on education.

"The school was designed to be a next-generation school," Dr. Ward explained. Each incoming student is given a laptop and trained to use the Google suite of programs. Students volunteer in the community and also participate in internships.

Senior Christina Arias' internship last year was also her first job. "I had the internship and I found out that I actually like customer service — so that helped me. Then also getting paid, which is fun," she said. This year, she is



Dr. Cheryl Ward, CEO and chief engagement and innovation officer of e3 Civic High School. (Courtesy photo)

interning at Digital Gym after taking a class there previously. Christina took part in making two documentaries during her class, one of which was shown at the Latino Film Festival. "That was a really cool experience."

The charter school has a slew of other opportunities: a student-run garden, a boys-to-men mentoring group, and optional college classes. Electives include outdoor adventure, play production, robotics, competitive rowing.

Dr. Ward's plans for the future of the school include expanding travel opportunities and curriculum focused on solutions to global problems. She said, "See the world, go out and help people, and then solve real problems."

Three students who spoke to Downtown News said their favorite experience was traveling outside the U.S. While in China teaching English, 11th grader Jahaziel said he "learned the true value education and then how to cooperate with people." Initially, they were drawn to the school for a variety of reasons such as the resources it has because it is located within a library, its unique opportunities, and inclusive, familial atmosphere.

The school uses competency-based grading, a move that resulted in a handful of students being withdrawn from the school.

"[Competency-based grading] means it's not time bound. You have a little extra time to complete your work until you're ready. So you might have a semester end in four months, you might have an additional three months because different people complete things at different times," Dr. Ward said. "Some kids completed early, some kids completed late. But we continue to work with them to help them get there."

Since much of the school's curriculum is online, each student's learning progress is personalized. Instead of the online classes driving teachers out of the school, more are needed to give each student individualized help. For the 400 students, there are 38 staff members, not including administrators.

Sophomore Eligha said of online classes, "I think it was very useful and provided you with a lot of resources as well as allowing me to learn at my own pace."

"[Those online resources] adapt to where each child is. They also give a lot of feedback to kids."

That helps us to personalize the learning and start to fill in the gaps the kids are coming with" while still hitting grade-level rigor, Dr. Ward said.

Dr. Ward believes the personalization is necessary to address the needs of the students. Some high-achieving students come from across the county for the unique programming at e3 Civic High, but she said many of the students from surrounding neighborhoods come in two to five grade levels behind.

"We have a lot of catching up to do," Dr. Ward said. In addition, 1 in 5 students enrolled in the school has special needs, which is higher than the district and state average. "More kids come here with special needs because they feel that we can meet their needs better. I think we're higher because people say, 'OK, there's a place where my child can be served, where they can feel good, where they can be accepted.'"

That acceptance starts at the top of the stairs, where they are welcomed into school each day by Dr. Ward.

—Kendra Sitton can be reached at kendra@sdnews.com.



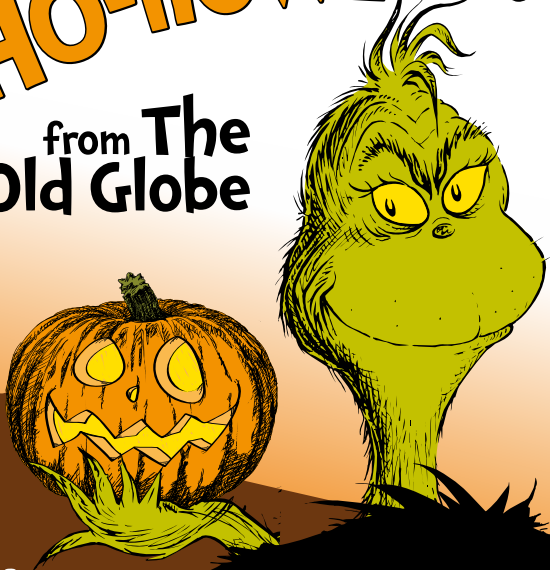
e3 Civic High School is located on the sixth floor of San Diego Central Library. (Photo by Kendra Sitton)



Dr. Cheryl Ward, CEO and chief engagement and innovation officer of e3 Civic High School. (Photo by Kendra Sitton)

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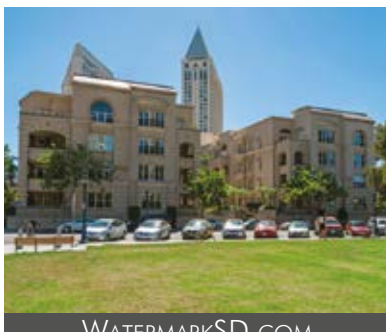
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