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NYE in San Diego



**Seaport Village's
'Coastal Christmas'**
highlights good
cheer and charitable
giving in San Diego

Loren Smith (aka Surfin' Santa) posing with some 'reindeer.' (Photo courtesy Seaport Village)

VICTORIA DAVIS | DOWNTOWN NEWS

There are three things 66-year-old Loren Smith is an expert at: plucking the bass, strumming his guitar, and playing the best vacationing Santa on the West Coast. Smith, a long-time San Diego resident, has been Seaport Village's white-bearded, Hawaiian shirt-wearing, board shorts-sporting "Surfin' Santa" for the last 14 years, attracting thousands of people at a time to Holidays at Seaport Village each December.

"This is probably the hardest job that I do every year because of going up and down on a

SEE **CHRISTMAS**, Page 6

Convention Center celebrates 30

LUCIA VITI | DOWNTOWN NEWS

The San Diego Convention Center is celebrating its pearl anniversary – 30 years as an iconic San Diego landmark.

Since opening its doors in 1989, nearly 6,000 national and international meetings, conventions, sports, and entertainment events have contributed approximately \$26.4 billion in revenue to the regional economy, cementing the convention center as an important "economic engine" for America's Finest City.

In 2018 alone, \$1.1 billion was infused into San Diego's local economy. Total tax revenues tallied \$24.7 million, used to pay for local municipalities including fire and police protection, street, park and beach maintenance, and library and recreation services.

"The convention center has been a great investment for San Diego's local economy," said Clifford "Rip" Rippetoe, CVE, president and CEO of the San Diego Convention Center Corporation. "Each year, our events and their attendees generate over a billion dollars in regional economic impact. We also support the city of San Diego's general fund with the hotel and sales tax revenue generated from visitors, with \$24.7 million in the last fiscal year, alone."

SEE **CONVENTION**, Page 15



A construction crew on the site of the convention center (Courtesy photo)

State agency pushes new focus on labor trafficking

KENDRA SITTON | UPTOWN NEWS

Lawmakers, social workers, attorneys, victims and advocates came together at San Diego Central Library to discuss the issue of labor trafficking and gaps in response to this form of human trafficking. Victims and advocates who spoke before a panel of public policy experts had one message: California must do more to treat labor trafficking victims equally to human trafficking victims.

The public hearing was hosted by California's independent government oversight agency The Little Hoover Commission on Nov. 21. Choosing San Diego as the location of the first statewide public hearing was intentional because of its proximity to the border. As commissioners and audience members learned, unlike sex trafficking (which often ensnares U.S. citizens), forced labor cases almost always contain an element of immigration.

California Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins opened the hearing to discuss the efforts she has made at the Legislature to address human trafficking. She acknowledged that the focus since human trafficking was made a felony in California in 2005 has been on sex trafficking, and now it is time for people to turn their attention to labor trafficking since much less is known about it. Atkins said more temporary housing and specialized services are needed, as well as data on the

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Block D reaches a LEED milestone

U.S. council gives first-in-region high marks to Makers Quarter's green-friendly features

DAVE FIDLIN | DOWNTOWN NEWS

A piece of a large-scale development taking root in Downtown San Diego recently garnered attention for its green-friendly features and, in the process, has notched bragging rights.

The U.S. Green Building Council, an organization promoting sustainable building design, construction and operations plans, has certified the Block D component of the Makers Quarter site in East Village with an LEED Platinum designation.

LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a metric used to gauge green features in buildings. There are multiple LEED certification levels, based on a point system.

Projects garnering 40-49 points, for example, are deemed LEED Certified, while those with 50-59 points attain LEED Silver status. On the upper end is LEED Gold, 60-79 points, and at the top level, LEED Platinum, which requires 80 points and up.

Developers have been touting Block D as the first multi-tenant commercial office building to emerge in Downtown San Diego in more than a decade.

But the LEED Platinum certification is another first for the area, said Mary Pampuch of Lankford & Associates. Pampuch and her firm are named co-developers of Makers Quarter, including the Block D portion of the site.

"We're obviously very happy with the way it turned out,"

Pampuch said. "I'm very pleased that we were able to achieve that level of status."

As it turned out, Block D earned exactly 80 points in the U.S. Green Building Council's review of the site — the minimum needed to reach the coveted, rarified top-level certification. Although numbers continue to fluctuate, and climb upward, information from the council states there are about 7,000 buildings with the Platinum status.

Planning Block D was done with the Platinum certification in mind, Pampuch said in an interview with Downtown News, though the confirmation still was gratifying.

"There were several design elements that we used, taking advantage of San Diego weather in the process," Pampuch said.

Some of the most prominent examples of the green-friendly designs, she said, are the installation of a natural ventilation system throughout Block D's confines.

Whenever possible, Pampuch said cutting-edge technology was integrated into the building design. Internet of Things, or IoT, infrastructure, for example, is used to power the blinds throughout the complex. Solar power, she said, is also used to its maximum.

"It's resulted in a more efficient mechanical system," Pampuch said.

A peek at the U.S. Green Building Council's scorecard of Block D reveals where the building excelled. For example, the project had high marks in the energy and

atmosphere category, receiving 35 of 37 possible points. The project also notched five of 10 possible points in the area of water efficiency.

From her vantage point, Pampuch said she believes other projects in the region, including Downtown, will follow in Block D's footsteps.

"I expect that there will be several that will come after us," she said, pointing to long-term savings and technology as reasons.

Block D, a 60,000-square-foot building, is largely comprised of office space, though other features are also included in the plans, including street-level retail and restaurant sites. Two new ground-level tenants on tap in the year ahead include Black-market Bakery and Tailored Hair.

Other developments within Makers Quarter include Block A, which has been described as a mixed-use lifestyle-focused center and Block C, a high-rise corporate development.

Developers such as Pampuch and Stacey Pennington, the urban planner helping Makers Quarter, have touted Makers Quarter as a

place where San Diego's entrepreneurs and creative people can come together, collaborate and innovate.

In a statement on the visioning behind Makers Quarter, Pennington said she believes it will be transformative in the years and decades to come because of the thoughtful steps being taken to foster economic growth.

"It's the future of San Diego," Pennington said. "It's the future of this mega region."

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

LABOR

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

issue. She shared findings from a 2012 study by SDSU researcher Sheldon Zhang on labor trafficking in San Diego County that showed 30% of migrant laborers are victims of trafficking and 50% of migrant laborers face abusive practices.

A Los Angeles man, who wished to remain anonymous, explained

in an email exchange his own experience of labor abuse. He is in the U.S. on a student visa, which bars him working off of his college campus. When he took a job at a grocery store to pay for his living expenses, he was subjected to lesser pay than those with citizenship and the loss of certain workplace protections. He complained that immigrants were given long shifts without overtime pay, which he

SEE LABOR, Page 14

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Filmmaker and local Holocaust survivor team up to keep memories alive



Local filmmaker Randall Christopher visited Auschwitz after making an award-winning animated short about Adolf Eichmann.

LEORAH GAVIDOR | DOWNTOWN NEWS

The Holocaust is fading from collective memory. Survivor Rose Schindler and local filmmaker Randall Christopher hope to keep that from happening. On a chilly November evening at Bread & Salt in Barrio Logan, the two shared stories in front of a packed audience.

Rose Schindler, 89, was born in Czechoslovakia. In 1944, the German army came to her small town and ordered the Jewish residents to prepare for a trip. Her family did not own any suitcases; they had never traveled. Her mother told her and her siblings to put on a few sets of underwear and as many clothes as they could. Her father hid the family jewelry and some money on the farm where they lived, though soldiers had directed them to turn in valuables “for safekeeping.” They boarded the trains. She and her two sisters, one brother, and their parents ended up in Auschwitz. Rose was 14.

Randall Christopher, local animator and award-winning filmmaker, didn't learn much about the Holocaust in school. Growing up in the Orlando area, he didn't know anyone Jewish. One day, reading the New York Times, Christopher came across a story about Nazi Adolf Eichmann, the high-ranking Nazi in charge of logistics for the "Final Solution." He escaped capture after the war and fled to Argentina, where Israelis hunted him down in 1960. He was executed in Israel in 1962. Christopher was enthralled by this part of history — how had he not heard of it before? He set out to learn all he could, and decided to make a film.

“The Driver is Red,” an animated short that has won 42 awards, tells the dramatic story of Eichmann’s capture in Argentina. Screened as an introduction to Rose Schindler’s talk, the film offers a brief but powerful glimpse into one aspect of Holocaust history. Christopher hopes it inspires people to learn more. He has made it available for free viewing online so

teachers can show it in classrooms
and anyone can watch it.

When the war ended and Rose Schindler made her way back to the rural part of Czechoslovakia that she had called home, she found the family house empty and unlivable. Her parents and brother had been killed at Auschwitz. She retrieved the hidden jewelry and found her father's pocket watch. She showed the audience the watch chain she



Award-winning local animator and filmmaker Randall Christopher spent months researching Nazi Germany for "The Driver is Red," now available online for free viewing.

still wears around her neck.

“This is what keeps me going.”

Rose and her husband Max, who met in London through a post-war program for survivors, made their way to the United States in the



A packed audience listened to local Holocaust survivor Rose Schindler at Bread & Salt in Barrio Logan. (Photo by Irvin Gavidor)

early 1950s. Rose has made it her life's purpose to educate people about what she and Max and others experienced in concentration camps, traveling around San Diego to meet with schoolchildren and audiences. With standing room only at Bread & Salt, the crowd listened intently while Rose talked candidly.

"After what happened to you, how can you trust human beings?" an audience member asked.

"You have to trust people, what else can I do?" she replied. Her book, "Two Who Survived," tells the whole story.

—Leorah Gavidor can be reached
at lgavidor@hotmail.com.❖

SUDOKU & CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS FROM PAGE 11

9	5	4	7	2	8	6	3	1
8	2	3	6	1	4	9	7	5
1	6	7	5	9	3	4	8	2
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2	4	1	8	5	9	7	6	3
6	3	9	1	7	2	5	4	8
3	1	6	9	4	5	8	2	7
7	8	5	2	6	1	3	9	4
4	9	2	3	8	7	1	5	6

Christmas-hater Scrooge is in San Diego for a big show

JEAN LOWERISON | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Hey, who invited that grumpy old Ebenezer Scrooge to our fair city? What's he doing making fun of our ball teams and telling those nice charity collectors, the Saint Sisters Gertrude and Prudence, "Tell the Padres you struck out!"?

"Ebenezer Scrooge's BIG San Diego Christmas Show" — an awfully long title for a snappy 80-minute show — is in its West Coast premiere through Dec. 29 at The Old Globe's White Theatre.

The time frame of the beloved Dickens novella has been moved up a few decades, and Scrooge has moved here to make his fortune by serving the financial needs of the city's Panama-California Exposition.

Playwrights Gordon Greenberg and Steve Rosen started this whole thing two years ago with an original version in Pennsylvania. Old Globe artistic chief Barry Edelstein saw it there and asked if they could

tailor it to San Diego. The answer was yes, and co-playwright Greenberg directs the show here.

Five actors — four playing multiple roles and one playing the old grouch — take advantage of cleverly-designed suggestions of sets and props and a script full of local references to bring the old English story to sunny (well, not so much on the day I'm writing this) San Diego.

Tonight, the local carolers, The Sons of Pitches, have to perform out in the freezing cold because "there isn't a theater in all of San Diego."

The skeleton of the Dickens original — the characters and the message of redemption — remain. But this Scrooge has a modern security system (the kind that goes "bloop bloop") when he settles down (in the "balmy" 44 degrees of his bedroom) to read his favorite book, Scrooge and Marley's business ledger.

He's a bit nonplused by the ghosts who visit, but it takes the



Cathryn Wake as Ghost of Christmas Present and Robert Joy as Ebenezer Scrooge. (Photos by Jim Cox)

misfortune of Bob Cratchit's young son Tiny Tim to change his heart. And that's what this show is all about.

Because of the performance requirements, it took months to find this remarkable cast. Among them, they play 50 roles — some in rapid succession — in addition to singing, dancing, playing musical instruments and being funny.

Broadway veteran Robert Joy plays Scrooge with plenty of grouch but here, even Scrooge gets some humor. When he is taken to visit his old school, the Burberry Academy for Unloved Boys, he says, "How I've missed it: the rain, the sandwiches, the repression."

Cathryn Wake and local actor Jacque Wilke play wonderfully off each other as the malaprop-prone Saint Sisters, as well as handling several other

parts (including one ghost) each. Orville Mendoza plays Bob Cratchit, Marley, Scrooge's first boss Fezzi (who makes wigs) and others with great panache... and acts as music director. Dan Rosales gets to be Fred, Young Scrooge and Tiny Tim (and operate Tim as a puppet).

Production values are high. Kudos to the tech team: Set designer Adam Koch, for the malleable set with movable doors that lock in or out, and the magically appearing Christmas tree.

David Israel Reynoso designed the costumes — both time appropriate and seemingly easy to get on and off in a hurry. Amanda Zieve and Bart Fasbender contribute fine lighting and sound designs.

The grouchy old guy is back. If you think you've seen enough of him, do yourself a favor and see

just one more version of the timeless story. This one's worth it.

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



The details

"Ebenezer Scrooge's BIG San Diego Christmas Show" plays through Dec. 29, 2019, at The Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

Tuesday through Friday at 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m. (Some exceptions; check with the theater.)

Tickets: 619-234-5623 or theoldglobe.org



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Addressing climate change will take a group effort and there's a new tool to show us how

CA 53 BULLETIN
By REP. SUSAN DAVIS



A new United Nations report released in November provided a serious warning regarding the climate crisis we face. Unless we act now, global temperatures will spike 4 degrees by the end of the century.

This year has been the hottest on record and we are seeing the impact. Superstorms, raging wildfires, droughts seem to be the new normal.

The good news is that solutions are not elusive and by working together there is a way to slow the rise in global temperatures.

While the House has taken action to address climate change, there is a new tool people are using around the country to better understand the challenges we face in creating viable solutions.

The En-ROADS initiative, created by MIT and the nonprofit, nonpartisan Climate Interactive, is a program that brings people together and requires them to engage as a group to craft climate change policy.

The nations of the world came together under the Paris Agreement with a goal of reducing global temperatures by 2 degrees by the end of the century.

With this goal in mind, the En-ROADS program looks to show how cooperation and a comprehensive approach can achieve the same outcome.

Mostly, it has been students who have taken up this challenge, but the creators of the initiative believe state, city, and local government leaders can participate to determine what policies they can implement to stem the rise in global temperatures.

In fact, just last month members of Congress were briefed on this new program.

En-ROADS takes a group of people and divides them into small groups representing stakeholders, such as climate activists, developed nations, developing nations, energy efficiency, fossil fuels, and renewable energy.

They then set about coming up with policy solutions requiring each group representing different sectors to find an approach that leads to a two-degree drop in global temperatures by 2100.

The groups eventually (usually through encouragement) then begin to negotiate with each other to come to an agreement.

The two big takeaways from these sessions? People are realizing how hard it is to reach the goal of reducing rising

temperatures and there is no silver bullet to ending climate change. It's going to take discussion, compromise, and a myriad of approaches to get the job done!

We cannot just look at reducing carbon emissions — while very important and a key component to reducing the effects of climate change.

We must look at sustainable communities. It's not just cars with better gas mileage but how about fewer cars! Encouraging more bicycling through increased bike lanes. Making public transportation more accessible, reliable, and more affordable.

There is reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and increasing access to renewable energy. Looking at population and deforestation. Carbon pricing needs to play a role as well as building and industry energy efficiency.

How we look at these aspects to address the climate crisis and doing it while working together is what En-ROADS is all about.

This climate interactive tool should not be seen as something just for the classroom or government representatives. It can be a resource for citizens to use to learn more about how we can address the existential threat of our lifetime. Maybe they can take what they learned to their

local representatives with ideas and proposals on how we solve this problem.

Get together with your friends, relatives, and neighbors. The challenge: See if you can achieve what world leaders are striving for, which is to bring down our planet's temperature.

We would love to hear what you discovered and how you approached the goal of reducing climate change. Send your findings to susan-davis.house.gov/contact.

We are literally all in this together. No one is immune. This tool shows it will take a team effort — people coming together to find common ground to solve this. Only together can we create a sustainable Earth for future generations.

— Congresswoman Davis represents central San Diego, including the communities of Grantville, Allied Gardens, San Carlos, Del Cerro, Old Town, Kensington, Mission Hills, University Heights, Hillcrest Bankers Hill, North Park, South Park, Talmadge, Normal Heights, as well as La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Spring Valley and parts of El Cajon and Chula Vista.❖

Christmas

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

surfboard for 200 pictures," said Smith, who has also played Santa for SeaWorld San Diego and the San Diego Zoo. "But making those kids smile is wonderful and the event itself is always remarkably successful and fun."

"He's the original San Diego Santa Clause," added Scott Andrews, the event's marketing director.

Holidays at Seaport Village takes place throughout the month of December, having kicked off last weekend with Smith arriving at the village on watercraft Saturday, Nov. 30, for his signature Surfin' Santa reveal, parade and photo-op session. In 2013, USA Today named Smith's arrival one of the "10 best Santa sightings in America."

"It's always been a popular event," said Smith, who will also be the guest of honor at "Breakfast with Surfin' Santa" at Harbor House Restaurant Saturday, Dec. 14. From 9 to 11 a.m., holiday guests can chow down and take pictures with Smith, get their face painted, enjoy balloon artists and a kids show. Every Saturday in December will also feature Smith's band Jackstraws, also

known as the "Surfing Santa Band," who will play Beach Boys-inspired music while fashioning Santa hats and other Christmas attire.

"The crowds are wonderful, and the support is great," added Smith. "Seaport's holiday festivities have always been big and they're getting bigger."

This year will likely be Seaport's largest holiday bash to date, according to Andrews. Holidays at Seaport will be featuring more entertainment than ever before, with their "Holidays by the Bay" partnering with Nomad Artz, to showcasing candy cane stilt walkers and pop-music carolers Saturdays and Sundays from now until Dec. 22nd, as well as a human-sized, beach-themed snow globe with a dancer contortionist inside, featured Dec. 8 and 15. Plus, live music from jazz and orchestral to contemporary will be up for enjoyment everyday by the food courts.

"We're really excited to bring these creative characters together," said Nomad Artz Costume and Booking Manager Layla Marcus. "This is a time for families to get together to celebrate the holidays and San Diego culture as well. We don't get the snow, but we do get the sun and the waves and it gives

us an excuse to be outside and just play."

But Holidays at Seaport Village is also adopting a philanthropic approach this year, joining forces with Surfrider Foundation San Diego to display Surfrider artist works, like a Christmas tree made entirely out of repurposed trash, to promote sustainability and bring awareness to plastic pollution in the oceans. Seaport Village is also inviting guests to donate new toys at "Santa's Workshop" (located in front of the Harbor House), which will be gifted to Toys for Tots.

"This is a way we can impact our guests in an active and positive way," said Andrews. "The holidays are not just about entertainment, it's also a season for giving."

Feeding San Diego will also have an ornament-making station near Santa's Workshop, where families and friends can create angels out of plastic spoons and write encouraging messages to be put in Feeding San Diego food-filled backpacks that go out on Fridays to kids in need of meals.

"It's a really great opportunity for us to get the message out about the face of hunger in our community," said Charina Layman from Feeding San Diego. "Especially during times

like this, when we have the threat of wildfires, people fall into need very easily being displaced from their homes and having to make difficult choices."

While it's still one of his more taxing jobs, it's these nonprofit connections and the greater-good focus which has made Surfin' Santa Smith's favorite Santa role.

"There's a unique energy that comes with this particular event," said Smith. "This event really means a lot to me and I'm proud of what they do. It's a big reason why playing this Santa character has become so special to me."

Other Holidays at Seaport Village activities include holiday film screenings by Seaport Cinema, photos with Santa at Santa's Workshop, San Diego Bay Parade of Lights (Dec. 8 and 15), and a Menorah lighting on Dec. 28. For more information on tickets and times, visit seaportvillage.com/holidays.

— Victoria Davis is a full-time, multi-media, freelance journalist. You can follow her on Instagram and Twitter @victoriadavisd. To contact Victoria, email at vedavisdepict@gmail.com.❖

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Little Italy reflects on 2019, looks ahead to the next decade

Little Italy News
By **CHRISTOPHER GOMEZ**

Say goodbye to 2019 and ciao to 2020! As the new decade fast approaches, the Little Italy Association takes time to reflect on 2019's greatest achievements and looks ahead at what is to come in the new year and beyond.

This year, the neighborhood expanded with an abundance of new businesses and a new residential space. With all the impressive changes, the emphasis of community has remained the same with the return of several staple community events and holiday festivities that everyone knows and loves.

Setting fire to the San Diego brunch scene, Little Italy welcomed an immersive breakfast dining experience with the opening of Morning Glory in April. Other new restaurants entering the area were Zinque, Farmer's Table, Parakeet Café and the globally popular burger joint, Shake Shack.

In addition, Carté Hotel opened its doors in September, offering an upscale hotel experience with luxurious

amenities that is just steps away from all the excitement of Little Italy's shops and restaurants. Locals and visitors alike are able to enjoy sea-to-table dining and a rooftop with exceptional views of the bay and city. The gorgeous Luma Apartments, a 24-story high rise, also came to completion and began leasing, meeting San Diegans' demand for new residential living in the center of the city.

Within the community, residents and visitors celebrated a year of highly-anticipated annual events like Taste of Little Italy, Labor Day Stickball Tournament, State of the Neighborhood and Trick-or-Treat on India Street. San Diegans said "argh" one final time at the last pirate-themed Ferragosto event that offered guests a festive old sea-side experience and raised over \$230,000 to support Our Lady of Rosary Church, Washington Elementary School and our very own Little Italy Association. Mission Federal ArtWalk celebrated its 35th annual arts festival showcasing over 300 local and international artists as well as providing an array of

live entertainment. All of the 2019 events saw some of the largest crowds to date.

Looking forward to 2020, residents can expect new businesses like the expansion of the Little Italy Food Hall to enter the neighborhood. Developers Holland Partner Group and Bridge Housing Group plan to develop a new 30-story residential tower with 295 market rate residential units and an 8-story building with 63 apartments for seniors on Kettner Boulevard between Beech and Cedar Streets. Not to mention Little Italy's tallest tower to break ground at India & W. Cedar Streets.

While it's time to say goodbye to the end of a decade, we welcome 2020 with open arms as we look onwards to new possibilities for one of San Diego's ever-evolving top hotspot.

To stay connected with Little Italy, check out what's going on in the neighborhood by following on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. For more information, visit LittleItalySD.com.

Spotlight on the academy: Kevin Petti, Ph.D.

TOM CESARINI | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Kevin Petti, Ph.D., is an alum of the University of San Diego, earning his doctorate in 2006.

Dr. Petti is also a dual U.S./Italian citizen, college professor, textbook coauthor, and president-emeritus of the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society. Dr. Petti teaches anatomy and physiology, human dissection, and health science at San Diego Miramar College. Dr. Petti also leads academic programs to Italy focusing on the genesis of anatomy as a science and its influence on the Renaissance masters in the Anatomia Italiana program he founded in 2012. His students range from anatomy professors pursuing continuing education to undergraduate study-abroad programs for San Diego State University.

Dr. Petti is invited to speak about the connection between art and anatomy in Renaissance Italy at international conferences, museums, and Italian American groups as well as universities throughout North America and Europe. The Italian government has invited him to speak at their Cultural Institutes in Los Angeles, New York City, and Houston; and the University of Palermo, Sicily,

hosted Dr. Petti for a week as a guest lecturer in its seminar series celebrating its 210th anniversary. In November, Dr. Petti is speaking at the annual conference of Italian Scientists and Scholars of North America, hosted at the Italian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Recently, Dr. Petti gave a lecture at the University of San Diego as part of a Convivio and University of San Diego-sponsored program highlighting a new art exhibition at the university — "Christ: Life, Death, and Resurrection," which runs through Dec. 13. Dr. Petti's presentation, "Connecting Art, Anatomy, and Religion in the Italian Renaissance," served as the perfect precursor for guests before attending their private viewing of the Renaissance print artifacts on loan from the British Museum. In his discussion, Dr. Petti focused on the nexus of art, anatomy, and religion and the oft-unknown connection of the Renaissance masters' art form to the discipline of anatomy and how these masters' analysis and knowledge of anatomy were vital components in the creation of many of their artistic treasures.

— To read the rest of this article, visit sandiegodowntownnews.com.

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The San Diego Union-Tribune



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Seafood cornucopia

A dual-dining concept on the bay turns 30

Restaurant Review
By FRANK SABATINI JR.

Like fraternal twins, The Fish Market is two entities. Born together — on Dec. 13, 1989 to be exact — each carry decidedly different traits.

The ground level greets with sushi and oyster bars as well as full-service dining areas accented by oak-clad walls, brass railings, and fiberglass fish hanging above.

The upper floor is the sibling that likes things a little posher and trendier. It goes by the name Top of the Market, and flaunts cream-colored walls, raised booths and Art Deco-ish lighting fixtures.

What they both share in common, however, are ringside views of San Diego Bay.

There are six locations of The Fish Market — locally another in Del Mar, plus four in Northern California. The original kitchen was founded in 1976 in Palo Alto by business partners Bob Wilson and the late Fred Duckett, who would harpoon swordfish for the restaurants. Eventually the duo launched Farallon Fisheries up north, which supplies the company with a variety of fresh seafood and smoked fish.

Yet some species such as opah and Pacific swordfish are sourced only a stone's throw away from local fishermen at Tuna Harbor. During my recent first-ever visit to the lower level with a friend, the latter ended up on my plate in all its steak-like glory, and straight off the mesquite grill. Dense, rich and juicy, a quick squeeze of lemon was all it needed. Although as with all of the fresh-catch choices, you can opt to have it grilled with blackened or Cajun seasonings.

Meals kick off with baskets of good sourdough bread, an amenity that demanded a warm spinach salad composed simply with kalamata olives, creamy feta crumbles, and balsamic reduction. We skipped over the oyster and sushi selection and proceeded instead to truffle-rosemary scallops and ginger-lime prawns — two impressive starters of modern-day origin.

The large, pearly scallops were bedded on a salty polenta cake studded with apples and mushrooms. The overall scheme was poignantly complex.

Ginger escaped the prawns, but the lime didn't. We weren't disappointed since the magic of the mesquite grill gave the crustaceans all the flavor they needed while seeping also into the mound of sprightly coleslaw beneath.

My grilled swordfish entree came with a choice of two sides. I stuck to the old-school options — au gratin potatoes, which unlike most were deliciously crusty rather than goopy, and "fishwife rice" consisting of rice and vermicelli pasta seasoned with browned butter. Indeed, I was dining like it was 1989. And I didn't mind one bit.

My companion gravitated to a pair of fish tacos after learning the opah filets tucked inside are breaded in panko crumbs. Their crispy outcome came with the bonus of kicky chipotle-ranch dressing, which proved a tastier alternative to traditional white sauce.

We were in good hands with a waiter named Dave, who has worked at The Fish Market for 26 years. Off duty, he's an ocean fisherman, so naturally all of our questions about the menu's vast seafood options were answered with authority.

It would take multiple visits to assess the menu's winners and losers. But right down to the exquisitely spiced pumpkin cheesecake and perfectly tart key lime pie, we gave this ground-floor operation an A rating. It matched in quality the experiences I've enjoyed upstairs over the years.

To my surprise, I learned some days later from The Fish Market's president, Dwight Colton, that both levels are slated for remodeling in the next few years. Design details, he added, are still in the works.

— 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.❖

The Fish Market
750 N. Harbor Drive
619-232-3474, thefishmarket.com
Prices: Soups, salads and appetizers, \$7 to \$23.25; sushi and seafood cocktails, \$8.25 to \$17; tacos and sandwiches, \$13.50 to \$19.95; pastas, \$15 and \$20.25; entrees and specialties, \$12.25 to \$51



A destination seafood restaurant shrouded in greenery and flowers (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)





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The history of a historian

SANDEE WILHOIT | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Some of the most innocuous buildings have the most interesting stories, and some of their owners are often more intriguing than the buildings themselves. Such may be the case of the Bancroft Building, a modest, almost plain building in the heart of the Gaslamp built by Hubert Howe Bancroft.

Bancroft came to California in March of 1852. He was sent by his employer and brother-in-law to open a regional office for his Buffalo, New York book company. As his father had come to California in 1850 to pan for gold, Bancroft already had an early interest in the American West. Bancroft proved quite successful, and in the process of developing the book business, he entered the world of publishing and book collecting. His collection, which became a bit of an obsession, numbered in the tens of thousands and included books, maps, manuscripts, printed documents and many narratives dictated by pioneers, settlers and politicians to both Bancroft and his assistants. In 1868, Bancroft resigned from his brother-in-law's business to devote himself solely to writing and publishing. He had ultimately amassed the largest known collection of information on the

American West, which he decided to utilize in producing an encyclopedic history of the region. It was projected to be 39 volumes based on the history and people of western North America. He employed more than 600 collaborators to assist him in this daunting task, and he assigned himself the five volumes on "The Native Races of the Pacific States of North America." He wrote an additional five volumes on the history of California and a defense of the vigilante committees of the Old West. Although Bancroft claimed to have written the entire series, other writers contributed extensively. Most notable was Frances Aretta Fuller Victor. Bancroft received a gross return of more than \$1 million for the project, and it remains today as one of the most valuable sources of American Western history.

In 1869, Bancroft also traveled to San Diego and purchased several plots of land both in the Gaslamp and in Spring Valley. Unfortunately, in 1886, his publishing company in San Francisco caught fire and much of the history

he had written burned. Luckily, he had moved his personal library to a fireproof building in 1881, and it still contained 45,000 volumes.

It was at this point that Bancroft moved to San Diego, with the intention of replicating his library in our fair city. He settled his family in Spring Valley in the adobe cottage built in 1856 on his property by Augustus Ensworth, the original landholder. It is now known as the Hubert H. Bancroft Ranch House, and is a National Historic Landmark. He also has a library named after him at UC Berkeley, as the University of California purchased his book collection in 1905.

The Bancroft Building was to be a scaled-down version of the Bancroft history library in San Francisco. Thus, a notable architect from San Francisco, Clinton Day, was brought to San Diego to design and oversee construction. The original structure was a four-story ornate building with spacious elevators, as it was the tallest local edifice at the time. It was constructed of brick with elaborate stone trim used to hide



The interior of the Bancroft Building/Aztec Theatre

air vents. Mr. Bancroft's building, which cost \$40,000 to build, never fulfilled its original intent as a historical library. Instead, it was utilized as a source of rental income. As Mr. Bancroft came from a stern religious background, there was a stringent lease in which Bancroft stated that "there be no disreputable or objectionable persons on premises, with no prostitution or women of known unchastity."

The first tenant was The City of Paris, which featured dry goods, ladies' and gentleman's clothing, boots, shoes and a line of Christmas specialties that they claimed, "could not be surpassed in the city." In 1887, the Cuyamaca Club rooms moved in, and were rapidly followed by the Jordan and Atherton Commercial College, which occupied most of the third and fourth floors. The college was billed as a stenographic, typing, English and Spanish institute which qualified young ladies and gentlemen for the "custody of properties or for mercantile positions." Another early tenant was the W.H.S. Tayne Fire Insurance Company. In 1910, a meat market occupying the ground floor became the Jewell Theater and a marquee was added to the front. The Jewell became the California Theatre between 1920-1929 and then morphed into the Aztec Theatre in 1930. The Aztec advertised "all talking comedy." Some early films

were "Shipmates" and "Footlights and Fools." The comedies had a good run, but succumbed to the social and economic change of the Gaslamp in the '60s and '70s, and the Aztec became an X-rated movie house. This, of course, was a far cry from the original lease by Mr. Bancroft prohibiting such activities in his building. Fortunately, he had passed away of acute peritonitis in 1918, and didn't have to view the decline of his property and moral values!

The building itself had many of its decorative features removed or covered when the marquee was installed, and in 1919, the upper three stories were dismantled leaving the one-story building visible today. The original interior wood floors are still preserved and visible, as well as the large basement, lightwell, exposed support beams, and dagger-like square nails. If one really looks hard, a few examples of the decorative trim around a window can also be seen from the inside. Although the building does not represent much of its original exterior facade or features, it is an important reminder of our ever-evolving historical past.

It is now occupied by Urban Outfitters, purveyors of clothing, accessories and home decor items.

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

Bancroft Building/ Aztec Theatre

1886

665 Fifth Ave.

Architectural Style: Modern

Architect: Clinton Day



The exterior of the Bancroft Building, which is an Urban Outfitters today
(Photos by Sandee Wilhoit)

Cali Strong – San Diego's Sports Brand with a Mission!

MIKE ROSENSTEEL | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Cali Strong — The California Sports Company is a local San Diego brand that offers some of the most innovative products in the sports industry. It is also one of the coolest and most entertaining shopping experiences you will encounter as a consumer. I was struck by the warm welcome as soon as I entered, along with a tour of their unique products and ending with a chance to compete at cornhole, basketball or football game to win prizes. Not surprising, they have a rave 4.9 star Google rating with not even one single negative comment! While I was there, customers said it was the most fun they have ever had in a retail setting and Cali Strong is their new favorite store!

Because Cali Strong is a direct-to-consumer brand, they can offer a tremendous value of free

\$15 socks with every item purchased as well as free \$75 shoes with every skateboard. What is also prevalent is the superior quality of their t-shirts, hats, jackets, backpacks, shoes, skateboards and one-of-a-kind bikes. "We only carry exclusive, high-quality merchandise so it becomes your favorite," explained Co-Founder, Jim Stroesser, best known for his turnaround efforts for the likes of Nike, Converse & Oakley.

Another example of what makes Cali Strong so unique is their tactical hats with a selection of 16 removable Velcro Morale Patches for a different look, based on the occasion. Also notable is Cali Strong's Glow-in-the-Dark T-Shirts series which is activated by light and glows bright blue at night. They even offer a unique complete head-to-toe series where the hat, shirt, sock and skateboard share the same designs including some

with hidden brand messages.

But, what makes Cali Strong stand out most is its mission to support give-back programs to kids organizations that stand for positive values and their support of military families. Many celebrity athletes and entertainers love to wear the gear, such as local icon Bill Walton, a Cali Strong ambassador. There are dozens of sports celebrities and sports greats who have collaborated with Cali Strong to produce products for each celebrity's cause or charity including Jamie Foxx, Andre Reed, Terrell Davis, Ribeiro Jui Jitzu and many more.

Cali Strong also has a fundraiser affiliate program wherein it teams up with any San Diego community organization involved with today's youth that instills core values, good citizenship and character development be it through education, sports, music or faith with 20%



The Cali Strong truck (Photo courtesy Cali Strong)

of top-line sales donated back to the parent organization. For more information, please contact Co-founder Jennifer Echeverria at j@cali-strong.com.

Cali Strong supports our local military year-round with multiple store locations on the military bases and the annual "Sock it to Me" program for soldiers and veterans. In addition, Cali Strong supports the Wounded Warrior project and a special Military training program coached by veterans and active duty which implements military training skills to high-school athletes.

So, shop local and help Cali Strong in their Mission to raise and inspire the next generation of leaders. Visit Cali Strong store at the Headquarters in the Seaport Village District for unique gifts that your loved ones will enjoy!

— Mike Rosensteel is the sales manager for Downtown News.

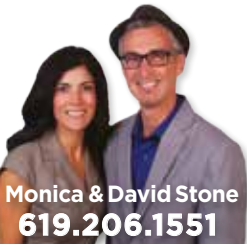
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4				8				6
	8						9	4
		6			5			
		9	1			5		
					9	7		
		8	4	3		2		
1								
			6					
9			7	2	8	6		

Level: Advanced

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
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15									17		
	18				19		20			21	
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48					49			50	51	52	53
55					56				57		58
59					60				61		
62					63					64	

ACROSS

- 1 Egyptian bull-god
- 5 America
- 8 Type of field (abbr.)
- 11 Reagan's Deputy AG
- 13 Negative
- 14 Mother of Hermes
- 15 Summer and Winter Olympics gold medal winner
- 16 In shape
- 17 Oh my goodness!
- 18 People of Guinea or Sierra Leone
- 20 A form of "to be"
- 21 Succulent plant
- 22 Estranges
- 25 Honest
- 30 Showing conviction
- 31 High schoolers' test
- 32 Implant
- 33 Acknowledgment
- 38 Cash dispenser
- 41 Transferred to another
- 43 Superhero group
- 45 Photographers
- 48 Small, rich sponge cake
- 49 Power to perceive
- 50 Heavy cavalry sword
- 55 Israel's first permanent UN delegate
- 56 Everything
- 57 Afflicted
- 59 Language spoken in Chad
- 60 Pioneering MC Kool Moe
- 61 Jewish spiritual leader
- 62 Keyboard key
- 63 Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64 Impudence

DOWN

- 1 Type of degree
- 2 Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3 Large, predatory lizard
- 4 River in Romania
- 5 Biased
- 6 Parties
- 7 TV's used to need one
- 8 Philly football player
- 9 Recognized ethnic group of China
- 10 Gradually disappear
- 12 Large, dark antelope
- 14 Vegetarians won't eat it
- 19 Takes the energy out of
- 23 Body part
- 24 Succeed in achieving
- 25 Where golfers begin
- 26 Computer memory
- 27 One who buys and sells securities
- 28 Midway between north and northeast
- 29 Quiet and rather dull
- 34 A limb on which to walk
- 35 It precedes two
- 36 Of she
- 37 Commercials
- 39 Necessary for sewing
- 40 Infectious viral disease
- 41 Expression of good wishes
- 42 Some are contact
- 44 More plentiful
- 45 Secret political clique
- 46 Behind the stern of a ship
- 47 Supernatural force
- 48 Altar in Orthodox churches
- 51 Swiss river
- 52 Impartiality
- 53 "Luther" actor Idris
- 54 They resist authority (slang)
- 58 Criticize

December Nights, membership and poinsettia display!

Growing Balboa Park

By John Bolthouse



Friends of Balboa Park, a nonprofit that champions the legacy and beauty of the park, is stewarding a number of wonderful opportunities for the community to enhance Balboa Park during this holiday season.

DECEMBER NIGHTS

During December Nights, Friends will be hosting a pop-up shop at the Balboa Park Carousel on Dec. 6 and 7. We will be selling animal-themed tree

ornaments, stocking stuffers, and the limited-edition Balboa Park Carousel 2020 calendars! Proceeds support fundraising efforts to restore and preserve the historic Balboa Park Carousel.

BE A FRIEND

Friends is rounding out our 20th anniversary this year, and with the community's help, we have accomplished several milestones to preserve and enhance Balboa Park. Among many initiatives, we launched a membership program to facilitate even more people joining our efforts to make a meaningful difference in Balboa Park. Join online at friendsofbalboapark.org/membership.

POINSETTIAS IN THE BOTANICAL BUILDING

Friends of Balboa Park's seasonal floral will be filling the Botanical Building with traditional and hybrid poinsettias throughout December. You can help make this display a

festive sight-to-see by making your tax-deductible donation today.

BALBOA PARK CAROUSEL

In 2017, Friends acquired the historic Balboa Park Carousel, and launched a multi-year \$3 million fundraising capital campaign to restore and complete the purchase of the carousel from its prior owner. The campaign recently surpassed the \$1.9 million mark, thanks to the community's generosity. We still have a ways to go to reach our next milestone and need your support. Please consider a donation today and help preserve one of the park's most beloved icons!

For more information on Friends or the Balboa Park Carousel, call 619-232-2282 or visit friendsofbalboapark.org.

— Friends of Balboa Park is a non-profit affinity organization that champions and enhances the park by connecting the philanthropic community to Balboa Park.❖



(Courtesy photo)

Holiday Worship Directory

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Downtown News

COMMUNITY AND ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

Sunday, Dec. 8

Neave Trio

The Neave Trio is presented by the Central Library Concert Series for a performance in Neil Morgan Auditorium (330 Park Blvd.), located across the courtyard from the Central Library entrance. Since 1955, the Central Library Fall Concert Series has hosted chamber music concerts – featuring touring ensembles and acclaimed San Diego musicians – and it continues to be one of the longest-running concert series in the city. All performances are free, open to the public, and last approximately one hour. 2:30 p.m.

San Diego Bay Parade of Lights

Continuing its long-standing San Diego tradition, the 48th annual San Diego Bay Parade of Lights promises to dazzle and entertain bayfront crowds during the evenings of Dec. 8 and 15. Participants in the highly anticipated holiday boat parade will decorate their craft to fit this year's theme, "Comic-Con on the Bay." Presented by the Port of San Diego, the San Diego Bay Parade of Lights brings more than 100,000 San Diego residents and visitors to the shores of San Diego Bay each year. The procession of approximately 80 lavishly decorated boats has become one of the most iconic events in the region. This year, the San Diego Bay Parade of Lights has partnered with Comic-Con to kick off the holiday season. The parade begins at 5 p.m. at Shelter Island and proceeds to Harbor Island, the Embarcadero, Seaport Village, the Pier at Cesar Chavez Park, and ends at the Ferry Landing in Coronado.



Parade of Lights Watch Party

To close out this year's 30th anniversary celebration, the San Diego Convention Center will host a free community party on its bayside terraces called Season's Showcase: A Parade of Lights Watch Party. The convention center's big screen will broadcast the parade of more than 80 boats decorated with holiday lights showing off their favorite Comic-Con superheroes. Along with watching the parade, families can sip on festive beverages while enjoying live performances from across San Diego County. 4-8 p.m.

Christmas Classics

Join us on the rooftop as we celebrate an evening of beloved holiday animated classics that are perfect for the whole family. We kick off with "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," based on the popular book by Dr. Seuss; next, we present the memorable Rankin/Bass television special from 1974, "The Year Without a Santa Claus"; and we close out with Charles Schultz's 1965 staple, "A Charlie Brown Christmas." This is a family-friendly screening open to anyone ages 3 and above. Guests 17 and under can go for a special price of \$12 and must be accompanied by an adult. Rooftop Cinemas Club is located at Manchester Grand Hyatt. 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 11

Stand-up comedy

Comedy returns to the Acid Vault at Amplified East Village! Headlining is Joe Praino from the "Dirty Sports" podcast, and Just for Laughs. Featuring is Dustin Nickerson, and Joe Grillo. Show starts at 8 p.m. and it's only a \$10 cover. 1429 Island Ave.

Poster unveiling party

We are thrilled to announce the new official poster for the 27th annual San Diego Latino Film Festival. \$5 tickets include a voucher for one food item and a drink. 5:30-8 p.m. at Centro Cultural de la Raza, 2004 Park Blvd.

Thursday, Dec. 12

Wild Night Out

This exclusive adults-only affair will allow grown-up guests to preview the zoo's holiday-themed Jungle Bells presented by California Coast Credit Union. Celebrate and enjoy an evening at the world-famous San Diego Zoo, without the kids and the crowds. Added perks include unique talks with keepers, up-close animal ambassador presentations, a complimentary beverage (choice of beer, wine, soda, or water) and more! 5:30-9 p.m. Wild Night Out — 21-and-up tickets are \$40 per person and include zoo admission after 5:30 p.m., plus one beverage voucher. Additional drink and food vouchers are available for purchase. Tickets are available at sandiegozoo.org and at zoo ticket booths. Parking is free.

Friday, Dec. 13

'The Eight: Reindeer Monologues'

Santa's reindeer tell all! With each deer's confession, the

truth behind the shocking allegations becomes clearer and clearer and seems to implicate everyone from the littlest elf to the tainted saint himself. Don't miss this expose of North Pole naughtiness. Starring David Janisch as Dasher, Eric Trigg as Comet, Christine McCoy as Dancer, Andrew Walters as Hollywood (Prancer), Mclain Parker as Cupid, Melanie Mino as Blitzen, Michael Adler as Donner and Kellen Gold as Vixen. 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$65. Point Loma Playhouse.

Meet the Winemaker: Victor Torres Alegre

Baja Wine + Food brings a unique opportunity to taste Valle de Guadalupe wines with their makers, while enjoying the stunning San Diego skyline from IDEA1 Rooftop Lounge. Don't miss the chance to meet and mingle with legendary groundbreaking oenologist Victor Manuel Torres Alegre of Vinicola Torres Alegre y Familia! The rooftop wine experience is accompanied with Baja cheeses and charcuterie beautifully styled by Al 'Fresko' Experience. Also, photographer Josue Castro will be taking artistic B&W portraits and live music will be played by Flameneco fusion extraordinaire David De Alva. 6-8 p.m. at 899 Park Blvd. Tickets \$50. A taco party at 8:30 p.m. at LOLA 55 will be held.

Saturday, Dec. 14

Breakfast with Santa

Gather round in Le Fontainebleau at the Westgate Hotel for a bountiful breakfast buffet featuring seasonal favorites where little ones will be treated with a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Breakfast with Santa will take place on Saturday, Dec. 14, and Saturday, Dec. 21, from 9 a.m.-noon. Prices are \$70 for adults, \$35 for children ages 4-12, and complimentary for children 3 and under, tax and gratuity not included. To reserve a Breakfast with Santa experience, please call 619-238-1818.

Toast of Gaslamp

It's time to toast the creative craft cocktail culture, thriving dining scene, and unique retailers emerging in the heart of Downtown San Diego, the Gaslamp Quarter. With the holidays just around the corner, the Toast of Gaslamp will bring festive feelings and a holly jolly good time to the Gaslamp with a seasonal self-guided tasting tour. Toast, taste and shop your way through the Gaslamp Quarter from 1-5 p.m. with 20 holiday-inspired bites, 20 seasonal sips and 10 exclusive shopping

deals! Tickets are \$30 day of. Visit toastofgaslamp.com to find participating restaurants.

Sunday, Dec. 15



Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade

Pet owners and their adorable companions are invited to deck the halls in the festive costumes of their choice and step out on the town during this jolly promenade and free pet holiday market. The 12th annual event begins under the iconic Gaslamp Quarter archway and ends at MLK Promenade Park. Day-of registration and check-in will begin at 11:30 a.m. before the parade kicks off at 2 p.m. There will be nine fun costume contests so bring your furry family members in their best holiday attire! All pets are welcome to participate in this holly-jolly good time!

Along with live music, presentations, and festive fun, registrants will also receive a holiday goodie bag full of fun pet samples, toys, coupons, and other gifts. Participation entry in the parade is only \$15 per pet and owner duo if you pay in advance and \$20 on the day of.

Wooftop Cinemas Club

Wooftop Cinema Club will make its return to the Manchester Grand Hyatt as families will have the chance to bring their own special "Max" to a screening of the 2000 Jim Carrey hit, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Nearly 50 pooches of all shapes and sizes attended our first Wooftop screening September so if you missed out then, this is your chance to join fellow dog-lovers and get your four-legged friends into the spirit of the holidays by dressing them in their favorite winter sweaters for Wooftop Cinema Club! Special dog treats and



other surprise goodies will be available for purchase. 6 p.m. This is also a family-friendly event, with tickets available for ages 3 and up. Tickets are \$17.

Thursday, Dec. 19

'La Befana Vien di Notte'

San Diego Italian Film Festival presents a holiday film! "The Legend of the Christmas Witch" will show in Italian with English subtitles. During the day, Paola is an ordinary primary school teacher, but at night, she turns into the Christmas Witch (the Befana), a magical creature who brings gifts to good children. One night, Paola disappears, kidnapped by Mr. Johnny, a cruel toymaker whose childhood was ruined by the witch and is now seeking revenge. A group of six brave students who have found out their teacher's secret will go through an extraordinary adventure to rescue her. \$12 general admission. 7:30 p.m. at the Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park.

Friday, Dec. 20

San Diego Gem Faire

Find the perfect holiday gifts for every budget — fine jewelry, crystals, gems, beads, gold and silver, minerals and much more at manufacturer's prices. More than 100 exhibitors from all over the world will be on site. Jewelry repair and ring sizing while you shop. Free hourly door prizes. Dec. 20-22, Scottish Rite Event Center, 1895 Camino del Rio S., San Diego. Friday, noon-6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$7 weekend pass. Free parking! For more info, visit gemfaire.com or call 503-252-8300 or email info@gemfaire.com.

Through Sunday, Dec. 22

'The Nutcracker'

City Ballet of San Diego's award-winning production of the classic holiday ballet "The Nutcracker" will perform 12 performances, Dec. 6-22, for its 27th anniversary season, plus a sensory-friendly "Nutcracker" on Dec. 11. Voted "San Diego's Best Nutcracker" (San Diego Dance Alliance Tommy Award), and described by

the San Diego Union-Tribune as "a plum of a 'Nutcracker,'" City Ballet's 25th annual "Nutcracker" returns to the historic Spreckels Theatre in Downtown San Diego, accompanied by The City Ballet Orchestra conducted by John Nettle. Patrons that come early will be entertained with holiday songs in the lobby by the City Ballet Chorus. Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$92, \$82, \$72, \$52, and \$32, with discounts available for students, seniors and military. For ballet tickets, On-Stage Reception tickets, or for more information, please call City Ballet's Box Office at 858-272-8663 or visit cityballet.org.

Friday, Dec. 31



NYE Beachfront Bash

Feast, drink and dance from beach to rooftop at NYE Beachfront Bash, San Diego's hottest NYE beachfront party on the Mission Beach boardwalk. NYE Beachfront Bash offers the ultimate party experience at multiple venues with DJs, live music and a Champagne toast for all. Get hyped at Beach House with an outdoor beach party, then groove on over to Draft, featuring top 40 hits with Chino from 93.3 and iHeartRadio. Elevate your celebration at the new exclusive VIP rooftop lounge at Cannonball. The party begins at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$49.

Latin NYE Party

The Westgate Hotel invites guests to their Latin NYE celebration complete with classic cocktails, a celebratory Latin-influenced buffet dinner, a DJ and a memorable live-music performance from Westgate Hotel favorite, Julio De La Huerfina. The party will take place in the Versailles Ballroom, where the night will kick off with an extravagant buffet dinner and DJ from 8-9:30 p.m. Julio De La Huerfina and his band will take the stage at 9:30 p.m. and will bring guests into the new year with their impressive fiesta vibes. A midnight Champagne toast will accompany a balloon drop to welcome 2020. Cocktail attire is required and a cash bar will be available. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$165 per person. ❖

LABOR

CONTINUED FROM Page 3

described as “the deliberate and willful exploitation of our labor by being assigned to work shifts of cruel and unnatural length.”

Immigrants in the so-called “underground economy” are already in a precarious position: if injured, they would have to fend for themselves because they are not listed on the business’s workers compensation insurance.

“[The] work place abuse faced by new immigrants leads us to feel that the employees were not even treated as human beings, but as slaves whose rights were ignored in lieu of the employer’s pursuit of economic success,” said the man.

After Atkins’ opening address, two survivors shared their stories publicly.

“My name is Angela and I’m a survivor of labor trafficking,” said Angela Guanzon. She explained how when she immigrated, she was told she was working to pay off debt. She wasn’t familiar with labor protection laws so she didn’t know it was illegal to be forced to stay in the nursing home she worked with no time off or breaks.

Guanzon raised the larger issue of consumerism and corporate greed adding to the worldwide issue, since fast fashion, cobalt mining (a material in high demand for its use in cell phones and other tech products), and agriculture often rely on forced or child labor, even if it does not happen in the U.S.

“Demand for cheap goods competes with corporations [that] want more profit,” she said. “We barter the humanity of those we don’t think about... We can and must do more.”

The advocate also raised the idea that labor trafficking is not focused on because it is not sensationalized by the media. “Next time you hear the horrors of sex trafficking, please remember the children exploited for labor,” she added.

Renuka Zellars spoke next about her time as a 6-year-old servant in India. While there, she was cared for by other servants and allowed to leave the house. That all changed when the adult daughter of the family she worked for brought her to Texas to care for her children and do all the housework in the giant mansion they lived in. Zellars said she had her first panic attack at 11 when she asked to go to school and was rebuffed. She decided she wanted to return to India and searched for her passport, which had been taken from her. Zellars found it and ran to the mansion’s gate, where a woman who was passing by while on a walk helped her leave the property. That woman wrapped her in a blanket later — Zellars said this was the first human touch she experienced since leaving India.

The rest of Zellars’ story before she ended up being adopted by a woman in San Diego reveals the problem of not having laws and policies around labor trafficking. The 13th Amendment may have abolished slavery and involuntary servitude in 1864, but Texas in

1989 had yet to institute any consequences for people who enslaved others. The woman who trafficked Zellars was able to simply walk out of the police station to continue her career in law without issue because there was nothing to arrest her on. Meanwhile, Zellars was sent to juvenile hall because no one quite knew what to do with her.

Zellars is not alone in being a victim who was treated like a criminal. One of the accomplishments Atkins touched on was legislation treating all minors involved in the sex industry as victims of trafficking instead of criminalizing them for prostitution. For labor victims who were forced to work in illegal industries like human smuggling or drug dealing, they are still going to be jailed for their own abuse. They may also be less likely to attempt to escape or report crimes committed against them for fear of facing prosecution.

“If the criminal justice system looked at them as victims instead of criminals, more would be identified,” said Jamie Beck, the president and managing attorney of Free to Thrive. She brought up how homelessness, drug addiction and being undocumented are contributing factors for individuals who are forced into illegal labor but do not profit from that labor. She also discussed how people who are labor trafficked are at higher risk of being sexually assaulted; some face the same issues as people who are sex trafficked.

Beck urged against lumping all victims together, but she did point out a few commonalities many

share, including their immigrant status and how many face psychological coercion and manipulation. In addition, she submitted that labor trafficking victims are more isolated from society than sex trafficking victims and are less likely to know they are victims.

“There is no one story of exploitation,” Beck said.

Currently, there is little outreach to victims from nonprofits; additionally, law enforcement depends on victims to identify themselves.

There is no proactive identification of victims, said Colleen Owens, the former senior research associate at the Urban Institute. She shared the results of one study she conducted which found 100% of victims she looked at were immigrants, and came from 29 origin countries. She found the top countries sending labor trafficking victims were located across Asia and in Mexico and the top industries targeted were domestic work, agriculture, construction, restaurant and janitorial work. Owens said in most crimes, you can point at criminals, “but in labor trafficking you have to point back at yourself.”

The only outreach to potential victims occurs in jails and prisons. Beck urged the commission to look at outreach to vulnerable populations. San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephan echoed this later when she broached the idea of leveraging the State Department to educate immigrants using certain work visas on U.S. labor laws when they first enter the country.

In her presentation, Stephan explained that due to the difficulties in

bringing up actual charges of labor trafficking, her team now focuses on finding money laundering, tax evasion and other money-related crimes labor traffickers commit because of their greed.

However, Nancy O’Malley, the district attorney of Alameda County, disagreed with Stephan’s approach, and said they shouldn’t rely on the Al Capone method of prosecution and ignore potential labor trafficking charges. O’Malley noted that there is a spectrum of labor trafficking from one individual exploiting another they see in a vulnerable position (such as when recent immigrants are forced into unpaid domestic work for a single household, like what happened to Zellars), to major operations exploiting many people at once (as was the case of dozens of men in Alameda County coerced to work in agriculture). She explained that in just 13 cases over the last several years, more than 700 victims were represented.

While the criminal justice aspect of addressing the human rights violation seemed the focus of the Nov. 21 hearing, some of the advocates who spoke urged public policy to change to better support victims with wraparound services after they are free from labor trafficking. Those who worked directly with victims complained that the specific criteria of funding barred many people from receiving necessary housing, food and care because they didn’t fit the narrow scope of each of those individual programs. Beck wanted a standardized screening and centralized services while others just asked for more flexibility in government funding.

There were many other ideas presented urging a multi-faceted approach to identify and combat labor trafficking. Commission member David Beier asked about the legality of naming and shaming businesses engaged in the practice to a site like Yelp. Others mentioned partnering again with labor unions, which used to be on the forefront of fighting human trafficking in California until the focus shifted to sex trafficking.

“Businesses and unions are disadvantaged by labor trafficking,” Beier said.

Educating the public and foster parents was also proposed, along with incentivizing prosecutors to bring labor trafficking charges.

The Little Hoover Commission will put together a report next year based on the findings of the public hearing and further studies on labor trafficking. Beier pointed out the recommendations of a previous report on the underground economy have yet to be implemented, so if labor trafficking is to be better addressed in the state Legislature, it will require coordination.

“They are victims who are thought to be criminals. That’s wrong,” Beier said. “It’s amazing we’ve gotten to a point where humans are treated like chattel, like property.”

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

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CONVENTION

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

The convention center’s history dates back to 1983 when city voters approved a proposal to build the waterfront property. The Port of San Diego, a public agency responsible for the tideland property lining San Diego Bay, agreed to fund the project for \$165 million with no “debt service.” The port leases the convention center to the city of San Diego for \$1 per year.

The City Council then established the San Diego Convention Center Corporation to manage and operate the completed facility. A nine-member board of directors direct the nonprofit, public benefit corporation.

The San Diego International Boat Show was the convention center’s inaugural event. Since then, events chosen in partnership with the San Diego Tourism Authority, have covered the gambit.



Composting at the convention center

Notables include the 1996 Republican National Convention, which hosted 30,000 attendees and generated \$160 million in economic impact; the Microsoft Professional Developer’s Conference and Exchange Conference; several Super Bowl media centers; “Wheel of Fortune”; Major League Baseball’s FanFest, which hosted more than 100,000 people; numerous medical conventions and trade shows; along with its most popular event, Comic-Con International, which consistently draws the year’s largest crowds.

The original 1.7 million-square-foot space of waterfront property has gone through multiple expansions and infrastructure improvements. In 2001, an expansion doubled the space to 2.6 million total gross square feet.

As the convention center grew, so did its list of high honors. In 1999, the popular destination was named one of the top three convention centers in the world by Meetings and Incentive Travel Magazine.

“We are consistently rated as one of the top five convention centers in North America,” continued Rippetoe. “We are the region’s premier gathering place from a design and service perspective. San Diego — the total package for hosting conventions — offers a world-class convention facility in the heart of Downtown, with close proximity to an international airport and hotels within



An aerial view of the convention center (Coutesy photos)

walking distance. Plus, San Diego is full of attractions, beaches and sunshine.”

Rippetoe also tipped his hat to the convention center’s dedicated employees.

“Our employees are our greatest assets,” said Rippetoe. “Our dedicated staff embraces and lives out our core values: integrity, service, collaboration, courage, and accountability.”

Additional awards include one of San Diego’s “Great Places To Work” by the San Diego Society for Human Resource Management; a National Inner Circle Award from Association Meetings for excellence in service, flexible meeting space, and high quality food and beverage; Leadership In Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council; a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification from the U.S. Green

Building Council; and a Tech Hero award from the Technology Foundation of America.

The facility also received a Level Three Sustainability Certification to the APEX/ASTM – Environmentally Sustainable Event Standards.

Level Three is noted to be a significant industry achievement as it’s specifically tailored for the meeting and events industry. Performance criteria includes staff management policy, communications, waste management, energy, air quality, water, procurement, and community partners.

The San Diego Convention Center Corporation is extremely proud of their sustainability efforts, which includes industrial sorters for recycling plastics, aluminum, metal and other materials; the conservation of water with low-flow, automated sinks and toilets in its restrooms; and the replacement of more than 11,650

of the original light fixtures to energy-efficient LED bulbs.

In 2019, its kitchens, void of garbage disposals, composted 178 tons of non-edible food.

In addition, unserved event food is donated to the San Diego Rescue Mission. Nearly 80 tons of “untouched food” was donated to the mission — enough to plate 127,000 meals. The San Diego Rescue Mission shares that food with more than 90 local nonprofit organizations.

The convention center has also been named “Recycler of the Year” seven times by the City of San Diego.

In 2017, the Port’s Green Business Network titled the center with an Overall Sustainable Achievement for Large Businesses and featured it as an environmental champion in their “Greenwork Makes the Dream Work” campaign.

Additional kudos include a 2018 Gold Award for the Best Convention Center in the Western United States by the 2018 Prevue Visionary Awards and recognition by Global DMC Partners as the No. 1 destination for meetings and conferences for 2020 in this year’s Global Destination Index.

San Diegans will be able to choose whether to invest in maintenance and expand the convention center through a hotel tax, which will be on the ballot in March.

— Lucia Viti can be reached at lucaviati@roadrunner.com.



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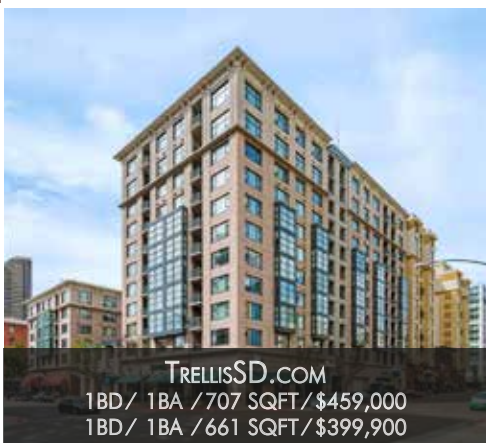
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