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DOWNTOWN'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2011

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Tequila is the main ingredient in "Manzanita's Revenge," left, a tequila cocktail created by the Blind Tiger Cocktail Co. Get recipes from *Downtown News* cocktail columnists Adam Stemmler and Jeff Josenhans, Page 12.



Summertime drinks

Right, the Grant Grill's "Rooftop Garden Tour" cocktail mixes fennel and tarragon with fresh fruit purees, adding the bar's own angelica flower-infused vodka for a refreshing summer drink.

PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News



Farm-to-table cocktails and mouth-watering tequila concoctions cool downtown's sizzling watering holes

By **LORALEE OLEJNIK** | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Most have heard of the farm-to-table movement sweeping across America — but farm to bar? The Grant Grill at the US Grant Hotel takes the concept of eating local a step further with a signature cocktail menu that incorporates fresh herbs and vegetables grown in their onsite garden.

"The philosophy of the Grant Grill has always been the farm-to-table concept," said Jeff Josenhans, who oversees food and beverage at the historic San Diego landmark hotel. "A lot of bars make drinks without the concept of the restaurant in mind. We wanted to create something that synched with the concept,

not just a good drink."

Every day, Josenhans and the chefs at the hotel tend to a 1,000-square-foot rooftop garden on the fourth floor overlooking Horton Plaza — a surprisingly serene space considering it is perched directly above the heart of downtown.

Growing and adding items such as strawberries, cherry tomatoes, rosemary and fennel gives the cocktails a fresh taste and a fresh perspective on the possibilities of incorporating onsite food-sourcing practices into the restaurant industry, even in dense urban environments.

Veteran bartender Tom Richter mixes drinks such as the "Rooftop Garden Tour," muddling fennel and tarragon into a mix of fresh fruit purees, adding their own angelica

flower-infused vodka for a refreshing summer drink. Another popular garden cocktail is a mint julep with cognac and cinnamon basil, also grown on site.

The cocktails and the menu change seasonally according to what is growing, with the current menu set to run through October. Fresh produce is harvested daily for use in the restaurant and bar, and is just a quick elevator ride away if the

SEE **DRINKS**, Page 12



THE SAGA CONTINUES...

Jacobs' park plan gains momentum, opponents continue to voice resistance

By **MANNY LOPEZ** | DOWNTOWN NEWS

A controversial plan spearheaded by Qualcomm co-founder Irwin Jacobs to eliminate vehicle traffic from the center of Balboa Park and turn it back into a pedestrian plaza in time for the centennial celebration of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition received initial approval by the City Council on July 19.

In a 7-1 decision, with District 1 City Councilwoman Sherri Lightner casting the dissenting vote, the council sanctioned a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the city and the Plaza de Panama Committee, a nonprofit organization chaired by Jacobs that proposes to raise \$25 million through private donations to be used toward the design and implementation of the project.

"I'm pleased with the outcome," Jacobs said. "We're approaching the park's centennial and the possibility of doing something very special for the people that would open again so many areas of the park got me very excited."

More than 100 speakers signed up to voice their support and opposition to the MOU, which according to Mayor Jerry Sanders is not an approval of the project or binding commitment of any kind, but rather a public statement to Jacobs and his committee that the city council wants to continue down this path. The MOU can be terminated by either party at any time for any reason.

As envisioned, the estimated \$40 mil-

lion project, which has been endorsed by Sanders, 26 of the park's cultural institutions and the zoo, would add a total of 6.3 acres of pedestrian-friendly park space. The plan calls for construction of a 400-foot-long, 40-foot-wide two-way bypass road and bridge to divert traffic through the park.

The bypass road would about the historic Cabrillo Bridge, wind around the Museum of Man and end at a proposed three-level, underground, 785-space

SEE **PARK**, Page 8

Taking it to the courts

SOHO filed a lawsuit in Superior Court on Aug. 2 against the city, asking the court to set aside the MOU with the Plaza de Panama Committee — while the state-mandated environmental review process is pending — on the grounds that the agreement violates the California Environmental Quality Act.

According to a SOHO statement, it is too early to commit to the "vision" of the Plaza de Panama project as now proposed and that as a practical matter the MOU will have environmental consequences by influencing the shape of future development in Balboa Park.

Shortly after receiving a copy of the lawsuit, City Attorney Jan Goldsmith had his staff draft a request to dismiss the case. Goldsmith first asked SOHO to drop its suit or face being penalized for filing a frivolous lawsuit.

A hearing in Superior Court on the matter could take 30 days or more.

FERRAGOSTO 2011!



The Venetian masquerade once again hits Little Italy. See the story, Page 14



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Bringing opera to the youthful masses

By JOHNNY McDONALD | DOWNTOWN NEWS

The San Diego Women's Foundation has invested \$50,000 in grant money to the San Diego Opera's "Words and Music," a unique youth program dedicated to bringing an appreciation for opera to younger generations.

Nicolas Reveles helped design Words and Music nine years ago. The program involves close to 500 children, grades 5 through 10, at five different schools.

"The students will turn literature they're working with into a libretto composition," Reveles said. "Two teaching artists — a musician and stage director — will conduct the classes. Then, we obtain adult singers to perform the finished work."

Students experience firsthand the process of creating a work of art, specifically their own original opera and its affect on a live audience. They learn the connection between words and music and how to use them in storytelling.

In small groups, students read, write and compose music using portable keyboards. They learn to negotiate, compromise and strategize as they develop their musical score.

The San Diego Opera contracts opera practitioners with extensive experience in arts education who meet with students three times per week for several hours. Classroom teachers receive six hours of training, which over time, can equip them to carry the program forward.

Students keep journals and portfolios, critique their work and interact freely with the professional singers who will sing their student opera at its final presentation to 1,500 students, plus faculty and parents.

One of five projects selected by the Women's Foundation — out of 65 applicants — the educational program not only teaches music and lyric composition but also improves literacy skills, Reveles said.

Foundation president Eileen Haag said the 210-member philanthropic women's foundation has a strong commitment to financing other programs throughout the year. Since its founding 10 years ago, more than \$2 million in grant money has been issued to more than 50 community partners. The funds donated to Words and Music by the foundation will support salaries and consultants' fees.

As a bonus, Reveles said, students will be invited to attend an opera dress rehearsal at the Civic Center.

"I found their enthusiasm about opera interesting," he said. "It's really not a huge step to go from straight theater to understanding opera. The kids readily accept it. 'Sometimes they'll use a rap song as part of their project. We don't tie them down to a particular style. It's whatever they want to create.'"

Reveles said he believes there is a parallel between the music and the children's personal lives, and that they learn about themselves while working with others.

"That's what impressed the women's foundation," he said. "We can't hope to fill the gap to musical cutbacks experienced in schools but we can give them something."

Currently, the first 12-week residency is at Southwestern College. The comprehensive and intensive courses will continue through March. For more information, visit www.sdogera.com/company/education or call (619) 232-7636.

People in the news

Retired Navy admiral **Ronne Froman** was named CEO of Monarch School, the only public K-12 school in the United States exclusively dedicated to educating children impacted by homelessness.



Ronne Froman

Froman will join Monarch at a critical and exciting time, as the school will break ground on its new campus in East Village-Barrio Logan this fall.

In addition to her 31-year service in the U.S. Navy, including acting as the first female admiral to command, Froman has been a crucial community leader dedicated to promoting education and ending homelessness in San Diego.

She has worked with Monarch for 10 years, initially serving as a volunteer coordinator for the school's prom, then becoming more involved, serving on the school's board, Strategic Planning Committee and stepping in as the interim vice president last year.

"I intend to ensure the children of Monarch School continue to receive quality education and the resources they need to thrive," Froman said.

As the school doubles in size, she intends to build a new organization and develop processes to accommodate the numbers, while also working with staff to format the "Monarch Way," to share successes and methods to help at-risk children in other communities.

"I can think of no other cause or purpose than ending homelessness and promoting education that I would wish to be my legacy," she said.

— Mariko Lamb



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MARCHING TO REMEMBER

Women celebrate 100 years of voting rights

frage was initially proposed at the first women's rights convention in 1848. Not until 1920 was the right to vote granted across all states in the union.

California marked the sixth and largest state to grant women that right.

Despite their achievement on the state level, California women knew their job was not over. San Diego suffragists toured around the county in automobiles spreading their message and garnering support for the national Women's Vote Amendment.

According to Ashley Gardner, director of the Women's Museum, San Diego politics played an important role in the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ultimately granting women the right to vote across the United States.

An exhibit illustrating San Diego's role in the suffrage movement, including a vintage car from 1909 in the same style used by California suffragists to spread their message, will be on display in San Diego City Hall's lobby during the last week in October.

The advancement of women's rights has certainly come a long way in 100 years, said museum member and volunteer Rosalie Schwartz.

"Did the men who voted for the Equal Suffrage Amendment in 1911 foresee women running for the nation's presidency, sitting on the U.S. Supreme Court, run-

ning state governments, serving in the Cabinet, effectively commanding military personnel and fulfilling a myriad other positions of civic responsibility and duty?" Schwartz said. "Maybe they anticipated the benefits for California and the country when they voted, 'yes.' Maybe they simply recognized the fairness of civic equality."

Despite tremendous leaps and bounds for women's rights in the United States, San Diego leaders will not sell short in their fight for women's equality.

"One hundred years later, women still earn on average 77 cents for every dollar a man makes," said Anne Hoiberg, president of both the League of Women Voters and the Women's Museum of California. "We're still fighting for equal pay in 2011."

She added that

women's representation in politics is under par, with a mere 27 percent representation in the California Senate, 26 percent in the California Assembly and 26 percent in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"With so many talented women in California, all of us need to recruit, support and elect more women at all levels of government," she said. "Our goal should be 50-50 by 2020."

For more information about California Suffrage Centennial Celebration events, visit www.womensmuseum-ca.org or call (619) 233-7963. Tickets to the ball are \$40-\$60 and will be available on the museum's website. Entrance to the parade is free.

Women march during last year's celebration commemorating women's right to vote in California.

Photo courtesy of Jan Phillips

By MARIKO LAMB | DOWNTOWN NEWS

On Oct. 10, 1911, male voters passed the California Women's Vote Amendment by a slight majority, granting California women the right to vote in state elections. Following the win, suffragists and supporters of both sexes erupted in celebratory parades, rallies, street speeches and press coverage events from San Diego to Sacramento.

The celebratory atmosphere following that vote 100 years ago will be recreated at the California Suffrage Centennial Celebration parade hosted by the Women's Museum on Aug. 25.

Modern-day suffragists and supporters can dress in vintage garb, listen to rousing speeches and music and carry festive banners, signs and flags to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Californian women's right to vote.

The parade will begin at 5 p.m. at the

Kate Sessions statue on Laurel Street and 6th Avenue. Participants will march across the Cabrillo Bridge to the Organ Pavilion where they will be met by a San Diego Women's Drum Society drum roll, an old-fashioned picnic and ice cream social on the Hall of Nations lawn and the sounds of the Marine Band San Diego in the final Twilight in the Park concert of the year.

In addition to the parade, the Women's Museum will host a California Suffrage Centennial Celebration ball at the Balboa Park Club on Oct. 29. The old-fashioned ball will begin at 6:30 p.m. and feature music, food and dances from the early 20th century to celebrate the passage of a great feat for women.

Women's right to vote in the United States was a process more than 70 years in the making. The idea of women's suf-



The Women's Museum organizes a march to commemorate the right to vote, starting at the Kate Sessions statue in Balboa Park. The march makes its way across the Cabrillo Bridge and to the Organ Pavilion.

Photo courtesy of Jan Phillips



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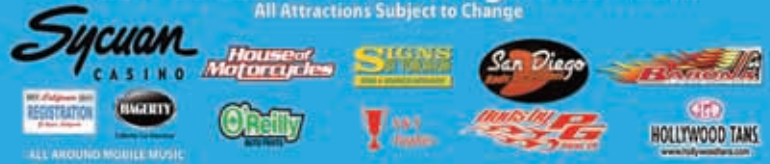
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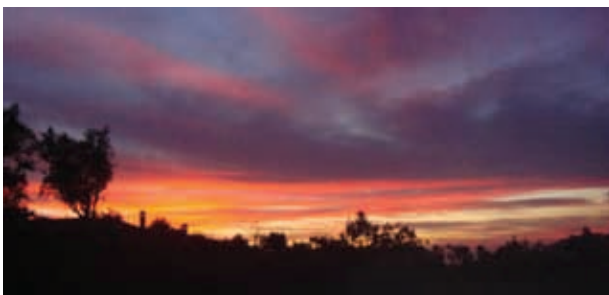


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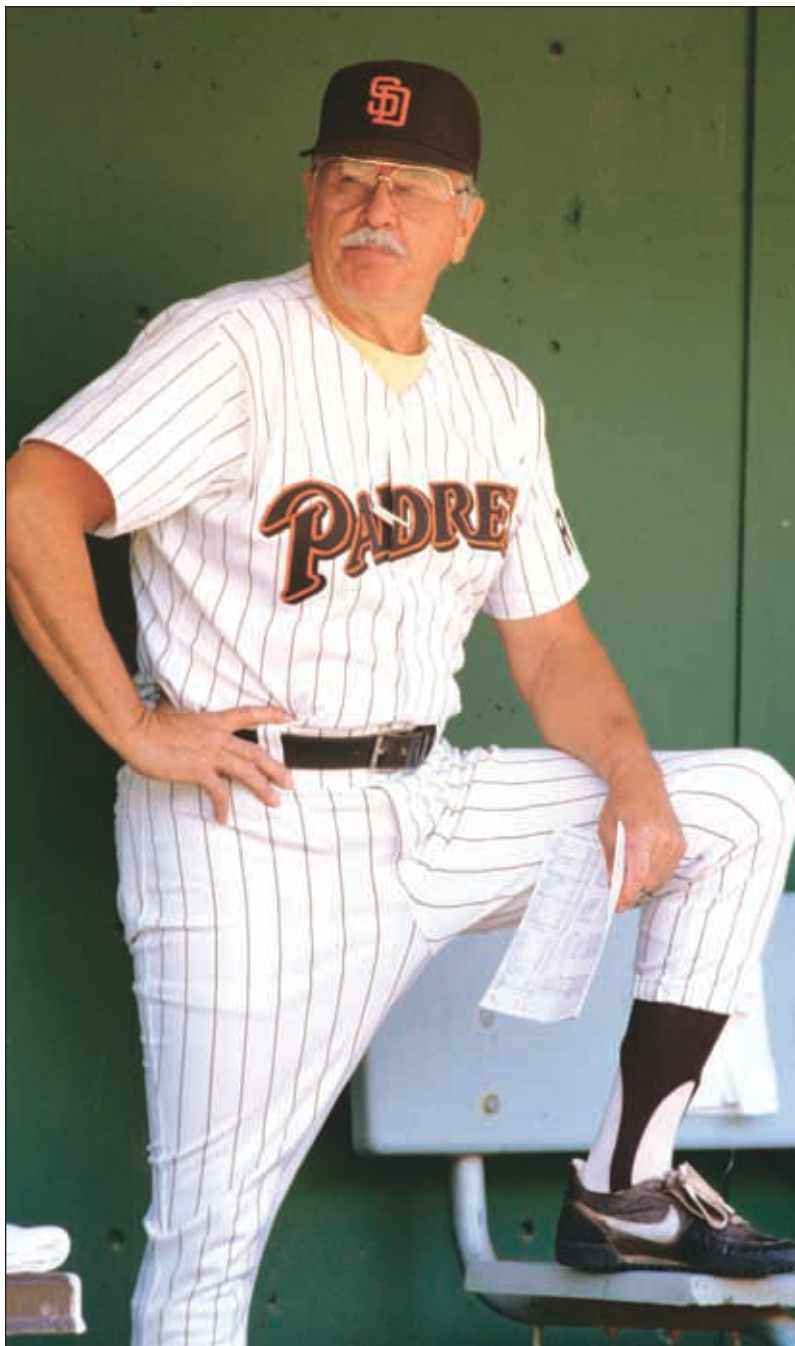
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Former Padres' skipper Dick Williams was the only manager in the team's history to never have a losing season under his management.
Photo courtesy San Diego Padres

RICHARD HIRSCHFELD WILLIAMS: MAY 7, 1929 - JULY 7, 2011

Reflecting on the Padres' fiery, tough ex-manager

By SCOTT HOPKINS | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Fiery. Hard-nosed. Tough. Sharp-tongued.

Dick Williams was called all of these things and more during his time as a major league baseball manager. But if you don't remember the rotund skipper for anything else, know this: he is the only manager in the history of the major league San Diego Padres who never had a losing season. And, with the team's penny-pinching "small market" history, that fact speaks volumes.

His accomplishments as a manager earned him election to baseball's Hall of Fame in 2008, and the acerbic Williams admitted he broke down and cried when he received the notification.

When Williams passed away July 7 from a ruptured aortic aneurysm in a hospital near his home in Henderson, Nev. at age 82, many fans and former players shed their own tears.

Born Richard Hirschfeld Williams on May 7, 1929 in St. Louis, he was an average athlete who played 1,023 major league games with five teams over a 13-year span.

Later, he found his calling as a no-nonsense field boss who earned a reputation for turning losing teams around, producing winners and breaking in young players.

His heavy-handed style of leadership often wore thin after several years, explaining his frequent change of employers from 1967 through 1988.

Williams was hired to lead the Padres in 1982 by legendary owner Ray Kroc. He finished the '82 and '83 schedules with identical 81-81 records leading up to one of the Padres' greatest seasons that saw the Friars reach the World Series in 1984 for the first time in franchise history.

The traditionally-weak Padres soared to a record of 92-70 [during the 1984 World Series year]. The city was delirious as Williams' squad took the National League pennant in a miraculous comeback after losing the first two games – in blowouts – at Wrigley Field to the Chicago Cubs.

As a mini-season ticket holder, I exulted in the team's improvement under Williams, which brought long-overdue electricity to home games at Jack Murphy Stadium, or "The Murph," as it was affectionately known.

His 1984 team included young pitchers Eric Show, Dave Dravecky and Andy Hawkins. Speedy Alan Wiggins batted first and was followed by the likes of Kevin McReynolds, Tony Gwynn, Steve Garvey and Graig Nettles. And crowds roared when Goose Gossage saved the game.

As a sports enthusiast and Padres fan, I proudly pinned my "Goose Saved the Game" pins to my cap, along with thousands of others.

The traditionally-weak Padres soared to a record of 92-70 that season. The city was delirious as Williams' squad took the National League pennant in a miraculous comeback after losing the first two games — in blowouts — at Wrigley Field to the Chicago Cubs. I witnessed Garvey's famous home run clobber, among the greatest moments in San Diego sports history.

Despite a World Series loss to Detroit in five games, Williams had again accomplished what other Padres managers couldn't.

Following an 83-79 season in 1985,

friction developed between Williams, Padres president Ballard Smith (Kroc's son-in-law at the time) and General Manager Jack McKeon. Williams was let go shortly before spring training began in 1986.

Williams also won pennants with Boston (1967) and Oakland (1972-73). Those Athletics teams won the World Series both years.

He is one of only seven managers to win pennants in both the National and American Leagues. Only one other manager in history has led three different franchises to the World Series.

And Williams is one of only two to lead four different teams to seasons of 90 or more victories.

Although some players disliked Williams with a passion, former Oakland A's pitcher Vida Blue perhaps spoke for most: "He got the best out of us."

Knowing how he was perceived, Williams said, "If guys can't stand the heat, they don't belong in the major leagues. I don't know anybody who refused the World Series checks I helped them get."

Williams recalled his managerial antics in a 1990 book "No More Mr. Nice Guy," that furthered his sharp-tongued reputation.

"(Williams) had great instincts on and off the field and you always knew where you stood," said former player Ken Harrelson.

Speaking to a reporter at his Hall of Fame induction ceremony on July 27, 2008 about his techniques, Williams acknowledged "I wouldn't last a week" with today's players.

Williams is survived by his wife, Norma, three children and five grandchildren.

As a Padres fan, I would simply say, "Thank you, Dick."



The next Little Italy Section runs June 30, 2011. The deadline for submission is June 24, so call today!
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A win-win for SOHO, architect and developer of Fat City Lofts

By MARIKO LAMB | DOWNTOWN NEWS

After lengthy debate during last month's Historical Resources Board (HRB) meeting, architect Jonathan Segal, GLJ developer Luke Daniels and representatives from the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) have worked out an alternative design agreement that would restore Fat City/Top's Nightclub to its original 1941 Top's appearance.

During the HRB's meeting in June, a record-breaking number of community advocates attested to the building's historicity, art deco and streamline moderne architectural style, and its significance to a variety of groups, including fishermen, war veterans, Japanese-Americans and Italian immigrants.

After nearly two hours of testimony from both sides, the board granted a continuance on the decision to designate the building as a historic site until its next meeting in July.

Prior to the July 28 meeting, Fat City Lofts architect Jonathan Segal, developer GLJ Partners and SOHO's executive director Bruce Coons worked to come up with a compromise to restore the historic frontage of the Top's building while also incorporating Segal's original plan for the property as an apartment complex — quelling concerns from both sides about the complete destruction of the building and the economic impacts of leaving the building in its current state.

The new Fat City Lofts design plan includes a 232-unit apartment complex and retail

space that incorporates original and reconstructed portions of the Top's building.

To move forward with the design plans, the parties involved urged the board to not designate the building as historic — yet.

"It has been agreed upon by all parties that we must not designate the building at this time. Instead, we have drafted an agreement between SOHO and the developer stating that designation will be sought after restoration and reconstruction are successfully executed," Segal stated in a letter to chairman John Lemmo.

In the letter, Segal referred to a similar project, Paseo de Mission Hills, where the HRB staff and developer worked in conjunction to successfully save and restore existing buildings, thereby reinvigorating the neighborhood and winning multiple preservation and development awards for their efforts.

"Please recognize that both SOHO and the developer intend to save this building, and it is imperative that designation does not occur until after the complete restoration of the restaurant," Segal wrote in the letter.

Although some board members were wary of the third-party agreement, the board voted to oppose designation of the site as requested by Coons, Segal and Daniels.

Prior to the vote, Lemmo made clear to the board that the city is not a party to the deal made between SOHO and the developers.

"If we choose not to designate this resource, it is no longer within the jurisdiction of this

board, and it may never come back. That's a deal between them, so what's before us today is that property as it sits today," he said. "SOHO and the many people who spoke at the last meeting have changed their position in favor of non-designation. That's procedurally the difference between last meeting and today's."

Representatives of SOHO indicated their satisfaction with the resolution.

"We have great confidence in GLJ Partners that this will happen, that this building will be restored and remove any doubt from your board of whether it's historic or not when it comes back," Coons said. "I hope we can move forward in this manner."

SOHO's vice president Dan Soderberg said that after last month's meeting, numerous community members joined his "Save Fat City/Top's Nightclub" Facebook page showing their support for the building.

"People love that building. People want to see it remain part of the cityscape and our



A rendering of the site of Fat City/Top's Nightclub at Pacific Highway and Hawthorn Street shows how developers plan to maintain the art deco architecture of the existing structure. Courtesy of Jonathan Segal Architects

urban environment, and we should utilize this opportunity to restore that building and to really sing the praises of the willingness to negotiate and good faith effort to come to a consensus," he said. "The circumstances have changed. Last time the board was on the fence about the integrity of the building. Having this project go forward will resolve all the issues of

integrity because it will be completely restored."

The revised project plans will be presented to the Centre City Development Corporation board in September. If approved, construction on the site could begin at the end of this year, and the parties will seek designation from the HRB upon completion of the project.



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For four Saturdays in July and August, come join us as we celebrate travel and transportation in the era of real horsepower — before the train and automobile. Imagine yourself traveling down dusty dirt roads either by horse, wagon, or stagecoach making your way to San Diego in the 1860s.

Enjoy an afternoon filled with activities that reflect life in early San Diego and celebrate the West on the move. Through vignettes, demonstrations, living history activities, stories, and songs, visitors will gain an appreciation for early modes of transportation and daily life.

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August 6 - "Soldiers and Citizens" — In the mid-1840s, California went to war with Mexico. United States troops were stationed and fought in San Diego County in an effort to support the war. This day will feature military practices that changed San Diego forever.

August 13 - "Californio Day" — The unique "Californio" cultural elements will be presented again this Saturday.

August 20 - TwainFest — The festival marks 101 years of Mark Twain's passing and celebrates the American author as well as some of his peers. Excerpts from famous works will be read aloud by costumed San Diego actors at a variety of park venues throughout the day. Charles Harrington Elster, local author of the popular vocabulary-building program Verbal Advantage and originator of the weekly public radio talk show "A Way With Words," will be performing for his second year at TwainFest, a free literary festival for all ages. The author will appear in several venues of the free event in Old Town on Aug. 20 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Elster's first performance will take place in the historic courtroom of The Whaley House at 11:30 a.m. At 4 p.m., he will deliver a talk about Mark Twain in the Seeley Stable Theatre in the state park.

August 27 - Cattle Drive — The California population exploded with the Gold Rush and hungry miners were paying top dollar for beef. Come learn about the hide and tallow trade, and join this weekend's cattle drive.

For more information, go to www.parks.ca.gov/oldtownsandiego

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Cruise industry: ever changing tides

By JOHNNY McDONALD | DOWNTOWN NEWS

There's a noticeable ebb and flow in the cruise ship business these days, buffeted by crime fears, fuel costs and global and state economy woes.

On a higher note, though, Port of San Diego official Rita Vandergaw points out that "what gets lost is that there are still a good number of cruise ships that come to San Diego. That's not being reported. That's the message the community needs to hear."

She singled out Holland America as an example. The line has continued to grow since it first made San Diego its port in 1997. The cruise line has a variety of eight- to 11-day Mexican voyages and a few to South America.

Next year, several more ships are scheduled to sail for Hawaii.

The Port of San Diego approximates that each ship beginning and ending a cruise here contributes an estimated \$2 million to the local economy. Two vessels might make 26 trips to the Mexican Riviera between October and April.

A slump can't be denied: since the peak 255 port calls of 2008, the number is expected to drop to 103 next year and to 76 by 2013.

"We're not going to hide the fact that there has been a drop in overall number of sailings," Vandergaw said. "We were sorry that Carnival is pulling a ship out, but they were only with us for three years."

Recently, Princess Cruise Line announced that its Long Beach-based ship was bypassing Puerto Vallarta because of a crime-warning letter issued by the state of Jalisco.

"People in the industry think Princess' pullout of Puerto Vallarta is an overreaction," she said. "It was based on a State Department letter warning about certain individual areas. [Princess] was the only cruise line that did that."

Port officials and the travel industry have made an effort to emphasize the minimal danger to tourists in Mexico, pointing out that most of the violence in Mexico takes place far from cruise destinations.

"We're working extremely close with Mexican officials," Vandergaw said. "We've gone to Ensenada three times, meeting with the mayor and governor. They have really taken forward steps in demonstrating the safety and are adding more tours. Everybody has to realize there is crime everywhere in the world."

"And, there's no longer a mandatory tugboat fee in Ensenada," she added. "They never really needed tugboats anyway."

Current cruise lines sailing out of San Diego are Carnival, Celebrity, Crystal, Holland America, Norwegian, Radisson Seven Seas, Princess and Royal Caribbean.

The eighth meeting of the citizens advisory committee for the North Embarcadero master plan amendment, B Street terminal work and cruise ships was held on July 20. Work will be needed in a few months on the B Street terminal for a new roof and replacement of fender pilings on the south side.



BALBOA PARK *News Briefs*

By JOHNNY McDONALD | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Interim director named

The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, a collaborative of 26 arts, science and cultural institutions, announced the appointment of Paige Simpson as interim executive director. Following 10 years of service, current executive director David Lang will assume a new leadership role at The ManKind Project USA.

Simpson joined the partnership in 2007 and is the founding director of the Balboa Park Learning Institute, one of the partnership's flagship programs. Simpson's career spans more than 15 years working with local, state and national museums on the east coast and in England.

The Pontiac remembered

The Automotive Museum's "Pontiac ... the Rise and Fall of an American Icon" exhibit runs until Sept. 25. It features Pontiacs that defined the maker in terms of styling and performance.



The exhibit addresses the decline of the brand over time as Pontiac lost its place as an industry leader. Pontiac closed its doors in 2009.

The Pontiac story is not unlike that of any other manufacturer in the industrialized America of the 20th century. Beauty and performance faded and were replaced with conservative design and adequate performance.

Efforts were then made to bring back the excitement by reintroducing popular models, but these efforts fell short.

On display: 1932 Pontiac Six Sedan, 1941 Super Streamliner Torpedo, 1952 Catalina, 1955 Star Chief Safari Wagon, 1959 Bonneville, 1962 Tempest, 1962 Grand Prix 2-door hard top sports coupe, 1964 Tempest LeMans GTO, 1968 Firebird, 1969 GTO Judge, 1977 Ventura and a 2009 Solstice GXP Coupe.

Winter season complete

Executive producer Lou Spisto announced that the world premiere of the musical "A Room with a View," adopted from the E.M. Forster novel by Marc Acito with music by Jeffrey Stock, will complete the Old Globe's 2011-12 winter season.

The Globe's winter season also features the world-premiere musicals "Some Lovers" by music legend Burt Bacharach and Tony Award winner Steven Sater and "Nobody Loves You" by Gaby Alter and Itamar Moses, as well as the West Coast premiere of John Kander and Fred Ebb's "The Scottsboro Boys," recently nominated for 12 Tony Awards.

PARK

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

parking garage behind the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in the existing Alcazar parking lot. A tram system would be implemented to shuttle visitors from the parking garage to the core of the park and grass would be added to the roof of the structure to increase park space for public use by 2.1 acres.

The MOU outlines the committee's contribution, which includes preparation and funding of an environmental impact report, preparation of all design and construction documents, funding for all construction project management and payment of any construction cost overruns. Sanders said since the project was brought forward to the Balboa Park Committee in September, Jacobs has paid about \$2 million from his own pocket.

Under the current proposal, the city would issue 30-year, tax-exempt, lease revenue bonds backed by the city's general fund, which do not require voter approval to pay for the parking structure. The current plan calls for parking revenues to pay the annual debt service on those bonds, which is estimated to be \$1.2 million. Any shortfalls in revenue would be covered by the general fund.

"Everyone agrees that this project will be supported, that there should be enhancement of the park and there should be improvement of pedestrian traffic circulation. But that is not what this is about," said Susan Brandt Hawley, attorney for the Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO). "This MOU is already picking a preferred project. The Supreme Court has recently ruled that something less than a contractual commitment is a pre-approval that's illegal under the California Environmental Quality Act."

"The proposed project entails significant and controversial alterations to a major iconic public park, said Joan Dahline, representing the League of Women Voters of San Diego. "If the goal truly is to remove cars from the Plaza de Panama, there are far better, less expensive and less invasive ways to do it."

"Balboa Park has struggled for investment dollars," said Jessie Knight, chairman and CEO of San Diego Gas & Electric. "We have to get ready for the centennial celebration and some citizens have stepped forward to make a positive contribution to Balboa Park and the long-term interests of San Diego. This is an opportunity to get that process started."

City Councilman Carl DeMaio voiced his approval of moving forward.

"It's a process and this was our opportunity to indicate some concerns, but that doesn't mean you should let some concerns crowd out what could be a very good outcome," he said. "I really want to challenge San Diegans to come together like our forefather's and foremother's did when they built the park. Let's come together to make it a truly memorable and visionary place."

Photo by PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News



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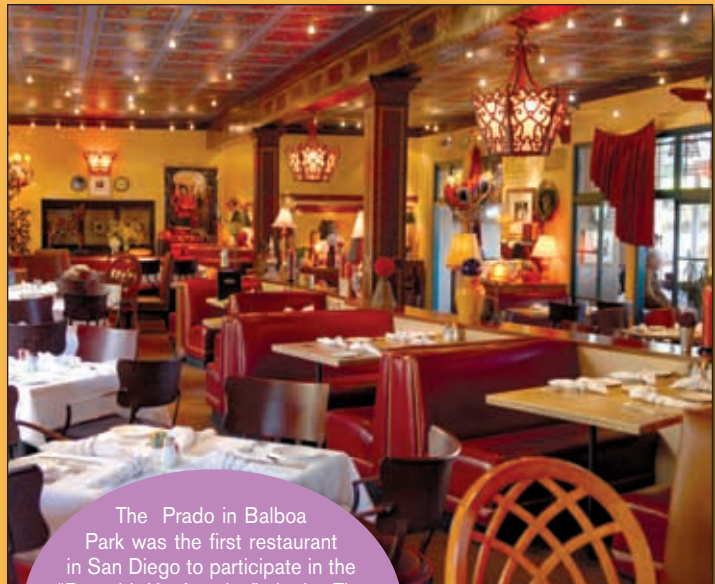
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Keep the change: The new face of charitable donations



The Prado in Balboa Park was the first restaurant in San Diego to participate in the "Round It Up America" charity. The program allows customers to round up their bill to the nearest dollar and the change gets donated to charity. Courtesy photo

The Cohn Restaurant Group served as the first official "Mission Partner" in San Diego to participate in "Round It Up America," a nationwide philanthropy program designed for consumers to donate pocket change for local charitable organizations.

The Prado Restaurant in Balboa Park was the first to launch the program on July 19.

Prado patrons now have the

option to round up their dining bill to the nearest dollar to benefit The Balboa Park Trust and other "Round It Up America" charities such as the National Disaster Relief Foundation, California Restaurant Association Educational Foundation and the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation.

For more information about the "Round It Up America" program or Cohn Restaurant Group, visit www.dinecrg.com or call (619) 236-1299.

— Mariko Lamb

DINING**briefs**

New cocktail mixer won't leave drinkers high and dry

VLING, a new category of electrolyte-infused drink mixers, is breaking ground in the cocktail industry by providing a healthy alternative to rehydrating without changing consumers' drinking habits.

Mixers including tonic and soda water, cranberry-pomegranate and citrus flavors contain no caffeine and are low in calories, sugar and carbohydrates. The mixers are high in electrolytes — double the amount contained in a leading sports drink — which re-hydrate cells typically depleted of hydration by alcohol and counter the effects of dehydration and that dreaded hangover.

Consumers can hydrate at any of San Diego's participating locations including the Se Hotel, Hard Rock Hotel, Andaz Hotel and Side Bar. Ask for a 'hydrated' cocktail and for a healthier alternative to drinking without changing your choice of cocktail.

For more information about VLING and upcoming events, visit www.hydrateyoumght.com.

— Mariko Lamb

Celebrity chef re-creates House of Blues menu

Along with every other House of Blues location throughout the nation, House of Blues San Diego is turning its dining enclave into, quite literally, a "Crossroads." The restaurant and music venue is rebranding its dining side to become one of celebrity chef Aaron Sanchez's latest acquisitions. For the past six months, the Food Network star has re-created the chain's nationwide menu from southern style cuisine to "Tex-Mex." The new menu will feature some signature dishes, while the local HOB will include a few original creations inspired by San Diego's unique gastronomy. Look for the soft launch of the new menu in August, with a grand opening party in September.

— Meghan Clark

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Cherry Sweig, (Poway : California)
Vania Elletra Tam, Italy
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Cecilia Zieba, (Carlsbad : California)
Natasha Zupan (Mallorca, Spain)
Vania Elletra Tam

THEN AND NOW: SAN DIEGO'S CHINATOWN

By **JOHNNY McDONALD** | DOWNTOWN NEWS

San Diego's historical blight for some 40 years was an oppressed community known as Chinatown.

It comprised a roughly eight-block area that is now known as the Asian Historic District between Market and J streets to the north and south, and Second and Sixth avenues to the west and east.

Established in the 1880s, the Chinese were compelled to live in inadequate housing controlled by slumlords. Unable to acquire citizenship, they were forced to live as subordinate workers for poor wages.

Now, the historic Chinatown is gaining a place in San Diego's institutional memory, thanks to the work of Murray K. Lee, curator of the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum. At 84 years old, Lee leads walking tours of the former Chinatown neighborhood, guiding tourists and locals through the past and present.

The 22 contributing structures date from 1883-1930. A Chinese Benevolent Association building on J Street still stands, two doors away from the museum.

"The buildings, lacking plumbing, were built from redwood that had been floated down by rafts from Northern California," he said.

Lee's book, "In Search of Gold Mountain," details the history with pictures, illustrations and maps. He painstakingly contacted families listed in a 1930 Census. That included 240 Chinese, 119 Japanese, 10 Filipinos, two Hawaiians and some African Americans, Latinos and Caucasians.

The Chinese, unable to live elsewhere in San Diego, made do with wash houses (laundries), small stores and fishing. They became cheap labor for construction of the National City-San Bernardino railroad, farming or the east county Flume. Often, they lived in tents.

"Health inspectors, fearing the plague, had many of the substandard houses torn down," Lee said. "The inhabitants took up residence in abandoned bordellos in the Stingaree section. Many of the old boarding houses were torn down during the 1915 Exposition."

"There were some Tong-type organizations (an organization often found in Chinese communities in the U.S. and Canada)," said Lee. "One, called Dingo Tong, was in a building torn down for the relocation of the Horton Grand Hotel. Another was an opium den."

A fishing village existed at the foot of Third Avenue with shacks on stilts over the water and mud flats with boats anchored nearby. Although drawn to the California coast because of an abundance of fish, Portuguese and Italian monopolies forced the Chinese to search for shrimp and abalone. There were also government restrictions because they weren't naturalized citizens.

"Merchants were smart enough to create partnerships," said Lee. "Some, though, with near-barren shelves were accused of running Chinese lotteries, comparable to Keno."

Chinatown overlapped with the Stingaree, which was notorious for all sorts of crime and vice.

"It was a pretty wide-open place, just like the Barbary Coast in San Francisco," Lee said.

Chinatown didn't actually vanish: it remained vibrant for a few more decades, but withered after World War II when the Chinese were able to become citizens and own property.



The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) building is shown in downtown San Diego on Oct 10, 1920 during a celebration of Chinese Independence Day.

Courtesy photo

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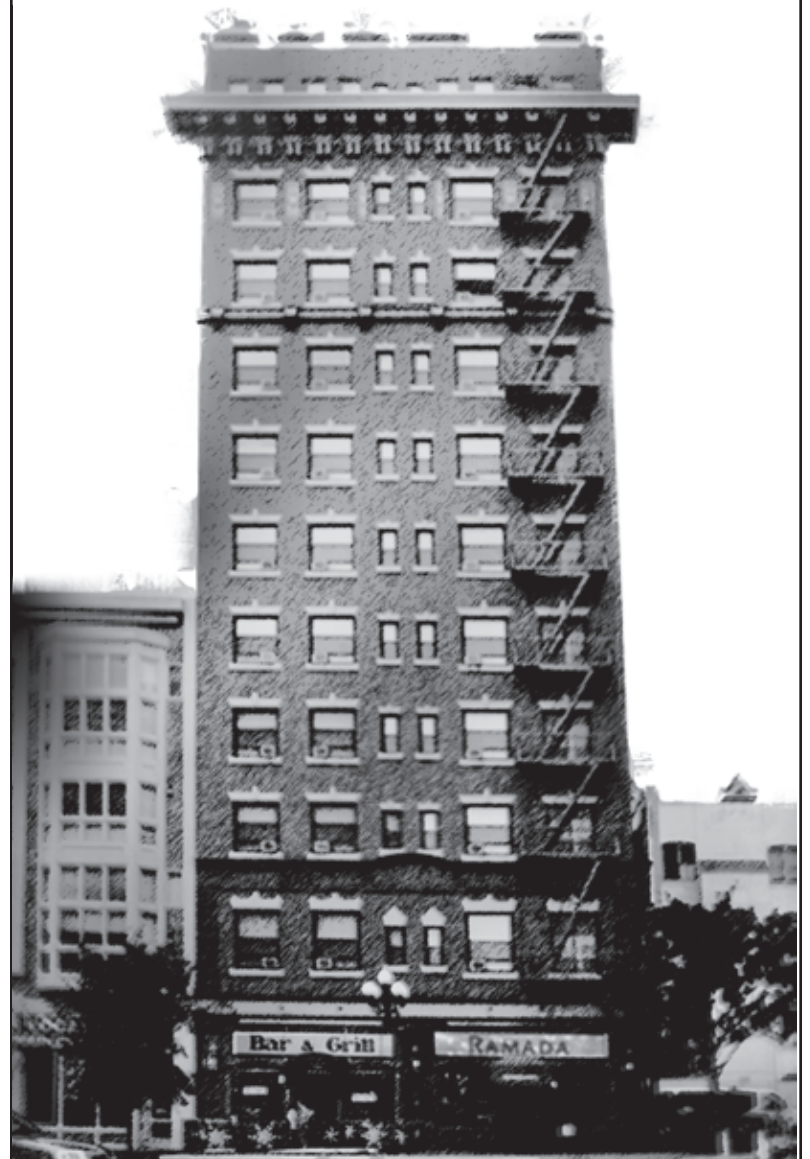
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DRINKS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

kitchen runs low on a particular item.

Rest easy, however: they have not yet concocted a drink with Brussels sprouts.

Josenhans, a sommelier and board member of the San Diego Bar Guild, said he enjoys the diversity that working at the US Grant provides.

"It's constantly changing. There's never a start and finish to my job," he said. "It's always unexpected and evolving. I'm always figuring out the next step."

The US Grant Hotel itself is no stranger to reinvention. The hotel, which is now owned by Sycuan, underwent a nearly two-year, \$56

million renovation, re-opening in 2006. It was originally opened in 1910 by the son of President Ulysses S. Grant, Ulysses S. Grant, Jr., and has lived a rich history throughout the past century as a jewel in the Gaslamp.

On Oct. 16, the hotel will celebrate its 101st anniversary with a celebration in the Celestial Ballroom, which housed a speakeasy during the prohibition years. It will feature cocktails from the era and a moonshine station.

The Grant Grill is located at 326 Broadway. Always a site for the power business lunch, the Grant Grill also features live music and happy hour specials daily from 4 to 7 p.m. For more information on the menu and upcoming events, visit www.usgrant.com.

NIGHTLIFE

COMMENTARY

Summer cocktails in full swing at various downtown bars, restaurants

With the races now in full swing at Del Mar, all San Diegans know summer is officially here. And along with summer comes the arrival of warm-weather drinking – Coronas, rose wine and, of course, summer cocktails. Here at the US Grant we have found this year's inspiration in the harvest of our rooftop garden, where we planted all of our cocktail produce from seed back in early spring. Now in full bloom, we find inspiration in a classic racetrack drink, the mint julep, but with a garden-inspired twist.

Cinnamon basil French julep: muddled rooftop cinnamon basil, VSOP cognac, orange blossom-infused sugar, champagne float.

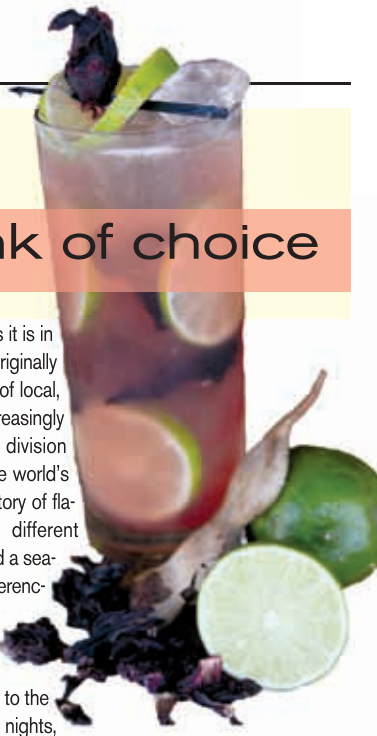
At The US Grant you will find an abundance of seasonally-inspired libations, but summer cocktails are capable of taking many forms that will suit your fancy on a hot day. Those who put thought and effort into keeping the summer in mind when creating their drink lists this year may be more plentiful than you think. I encourage you to take the time to explore the bar scene a little this year. You might be surprised not only by how much drinks have changed over the last few years, but also how much talent San Diego has to offer in this ever-changing social realm!

– Jeff Josenhans



Jeff Josenhans holds a cocktail made with fresh produce taken straight from the US Grant's rooftop garden. Josenhans tends the garden as a sommelier and director of outlets for the Grant Grill. PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News

Tequila: summer's drink of choice



Seasonality is every bit as important in cocktails as it is in food and dining. Although the "slow movement" was originally pioneered by chefs who understood the importance of local, sustainable and organic produce, bartenders are increasingly showing culinary flair in innovative cocktails. The division between kitchen and bar has never been smaller. The world's best chefs and bartenders alike find a way to tell a story of flavor through the respective approach to their different crafts. Whether you are focusing flavor profiles around a seasonal item that is tasting its absolute best, or simply referencing flavors that invoke nostalgia and warm memories, every great meal – and cocktail, for that matter – should be as memorable as they are delicious.

Although nearly every base spirit can lend its flavor to the seasonality of warm summer days and cool summer nights, today's recipes are all about the famed heritage spirit of the neighbors to our south: tequila. The three most-widely produced classifications of this amazing noble spirit are well suited for cocktails that encompass the very nature of summertime. The following list of original recipes was compiled by The Blind Tiger Cocktail Co.

Manzanita's Revenge

- Ingredients:
- 2 oz blanco tequila
 - 1/4 cup crisp green apple
 - 2 slices of fresh jalapeno
 - 1 oz fresh lime juice
 - 3/4 oz agave nectar

- Preparation:
- In a mixing glass, muddle the apple and jalapeno.
 - Add all other ingredients, shake and strain over ice in a Collins glass. Garnish with apple slices and a whole jalapeno.

Mexican Standoff (pictured above)

- Ingredients
- 2 oz. hibiscus-infused reposado tequila
 - 1 oz tamarind agave reduction
 - 3/4 oz fresh lime juice
- Preparation:
- Add all ingredients to a mixing glass full of ice, shake and fine strain into a Collins glass full of ice. Garnish with a lime wheel and a luxardo cherry.

For hibiscus tequila: Infuse one cup of dehydrated hibiscus in 750 ml of reposado tequila for five days.
For tamarind agave reduction: Reduce 10 ounces of agave with five ounces of water and five ounces of fresh tamarind for 20 minutes on low heat. Let stand for thirty minutes before straining.

Remember Me Mang!

- Ingredients:
- 2 oz anejo tequila
 - 3/4 oz carpano Antica vermouth
 - 1/2 oz Cherry Heering
 - 2 dashes of The Bitter Truth's Mole' Bitters
- mezcal rinse

Preparation:

Add all ingredients into mixing glass and fill with ice. Stir until chilled and strain into mescal-rinsed coupe glass. Flamed orange zest for garnish.

– Adam Stemmler



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Downtown in August

AUG.
5

Night at the Museum Sleepover, 7 p.m. to 9 a.m., San Diego Air and Space Museum, 2001 Pan American Plaza, children ages 7-12, (619) 234-8291, www.sandiego-airandspace.org, \$39 members, \$45 nonmembers

BlogHer Convention, 5:30 p.m., Stingaree Nightclub, 454 Sixth Ave., female blogger conference running through Aug. 7, www.blogher.com/conferences, starting at \$99

All Star Comedy event to support community construction, 8 p.m., 4th and B, 345 B St., (619) 231-4343, www.4thandbevents.com, \$15

8

Coronado Island-Style Grub Sprawl, 6 p.m., Orange Avenue, pick up wristbands at Brigantine Restaurant, www.grub-sprawl.com, \$5 per dish

Summer Organ Festival, 7:30 p.m., Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 1549 El Prado #10, San Diego concert organist Robert Plimpton, (619) 702-8138, www.sos-organ.org, free

9

Wine Smarties class, 6 p.m., Ivy Wine Bar, 600 F St., wine tasting and education class, (619) 814-2055, www.ivyentertainment-sandiego.com

10

28th annual charity golf tournament, 10 a.m., Coronado Municipal Golf Course, 2000 Visalia Row, benefiting education in San Diego, (619) 234-8291, www.sandiego-airandspace.org, \$185 golfer, \$175 active duty military

7

Summer Bingo Bash, 1 p.m., San Diego Woman's Club, 2557 Third Ave., (619) 464-3923, \$20 to benefit Rachel's House of San Diego

Burt Bacharach, 7:30 p.m., Embarcadero Marina Park South, 111 W. Harbor Drive, San Diego Symphony and Bridgepoint Education Summer Pops special concert "That's What Friends Are For", (619) 235-0804, www.sandiegosymphony.org, \$17-\$76

11

Sia with Oh Land and Ximena Sarinana, 8 p.m., House of Blues, 1055 5th Ave., FM 94/9's Big Sonic Chill concert, (619) 299-2583, www.houseof-blues.com, \$30-\$47.50

12

"Salsa Under the Stars" with Manny Cepeda, 7 p.m., Amici Park Amphitheater, State and Date streets, (619) 339-5936, www.mannycepeda.com, free



The Who's TOMMY, 8 p.m., San Diego REPeritory Theatre, Lyceum Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza, show runs through Aug. 14, (619) 544-1000, www.sdrep.org, \$42-\$57

13

"Ferragosto 2011: Venetian Masquerade," 6 p.m., Amici Park, State and Date streets, (858) 240-4556, www.FerragostoSD.org, general admission \$100, VIP \$150



14

Steel Pulse with Tribal Theory, 8 p.m., House of Blues, 1055 5th Ave., (619) 299-2583, www.houseofblues.com, \$40-\$65



Fortune's Elevation Pool Party, noon, Ivy Rooftop at Andaz Hotel, 600 F St., house music and cocktails poolside atop the Andaz Hotel, (619) 814-2055, www.ivyentertainment-sandiego.com, \$20

15

Taiko class, 8 p.m., WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Blvd., (858) 405-9221, www.worldbeatculturalcenter.com, \$15

San Diego Padres vs. New York Mets, 7 p.m., Petco Park, 100 Park Blvd., series runs through Aug. 17, (619) 795-5000, www.sandiego-padres.mlb.com, \$10-\$71



16

Josh Ritter and the Old 97s with David Wax Museum, 8 p.m., House of Blues, 1055 5th Ave., (619) 299-2583, www.houseof-blues.com, \$28-\$45

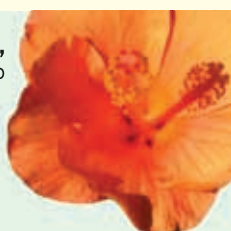
17

Gaslamp Local Lifestyle and Design Tour, 5 to 8 p.m., Gaslamp Quarter, 4th to 6th avenues between D and L streets, (619) 233-5227, www.gaslamp.org/locals-lifestyle-design-tour, free



18

August Moon Gala and Auction, 5:30 p.m., Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Place, dinner and auction to benefit garden expansion project, (619) 232-2721, www.niwa.org, \$65 members, \$85 nonmembers

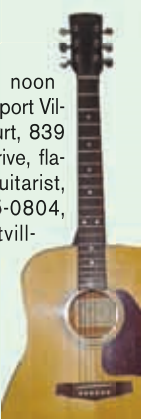


She Wants Revenge, 9 p.m., FLUXX Nightclub, 500 4th Ave., (619) 232-8100, www.fluxxsd.com, \$20 and up

19

Slaughter House concert, 9 p.m., 4th and B, 345 B St., (619) 231-4343, www.4thandbevents.com, \$22-\$35

Beatles Tribute, Classical Mystery Tour, 7:30 p.m., Embarcadero Marina Park South, 111 W. Harbor Drive, runs through Aug. 20, (619) 235-0804, www.sandiegosymphony.org, \$17-\$76

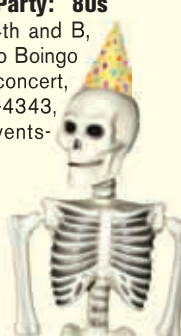


20

Daniel Tosh: Tosh Tour on Ice, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B St., (619) 235-0804, www.sandiego-symphony.org, \$58.60-\$69.60

Yves, guitarist, noon to 4 p.m., Seaport Village food court, 839 W. Harbor Drive, (619) 235-4014, www.smoothmusic.com, free

Dead Man's Party: 80s Night, 8 p.m., 4th and B, 345 B St., Oingo Boingo tribute band concert, (619) 231-4343, www.4thandbevents.com, \$15-\$20



21

Ozomatli, 7:30 p.m., Embarcadero Marina Park South, 111 W. Harbor Drive, concert featuring hip hop, salsa, samba and funk, (619) 235-0804, www.sandiegosymphony.org, \$25

22

Dumbek Drumming, 6 p.m., WorldBeat Center, 2100 Park Blvd., middle-eastern drumming, (619) 230-1190, www.worldbeatculturalcenter.com, \$10 members, \$12 nonmembers



Khausak, noon to 4 p.m., Seaport Village West Plaza food court, music of the Andes, (619) 235-0804, www.khausak.com, free

23

Nadro John, noon to 4 p.m., Seaport Village food court, 839 W. Harbor Drive, flamenco guitarist, (619) 235-0804, www.seaportvillage.com, free

24

ARTivities: Masks, 1:30 p.m., San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado, (619) 232-7931, www.sdmart.org, free after museum admission



25

The Music of the Rolling Stones, 7:30 p.m., Embarcadero Marina Park South, 111 W. Harbor Drive, (619) 235-0804, www.sandiegosymphony.org, \$17-\$76

26

Butthole Surfers, 9 p.m., 4th and B, 345 B St., (619) 231-4343, www.4thandbevents.com, \$25-\$35

Sharp HospiceCare Benefit Regatta, 6 p.m., Hotel Del Coronado, kick-off dinner for race on San Diego Bay on Aug. 27, www.sharp.com/hospice, \$125-\$185

KENT WEST

27

Roots Reggae Dub Expo, 8 p.m., WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Blvd., (619) 230-1190, www.usarootsreggaedubexpo.com, \$10

Dinner Detective, 6:15 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott, 530 Broadway St., murder mystery dinner show www.thedinnerdetective.com, (888) 619-0858, \$62.95



Carnaval do Rio, 6 p.m. to midnight, The New Children's Museum, 200 W. Island Ave., (619) 795-1721, www.thinkplaycreate.org/carnaval, \$500-\$1,000

28

Ride the Bridge: Bike the Bay 2011, 6:15 a.m., start/end Embarcadero Marine Park South, 111 W. Harbor Drive, non-competitive 25-mile bike ride, registration required, (619) 269-6873, www.bikethe-bay.net, \$50 members, \$55 nonmembers



29

Summer Organ Festival Finale, 7:30 p.m., Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 1549 El Prado #10, San Diego organist Carol Williams' "The Best of Hollywood" grand finale concert, (619) 702-8138, www.sosorgan.org, free

30

Amadeus with post-show forum, 8 p.m., The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, performance followed by discussion with cast members, (619) 234-5623, www.theoldglobe.org, \$29-\$77

Sogetsu-style Ikebana class, 9:30 a.m., Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Plaza, weekly flower-arrangement class led by Yumi Rakers, (619) 232-2721, www.niwa.org, \$15



31

Sinatra Guy, noon to 4 p.m., Seaport Village food court, 839 W. Harbor Drive, (619) 235-4014, www.seaportvillage.com, free

Shakespeare in the Garden: Much Ado About Nothing, 7 p.m., informal seminar featuring members of the Shakespeare Festival creative team followed by performance, (619) 234-5623, www.theoldglobe.org, free presentation, tickets \$29-\$77

SEPT.
1

ArtStop: Jaipur Painting, noon, San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado, (619) 232-7931, www.sdmart.org, free after museum admission

Art San Diego Contemporary Art Fair Opening Night, 7 p.m., Hilton San Diego Bayfront, 1 Park Blvd., wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres followed by a pool party, www.artsandiegofair.com, \$75



2

Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture," 7:30 p.m., Embarcadero Marina Park South, 111 W. Harbor Drive, finale of the Summer Pops series, (619) 235-0804, www.sandiegosymphony.org, \$17-\$76

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AUGUST 2011 | Vol. 12, No. 8



Scenes from last year's inaugural Ferragosto to show the event's theme, "A Night in Rome." The event returns on Aug. 13.
Courtesy photos

FERRAGOSTO MARCHES INTO LITTLE ITALY

By **LORALEE OLEJNIK** | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Little Italy's Amici Park will transform into Venice for a night of dinner and dancing under the stars as the second annual Ferragosto celebration returns Saturday, Aug. 13.

The event is a collaboration between three primary institutions of Little Italy: the church, the school and the business improvement district (BID).

Ferragosto will feature a 100-foot canal with floating gondola running through the park as well as a re-creation of St. Mark's Square, the town center of the famed Italian city. There will be jugglers, gondoliers, stilt walkers and a Venetian masquerade contest for prizes. Silent auction items and raffles will give participants the chance to take home tickets to the Super Bowl or a trip to Venice.

Italian food and treats from a line-up of two dozen restaurants, including Vigilucci's, Bencotto Italian Kitchen and Sogono Divino will be served at Ferragosto as the Anthology house band entertains guests.

"Little Italy is a special place and unique in how everyone works together for the betterment of the community, to celebrate its past and support its future," said Luke Vinci, chairman of the Nuova Gen committee, organizers of

Ferragosto.

Nuova Gen, meaning new generation, focuses on preserving the history of Little Italy through documentary and preservation projects and supporting youth through scholarships and funding for arts and culture programs at Washington Elementary School.

Ferragosto, or "Feriae Augusti" is an Italian holiday celebrated since the days of Emperor Augustus and was marked as a time to relax after the long, hard work of the harvest season.

The original celebrations were held for an entire month and honored the Roman gods, including those of agriculture and motherhood. Today, the Roman Catholic Church also celebrates the assumption of Virgin Mary into heaven during this time, and the Ferragosto holiday has been downsized to one day held annually on Aug. 15, marked by vacations and time spent with family and friends.

Last year's inaugural San Diego Ferragosto theme was "A Night in Rome," and was complete with a re-creation of the Roman Coliseum. Money raised from the event last year went to support the Little Italy Association (LIA) BID, Washington Elementary School and Our Lady of the Rosary Church.

"The beautiful thing about the event is it benefits the main nonprofits of the community: the educational, the spiritual and the civic," said Chris Gomez, spokesperson for the LIA, the organization that brings hundreds of thousands of people to the area for such flagship events as the Artwalk and Festa celebrations.

Gomez said the LIA's funds received from last year's Ferragosto went to a "Preserve Little Italy" project — matching a federal "Preserve America" grant, a campaign spear-

headed by former first lady Laura Bush — to create a documentary chronicling the founding families of Little Italy and the tuna fishing industry upon which the community was built.

Preserving the history of Little Italy is also important to Lou Palestini, who grew up in the neighborhood and serves on the Nuova Gen planning committee, as well as the Washington Elementary Foundation Board.

Palestini, who graduated from Washington Elementary in 1955 and is still active in projects to educate current students about the history of the neighborhood, said the school has used funds to enhance their arts and Italian language instruction programs.

He said the Ferragosto celebration is unique, even for Little Italy.

"I was raised in Little Italy and I don't recall any event like this," said Palestini. I would almost bet (attendees) would have the time of their life."

Ferragosto is a 21-and-older event. Tickets are \$100 general admission and \$150 VIP, which includes full table service and drink tickets. Amici Park is located in the 1700 Block of Date Street adjacent to Washington Elementary. Tickets can be purchased at www.ferragostosd.org or by calling (619) 234-4820. Pre-sale is encouraged, as last year's event sold out.

Ferragosto offers food, drinks and entertainment of the Venetian kind to those 21 and up. The event benefits the Little Italy Association, Washington Elementary School and the Our Lady of the Rosary Church. Courtesy photo



LIVEMUSIC

By **BART MENDOZA** | DOWNTOWN NEWS

One of the most important bands in San Diego's music history, the Penetrators, is reuniting this month to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award at the San Diego Music Awards on Aug. 8 and will also be playing a rare concert at the Casbah on Aug. 13, 9 p.m. Best known for their songs "Walk the Beat" and "Sensitive Boy," the Penetrators were originally considered punk or new wave, but what they really were was a high energy rock band that mixed in diverse influences, from surf to electronica in their sound. They made wonderful records, but their shows were even better, with manic frontman Gary Heffern given free rein to roam the stage. Recent footage of Hef-

fern joining Mudhoney on stage in Finland last month shows the years have diminished none his passion or stage moves. Whether you're a long time fan or simply want to see what all the fuss is about, this is a concert you won't want to miss.

The Penetrators: Aug. 13 at **The Casbah**, 2501 Kettner Blvd. 9 p.m. 21 and up. \$15. www.casbahmusic.com

New wave favorites Oingo Boingo broke up in 1995, but with tribute band Deadman's Party on the club circuit, it's like they never went away. Performing at 4th & B on August 20, 8 p.m. Deadman's Party has a repertoire which includes such classics as

"Only a Lad" and "Weird Science," with sterling musicianship from the eight piece combo. But what tips them from good to great is frontman Rob Elfaizy, an almost exact replica of former Boingo frontman Danny Elfman in

SEE MUSIC, Page 16



THE PENETRATORS

Nighttime zoo offers a taste of the orient

By **KAI OLIVER-KURTIN**
DOWNTOWN NEWS

In anticipation of its new Panda Trek exhibit beginning in August, the San Diego Zoo has selected a "Chinese Celebration" theme for its annual nighttime zoo, offering extended summer hours through Sept. 5.

"It's hard to say what will be the most popular," said Jenny Mehlow, senior public relations representative, "but for years, the front plaza has stayed crowded with our Hula-Hoop contest. The Surfin' Safari Bush Band will be playing a medley of music for 'Dancin' through the Decades' that will have participants and spectators dancing to a montage of 30 songs from different eras."

Along with the nighttime zoo comes a new lineup of entertainment, including several acrobatic performances. For a traditional Chinese acrobat experience, the Golden Lion Chinese Acrobats are a coed group who catapult through rings, stand and balance on tall stacks of chairs (and each other), lie on their backs while twirling ceramic pots and square tables on their feet, and perform balancing tricks with yo-yo like apparatuses. Hailing from the Hebei Province of China, these young contortionists wear the lucky Chinese colors of red and gold, and perform daily during "Tales of the Mandarin Forest" at 2 and 5 p.m.

A North Chinese leopard, listed as an endangered species, made its zoo debut in time for the summer celebration. The Panda Trek exhibit will incorporate the zoo's three giant pandas, as well as Sichuan Takin, a half-goat, half-antelope species considered a Chinese national treasure, that will be surrounded by six varieties of bamboo and other indigenous Chinese plants. A venomous Mangshan pitviper (snake) will also be camouflaging itself into the bamboo forests.

"By extending operating hours, the zoo is able to take advantage of all the summer sunlight hours," said Mehlow. "It also gives guests the chance to see animals later in the evening when they often demonstrate different behaviors — the lions roar and the cats become more active."

Special signage marks the nighttime zoo entertainment, including the Jasmine and Jade Jumpers, acrobats jumping on a large trampoline and cascading off of walls to emulate "The Princess and the Frog;" Power and Air, acrobats who balance, extend and hang from a suspended hoop; Monkey King Stiltwalkers, a trio of stiltwalkers parading through the Zoo for ideal photo opportunities; Dr. Zoolittle Explores Asia, a lecture teaching audiences about the giant panda; and Steam Powered Giraffe Robot Band, musical robots perform-



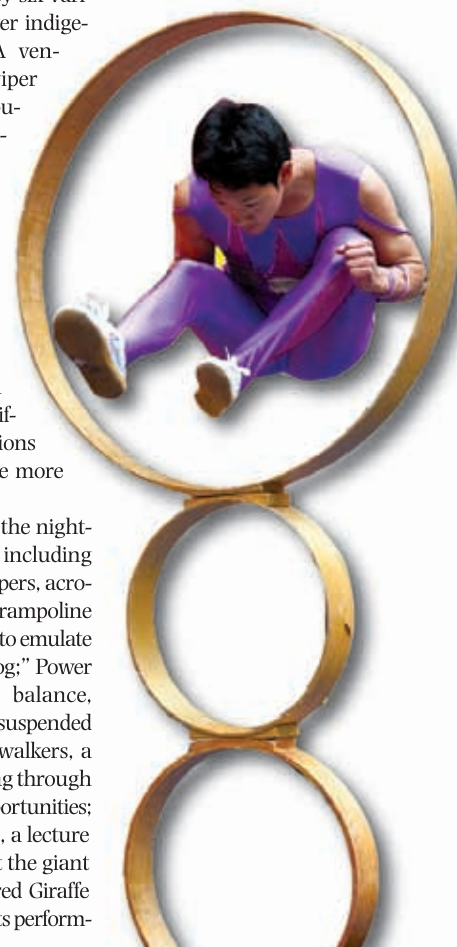
The Golden Lion Chinese Acrobats perform at the nighttime zoo. The theme of the event is "Chinese Celebration." Courtesy photos.

ing pantomime sketches and improvised comedy.

Every evening between 8 and 8:30 p.m., the Front Street Finale concludes the nighttime zoo by bringing together every acrobat, stilt walker, musician, trampoline jumper and greeter for a final performance. This carnival procession gives each group a final bow in the spotlight and every guest a festive sendoff.

To kick off Panda Trek, the Zoo will celebrate the second birthday of their panda Yun Zi on Aug. 5 with an ice cake filled with frozen treats for Yun Zi to de-ice.

For more information, visit www.sandiegozoo.org/nighttime-zoo.



MUSIC

CONTINUED FROM Page 15

both look and sound. The band is so accurate in its recreation of the Boingo concert experience that they have been officially endorsed by Elfinan, with other former members of the band making live guest appearances. If you're an Oingo Boingo fan, this is the next best thing to getting a time machine and heading back to 1984.

Deadman's Party: Aug. 20 at **4th & B**, 345 B St. 8 p.m. 21 and up. \$15-\$20. www.4thandbevents.com

Best known as one of the area's top blues vocalists, Michele Lundeen also branches out into Latin and soul sounds as well as rhythm and blues, with her band, Paradise. Lundeen is a terrific singer in the early Tina Turner tradition, backed here by a world class group of musicians. However, band MVP is timbale player Patrick Cruz, who adds real spice to the proceedings with his percussion. Appearing at Patrick's II on August 21, 9 p.m. Paradise perform dance classics such as "Oye Como Va" and "River Deep, Mountain High," with a passion the songs

originators would applaud.

Michele Lundeen & Paradise: Aug. 21 at **Patrick's II**, 428 F St. 9 p.m. 21 and up. www.patricksi.com

The Mattson 2 host a CD release show, for their new album, *Feeling Hands*, at Dizzy's on August 28. One of a number of local duo's now consisting solely of drums and guitars, ala The White Stripes or Black Keys, where most play some sort of blues, this pair of brothers has created a new genre to explore, instrumental surf jazz. Fans of guitarists ranging from Dick Dale to Wes Montgomery will find much to their liking in the Mattson 2's music, as will admirers of fifties soundtrack king Henry Mancini.

Mattson 2: Aug. 28 at **Dizzy's**, 200 Harbor Drive. 8 p.m. All ages. \$10. www.dizzysjazz.com

Blessed with a huge voice and personality to match, Steph Johnson, who performs at Croce's on August 30, 7:30 p.m., is one of the area's most promising singer-songwriters. Mixing jazz and R&B, Johnson has released two albums, *Genesee Avenue* (2006) and *Mysterious Feminine* (2010), with excellent songs such as the funky dance number,

"Hiya Hiya." However, her music is best experienced live, where she and her band (seasoned vets who have backed the likes of Ike Turner) are in full command of the stage. Anyone who likes their music with a bit of groove and a lot of soul, will enjoy this performance.

Steph Johnson: Tuesday August 30 at **Croce's Jazz Bar**, 802 Fifth Avenue. 7:30 p.m. 21 and up. www.stephjohnsonband.com



MATTSON 2

MUSTHEAR

Local musician and promoter Cathryn Beeks is known for promoting excellent showcase concerts, but she has outdone herself with her Local Brews, Local Grooves event at the House of Blues on Aug. 19. The "brews" refers to the drinks on tap, the "grooves" to a 14-artist line up of San Diego's top artists alternating 20 minute sets on two stages. The night features an eclectic mix of up-and-coming talent like For The Faint and Lenny Morris, as well as long time favorites like blues rockers The Farmers, folk soul combo the Heavy Guilt and songstress Gayle Skidmore. A mini music festival in all but name, Local Brews, Local Grooves is great opportunity to check out a healthy slice of the San Diego music scene in one evening of fun.

Local Brews Local Grooves: Friday,

August 19 at The House of Blues, 555 Fifth Avenue. 7 p.m. 21 and up. \$5. www.listenlocalsd.com/LBLG-All-Access.html

— Bart Mendoza



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THE LIVELY ARTS

Charlene Baldrige



The Old Globe's SHakespeare Festival continues through Sept. 24.
Courtesy photo

Felder, Shaw and Shakespeare, oh my!

There are five shows to choose from at the Old Globe in the month of August. With the Old Globe premiere of "Hershey Felder in Maestro: The Art of Leonard Bernstein," the actor/playwright/pianist tries to dislodge William Shakespeare through Aug. 28 in the Old Globe Theatre. Also playing is the West Coast premiere of John Morogio's "Engaging Shaw" through Sept. 4 in the White Theatre. Rotating repertory of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" and "The Tempest," plus Peter Shaffer's "Amadeus," continues through Sept. 24 in the outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre.

\$39-\$90, www.theoldglobe.org or (619) 233-GLOBE.

Music under the stars

San Diego Symphony Summer Pops continues with "Broadway's Tony Winners," Aug. 5 and 6; Burt Bacharach Aug. 7; Dennis DeYoung Aug. 12 and 13; "Pops Goes Classical" Aug. 14; "Beatles Tribute" Aug. 19 and 20; Ozomatli Aug. 21; "Music of the Rolling Stones" Aug. 25; and "Wynonna" Aug. 26 and 27. Concerts at 7:30 p.m. offer a wide range of prices depending upon location — on the grass, in the grandstand or at a cabaret table. Embarcadero Marina Park South, Harbor Drive, south of Convention Center, www.sandiegosymphony.org or (619) 235-0804.

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

Take the whole family when Broadway San Diego presents "Mary Poppins," the hit Broadway musical based upon the 1964 Disney film, Aug. 10-21 at the Civic Theatre, 1100 Third St., \$20-\$86, (619) 570-1100 or www.broadwaysd.com, www.sandiegotheatres.org or www.ticketmaster.com.



Mary Poppins is at the Civic Theatre, Aug. 10-21.
Courtesy photo

KOREAN-AMERICAN ART IN LITTLE ITALY



By WILL BOWEN | DOWNTOWN NEWS

"To probe the subtleties of the ordinary—We must describe the indescribable."
— Wen Tianxiang (13th century, China)

Not everything in Little Italy is Italian. Mee Shim, a young Korean-American artist, has opened a small gallery filled with exotic and colorful Asian-themed art called Mee Shim Fine Art at 1943 India St. — right next to a pizzeria.

Shim's most recent work — featured in her gallery — focuses on "face paintings," large egg-shaped mandala-like facial portraits of young Asians, both male and female, upon which scenes of nature — including fish, fowl, and waterfalls — are superimposed. There are, however, also some choice older works of hers on display. These older pieces include forest landscapes and whole body portraits.

Perhaps the most intriguing painting in the gallery is Shim's version of Botticelli's "Primavera" (1477), which features Asian women in traditional garb overlooked by a Christian cupid-like angel.

Shim opened her gallery at the present location on India Street about two years ago after a brief stint at the Design Center at 2400 Kettner Blvd. She likes Little Italy, calling it "laid back." Prior to that, Shim lived and worked in Indiana, where she taught at Indiana University.

Shim was born and raised in Suwon, South Korea. She began studying painting at the age of 11 with an artist in her hometown and later completed a bachelor's in painting at Duksung Women's University in Seoul in 1992. In 1999, she received her Master of Fine Arts from Wayne State University in Michigan.

Shim says that even though her art is mostly about Asian-American identity issues and is influenced by Asian religions — such as Taoism — she feels indebted to Renaissance and Pre-Renaissance or Gothic Christian-themed art. She likes this style and period of

art because of the use of color and the clear religious content. She is also influenced by contemporary artist R.B. Kitaj, who has woven his Jewish identity into his painting.

Mostly, Shim says she is "inspired by my own art." The process of working, she said, leads her to new trails, tangents and insights.

"The more I paint, the more my process becomes clear to me, and the more it reveals to me," she said.

Shim is not shy about her spirituality. "We are part of the universe. God lives in us," she said. "We are part of him."

She contends that there is not enough spiritual art nowadays. In much of modern art, she said, people are "losing touch with their spiritual nature."

"I have special eyes," she said. "I see the little details, like the light that shines in the fallen rain drops which have collected on the surface of a leaf. These are like little drops of energy from the universe. I want to convey my vision so that other people can see that, too."

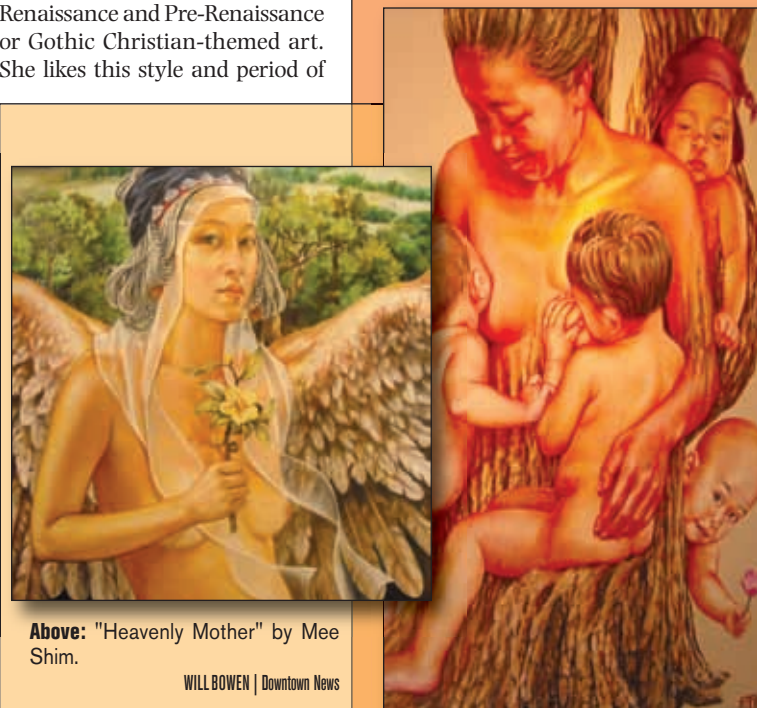
A hard worker, Shim puts in 12-18 hours a day painting. Dave Bruce, manager of the Mee Shim Gallery, said, "She is absolutely the most hardworking person I have ever known. But she is also the warmest, most sensitive and most genuine person I have ever met."

The Mee Shim Gallery is open Thursdays through Sundays from noon to 9 p.m. and Mondays through Wednesdays at variable hours or by appointment. The public is invited to stop by and talk to Mee Shim or watch her paint.

For further information, visit meekyungshim.com, call (619) 405-9456 or email meeshim@gmail.com.

Top: Mee Shim's "Primavera" is on view at Mee Shim Art Gallery, 1943 India St.

Below: Mee Shim's piece, entitled "Maternity" Photos by WILL BOWEN | Downtown News



Above: "Heavenly Mother" by Mee Shim.

WILL BOWEN | Downtown News



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Poolside pilates to pedal pushing: Hotel Solamar promotes healthy traveling

In addition to extra amenities such as a hosted evening wine reception, dog-friendly environment and getting a human treat for saying a secret password at check-in, Hotel Solamar has now added another special touch for guests to enjoy an over-the-top travel experience.

Mind Your P's: Pilates, Power Walks and Pedal Pushers is a new wellness program offered to guests by Hotel Solamar, Hot Body Pilates and The Bike Revolution.

One way to maintain good health while on the road, but without having to leave the hotel, is through Hot Body Pilates' poolside mat classes. Every Saturday morning, from 10 to 11 a.m., instructors bring the Hot Bodies studio to Hotel Solamar's rooftop pool for an invigorating morning workout featuring bay views for just \$10 per class. Private instruction by one of Hot Body's certified trainers is also available upon request.

Hotel Solamar can also help guests with bike rentals from The Bike Revolution for a healthy, easy way to see the sights of downtown San Diego without stepping foot in a motor vehicle.

Individual bike rentals run from \$25 to \$45 per day. City tours of San Diego, Coronado, Cabrillo and the waterfront are also offered, from \$65 to \$89 per person. Options range from a rigorous, 30-mile route touring the highlights of San Diego's neighborhoods to a relaxing, 10-mile waterfront tour of the bay and

Seaport Village.

Free power walks touring downtown San Diego are led by the hotel's staff and general manager Mark Dibella every Wednesday afternoon. At 4 p.m., guests can meet in the hotel's lobby and commence on a one-hour, heart-pumping power walk alongside the bay while learning more about the surrounding area.

"It is fun for the guests to meet him and ask him questions about their stay and the city," said hotel representative Nicole Lazar.

If a guest's idea of wellness involves indulging in a more relaxing workout that stimulates mental health by shaking off stress, "you can also meet him during the hotel's evening wine hour," she said.

Additional components to the program offered by Hotel Solamar include "Healthy Traveler" dining options from nutritionist Joy Bauer and free in-room workout, healthy living and nutrition videos On Demand.

Hotel Solamar, a member of the award-winning San Francisco-based Kimpton Hotel and Restaurants, is a contemporary boutique hotel highlighting vibrant sun-and-sea designs akin to its name and San Diego location. The hotel is located at 435 Sixth Ave. in the Gaslamp Quarter. For more information or to make reservations, visit www.hotelsolamar.com or call (619) 819-9500.

— Mariko Lamb

The shoe that fits like a glove

FIT SAVVY

By Connie Cook | Guest Columnist

Being naked can be liberating, especially for feet that have been cramped up in shoes that are too tight or pointed. Doesn't it feel great to take your shoes off at the end of the day and just wiggle your toes and feel the freedom of naked feet? Many runners claim to have found just that freedom by wearing the new Vibram FiveFingers footwear instead of traditional running shoes.

About this time last year, members started showing up to the gym in these funky toe-hugging shoes. Always one to question new fitness trends, my first concern with the shoe, admittedly, was the aesthetics. They just looked weird and they sent me into a 1970s flashback when I got a pair of the oh-so-popular "toe socks" in my stocking for Christmas (Santa was always a little fashion forward in my home). How could something like that possibly be an athletic shoe?

After speaking to many FiveFingers footwear fanatics I have learned most of them are runners and they like the footwear because it allows them to feel as close as possible to running barefoot while still providing protection for their feet. The concept and design behind the shoe is that it brings you closer to true contact with the ground so you can leverage all of your body's natural biomechanics and move as nature intended.

Our ancestral hunters and gatherers did not go out chasing their dinner in the newest Nike Cross Trainers or Asics Trail Runners. They were most likely barefoot, and when you're barefoot, your foot is in its natural state and can move more efficiently than when it is bound up in a shoe. It rolls, stretches, expands and grasps the ground.

Vibram's website states their FiveFingers

footwear helps strengthen the muscles in your feet and lower legs while improving the range of motion in your ankles, feet and toes, allowing your foot and toes to move more naturally. They also stimulate the neural function of the thousands of neurological receptors in your feet and send valuable information to your brain, which can help improve your balance and agility.

Most experts agree that proper running form is achieved with a forefoot strike, when your forefoot hits the ground first, as opposed to running with a heel strike, when your heel hits first. The heel strike during running mostly came about because of the excessive padding of running shoes. Striking with the heel first is like putting the brakes on every step. Landing on the forefoot allows your arches to act as natural shock absorbers and may be safer and lead to fewer injuries.

Vibram's heel-less shoe design encourages forefoot running and can therefore help align your spine and improve your posture. By lowering the heel on any shoe, your body-weight becomes more evenly distributed across the foot bed, promoting proper posture and spinal alignment.

Nearly all fitness enthusiasts believe a very cushioned athletic shoe offers the best support for your foot. If you like the feel of a cushy shoe "hugging" your foot, it may actually be damaging because it can alter your motion from what's natural. Cushioning blocks the feeling of the ground and can cause a loss of nerve sensation while too much support can immobilize your foot and possibly cause muscle atrophy.

So is this new craze of almost barefoot running in these funky shoes for you? I've decided it is an individual preference and depends on how your body responds to it. There are a few things to consider if you



want to give it a try:

1. Ease in to it. Your feet are used to wearing shoes so hopping into a pair of FiveFingers and running even around the block isn't a good idea. It could be a shock to your feet. It may take weeks to move from a supportive shoe to less supportive depending on your foot type.

2. Avoid hard surfaces. Stay away from hard concrete or cement that will be jarring to your joints. A grassy or sandy surface will suite you best for your first time out.

3. Make sure you get the correct size. Fit is everything, since these unique shoes hug your toes and have a completely different feel than traditional running shoes.

Even if you're not a runner, you too can jump on the FiveFinger bandwagon. Vibram also offers a variety of shoes for fitness, water, traveling, trekking, yoga and even an after-sports alternative. Going virtually barefoot has never been so easy.



Connie Cook

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Fitness Director

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How do you Stress?

Dear Readers,

Many of you have come into ELITE Health for care and are surprised to learn that the pain that "Came out of nowhere" often has actually been lingering below the surface due to bad posture, daily habits, and lack of flexibility just to name a few reasons. I often hear, "This couldn't have happened at a worse time!" Why, you ask? Usually the answer is because the patient has a deadline, a trip planned, or some other important or stressful matters to tend to soon.

I bring this up because daily I see the effects of stress and how it can affect one's body and health. Clearly, increased stress leads to increased illnesses. For all my patients and our downtown readers, I thought of you when I read this article from www.Toyourhealth.com. Enjoy!

Communicate with your Chiropractor

Whether you're fighting through traffic, paying the monthly bills, dealing with the noisy next-door neighbor or struggling with illness or disease, it can all add up to a considerable amount of stress. Stress is basically what we feel whenever we are faced with a difficult, unpleasant or challenging situation, and the way we deal with all this stress can substantially influence our overall health and well-being.

If stress is affecting your life, it's time to make an appointment with a doctor of chiropractic. Here's why: A study in the Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics (JMPT) examined the

contribution of stress as a potential disease trigger among 138 chiropractic patients attending one of 10 chiropractic clinics. Patients completed two questionnaires that asked about how their current stress affected their ability to function emotionally, mentally and physically.

Results showed that nearly one in three patients viewed their lives as moderately to severely stressful, and more than 50% felt that stress had a moderate or severe impact on their current health problem. Nearly three-quarters (71%) of the patients said that it would be helpful if their chiropractic care included strategies to help them cope with stress.

Chiropractic care might be just what you need to help relieve some of that stress in your life. And remember, evidence suggests that low back pain, a condition that chiropractors are experts at managing, may be caused or worsened by stress. So talk to your chiropractor about stress and about all of your health care needs. Trust and communication are important in any relationship, but perhaps no more so than in the relationship between patient and doctor. After all, you're placing your health and wellness in their hands.

Reference: Jamison J. Stress: the chiropractic patient's self-perceptions. Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics, July/August 1999; Vol. 22, No. 6, pp395-98

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Fashion
Files
Diana Cavagnaro

FASHIONABLE SAN DIEGO

A model wears a Carolina Cecena Design at A Line, a show featuring live art, music and fashion at the Se Hotel on July 1.
Diana Cavagnaro | Downtown News



A Line@the Se Hotel

The Se Hotel was the scene for a smashing lineup of fashion, art, and music on July 1 during A Line, an event sponsored by Honeypot SD. The venue was under the stars on the rooftop for a perfect night of fun.

The evening kicked off with a lineup of local DJs entertaining the crowd. Dope Show Art Collective and Arsic Project were on-site, showcasing local artists while the guests sipped on cocktails and enjoyed the music and art. At midnight, the fashion show began. The models looked like they were floating on water as they made their way down a runway that wound around and across the pool. Cutting-edge fashions were on hand from Carolina Cecena, Unsteady Boutique, Coco Monet and Leoluca Handbags.

The event was part of a new series of art shows the Se Hotel will be hosting on the first Friday of each month, including fashion show with San Diego designers and tunes spun by local DJs. The next show will be Aug. 5.

Celebrating Couture 2011

The Globe Guilders welcomed Celebrating Couture 2011 on July 14, presented by Neiman Marcus and the Hilton San Diego Bayfront. The festivities began with a social hour highlighted by costumes from past Old

Globe productions. Wendy Ledford chaired the fashion show and Jo Ann Kilty was honorary chair.

The fashion show highlighted Naem Khan's Resort 2012 Collection, consisting of a combination of cocktail dresses, separates and opulent gowns. One elegant creation after another came down the runway, the color red dominating the show. Peasant-inspired looks were interpreted into high fashion. Laser-cut, patent leather, hand-stitched

ostrich feathers and paisley thread work were some of the intricate details on the blouses.

Indian-born Naem Khan, who came to the United States as a teenager and launched his first collection in 2003, has designed for celebrities, including first lady Michelle Obama, Beyonce and Eva Longoria.

The audience especially loved the silk organza dresses that seemed to glide down the catwalk. The timeless designs showed Khan's love for textiles and left the audience wanting more. Ranjana Khan designed the terrific jewelry complementing the show. There was a fantastic live auction, which included a Naem Khan dress and four invitations to Khan's spring/summer 2012 Fashion Week exhibit in New York. After the show, the audience was able to join Khan in the Sapphire Room.

This is the 21st year of the Globe Guilders and event benefited the Old Globe's artistic, education and community programs of the theatre. For more information, call Jill Holmes at (858) 454-0014.

Upcoming Events

August 12: Jewelry by Mary-Austin Bame, trunk show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado, www.mary-austinbame.com, www.mingei.org

August 14: Fortune's Elevation Pool Party, noon, Ivy Rooftop at the Andaz Hotel, 600 F St., www.ivyentertainmentsandiego.com

August 20: Haute with a Heart to benefit St Madeleine Sophie's Center, fashion show and luncheon from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Drive, (619) 442-5129, ext. 115



Models show off Naem Khan's Resort 2012 Collection at the Celebrating Couture 2011 event on July 14.

Diana Cavagnaro | Downtown News

—Diana Cavagnaro is a nationally recognized hat designer and milliner who has been operating a fashion business for 30 years.

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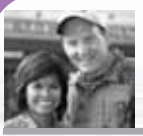
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It's all
Happening!
Marc & Darlynn Menkin



The Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina now offers guests a ride on an 83-foot pirate ship, complete with sword fights and cannon blasts. Courtesy photo

San Diego: staycationer's paradise

The next time you catch yourself daydreaming about that much-needed vacation you can't afford, here's a thought: stay in town. With so many cool attractions and hidden treasures right here in our backyard, why spend a bundle when San Diego has it all?

• **The Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina** is not just for traveling guests. Its Summer Play Program is a great fit for locals who want a fun weekend getaway but don't want to stray too far from home. From now until Labor Day, the hotel is offering a bevy of free poolside activities and discounted water adventures for guests.

"When guests stay with us, we want to exceed their expectations," said Patrick Connors, director of marketing. "We want them to think of us as a unique one-stop shop, a place where you can have it all."

Everything from fast-moving Navy SEAL-style boat rides, relaxing sailing adventures, kayaking and paddleboard lessons are offered. There's even a new 83-foot pirate ship boat ride that takes guests into a swashbuckling world of piracy, sword fights and cannon blasts.

If you prefer to stay on land, there are free kids activities like Kids Putt Challenges and "Octopus Tag in H2O." For adults, yoga and cardio tennis classes are offered and when the sun goes down, there are "dive-in" movies at the swimming pool on Friday and Saturday evenings. www.sheratonsandiegohotel.com

• We couldn't ask for a better combination: live comedy on a cool rooftop venue. **The Madhouse Comedy Club** is getting ready to swing open its doors on the third level of the West-

field Horton Plaza Shopping Mall, in the former home of Napa Valley Grille. Madhouse Comedy Club owner Robert Lariviere says he's very excited about this new venture. Lariviere and his brother, Michael, say this will be more than a comedy club — it will be a full-scale restaurant and bar where guests can get a good meal at an affordable price.

"A lot of comedy clubs either don't offer food — or a limited menu at best — but here, we'll have great food and a comedy show every night. It's turned into so much more than we bargained for but we're happy," Lariviere said.

The comedy club will feature local comedians and national headliners. www.madhousecomedy.com

• **The Summer Pops** have affordable options that many locals don't know exist. For \$17, guests can bring in food, a small cooler with non-alcoholic drinks and low-to-the-ground lawn chairs. This month has some rockin' shows: Dennis DeYoung and the music of Styx on Aug. 12 and 13; a Beatles Tribute on Aug. 19 and 20; a Rolling Stones Tribute Band on Aug. 25; and a Wynonna Judd/SD Symphony combo on Aug. 26 and 27. Be sure to stick around for the post show fireworks around 9:20 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Our tip: If you have a small boat or kayak, time your voyage so you catch the end of the show and see the fireworks. If you don't have a boat, try the affordable voyage on a \$7 water taxi that runs daily after 3 p.m. (619) 234-TAXI.

— *Marc and Darlynn Menkin are the co-owners of Where You Want To Be Tours. Many of their tours and teambuilding Scavenger Hunts feature secret Downtown areas.*
www.wheretours.com

Businesses with blue vistas have visions of green

The San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina is one of more than 60 waterfront businesses participating in the Green Business Challenge, designed by the Port of San Diego to promote practices that reduce energy consumption and water use, minimize waste and prevent pollution.

"The Marriott has a long history of wanting

to be green, and we've had several initiatives we have done over the years," said Jerry McHugh, Marriott's director of engineering.

For five years, the Marriott has been pursuing that goal by converting all of its mechanical equipment with new electronic devices, installing energy-efficient lighting and educating its staff during weekly meetings to discuss energy sav-

ing ideas that team members can use at home.

The hotel's efforts on the project have paid off, saving the hotel 130,000 kilowatt-hours — equalling \$16,000 in saving — per year.

To view a complete listing of Green Business Challenge participants, visit www.greenportchallenge.org.

— *Mariko Lamb*

HISTORY AT 8:17 PM IN THE KITCHEN AFTER PIANO PRACTICE



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Attend a show at The Magic Lounge on the first Friday of every month and have a creative photo taken with you, a friend, one of the magicians and some props from their act. The lounge's new venue is On Broadway, 615 Broadway. Tickets are \$10 on the web-site (www.obec.tv) and \$15 at the door. The show features four award-winning magicians: Mike Stillwell, Terry Lunceford, Joe Mystic and Derek Ostovani, plus a new guest every month!

Go to our Where You Want To Be Tours Facebook page and post your photo. The most creative picture will win two tickets to an Amazing Race/Scavenger Hunt with WYWTB Tours.

COMIC-
CON

A good time was had by all at the 42nd annual Comic-Con International. Downtown San Diego saw a variety of characters roaming its streets from the 21-24 of July as comic enthusiasts took over the Gaslamp Quarter.

Photos by PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News

A roundup of happenings around
downtown during the month of July

DOG DAYS



The San Diego Padres set a Guinness World Record for the most dogs in a pet costume parade. Guinness World Record officials were at Petco Park's annual "Dog Days of Summer" event, along with 337 history-making dogs, to assure that the world record was set.

The annual infield costume parade was lead by Tillman, the world-famous skateboarding dog, as dogs paraded around showing off their Padres spirit.

Courtesy photos



ZOO FORECAST: SNOW



The San Diego Zoo's three polar bears were greeted by 18 tons of snow and lots of smiling donors when they walked into their exhibit July 13. More than 90 donors contributed a total of \$5,100 to the zoo's online Animal Care Wish List to provide the special enrichment activity for the bears.

Courtesy photo

"AMERICAN
IDOL"

Hordes of fame-hungry San Diegans crowded the streets around Petco Park on July 8 to try their hand at being an idol. "American Idol" held auditions, and it's clear San Diego wants its 15 minutes of fame.

WALTER RUSKIN | Downtown News and the Ugly News Team



Watch Walter Ruskin's video at the auditions at www.sdnnews.com!

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Downtown · “Harbor Club”

If you're seeking a privileged lifestyle in the Marina District's premier, resort-style community with unbeatable, 360-degree views, privately keyed elevator access, over 4000 square feet of gleaming granite and the best of everything, don't delay! 38th-floor penthouse living + 5 secured parking spaces help make this residence super special!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5399

Downtown · “Electra”

One of the preferred floor plans at downtown's one-of-a-kind luxury community, this 22nd-floor, south-facing beauty enjoys gleaming wood floors and a den area in addition to approximately 1550 square feet, dual bedrooms and baths, & sweeping views!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5629

Downtown · “The Grande North”

Boasting sweeping Northwest water views from its 30th-floor perch, this stunning, two-bedroom + den features over 1600 square feet and upgrades galore! Don't miss out!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5349

Downtown · “Park Place”

You'll want to see this amazing 21st-floor residence with spectacular Southwest water views to Coronado and Point Loma! This popular split bedroom/ bath design enjoys a 2-sided fireplace, view terrace, dual parking, & upgrades galore! Furnishings negotiable!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5209

Downtown · “Electra”

Situated near the top of San Diego's tallest residential high-rise, this expansive 1850 square-foot beauty on the 41st floor will knock your socks off! The touch of a button operates the window shades and lights & the interior is upgraded beyond belief! Sweeping water views from every room are yours to behold from this elegant, extensively upgraded and customized beauty!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5099

Downtown · “Watermark”

Elegant and spacious, this premium Northwest corner residence in the Marina District's landmark residential community boasts an expansive terrace, stunning views directly into Pantoja Park, 2 bedrooms PLUS a full-size den/office, and 2.5 baths! Two secured parking, too!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5419

Downtown · “City Mark”

You'll love life at this one-of-a-kind, detached row home atop Cortez Hill! Like a house but also a condo, with low HOA fees, 2-car secured parking, 3 full bedrooms, 2 baths, and almost 2000 square feet! A must-see!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5219

Downtown · “Bayside”

Boasting sweeping Northwest views to the bay and ocean, this 21st-floor beauty in Bosa Development's newest and most exciting residential community has it all! Dual bedrooms and baths, quality cabinetry and finishes, and so much more!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5559

Downtown · “City Walk”

This expansive, 1684 square-foot town home feels more like a house than a condo! It enjoys an oversize terrace, access from the street as well as the interior of the community, and a private corner locale!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5119

Downtown · “Harbor Club”

This spectacular 'bubble unit' on the 33rd floor of the Marina District's premier, resort-style residential high-rise boasts a completely remodeled interior with the finest of finishes and phenomenal, 180-degree water views!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5289

Downtown · “ParkLoft”

You'll want to see this authentic loft residence in Downtown's premier, East Village community near Petco Park! It boasts 10-foot, cement ceilings, exposed ductwork, remodeled baths, and approx.. 39 linear feet of organized storage! Tres cool!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5309

Downtown · “The Mark”

Boasting a premium south-facing orientation overlooking the lush pool and community park, this immaculate and upgraded residence enjoys an oversize view terrace and may be negotiated furnished! Live the good life!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5459

Downtown · “Electra”

Take advantage of this super short-sale at one of Downtown's most unique and desirable luxury communities! Active city views, a split master suite design, and a spacious private terrace complete this pretty picture!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5429

Downtown · “City Walk”

You'll love life in this pristine town home in popular mid-rise community in the heart of the Marina District! Enjoy relaxing or entertaining on one of your two private terraces and descend only a few stairs to the street level-no elevator necessary to walk the dog! Low HOA fees, too!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5639

Downtown · “Electra”

Don't delay on this well-priced 2-bedroom, 2-bath residence with spacious terrace and city views! Common amenities are like NO OTHERS downtown!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5269

Downtown · “Union Square”

Call to see this rare, 3-BR/ 2-BA in impeccable condition complete with granite kitchen and bath countertops, a private terrace, and dual parking spaces. Located in an FHA/VA approved community!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5449

Downtown · “The Grande”

Featuring an upgraded and pristine interior, this lovely residence enjoys gleaming cherry hardwood floors, a bay view terrace, a black-granite kitchen with glass-tile back-splash and stainless appliances and dual secured parking spaces! Stunning!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5339

Downtown · “The Grande”

Stop here for the ideal first-time buyer or second home opportunity in one of Downtown's most desirable residential communities! Across from the Waterfront, this beautifully presented one-bedroom has it all for a bargain price!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5589

Downtown · “Watermark”

This well-priced residence in recently renovated community enjoys a west-facing orientation, a private terrace looking toward the Old Police Quarters, and dual parking spaces!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5299

Downtown · “Watermark”

You'll want to see this beautifully remodeled 2- bedroom with west-facing orientation in one of the Marina District's landmark residential communities, short-sale priced to sell!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5019

Downtown · “Park Blvd East”

The ideal starter property, this cute 1-bedroom overlooking the quiet courtyard enjoys granite flooring and countertops and a private terrace! Located in a VA-approved community and short-sale priced to sell!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5649

Downtown · “Acqua Vista”

Take advantage of this super short-sale, complete with dual balconies, dual master suites, & pleasant South-facing city views!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5149

Downtown · “Element”

Hurry, this is one of the lowest-priced properties currently on the market! This adorable 1-BR features a stunning granite and cherrywood kitchen, upgraded sculpted carpet, and a granite bathroom!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5409

Downtown · “Gaslamp City Square”

Enjoy city views from this West-facing exterior residence complete with dual bedrooms and baths, granite counters in the kitchen and baths, and stainless appliances! Well-priced!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5089

Downtown · “Park Blvd East”

Sold for \$250,000. Take advantage of this super short-sale opportunity priced to sell and cute as a button! Oversize tile set on the diagonal, a custom organized walk-in closet, and a convenient location near Petco Park!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5439

Downtown · “Metrome”

Sold for \$345,000. Ideally located near Petco Park and the new library, this prime 2-BR boasts dual patios on the zen-like courtyard, dual parking, and rich slate surfaces throughout!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5159

Downtown · “The Mark”

Sold for \$355,000. This upgraded 1-bedroom features the preferred view orientation in the community facing South toward the Bay Bridge overlooking the lush center courtyard & pool!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5669

Downtown · “Palermo”

Don't delay on this corner unit residence with lots of sunny windows and dual parking, short-sale priced to sell! Dual bedrooms and baths, too!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5279

Downtown · “Watermark”

This highly upgraded one-bedroom boasts gleaming wood floors, remodeled kitchen and bath, and an oversize view terrace!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5039

Downtown · “Meridian”

Enjoy a lifestyle found nowhere else at this high-amenity, luxury community! The residence boasts upgrades galore and 1800 square feet, short-sale priced to sell!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5609

Downtown · “The Mark”

You'll want to see this super 1-bedroom in the Northeast corner of one of Downtown's most sought-after East Village communities! Sweeping urban views and quality common area amenities, all for a price under \$400,000!

For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5659

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