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Su-Mei Yu's TV debut

DINING P. 8



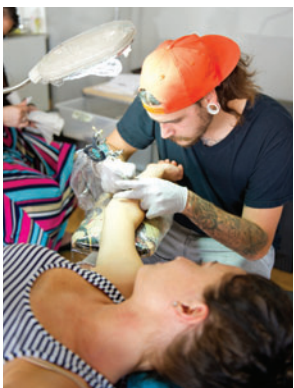
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(center, l to r) Council President Todd Gloria and Friends of Balboa Park Chair Jim Hughes, with Albert Einstein Academy students, help plant trees on Arbor Day. (Photo by Anulak Singhiphat)

Celebrating Arbor Day

Friends of Balboa Park sees 18 new trees planted in honor of lifelong park devotees

By Anthony King
SDUN Editor

Arborists, city employees, city and state leaders and students from South Park's Albert Einstein Academy joined the Friends of Balboa Park early morning April 26 to celebrate Arbor Day by planting new trees in Balboa Park. Over 150 community members gathered near the intersection of Sixth Avenue and Quince Street for the ceremony.

"Thank you for being with us today to dedicate the 18 newest trees in Balboa Park," said Jim Hughes, Friends of Balboa Park chair. "The planting of trees today is an example of what the Friends of Balboa Park does."

The Balboa Park stewards have hosted an Arbor Day ceremony in the park for seven years, however the first celebration occurred on Saint Patrick's Day in 1904. Botanist and landscape architect Kate Sessions –

called by some the "Mother of Balboa Park" – hosted that first tree planting, which was attended by 3,500 school children. They planted 60 trees.

"What you're doing today, when you help us plant some of these trees, you're continuing something that started with Kate Sessions," Council President Todd Gloria told the students. "This park belongs to all of you."

Assembly Majority Leader Toni Atkins said she was excited to tell the students a history of Arbor Day, including its start in Nebraska and the first official celebration in 1872. In 1970, President Richard Nixon declared the last Friday in April National Arbor Day.

All speakers addressed the students directly, with Atkins telling of California's history as the home of many greats in tree history and San Diego Urban Forestry Council chair and arborist Mike Palat telling

see [ArborDay](#), page 5

Digging in

Local real estate firm sponsoring Alice Birney School's garden program

By Dave Fidlin
SDUN Reporter

Since the school garden's resurrection nearly a decade ago, Alice Birney Elementary School students have been able to play in the dirt – literally – as part of a hands-on garden program. Fiscal constraints at the state level have put the offering in doubt, but a local firm is lending its financial support.

Tomea Inc. Consulting, an upstart real estate firm with six employees in Bankers Hill, announced a partnership with Alice Birney staff and students earlier this spring. The firm has pledged its resources to ensure the garden program remains in the curriculum at Alice Birney for the foreseeable future.



(center) Dig Down Deep garden educator Mindy Swanson with Alice Birney Elementary students (Photo by Anulak Singhiphat)

Began a year ago, community involvement was a cornerstone of Tomea's philosophy, Director of Operations Melania Mirzakhani said.

"It's something that's important to all of us," she said. "We began to reach out to local schools in the area and did some research. We liked the garden program at Alice Birney. It's unique."

Amanda Hammond-Williams,

principal at Alice Birney, said the garden program returned eight years ago after a lengthy hiatus. The resurrection was due in large part to an active PTA group at the time. Students in kindergarten to grade five attend the University Heights magnet school, located at 4345 Campus Ave.

see [AliceBirney](#), page 4

North Park Festival of the Arts

Art, dance, music and beer highlight the 17th annual festival May 18

By Anthony King
SDUN Editor

The community is set to descend on North Park May 18 for the 17th annual North Park Festival of the Arts, featuring art for adults and children, live bands and dance performances, and the return of the Craft Brew Block, with beer and ale from a wide selection of local breweries. The yearly festival is organized by the North Park Main Street, and runs from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.



'Supportive' by featured artist Sarah Stieber (Courtesy North Park Main Street)

"The Kids ART Block section is a crowd favorite," organizers said on the official event website. "Kids are given the opportunity to participate in a variety of interactive arts related activities all geared to teach and inspire young minds to explore their own artistic creativity." Planned activities include origami-making lessons, crafting with recycled items and multi-media and photography projects.

North Park Craft Mafia will once again host the festival's Spring Line Up, which the arts and crafts nonprofit has overseen since founding in 2007.

Called the "hub" of North Park's artistic community, Ray Street will be home to "local artist creations, live demonstrations and temporary installations created just for the festival," organizers said.

There are over 35 juried artists for this year's event, including Ashley Carattini, Eric Cantrell, Rowshan Dowlatabadi and Amy Baca-Lopez, a North Park Main Street artist. This year's featured artist is Sarah Stieber, who was selected by festival organizers during an open search for new talent that would best represent the spirit of the festival.

Stieber, who recently participated in the Mission Federal ArtWalk in Little Italy and also hosted her own show called

see [Arts](#), page 13

Mary McTernan

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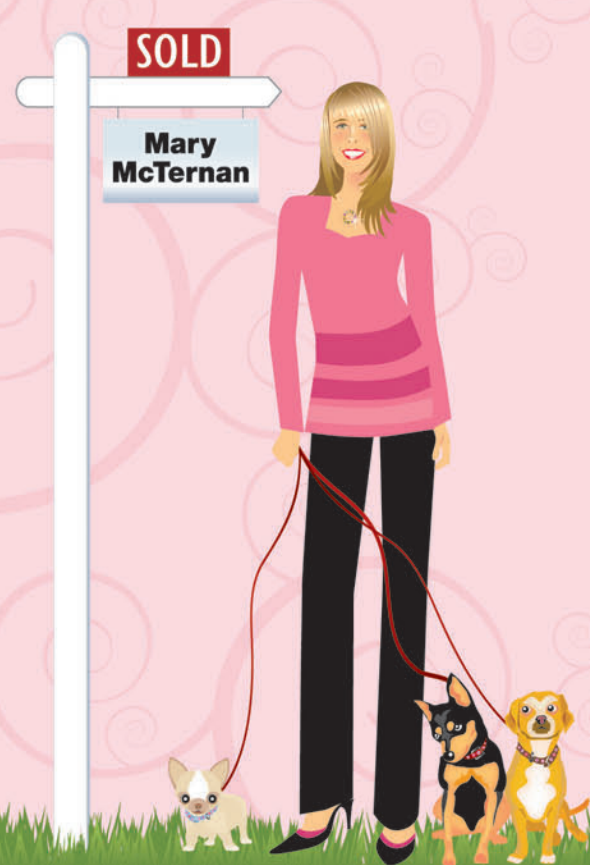
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Savor San Diego with Su-Mei Yu

Mission Hills restaurant owner debuts new TV series

By Monica Medina



For as long as she can remember, Su-Mei Yu's dream was to leave her home in Thailand to come to the United States. So when the opportunity arose at the age of 15, she seized it.

Her Chinese parents didn't think she'd be able to pull off making the journey to a new country on her own. They told her that they would only allow her to move to the United States if she could find a program that would not cost them any money. And that's exactly what she did. With the help of a family friend who'd been a missionary in China, Yu relocated to Kentucky where she enrolled in a church-affiliated school for girls.

"It was a girls' school," Yu explained, "because my mother said I couldn't go to a coed school. And, she didn't want me to come by myself because I was so young, so of all the cousins, she selected my cousin, Susie, who didn't have any choice. We were not asked in the olden days."

After earning a master's degree in social welfare from San Diego State University, Yu went on to become a renowned San Diego chef, cookbook author and restaurateur. She opened the small but popular Saffron Thai Grilled Chicken on India Street in Mission Hills in 1985, and followed it up in 2002 with a sit-down restaurant next

door, Saffron Noodles and Sate. A third restaurant is expected to open late summer at the San Diego International Airport.

Yu didn't arrive in the U.S. knowing how to cook. She learned to cook out of necessity. "Kentucky was so different from our home. It's like being dropped on the moon," she said. "The food was awful. I couldn't eat anything that was put on my plate, and kept losing weight. I had to learn how to cook because I couldn't eat the stuff and thought I would die if I had to eat it anymore."

With the help of her cousin, Yu found ways to bring a taste of Thai food to her new home. "Food was always in our blood until I ended up in Kentucky and realized this is not good," said Yu. "The main street had five stores and one of the stores was a combined grocery and hardware store where, lo and behold, I found some ginger, cabbages, and Uncle Ben's instant rice, and I'd make stir-fry. That saved my life."

Of course, whipping up stir-fry in a dorm had its challenges. "In a dormitory you only have limited space," she explained. "There was a kitchenette for all the girls to use. We'd wait until everyone left to go eat in the cafeteria, to make our stir-fry because it smelled different. We'd open all the windows, boil water and add it to the rice."

Yu attributes her passion for cooking to her mother, even though she never actually taught Yu, or her brother and sister, how to cook.

"My mother was an excellent

cook," stated Yu. "But she never let any of us cook. She would do all the cooking, especially when she had all these banquets, and it was incredible to watch her. It was like theater."

Yu's purpose for cooking Thai food goes beyond taste and presentation. She has great love and respect for the tradition of choosing ingredients that are seasonal and nurturing.

"Thai cooking is based on an old philosophical tradition," Yu said, "that food is medicine. In the olden days, recipes were created by combining the natural taste and flavor in the ingredients in a balanced manner in order for the dish to not only taste good, but also be good for you. And, it is always based on the seasonality of the ingredients."

For example, in the summer there are plenty of cucumbers, she continued, "and when the weather gets cool we have pumpkin. It's more warming and better for your muscles. And, onions are good for your chest and good for colds. That is the basic philosophy of Thai food. If you adopt the same philosophical values for your lifestyle here, it can also enhance a better and more balanced diet."

These days, Yu is working on her new cooking series, Savor San Diego, which debuted on KPBS Television May 2. She hopes that by watching the show, viewers will gain a new appreciation of San Diego's bounty of food and how it can be used to create delicious and healthful meals at home.



Su-Mei Yu (Courtesy Savor San Diego / KPBS)

"I want viewers to get excited about San Diego and our wonderful treasures here," Yu said with relish. "I want them to get so excited that they will go find these things, get in the kitchen again and start cooking. Food is such a central part of all of us. We don't realize it but once you put it in, that's it. It goes every which way. You feel the way you feel because it nurtures you or destroys you."

In the six-part series, viewers will meet people who raise, catch or find locally grown foods. "They are very committed and passionate in their own way of creating, finding and raising all these different foods," Yu said.

The first show was titled "The Yin-Yang of Protein" and

upcoming episodes will highlight orchards in Jamul and community gardens in National City and City Heights. Full episodes can be watched at kpbs.org following the original broadcast.

Spend a little time with Yu and you'll be hard-pressed not to get caught up in her enthusiasm for cooking Thai food. And, her advice for getting started is simple: "Don't be afraid, just go for it."

—Monica Medina is director of diversity, engagement and grants at KPBS, and posts stories on their blog "Hey Neighbor!" about "extraordinary people in diverse communities." This story on Su-Mei Yu was first posted on the blog April 25. Visit kpbs.org/news/blogs/hey-neighbor/.

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DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO PARTNERSHIP

By Cynthia Robertson
SDUN Reporter

A town hall effort

Downtown San Diego Partnership reaches out to neighborhoods to plan for future growth

was to solicit input from Hillcrest, Mission Hills and Old Town residents, Michell said they were working to “gather ideas” regarding greater San Diego and “how Downtown can fit” into those ideas.

“Downtown is a neighborhood at the same time that is a regional resource,” she said. Upcoming town halls will be held in North Park May 23, City Heights May 29 and Kensington and Normal Heights May 30, among others.

Council President Todd Gloria greeted the audience of more than 25 people at the Joyce Beers Community Center April 30. “Downtown belongs to everybody. The success of our Uptown is dependent on Downtown and the waterfront, as well as parking and transit,” he said.

Staci Ignell, director of external affairs for the Downtown Partnership, said they wanted to discuss tactics to handle a potential influx of people in the region. Currently, Downtown is home to 35,000 residents and 75,000 employees. The population of the entire San Diego region is expected to grow by 1.3 million people by 2050.

“That means we will need to accommodate for approximately 400,000 more housing units and 500,000 more jobs by that year,” Ignell said. “The Partnership is working to accommodate that growth, but we need all your input.”

Formed in 1993 with 14 staff, 40 maintenance workers and ad-

ditional safety ambassadors, the Downtown Partnership represents over 10,000 property owners, residents and businesses. Called “Our Downtown Vision,” the nonprofit is working in conjunction with San Diego Foundation’s Our Greater San Diego Vision to gather input at the neighborhood town hall meetings.

A power point presentation outlined important points for the town hall participants to consider, including top priorities for Downtown’s future: affordable housing, quality learning, safe and vibrant neighborhoods, transportation, economy and jobs, accessible and protected nature, and trusted regional leadership.

Michell said the Downtown Partnership does not want to shift individuals who are homeless to other neighborhoods, including Uptown. “We respect the homeless population and are continuing to look all over for solutions,” she said.

Establishing a middle school is a priority for Downtown residents, Michell said, and the search is on for finding the proper location. In addition, Downtown residents want to have more higher education opportunities, including technical training and participation with senior citizens.

On the subject of maintaining a safe, vibrant and culturally active Downtown, many people said walking in Downtown needed to be more pleasurable and safe by

establishing proper sidewalks and pocket parks, and implementing safety measures.

The participants viewed farmer’s markets as something worth promoting, even if it caused a bit of chaos with parking. “I love the idea of the farmer’s market, too,” Ignell said. “We plan to keep it going.”

One participant said that where he used to live, city managers would close certain streets to vehicles at certain times. The time determined the use, he said. Michell and Ignell both resolved to work that idea into the vision for Downtown’s future.

Michell said the Downtown Partnership is in the process of implementing a shuttle service to increase mobility. The plan for the service will include circuitous transportation between points at the airport, convention center, Balboa Park and Downtown.

“We believe that connectedness from the airport to all points in and along the way to Downtown is vital,” she said.

Michell closed the town hall meeting by thanking the participants. “Your being here is a good example of leadership,” she said.

The next town hall meeting in the Uptown area is May 23 from 5 – 6:30 p.m. at the North Park Recreation Center, 4044 Idaho St. The May 30 Kensington and Normal Heights meeting is from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at the Adams Recreation Center, 3491 Adams Ave.

The Downtown Partnership encourages participation by attending the meetings and completing an online survey at downtownsandiego.org. The results of all the town hall meetings and surveys will be compiled in a data report by summer, and implementation and action plans will begin in the fall. ♦

FROM PAGE 1

ALICEBIRNEY

Since its return, the garden program has been incorporated into school curriculum as one of the regular specials alongside art, physical education and Spanish language.

With ongoing funding problems prevalent at the state level, officials within the San Diego Unified School District have faced difficult decisions in recent years. When funding deficits come into play, programs outside core curriculum tend to be first on the chopping block.

As part of its agreement with Alice Birney, Tomea staff have pledged the necessary funds to ensure the garden program will be offered in the winter and spring months for a total of 33 weeks. For the time being, regular school funds will ensure the program is offered in the fall.

While brainstorming potential causes, Mirzakhanian said she and other staffers overwhelmingly favored supporting local education.

“Children shouldn’t be the ones suffering from the budget cuts,” Mirzakhanian said. “They are the innocent ones in all this.”

Hammond-Williams said she sees great value in the program, as evidenced by the enthusiasm exhibited by students.

“The program works from seed to table,” she said, pointing out that students have a role in planting vegetables in the garden, caring for them and harvesting them when the time is appropriate. Once the array of produce is ripe, it is incorporated into the school salad bar at lunchtime.

Although it is considered a special program, the gardening does incorporate a few elements of core curriculum. For example, students learn about measurement and fractions during the planting process.

“Our fourth graders, for example, learn about seed germination, and that requires some calculating,” Hammond-Williams said.

Mirzakhanian said she and other Tomea staffers look forward to digging into the dirt alongside Alice Birney staff and students in the near future.

Mindy Swanson and Mickey McQuerry of Dig Down Deep garden educators work with the students every week in the Alice Birney gardens, and recently held a gardening camp at the school over spring break. Swanson said they were thankful for Tomea’s help, as well as their other supporters, Mission Hills Garden Club and Whole Foods Markets.

The school partnership is the second in what Mirzakhanian envisions a long string of events designed to bring the Uptown community together.

The firm’s debut effort, an art gallery event held inside the company’s offices at 2645 First Ave., took place in February. It featured nine artists and a wine and cheese tasting. Mirzakhanian said there were about 200 attendees.

“We really believe in the idea of bringing everyone together, even if it means being part of something that has nothing to do with real estate,” she said. “What we want to do is redefine real estate and change how it’s been perceived.” ♦

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

2013 Coronado Historic Home Tour

Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The annual Coronado Historic Home Tour has become a Mother's Day tradition that is often combined with brunch or an early dinner at one of Coronado's fine restaurants. This year's Tour promises another very special afternoon with six homes featuring classic architectural styles ranging from a Queen Anne built in the late 1800s to a Mid-Century modern, and a stunning Craftsman remodel to a two-story Spanish Revival mansion. The homes are situated in two beautiful Coronado neighborhoods.

All six homes retain their historic charm and original architectural “bones,” but most have been meticulously remodeled, expanded or restored in some fashion. The Queen Anne, built around the time the Hotel del Coronado was constructed, retains its original floors, hardware and woodworking details reminiscent of the Del, and many exotic tree specimens planted by the Hotel's horticulturist. A 1912 home on the tour was just declared the winner of Coronado's first-ever GEM (Going-the-Extra-Mile) award for its remarkable renovation. The 2013 Coronado Historic Home Tour will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Sunday, May 12. (Please note that children under 10 are not permitted and there is limited wheelchair access.) Call 619-435-7242 or visit CoronadoHistory.org to purchase tickets.



Albert Einstein Academy students received oak saplings, donated by the Cohen family. (Photo by Anulak Singhiphat)

FROM PAGE 1

ARBORDAY

jokes and giving environmental facts. For example, the world's oldest tree, located in California, is 2,500 years old Atkins said, and Palat said urban trees live eight years on average.

Of the 18 trees planted April 26, two are Blue Atlantic cedars, six are Helen Borchers Peach trees, four are Alexandrina Saucer magnolias and six are St. Mary magnolias. Mayor Bob Filner described each species and thanked the city's horticulturalist Mario Llanos for his work.

"We forget that we have a horticulturalist here in the park to make this the incredible beauty that it is. We thank you, Mario, for everything you do," Filner said.

Several private community members and local businesses donated the trees for planting, including Carol and Herman Wong, Jonathan Hayes, and The San Diego Foundation. Most were donated in the name of individuals with special connections to Balboa Park.

"All of those people that we're honoring today are here today and they'll be here forever in spirit. Let's keep that in mind with these magnificent trees," Hughes said.

One honoree was Rory Ruppert, the former director of Balboa Park Cultural Partnership's Sustainability Program. Ruppert, who had a tree donated in her name by family and friends, died Feb. 21.

"She was a magnificent woman that worked every single day to make this park more energy efficient," Gloria said. "Her family is here today to make sure that her legacy continues by planting a tree in her honor. I can't think of something that Rory would want more."

Another honoree was John "Jack" Krasovich, an Uptown resident and San Diego Park and

Recreation employee who ran the Balboa Park division. Krasovich died March 1. Park and Recreation Director Stacey LoMedico attended the Arbor Day celebration, and honored Krasovich specifically.

"Jack loved many things, but he loved his country, he loved his family, he loved God and he loved this park," LoMedico said. "For those of us that worked with Jack, we're very honored to have a donated tree in his memory. It's a very special day for us."

Both LoMedico and Gloria thanked city employees, including Park and Recreation staff. "It is their dedication that we do have such a crown jewel," LoMedico said.

Following the speakers, Park Ranger Kim Duclo invited the students to grab shovels and help cover the 18 nearby trees. Representatives from San Diego Gas & Electric and Urban Corps of San Diego County were on hand to help as well.

"When you plant a tree, it's a little bit like building a time machine because you're going to be sending something forward in time that says you were here this day," Duclo said to the students.

"But a time machine can also go backwards," he said. "Fifty days from now, 50 months from now or 50 years from now you can come back [and] visit the trees you helped plant today. I hope that you will remember your friends that are here, your family [and] loved ones." ♦

North Park Community Association elects new board members

Summer Concert Series, graffiti discussed at annual meeting

By Dave Schwab
SDUN Reporter

The North Park Community Association (NCPA) elected officers and were updated on a number of important neighborhood issues, including battling graffiti, a citizens law enforcement patrol and this year's Bird Park Summer Concert Series at its annual board meeting, held April 24 at Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center, 3925 Ohio St.

By affirmation, four board members – Nikki Berdy, Lynn Elliott, Omar Passons and Victor Flake – were reelected. New members elected were Sean Karafin, Alan Bennett and Jeff Kucharski, and they all join current board members Edwin Lohr, Mike Berry, Rimah Khouri, Chuck Van Hise and Coral VanLandingham to form a 12-person board. Rene Parada's term on the board ended this year.

In candidate statements, the seven elected board members discussed their interest in civic affairs.

Current board President Berdy joined the NCPA after attending her first Bird Park Summer Concert. A nine-year North Park resident, she said she has "witnessed tremendous growth and change in the community," adding "momentum has to keep going."

A 30-plus year North Park resident, Elliott is a human services professional and current chair of the Bird Park Summer Concert Series. Elliott said she is "working toward the goal of making North Park an exciting, safe, thriving and comfortable place to live."

The Saturday summer concerts kick off June 15. "We've got some good bands," she said. "It will be a great year."

A public works and land use attorney and former board president, Passons said he chose to live in North Park "be-

cause it was a good mix of the diverse people and places that I love about San Diego." The best solutions to community issues "must start within our neighborhoods and be driven by those of us who live and work in North Park," he said.

"I really appreciate what NCPA does for our community and am excited to become more involved in its work," said Flake, an educator who appreciates "the unique qualities of our diverse population" while "enjoying safe, walkable, friendly neighborhoods."

A new North Park homeowner and first-time board member, Karafin said the NCPA "provides ... the opportunity to be engaged in, and improve, our community." An economic policy analyst for the San Diego County Taxpayer Association, Karafin said he hopes to use the experience on the board to support the community.

Bennett, an Army veteran and retired land use planner, said he wants to "nurture the thriving diversity we enjoy in North Park," and would like the NCPA to claim the title of "Gateway to Balboa Park" in time for the 2015 Balboa Park Centennial Celebration.

Also new to the board, Kucharski, a scientist for a small drug discovery company, cited "the ability to walk and ride our bikes throughout our neighborhood with ease" as his favorite trait about North Park. "I am looking for more opportunities to become involved in the community," he said.

Following the board elections, Flake discussed the latest developments of the North Park Rangers, an NCPA-sponsored youth group created to provide youth with meaningful educational experiences while teaching them community pride and ownership.

"We're doing weekly programs for kids, getting them involved in sketching local birds and plants [and] working with

local artists to help develop their artistic talents," he said, adding he would like to see a partnership with the North Park Historical Society to add a "local history component" to offer youth "hands-on learning."

Graham Blair, who oversees the nonprofit's Stop Graffiti Now! program updated the board and attendees on graffiti in North Park. Passons originally started the program, which relies on residents being proactive to fight graffiti in the neighborhood.

"We have a network of volunteers reporting and removing graffiti," Blair said. "Five years ago we were covered with graffiti. ... There's a huge improvement with what we have now."

Blair said graffiti is an ongoing issue, noting 500 locations with graffiti in North Park were reported this past year, some with multiple tags. Graffiti can be reported by e-mailing gblar@northparksd.org.

Current NCPA board member Lohr and San Diego Police Officer Jenny Hall discussed the North Park Citizens Patrol.

"We're now doing day patrols," Lohr said, adding that volunteer citizens' law enforcement patrols are no longer "a night thing" only. He said the patrol's significance "is all about exposure."

"Burglars don't really like to work. If they see us patrolling, they'll move on. That's what we're hoping," he said.

Hall warned that bicycle thefts are on the rise. "It's been happening not just in North Park but all over mid-city," she said, noting bike thieves have been concentrating along 30th Street and University Avenue.

Hall advised residents to report thefts and get their bikes engraved with serial numbers, which will greatly help in recovery.

For more information about or to join the NCPA visit northparksd.org. ♦

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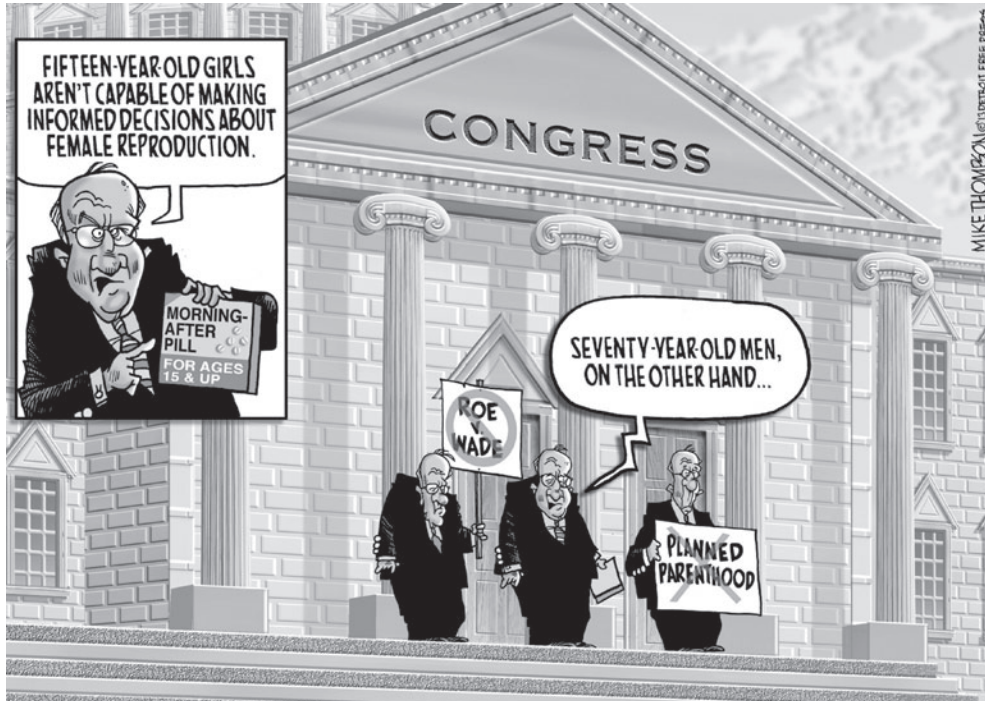
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Letters

Drawing on love or fear

I was profiled recently in an article, "In Sync with the Stars" [see Vol. 5, Issue 7].

There were four comments posted, two very supportive statements by women who know me. The other two comments were written by men [and] were somewhat critical; neither man has met me.

I have experienced skepticism throughout my career and greet it excitedly as a wonderful opportunity to hone my ability to successfully

serve others by utilizing my innate psychic healing gifts.

Cynicism, on the other hand, does not invite me closer nor does it create an opportunity for sharing or learning. In my lifelong study of human nature I have learned that there's really only two driving emotions and most everything we think and do springs from one or the other. I am referring to love and fear.

Before I form an opinion, I ask myself if I am drawing on love or fear. The tone of my thoughts lets me know on which side of the

fence I've landed.

Motivation is important to understand and acknowledge. When I work with a client, my Inspiration comes from a higher source. Call it what you like. I get results. That's what matters to me. I don't have the desire to convince others that what I do is valid. My client list continues to inform me that what I have to offer is being lovingly accepted and supported.

That's good enough for me!

—Connie Stewart, via sduptownnews.com ♦

Editorial

Help make positive change in San Diego taxi industry

By Andrew Rae, Safe Cab San Diego

In San Diego's ever-changing political landscape, reform of the taxi industry is now inevitable. The taxi industry is an integral part of our public transportation network, and its health and viability have an immediate impact on tourism, commerce and entertainment: industries of great significance to San Diego's economy.

It is of utmost importance that an engaged citizenship participate in the process to ensure that the taxi industry maintains a high standard of service, as well as develop into a healthy sector attractive to small business people and entrepreneurs without devaluing the assets of current stakeholders.

On Feb. 12, 2011, Sam Hassan Daly, a driver for Emerald Cab taxi service jumped the curb in front of Stingaree Nightclub, plowing into a crowd of bar-goers. Twenty-five people were injured and 23 were hospitalized. A small businessman, a homeowner and a hardworking American, Daly was nearing the end of a 16-hour shift on an empty stomach. The circumstances of his working environment were unsafe and resulted in this tragic accident. Charges were dropped against Daly; no fault was found beyond the District Attorney's Office statement that, "This was just an unfortunate accident."

However, the Stingaree accident surfaced many of the stark realities of the taxi industry that many would like to not acknowledge. Taxi lease

rates often mean that drivers who do not own their own cab must work these long hours simply to make up the cost of the lease, earning near \$4.23 an hour.

Long shifts create hazardous circumstances on roads, and the standards at which taxi cabs are maintained leave much to be desired. Recent studies have indicated that 94.5 percent of taxi cabs up for vehicle maintenance inspection fail even the lax requirements that they are held to. On top of that, an insular culture of fear among drivers leave many with no other option than to operate a vehicle leased to them that is in many ways unsafe.

Safe Cab San Diego is a coalition seeking the support of individuals, small business people, and stakeholders who wish to encourage the taxi industry's development into a safe and profitable sector for business. Safe Cab San Diego is seeking to unite the voices of positive reform of the industry in order to encourage best business practices, as well as protect the investments that businesses, stakeholders and individuals have.

By joining Safe Cab San Diego, your business or organization may have a hand in developing a sustainable, safe and efficient taxi industry. Please take a moment to review our research and read our fact sheet regarding the initiatives that we would like to bring forth to the City at safecabsandiego.org. Contact us with questions, and possibly join our coalition in order to effect positive change in San Diego: info@safecab-sandiego.org.

A 360-degree vision to make San Diego the bicycle mecca it should be

By Andy Hanshaw, San Diego County Bicycle Coalition executive director

Fundamental changes in how our region moves to work, live and play are progressing fast in San Diego. Change like this is hard to come by, but we knew citizens and leaders would eventually stand together, working on solutions to the ailing public health, unstable local economies, and increasing costs of resources.

The San Diego County Bicycle Coalition loves the direction San Diego is heading, with the inclusion of bicycling as one solution to improve the quality of life for all San Diegans.

We envision San Diego as the most bicycle-friendly region in the world. Far to go? Certainly. This vision requires positive adjustments to our culture, neighborhoods, and streets, re-designing them to foster bicycling as an everyday activity for transportation and recreation.

Our region can continue to create a comprehensive approach to transportation policy and design, regarding the bicycle as a genuine mode of transportation, removing obstacles and empowering all people to choose to ride

whenever and wherever they like. Our vision simply includes the bicycle as one piece of the comprehensive transportation pie.

With this vision, San Diego County will have a connected network of safe, convenient bike facilities and proper, secure, end-of-trip accommodations for people who ride. Constant encouragement of good roadway behaviors through education programs will also foster understanding and respect for all modes of transportation. Our vision includes all people of ethnic, economic and cultural diversity.

The great news is our vision is on its way to fruition. From fundraising records, to expansion of community advocacy groups, the Bicycle Coalition continued its all-inclusive presence in San Diego this past year, all while moving forward with new initiatives and a new mission: to advocate for and protect the rights of all people who ride bicycles.

Local leaders at all levels and in all communities have stepped up to support cycling initiatives, including the City of San Diego's new mayor, who pledged to make the city better for cyclists and launched CicloSDias, the city's first open streets event happening in August.

To continue these great successes, we encourage our businesses, leaders and advocates to continue working hard to support comprehensive transportation progress. It's well known that active transportation like bicycling contributes to improved public health, local economies and more efficient use of natural resources. All of these are good for a vibrant San Diego for all people.

May 1 saw the start of National Bike Month in San Diego and across the U.S. It's a perfect opportunity to participate in Bike to Work Day on May 17, or head to South Park and Balboa Park for Bike Local Sunday and CicloSDias Mini on May 19.

Just getting your family or friends together to take a ride along San Diego Bay's miles of walking and biking paths can help strengthen the movement. So, let's go for a ride.

San Diego Bicycle Coalition (SDCBC) is a nonprofit organization that advocates for and protects the rights of all people who ride bicycles. They promote bicycling as a mainstream, safe and enjoyable form of transportation and recreation. For more information, go to sdbc.org. ♦

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San Diego Uptown News encourages letters to the editor and guest editorials. Please email both to anthony@sdcnn.com. Include phone number and address for verification. We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity and accuracy. Letters and guest editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher or staff.

SUBMISSIONS/NEWS TIPS

Press releases and story ideas are welcomed. Send press releases, tips, photos or story ideas to anthony@sdcnn.com. For breaking news and investigative story ideas contact the editor by phone or email.

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HBA TO UNVEIL HILLCREST PRIDE MONUMENT DESIGNS

The Hillcrest Business Association will release preliminary draft designs for the Hillcrest Pride Monument at a community meeting Thursday, May 16 at 5:30 p.m. The monument will be installed at the base of the Hillcrest Pride Flag located at the intersection of Normal Street and University Avenue, and will tell the history of San Diego and Hillcrest's LGBT culture in a series of panels, a press release stated. Research for the panels was compiled by Lambda Archives of San Diego, a nonprofit that collects, preserves and teaches regional LGBT history. The panels will include quotes and images, and the monument will also display names of donors to the monument and flagpole. HBA volunteers are currently raising money for the monument's installation. The May 16 meeting will be at The San Diego LGBT Community Center, located at 3909 Centre St.

WATER MAIN BREAKS IN NORTH PARK

A water main broke at the intersection of Georgia Street and Florida Court in North Park shortly after 5 p.m. Monday, May 6. Water from the break ran down Florida Court to Florida Street, reaching several apartment complexes. In response, water was turned off in the area so repair and cleaning crews could work on the pipe and city streets. Council President Todd Gloria said water service was completely restored by 1 a.m. "I appreciate the tireless work our employees demonstrated on Monday night and in the following days to help return this neighborhood to normalcy," Gloria said in an enewsletter. Initial reports said the six-inch-diameter pipe is approximately 50 years old. Claim reports for damaged property are available from the City's Risk Management department: sandiego.gov/riskmanagment or 619-236-6670.

LGBT & ALLY PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING EVENT SCHEDULED FOR MAY 21 AT THE CENTER

The first Career and Professional Networking Night for the LGBT community presented by Equality Professionals Network (EPN) is scheduled for May 21, where registered attendees will have access to human resource professionals, executives and recruiters from a variety of industries. The event is specific to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community as well as allies to support a safe, open and diverse work environment. "EPN's Career event is a place where LGBT business professionals can come to network and job hunt, and feel safe that the companies participating in this event are inclusive and welcoming of LGBT employees," said EPN chair Jaye Whittaker in a press release. EPN is a group of over 125 LGBT business and corporate professionals. Union Bank is sponsoring the event, which is being held from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at The San Diego LGBT Community Center, 3909 Centre St. "Union Bank is a strong supporter of the LGBT community in San Diego," said Ken Triemstra, co-chair of UB Proud, the bank's resource group for LGBT employees. Representatives from over 30 organizations will be present, and Union Bank human resource professionals will present workshops on job hunting and writing resumes, among other skills. For more information and to register for the free event visit epncareers.eventbrite.com.

NORTH PARK WATER TOWER RECEIVES HISTORIC DESIGNATION

The State Historical Resources Commission approved listing the iconic North Park water tower and all related buildings to the California Register of Historical Resources in a unanimous decision May 1. Located at 4326 Idaho St., the water tower and surrounding areas are officially called the University Heights Water Storage and Pumping Station Historic District. The North Park Community Association made an announcement on their website, and thanked Alex Bevil for donating "time and energy" to prepare the required documents for the designation. "From 1898 to 1967, the University Heights Water Storage and Pumping Station evolved from a small privately owned water reservoir into one of the City of San Diego's major municipal water storage, filtration and distribution facilities," NPCA representatives said, adding that the water tower's design is the only known example of a 12-legged, full hemispherical bottom, elevated metal water storage tank in Southern California. The Commission also recommended that the site be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

MAYOR FILNER TO PRESENT TRAFFIC PLAN AT BANKERS HILL RESIDENTS GROUP

At the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Bankers Hill Residents Group May 20, Mayor Bob Filner will discuss his plan for temporary traffic management in Balboa Park, including changes to the Plaza de Panama. The mayor's proposal is to halt vehicle traffic on the Laurel Street bridge on weekends; remove all parking each day in the Plaza de Panama; and relocate handicapped and valet parking. The meeting will be from 6:30 – 8 p.m. at the top floor of Inn at the Park, located at 525 Spruce St. Representatives from the Residents Group said everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend. There will be a no-host bar at 6 p.m. For more information on the group visit bankershillresidents.org.

NP COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SEEKS WEBSITE MANAGER

The North Park Community Association (NPCA) is seeking a website manager and editor to administer information on the group's website, including uploading content, organizing a community calendar and being the contact person for news and events pertinent to the North Park community. Additionally, the volunteer position will oversee the nonprofit's enewsletters, and will have direct contact with the board of directors. NPCA is asking for individuals with website experience and editing skills to contact board President Nikki Berdy directly at nberdy@northparksd.org.

SOUTH PARK ART SHOW FEATURES PAINTINGS BY ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

Rebecca's Coffee House in South Park hosted more than 70 people April 26 for The Arc of San Diego's Sulpizio Family Center Art Show. The organization is one of the largest nonprofit service providers for children and adults with disabilities in the region, and Sulpizio Family Center is one of five Arc locations in San Diego County. The art show was to raise awareness and featured 18 paintings by adults with disabilities. All artwork was for sale, with proceeds benefiting program participants at the Sulpizio Family Center. "We couldn't have asked for a better event," said Melanie McCoy, Sul-

pizio Family Center area director, in a press release. "Our program participants are very talented and they truly brought this art show to life. Everyone at The Arc of San Diego is proud of them for their hard work and for showing the community that people with disabilities are capable of many things." For more information on The Arc of San Diego or to volunteer, call 619-685-1175.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS THEATER COMPANY ANNOUNCES CAST FOR NEXT PRODUCTION

Diversionsary Theatre, located at 4545 Park Blvd. in University Heights, announced the complete cast for their production of Charles Busch's "The Divine Sister," which opens in previews May 23. The cast includes Maggie Carney as Mrs. Levinson, Yolanda Franklin as Sister Acacius, Lauren King as Agnes, Dangerfield G. Moore as Jeremy, Daren Scott as Mother Superior and Jacque Wilke as Sister Walburga. "The Divine Sister" tells the story of St. Veronica's Mother Superior, who is determined to build a new school for her Pittsburgh convent, a press release stated. Creative team for the production includes Matt Scott, Luke Olson, Blair Nelson, Corey Johnston and David Medina. The show is directed by Glenn Paris of ion theatre and produced by Bret Young. John E. Alexander is the executive director of Diversionsary Theatre, which was founded in 1986 to provide theater for and about the LGBT community. Following previews, "The Divine Sister" will open June 1 and run through June 30. Tickets are available at diversionsary.org or by calling 619-220-0097.


MISSION HILLS ARTIST ANTICO DONATES \$1,900 TO RADY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Concetta Antico, a Mission Hills-based artist and instructor, donated \$1,900 to Rady Children's Hospital to help support their Healing Environments program. The donation, which was due in part to sales from Antico's April 28 exhibition "Metamorphosis," brings her donation level close to \$4,000 for the fiscal year. Antico said she expects to pass the \$5,000 donation level, which will make her a member of Rady's Miracle Maker Council. "Supporting those that constantly improve children's health and healing is something that is very important to me," Antico said in a press release. "I am very thankful for the efforts and Healing Environments programs in place at Rady Children's Hospital, and will support them through my donation of a portion of all original works sold and by donation of fine art materials." Antico's next exhibition will be Nov. 16 at Antico Fine Art Gallery, 1920 Fort Stockton Dr. Additionally, Antico is in discussion to create a mural-sized oil painting that would potentially be hung in the lobby of the hospital.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are being recruited to help plan the upcoming Relay for Life event July 7 – 8 at Alice Birney Elementary School in University Heights. The American Cancer Society is looking for individuals to organize teams, plan entertainment and fundraise, among other tasks. "There are dozens of different ways to get involved and help make this cancer's last century," organizers said in a press release. The July relay is a 24-hour event, where

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

Uptown's Sudoku Puzzle

Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

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Sudoku

Answer key, page 15

Uptown Crossword

Improvement

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
16					17					18			
19				20					21				
22						23							
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58	59	60							61				
62						63					64		
65						66					67		
68						69					70		

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

ACROSS

1 He's boorish
5 Blackthorn
9 Fifties' auto feature
13 Garden gusher
14 Highlands' waterfall
15 Rajah's wife
16 Words of assurance
17 Maturing device
18 Bizarre
19 Staring
22 A place to remember
23 Heady hitter?
24 Uno e due
26 Composer Delibes
27 Vocalist Torme
30 Christinia, today
34 Literary collection
36 Practical
38 Reconsidered
42 Mother earth
43 Pother
44 Parking lot souvenir
45 Five, thirteen or nineteen
46 Cruces' leader
49 Bard's before
51 Strike
53 Apothecaries' measures

DOWN

1 Ms. Rivera
2 Not express
3 Honshu port
4 Jeans' cloth
5 Steel mill residue
6 Bone nexus
7 Europe's second largest lake
8 Register
9 It's commonly found
10 Division word
11 Foolish fiddler
12 Hide's partner
15 Endured
20 Teen's denial
21 Corrida cheer
25 College cheer
27 Bog down
28 North Carolina col-

lege
29 My ____ Foot
30 Holy Roman emperor
31 Molt
32 Fictional flies' leader
33 Most of an hour?
35 Camel's hair fabric
37 Spread for drying
39 Shooter's spot
40 Toothless
41 Rocky peak
47 Clerical vestment
48 Makes tea
50 Tokyo, once
51 Control, with of
52 First name in cosmetics
54 Litter losers
55 Oak's offspring
56 Craze
57 Officiously intermeddle
58 Heads of household, sometimes
59 Double reed
60 Taper
61 North Sea feeder

By Charles Preston

Improvement

Answer key, page 15



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Individual apple pie

(Photo by Kevin Andrew Falk)



Great Maple's donut board

(Photo by Kevin Andrew Falk)



Salad niçoise

(Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

MORE THAN A DINER

FRANK SABATINI JR. RESTAURANT REVIEW

From the man who brings us ginormous meal portions at Hash House a Go Go and puts a slick twist on game meats at The Tractor Room comes the sophisticated little sister of the two, charming us with her soft French accent and roving food boards.

Welcome to Great Maple, a brasserie-meets-diner housed in the mid-century building that operated as Topsy's from 1963 to 1998, and then Brians' American Eatery until 2012. Its latest incarnation is the brainchild of Johnny Rivera, who spared the landmark property from possibly becoming an IHOP.

"I used to come here as a little kid with my father when it was Topsy's," Rivera said, emphasizing that his custom redesign "stays true to the energy of the building."

The interior features a terrazzo bar, crown molding, punch-button upholstery and a rebuilt kitchen. Above it hangs tweed-covered speakers that correspond to a turntable designated for use

during happy hour, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. On the outdoor patio, designer cinder blocks bring Palm Springs to mind. Overall, the feel is both retro and rustic but without appearing forced.

A few surprises orbit Great Maple's menu, which feeds us a little bit of everything: pastas, seafood, chops, sandwiches, flatbreads and the like. But at any given time and at the sound of a bell, the kitchen sends out spontaneous appetizers or bacon-speckled glazed donuts stacked on long wooden planks. Servers circulate the boards throughout the dining room, allowing customers to make "impulse purchases" tableside.

Visiting for dinner with a devoted customer who urged me to momentarily cast aside our lobster poutine when a board floated past, I tried my first bacon donut. The thing was hot, fresh and mouthwatering, and not the schizophrenic flavor profile I've encountered elsewhere when bacon lands in chocolate cake or ice cream. This tasted natural, much like a complete pancake breakfast.

Poutine is a French-Canadian dish involving French fries tossed in thin gravy and cheese curds. Here, it's swooped up generously with chunks of Maine lobster, truffle oil and fresh chives. Miraculously, the sweetness of the lobster meat wasn't compromised. Though listed as a starter, it qualifies as a full entrée if you choose not to share it.

Passing over a slate of other tempting appetizers such as mini beef Wellingtons, spicy grilled prawns and asparagus with egg, we encroached on the St. Germaine niçoise salad with creamy tarragon dressing accenting seared ahi, potatoes, green beans and a hard boiled egg. Equally refined was a white asparagus salad from the specials board.

Then came a flatbread pizza topped with artichoke hearts and Portobello mushrooms.

rooms. The big draw was Taleggio cheese, an Italian curd coveted for its pungent aroma and mild, tangy flavor. Termed sometimes as "the Cadillac of mozzarella," it doesn't appear on many menus around town, so get it when you can.

Great Maple's allusion of a "French dinette," as Rivera likes to call it, is evidenced strongly through its wine list, which spotlights pleasant picks from the Alsatian, Bordeaux and Rhone regions. Creative and traditional cocktails also fuel the atmosphere. We savored a bottle of Domaine de Cristia from southern Rhone, a semi-fruity Grenache with enough discernible tannins to elevate the flavor of red meat.

My companion fell ecstatically silent over the "tale of two lambs," which combined on the same plate three meaty chops cooked perfectly medium and a cast iron skillet of lamb

Shepherd's pie capped with an airy, house-baked popover. In spite of the alluring French influence of mirepoix and cream in the Shepherd's pie, it was difficult deciding which lamb told the best tale.

I chose the "famous beef dip" served with onion au jus and horseradish sour cream. As the menu reliably states, the sliced rib eye "has got some good ole tasty fat on it." Rightfully so since it contributed classic flavor and wasn't overwhelming. But the jus wasn't as robust. I would have preferred it saltier and beefier, although I give the kitchen kudos for serving the sandwich on a well-buttered roll.

Other entrées include duo of duck, New Zealand blue nose sea bass, venison chili and a 10-ounce Calvados pork chop. There's also German-style bratwurst served on pretzel buns with sauerkraut.

Desserts are made fresh daily, with the mainstay being individual apple pies flaunting salted caramel and spiced pecans. For added fabulousness, we opted for the addition of Vermont cheddar cheese. A slice of silky key lime pie tasted ordinary in comparison, delivering a medium level of citrus contrasted against a sweet, sturdy crust.

Rivera's concept for Great Maple hails from the parent location in Newport Beach that he opened two years ago. "But this is the uber version," he said, referring to the bakery line and menus tailored separately to brunch, lunch and dinner. In doing so, he's created an eatery that smartly blends a good measure of panache with relaxed informality. ♦



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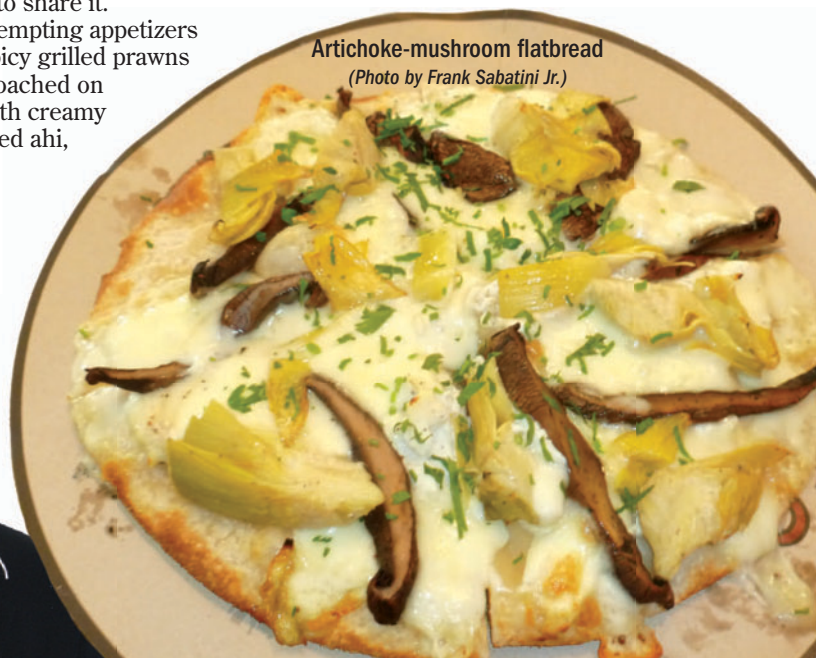
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Artichoke-mushroom flatbread
(Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)



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(Photo by Dr. Ink)

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(Photo by Dr. Ink)

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Dr. Ink

Since the late 1980s, so many restaurants have come and gone suddenly from this bungalow property, but it didn't take long for Larry Malone to break the so-called curse blamed for their demise. With daily happy hour and various other deals firmly in place, plus a slat inserted into the floor of the patio that reads "this curse removed," the only spirits infiltrating EmpireHouse Urban Palate are the kind you drink.

Fans of Moscow mules, for example, will save about three dollars on luscious versions named after hats. They're served in 24-ounce glass jars that Malone discovered when Ball Canning recently introduced them to the market. As cocktails, they turn out big and

cost \$7.50 during happy hour and all day Mondays, which is also the day you can wash down a juicy house burger with a beer for \$10.

In two mules we tried, a ginger babushka with bitters and a raspberry beret with simple syrup, both contained ginger beer and Skyy Vodka. The raspberry recipe, Malone informed us, is the "femmed-up" version of the babushka, which much to our relief wasn't so tutti-frutti sweet.

From the same menu card are a couple of beer cocktails using Pale Ale and lemonade as the base. Selling also for \$7.50, one features the addition of VeeV Acai Berry Liquor while the other mixes Kentucky bourbon into the suds.

Happy hour also highlights specialty cocktails marked down to \$5. In addition, wines by the glass and a variety of beer are \$1 off their regular prices. The latter includes Lagunitas Maximum, which a friend in our

group touted as "hoppy without being harsh." Indeed, the fine print on the bottle indicates the predominant ingredient, stating that it's made with "hops, malt, hops, hops, yeast, hops and water." Enough said.

From EmpireHouse's lengthy menu of gourmet-style comfort food, several items are marked down by at least \$2. The pickle plate featuring spears and slices in mild, addicting brine is only 95 cents. It's exactly the kind of crunchy nosh that keeps you drinking.

Red miso chicken wings have been on Malone's menu since he opened two years ago. They're big, sticky and delicious, and cost \$5 for about a half dozen. Or for \$4.50, you can dive into a fairly generous serving of mac-n-cheese made with white cheddar and tomatoes. Other nibbles include hummus, Tater Tots and sausage bread, all served in a comfy, homelike atmosphere that nowadays attracts the friendliest of souls. ♦

RATINGS:

Drinks: ★★★★★
The Moscow mules are tall and gingery. Other cocktails made with top-shelf liquors include basil lemonade, whisky with pear nectar and vodka-spiked P-Towns.

Food: ★★★★★
Standouts include red miso chicken wings, homey mac-n-cheese with tomatoes and plates of house-brined pickles.

Value: ★★★★★
Regular prices are generally moderate, although happy hour discounts save you between \$1 and \$4 on selected drinks and dishes.

Service: ★★★★★
The staff and owner make customers feel as though they've welcomed you into their home. This is after all, a bungalow.

Duration: ★★★★★
In addition to a three-hour happy hour seven days a week, additional food and drink deals are offered all day on Mondays.



D Bar owner and Food Network Star Keegan Gerhard has fond memories cooking with his mom and invites you to try one of her special dishes served at Mother's Day brunch!



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NORTHERN EXPOSURE

Canadian roots-reggae band Stone Iris to play Kensington Club

By Logan Broyles
SDUN Reporter

Kensington residents will be hosting a taste of reggae and American soul with a northern twist when Stone Iris, a four-member ensemble hailing from Edmonton, Canada, come through town.

Their music is a hybrid of rock, reggae and blues, and they play at the Kensington Club May 17 with Stage 11, Subsurfer and Freaky the Mighty.

Stone Iris is made up of El Niven on lead guitar and vocals, Jeff Burwash on drums, Garret Niven on guitar and vocals, Ryan Ast on bass, and Adam "Juice E." Jensen on percussion.

The group is currently on a nationwide tour to promote their newest album "Kicking The Can," which was released March 26. The album combines a roots-reggae vibe with the traditional soulfulness of American southern rock.

"The tagline we've kind of been using for this particular album has been 'Southern Rock from the True North, Reggae from a Cold Dark Place,'" Burwash said. "The album has a little bit of reggae, a little bit of soul and a little bit of folk. It's pretty well-rounded in that

sense, and we're pretty excited to be out on the road touring and seeing how people react to it."

"Kicking The Can" is the band's eighth recording since first releasing their debut LP "Ezparanza" in 2008. Their EP "Illuminations" was nominated for Rock Recording of the Year at the 2012 Edmonton Music Awards and they've been focused on breaking into the United States market over the last two years.

"We first started playing in the States last year," Burwash said. "We crossed from Vancouver into Washington where we played a few shows in Seattle in July of 2012, and last year we went down the West Coast and played in San Diego at the Griffin."

While most bands wait until they get back from tour to focus on recording a new album, Stone Iris seems to find their creative inspiration while roughing it out on the road.

"We love touring first and foremost. That's kind of what keeps us going," Burwash said. "That's also a big part of our songwriting creative process. When you're out on the road, it's very easy to be inspired by a new surrounding everyday and meeting lots of people."



(l to r) Juice E. Jensen, Garret Niven, Jeff Burwash, El Niven and Ryan Ast of Stone Iris will stop in San Diego Friday, May 17. (Photo by Malcena Grace / M.Grace Photography)

They recorded their second album in Louisville, Kentucky at the start of the current tour, and will be putting it out once they return to Canada over the summer.

"This is going to be our second full-length album released in the last six months. We're doing two full-length releases and 24 new songs this year," Burwash said. "When we come through the States, usually what we do is a big loop starting down the West Coast then east through the desert and hit up the Southern States. This time we did the opposite and went east and ended up in Louisville for two weeks to record our next album."

With so many different styles melded together it comes as no surprise that each member of the group usually has some level of input into their music.

"The writing process for us has always been pretty collaborative," Burwash said. "Usually one or two of the guys will have kind of a riff or an idea and they'll bring it to the rest of us and we'll kind of put our flavor on it. And by the end we've all had a little bit of input into the direction of the song."

Kensington Club is located at 4079 Adams Ave. The 21-and-older show is \$5, and the first band starts at 8 p.m. For more information call 619-284-2848. ♦

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A battle of words & wills

Dazzling company adds to 'Other Desert Cities' success

By Charlene Baldridge
SDUN Theater Critic

Jon Robin Baitz's 2011 Broadway hearth drama "Other Desert Cities" is set on Christmas Eve 2004. The Wyeth family – or at least what's left of it – gathers at the elder Wyeths' luxurious Palm Springs home.

With its view towards the mountains, freestanding fireplace and spacious grace, Alexander Dodge's multilevel set is breathtaking. So is York Kennedy's lighting, which allows the audience to witness the passage of time as the family parries, thrusts and pontificates.

A staunch Republican patriarch Lyman Wyeth (Old Globe Associate Artist Robert Foxworth) is a retired diplomat and a former movie actor. His acerbic wife Polly – surely the mother from hell – is played by Associate Artist Kandis Chappell, longtime portray

powerful women. Polly's major joy is verbal attack and destruction, all in the name of love and betterment, of course. Lyman's tactic is avoidance.

Gathered around are Polly's sister Silda (Associate Artist Robin Pearson Rose), recently released from rehab and living on the family largess; the Wyeths' adult son, Trip (Andy Bean), who produces television reality shows; and the adult daughter, Brooke (Dana Green), who's had her share of breakdowns over the past six years (she lives in a cottage in Long Island's Sag Harbor) has emerged triumphant with a book manuscript under her arm.

The book is a memoir, not a novel like her first success. A familiar plot device, Polly seeks not so much to gain her relatives' approval and permission, as to forewarn them. The memoir concerns her late brother's suicide and places the



(l to r) Kandis Chappell, Robin Pearson Rose, Dana Green, Andy Bean and Robert Foxworth (Photo by Snaps Studio)

blame where it lies, at least in her reality.

The ensuing dialogue, a battle of words and wills, is exceptionally funny and appallingly deadly. Fetid secrets are excavated and onlookers' sympathies are knocked around like ping-pong balls. Who is sane? Who is pure? Who is culpable? Who is the most grotesque?

As fascinating as it is disturbingly familiar, the play scrutinizes right-wing politics, the Iraq war and the secrets, alliances and motivations of family. None comes out smelling like a rose.

Richard Seer, who has been director of The Globe-USD graduate theatre program for 20 years, proves once again that

he is a fearless explorer of the human psyche. His company is dazzling. Also to be applauded are costume designer Charlotte Devaux's Palm Springs casual attire and Paul Peterson's sound.

At the time of the play's New York premiere, it was praised and Baitz's return after a long time fallow was applauded; he was away in TV land with "Brothers & Sisters," fighting his own battles.

From an interview in The Old Globe program, it appears that the Wyeths' several demons are, in certain measure, Baitz's as well. Such intensity is intellectually stimulating as well as exhausting. One could return countless times and still not get it all. ♦

"Other Desert Cities"

WHERE: The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way (Balboa Park)

WHEN: Sun., Tues. and Wed. at 7 p.m., Thurs. – Sat. at 8 p.m., and Sat. and Sun. at 2 p.m. through June 2

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(Courtesy North Park Main Street)



FROM PAGE 1
ARTS

“Peaceful Chaos” at Cirello Gallery on Ray Street, spent time as a teenager in Florence, Italy, studying art at the Uffizi museum. During graduate school at Boston University, she also worked in Venice, Italy, and returned to California after graduation.

There will also be an interactive artist event centered at the San Diego Art Department (SDAD) located at 3830 Ray St. Called the Quick Draw Plein Air Competition, the event will see participants complete works of art throughout the festival between 12 and 1 p.m., which will then be on display in front of SDAD and available for purchase.

“The all-ages event invites artists, competition painters, professionals, amateurs and hobbyists to compete and have fun,” said Lesley Anderson of SDAD. “These artists have two hours to complete their work ... giving onlookers the opportunity to see artists in action.” Registration for the competition begins at 9:30 a.m. at SDAD and Anderson said they were hoping to have at least 20 participants.

Called “a festival within a festival,” this year sees the return of the Craft Beer Block, an enclosed beer-garden style venue featuring selections from several regional craft breweries. There are 25 participating breweries total, including Chuck Alek Independent Brewers, Julian Hard Cider, Mad Lab Craft Brewing, Hillcrest Brewing Company, Thorn St. Brewery and Iron Fist Brewing Co.

“North Park Festival of Arts is excited for the return of the Craft Beer Block,” organizers said. “Beer enthusiasts will have the opportunity to sample the best craft beer prepared by San Diego’s top brewers.”

The addition of the Craft Beer Block is described on the festival’s blog as a “more budget-friendly” beer fest. “This is perfect for seasoned beer lovers who don’t want to travel high and low for a good pastime. Because of the large space, beer enthusiasts [are] able to enjoy the festivities without the feeling of being in a mosh pit,” the blog stated.

Advance tickets for the Craft Beer Block are \$25, rising to \$30 the day of the event. Tickets include 12 four-ounce samples and a commemorative glass. Organizers said there will also be “beer-friendly bites” available for purchase, all from North Park restaurants. Entry into the Craft Beer block ends at 5:15 p.m.

Live entertainment rounds out the festival, with five stages placed along University Avenue. The main stage will be located at the intersection of 30th Street and University Avenue, and bands from almost all music genres will be represented.

“The local bands featured on this stage will engage your senses both musically and visually,” organizers said. “Musicians range in age from kids to seasoned professionals.” There is also a World Music Stage at Grim and University avenues, with performances starting at 11:30 a.m., a Beats & Eats stage near the food court and the Dance Stage at 32nd Street and University Avenue, hosting over 23 different groups.

“Fine Arts in Motion will entertain audiences of all ages at the 32nd Street Dance Stage featuring performances by ... over 300 dancers from all over San Diego,” organizers said.

Most performances will end closer to the 6 p.m. event end, however the Bar Pink Stage, located in the beer garden, will have bands throughout the evening, with the Wild Wild Wets taking the stage at 8 p.m.

“Located in the Public House Beer Garden on University Avenue and 31st Street, the Bar Pink stage is an eclectic mix of Indie Rock bands,” organizers said. “Find new sounds of San Diego and dance into the dark as the party in the Public House is extended into evening hours.”

Parking in the North Park parking garage, located at 3829 29th St., will be free for the day. Additionally, the San Diego Bike Coalition will be hosting a free bicycle valet to help decrease parking congestion at 30th Street and University Avenue. San Diego Metro buses will be running as well: lines 2, 6, 7 and 10.

For complete information, including ticket purchase, visit northpark-festivalofarts.com. ♦

MAIN STAGE

- 1 a.m.....School of Rock
- 11:50 a.m.....Chess Wars
- 12:40 p.m.....Fashion Show
- 1 p.m.....Midnight Pine
- 1:50 p.m.....Michael McGraw and the Butchers
- 2:40 p.m.....Bulletins
- 3:30 p.m.....Fasion Show
- 3:50 p.m.....I Wish I
- 4:40 p.m.....The Palace Ballroom

BEATS & EATS STAGE

- 11 a.m.....The San Diego Mandolin Orchestra
- 11:50 a.m.....Bossa Lounge Project
- 1 p.m.....Fat Man’s Misery
- 2:30 p.m.....Generik & Anek (LNC)
- 3:15 p.m.....Bee-Hive
- 4 p.m.....Lips
- 4:45 p.m.....Afrojazziacs

BAR PINK STAGE

- 1 p.m.....Bloody Mary Bastards
- 2 p.m.....Gone Baby Gone
- 3 p.m.....Okapi Sun
- 4 p.m.....The Kabbs
- 5 p.m.....Stevie & the Hi-Stax
- 6 p.m.....The Widows
- 7 p.m.....Tropical Popsicle
- 8 p.m.....Wild Wild Wets

DANCE STAGE

- 11 a.m.....TOPS - Creative Dance Theatre
- 11:15 a.m.....Eveoke - Impulse Performing Group
- 11:30 a.m.....Jam Time Dance
- 11:45 a.m.....Alma Latina
- 12 p.m.....Zazz Productions
- 12:15 p.m.....City Ballet Junior Company
- 12:30 p.m.....Laurie Muniz
- 12:45 p.m.....Pride of Polynesia
- 1 p.m.....Casa Familiar
- 1:30 p.m.....Stage 7
- 1:45 p.m.....Kroc Kids
- 2 p.m.....Bonita Vista HS
- 2:15 p.m.....A Time to Dance
- 2:30 p.m.....Visionary Dance Theatre
- 2:45 p.m.....Vernetta Dance Studio
- 3 p.m.....Vernetta Dance Studio
- 3:15 p.m.....Vernetta Dance Studio
- 3:30 p.m.....Ballet Folklorico en Aztlan Dance Theatre
- 3:45 p.m.....Klika Scholarship Award
- 4 p.m.....Axxiom Dance
- 4:15 p.m.....Flamenco Sur
- 4:30 p.m.....Stage 7
- 4:45 p.m.....Ballet Folklorico Jalisciense
- 5 p.m.....Sohalia Stars
- 5:15 p.m.....Flamenco Arana

WORLD MUSIC STAGE

- 11:30 a.m.....Eyo the StiltwalkerSekou
- 12 p.m.....Zimbeat Mbira
- 1 p.m.....Son de San Diego
- 2 p.m.....Sol e Mar
- 3 p.m.....Flamenco Arana
- 4 p.m.....Gender Wayang
- 5 p.m.....Los Bandaritos

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ADVERTORIAL

Author of “Rounding Third” to speak at Mission Hills Books and Collectibles

Anti-bullying expert and Hillcrest resident, Walter G. Meyer, will be speaking about the timely topic of bullying, on Wednesday, May 15, at Mission Hills Books and Collectibles.

Meyer's first novel (but third book), “Rounding Third,” tells the story of two high school baseball players who face harassment in their school and on the team. Although he says he never set out to become a bullying expert, Meyer's book was published just before the bullying/suicide crisis began making the news, and since his book addressed those tragic issues in such a powerful way, he was instantly sought after to discuss the subject. Since then, he has received requests to write and speak on bullying throughout the United States, doing so in newspapers, at libraries, on websites, college campuses and even radio programs.

“I live walking distance from Mission Hills Books and Collectibles and was excited to see that another bookstore had opened in the neighborhood,” Meyer said. “Too many bookstores are closing these days. I stopped in and saw they were a having a local author do a speaking engagement, so I volunteered to do one, as well.”

“Rounding Third” has received critical and popular acclaim for its realistic portrayal of bullying, and Meyer is currently at work on the sequel.

“I often get emails from people saying, ‘Did you follow me in high school? This is my story!’” Meyer said. “I think it rings so true for a lot of people because it is based in part on my experiences and those of people I know.”

“We were excited to have Walt come in,” said Jim Schultz of the bookstore. “We have several schools in the neighborhood and could see a presentation like his having real benefit for parents of students.”

“We want our store to become more of a community center and meeting place,” added Steve Schultz, Jim's father and owner of the store. “Events like this will help promote that feeling and this is certainly a timely topic.” Mission Hills Books and Collectibles opened in September and the store has already hosted several local author events. “We'd like to keep doing one a month,” Steve Schultz said.

After the release of “Rounding Third” Meyer got so many requests to address the problem of bullying that he started doing research and attending conferences to learn more.

“When I went to speak to groups, I didn't want to just say, ‘here is a book that portrays the struggle,’ I wanted to be able to offer solutions. Although my book is fiction, I really didn't make any of the story up, so the characters put very relatable faces on the problem. That gives me the opening to talk about ways of addressing these concerns in real life.”

Now nationally recognized as an authority in the field, Meyer works as a consultant for Civility Partners, a company that does bullying prevention. He was recently asked by the international nonprofit “No Bully” to become certified to conduct their in-school bullying interventions, and he has created webinars for the use of several organizations.

“GAM3RS,” the stage play Meyer co-wrote, has performed during several runs in San Diego and is now being turned into a web series. You can learn more about him and his anti-bullying work on his web site: waltermeyer.com

Meyer's anti-bullying presentation at Mission Hills Books and Collectibles is free and open to the public. Signed copies of Meyer's novel will be available at the event.

Mission Hills Books and Collectibles

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Sudoku

Puzzle from page 7

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

Improvement

Crossword from page 7

C	L	O	D		S	L	O	E		F	I	N	S
H	O	S	E		L	I	N	N		R	A	N	E
I	C	A	N		A	G	E	R		O	U	T	R
T	A	K	I	N	G	A	G	O	O	D	L	O	O
A	L	A	M	O		M	A	L	L	E	T		
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O	S	L	O		A	N	A		U	T	I	L	E
T	H	O	U	G	H	T	B	E	T	T	E	R	O
T	E	R	R	A		A	D	O		D	E	N	T
O	D	D		L	A	S		E	R	E			
			A	L	L	T	E	N		D	R	A	M
D	O	T	H	E	B	E	S	T		Y	O	U	C
A	B	H	O	R		E	T	A	S		N	O	N
D	O	I	L	Y		P	E	T	E		T	R	I
S	E	N	D			S	E	E	R		S	N	A

Calendar of Events

FRIDAY, MAY 10

Marston House Museum
Tours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, Marston House Museum, 3525 7th Ave., \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 children (6-12)
Preschool story time: 10:30 – 11 a.m., Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 W. Washington St., free
Jazz at the Cosmo: 7:30 – 10:30 p.m., Cosmopolitan Hotel & Restaurant’s regular jazz series, with tonight’s guest Steve Steinberg, 2660 Calhoun St., \$5
Cinema Under the Stars: 8:30 p.m., screening “Breakfast at Tiffany’s,” 4040 Goldfinch St., tickets start at \$14

SATURDAY, MAY 11

Normal Heights garage sale: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., mass garage sale at various locations throughout Normal Heights, visit NH Community Association website for map and links to sale items, normal-heights.ca
Golden Hill Farmers Market: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. every Saturday, B Street between 27th and 28th streets, free
Old Town Farmers Market: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. every Saturday, Harney Street, free
Mission Hills Garden Walk: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., annual 2.5-mile walking tour visits 10 gardens starting at the Mission Hills Nursery, 1525 Fort Stockton Dr., \$25 advance and \$30 day of, mission-hillsgardenclub.org
Marston House Museum
Tours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, Marston House Museum, 3525 7th

Ave., \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 children (6-12)
Children’s Craft: 10:30 a.m., Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 W. Washington St., free
UH Library Children’s Program: 10:30 a.m., arts and crafts event for children, University Heights Library, 4193 Park Blvd.
Hillcrest Parking Committee meeting: 3:30 – 5 p.m., regular monthly meeting, 3737 Fifth Ave. #202
Ray at Night: 6 – 10 p.m., monthly art walk featuring over 25 galleries and businesses, Ray Street in North Park, free
Contra Dance: 7:30 p.m., sponsored by the San Diego Folk Heritage with live music by Judge Jacquin and the Repeat Offenders, beginners workshop taught at 7:30 p.m. followed by live music from 8 – 11 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn St., \$10
Cinema Under the Stars: 8:30 p.m., screening “Breakfast at Tiffany’s,” 4040 Goldfinch St., tickets start at \$14

SUNDAY, MAY 12

Hillcrest Farmers Market: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., every Sunday, Hillcrest DMV, 3960 Normal St., free
Marston House Museum
Tours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, Marston House Museum, 3525 7th Ave., \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 children (6-12)
Organ Concert: 2 p.m., music by organist Carol Williams, Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park, free

MONDAY, MAY 13

Marston House Museum
Tours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, Marston House Museum, 3525 7th

Ave., \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 children (6-12)
Uptown Parking: 5 – 7 p.m., monthly meeting of the Uptown Community Parking District, Joyce Beers Community Center, 3900 Vermont St.
North Park MAD: 6 p.m., regular meeting of the North Park Maintenance Assessment District, North Park Adult Activity Center, 2719 Howard Ave.
HBA board: 6 – 7:30 p.m., regular monthly board meeting of the Hillcrest Business Association, Joyce Beers Community Center, 3900 Vermont St.

TUESDAY, MAY 14

Adams Ave. Business Association planning & development: 8 a.m., regularly monthly committee meeting, 4649 Hawley Blvd.
Adams Ave member mixer: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., member mixer for the Adams Avenue Business Association, Heights Tavern, 3377 Adams Ave.
Hillcrest Town Council: 6:30 p.m., regular monthly meeting of the Hillcrest community group with this month’s speaker Councilmember Mark Kersey, Joyce Beers Community Center, 3900 Vermont St.
Pajama story time: 6:30 – 7 p.m., children are invited to come dressed in their pajamas, Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 W. Washington St., free
Normal Heights Community Association: 6:30 – 8 p.m., regular monthly meeting of the Normal Heights Community Association including pot luck, tonight’s meeting includes confirmation of new board members, Normal Heights Community Center, 4649 Hawley Blvd.
North Park Planning Committee: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., regular monthly meeting, North Park Christian Fellowship, 2901 North Park Way

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

Old Town Chamber board meeting: 8:30 a.m., regular monthly meeting, Mormon Battalion Historic Site, 2510 Juan St.
North Park BID Collaborative: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m., El Cajon Boulevard BID office, 3727 El Cajon Blvd.
El Cajon Blvd BIA Promotions: 12 – 1:30 p.m., date change of regular promotions committee meeting, 3727 El Cajon Blvd.
Lion’s Club of North Park: 12 – 1:30 p.m., regular weekly lunch of the North Park Lion’s Club, 3927 Utah St.
LEGO play time: 5 – 6 p.m., children are invited to get creative with LEGOs, Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 W. Washington St., free
Cookies with Cops: 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., sponsored by the University Heights Community Association, meet and greet San Diego Police Department officers at two locations, 4110 Texas St. at 6 p.m. and the library at 4193 Park Blvd. at 6:30 p.m.
Author talk: 6:30 p.m., Jim Bregante will discuss his book “Generations of Memories ... on never to be forgotten India Street,” describing growing up in Little Italy, Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 Washington St., free

THURSDAY, MAY 16

El Cajon BIA board: 9 – 10:30 a.m., regular monthly meeting of the El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association at new time, 3727 El Cajon Blvd.
North Park Farmers Market: 3 – 7 p.m. every Thursday,

parking lot behind CVS at 32nd St. and University Ave., free
Gardening presentation: 6:30 p.m., free presentation by Square Foot Gardening Foundation, Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 Washington St.
North Park Historical Society: 6:30 – 8 p.m., regular monthly board meeting, Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Blvd.
Cinema Under the Stars: 8:30 p.m., screening “Pulp Fiction,” 4040 Goldfinch St., tickets start at \$14

FRIDAY, MAY 17

Marston House Museum
Tours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, Marston House Museum, 3525 7th Ave., \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 children (6-12)
Preschool story time: 10:30 – 11 a.m., Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 W. Washington St., free
Contra Dance: 7:30 p.m., sponsored by the San Diego Folk Heritage with live music by Tectonic Shakedown, beginners workshop taught at 7:30 p.m. followed by live music from 8 – 11 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn St., \$12
Jazz at the Cosmo: 7:30 – 10:30 p.m., Cosmopolitan Hotel & Restaurant’s regular jazz series, with tonight’s guest Scott Kyle, 2660 Calhoun St., \$5
Cinema Under the Stars: 8:30 p.m., screening “Pulp Fiction,” 4040 Goldfinch St., tickets start at \$14

SATURDAY, MAY 18

Golden Hill Farmers Market: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. every Saturday, B Street between 27th and 28th streets, free
University Heights library book sale: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., Umbrella Friends of UH Library books sale, University Heights Library, 4193 Park Blvd.
Buchanan Canyon clean up: 9 a.m., meet at Johnson Street between Lincoln and Hayes streets with gloves
Mission Hills book sale: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Friends of Mission Hills Branch Library monthly sale, Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 W. Washington St., free
Coffee with Councilmember: 10 – 11:30 a.m., join Council President Todd Gloria in Mission Hills, The Gathering Bar and Grill, 902 Washington St., free
Historic Garden Tour: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., San Diego Floral Association leads a tour of eight gardens in Burlingame, North Park and South Park, maps available tour day at 3200 block of 28th Street near Morley Field, \$20 advance purchase, \$25 day of, sdfloal.org
Marston House Museum
Tours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, Marston House Museum, 3525 7th Ave., \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 children (6-12)
Children’s Craft: 10:30 a.m., Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 W. Washington St., free
UH Library Children’s Program: 10:30 a.m., arts and crafts event for children, University Heights Library, 4193 Park Blvd.
Harp concert: 1 p.m., concert by Julie Ann Smith, principal harpist with the San Diego Symphony, Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 Washington St., free
T-32 Stroll About: 4 – 8 p.m., regular monthly Saturday stroll about in the T-32 neighborhood, Thorn and 32nd streets
Cinema Under the Stars: 8:30 p.m., screening “Pulp Fiction,” 4040 Goldfinch St., tickets start at \$14

SUNDAY, MAY 19
Hillcrest Farmers Market: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. every Sunday, Hillcrest DMV, 3960 Normal St., free
Marston House Museum
Tours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, Marston House Museum, 3525 7th Ave., \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 children (6-12)
Organ Concert: 2 p.m., music by organist Carol Williams with Martha Jane Weaver, Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park, free

MONDAY, MAY 20

Marston House Museum
Tours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, Marston House Museum, 3525 7th Ave., \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 children (6-12)
North Park Recreation Council: 6 – 8 p.m., regular monthly meeting, North Park Rec Center, 4044 Idaho St.
Bankers Hill Residents: 6:30 – 8 p.m., regular monthly residents meeting featuring tonight’s speaker Mayor Bob Filner discussing his traffic management plan for Balboa Park, Inn at the Park, 525 Spruce St., free

TUESDAY, MAY 21

Talmadge Community: 6:30 p.m., regular bi-monthly meeting of the Talmadge Community Council, private residence, 4760 Miracle Dr.
Pajama story time: 6:30 – 7 p.m., children are invited to come dressed in their pajamas, Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 W. Washington St., free
North Park Planning: 6:30 – 8 p.m., regular monthly meeting of the NP Planning Committee, North Park Christian Fellowship, 2901 North Park Way

Wednesday, May 22
Lion’s Club of North Park: noon – 1:30 p.m., regular weekly lunch of the North Park Lion’s Club, 3927 Utah St.
Hillcrest Parking: 5 – 6:30 p.m., regular Hillcrest Parking Committee meeting, Hillcrest Business Association, 3737 Fifth Ave. #202, free
LEGO play time: 5 – 6 p.m., children are invited to get creative with LEGOs, Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 W. Washington St., free
Buzz Aldrin: 5 – 8 p.m., Apollo 11 moonwalker Buzz Aldrin joins San Diego Air & Space Museum to sign his books “Mission to Mars: My Vision for Space Exploration” and “Look to the Stars,” Balboa Park, advance tickets required, \$29, sandiegoairandspace.org
North Park Community Association: 6 – 8 p.m., regular monthly meeting, Lafayette Hotel, 2223 El Cajon Blvd.

THURSDAY, MAY 23

North Park Farmers Market: 3 – 7 p.m. every Thursday, parking lot behind CVS at 32nd St. and University Ave., free
North Park Action Team: 6 – 7:30 p.m., grassroots community group working on safety and quality of life issues, North Park Adult Community Center, 2711 Howard Ave.
Grant School redesign: 6 – 7:30 p.m., second task force meeting of the Grant K-8 campus redesign committee to see the developing master plan and select option, Grant K-8 School auditorium, 1425 Washington Place
Mission Hills mystery book group: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 W. Washington St., free ♦

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Adams Avenue Unplugged
Two-day, free music festival features outdoor concerts as well as intimate performances in local businesses
Mission Hills Council outlines future events
Advisory programs and SANDAG's bicycle project discussed at Town Council meeting
Author talk: 6:30 p.m., Jim Bregante will discuss his book "Generations of Memories ... on never to be forgotten India Street," describing growing up in Little Italy, Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 Washington St., free
THURSDAY, MAY 16
El Cajon BIA board: 9 – 10:30 a.m., regular monthly meeting of the El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association at new time, 3727 El Cajon Blvd.
North Park Farmers Market: 3 – 7 p.m. every Thursday,

FROM PAGE 7
BRIEFS

team members take turns walking or running around a designated path. The Society is asking for interested volunteers, as well as participants, to contact them at relayforlife.org or by calling 619-682-7423.

REP. SCOTT PETERS 'SEQUESTERS' HIS OWN PAYCHECK

Congressmember Scott Peters announced he will implement a symbolic "across-the-board spending cut," known as sequestration, to his own paycheck in an effort to raise awareness to the federal spending cuts implemented earlier this year. "While the idea for the sequester predates my time in Congress, we should all agree that it is a terrible policy. None of us would run our business or household budget this way, and it is no way to run a country," Peters said in a release. "Any rules Congress imposes on federal employees and all Americans ought to apply to us, too." Peters will take eight percent of his monthly salary – a similar percentage of the currently implemented spending cuts – and donate it to the Senior Community Centers of San Diego in order to supplement meals for at-risk seniors. The Centers cut services to seniors due to lowered funding from the federal spending cuts. "Senior Community Centers has lost nearly \$60,000 for our senior meal program due to sequestration," said CEO and President Paul Downey in the release. The cuts equate to approximately 21,000 fewer meals available this year, he said. "Nearly 95 percent of the seniors we serve are at or below the poverty line, so these meals make a big difference to their health and their lives. We are grateful to Congressman Peters for his long-time interest and support of what we do," Downey said. ♦

Uptown chickeneering

The last thing I need right now is a hobby. My almost 4-year-old twins no longer nap, and rarely stop moving, talking or needing. And yet I have been overcome by a strange compulsion.

Perhaps I can attribute it to my family's agrarian roots, or my secret desire to be as cool as locavore hipsters. Or maybe I should just blame the changes to the urban agriculture regulations that were pushed through City Council last year. If it weren't for that decision, there would be no question as to whether I could raise livestock in North Park.

But that seems to be what I'm about to get involved in. The plans for the chicken coop arrived earlier this week, and I'll probably break ground on it by the time this column is published, God willing and the creek don't rise (I don't remember putting this piece of straw in my mouth, weird).

Despite the horror stories my mom tells about taking care of the chickens on her farm in Montana as a kid – cleaning up poop, getting pecked while collecting the eggs – I have fallen prey to this insane idea that turning a perfectly comfortable backyard into a miniature farm is the right thing to do.

My parents both grew up on farms and ranches and, despite having plenty of respect for that world and the people who inhabit it, they worked hard to make a living that allowed them the comfort of getting their food from a grocery store. Or even an upscale produce chain or local, organic, farmers market, but they certainly never would have considered returning to the business of sustaining agriculture just to get better-tasting eggs. Nor, I think, would they have thought that any of their children would.

One of the reasons chicken farming sounds like a not-so-terrible idea – and this has been confirmed by other urban chickeneers that I know – is that it's fun and



Andy Hinds
.....
Parenting

educational for the kids. What better way to teach children about where their food comes from? The processes of biology! Reproduction! The food chain! Death!

Oh, man. This could get heavy.

It's true though; I don't think my grandparents ever pulled any punches when they explained life and death to my parents. Cows, pigs and chickens froze to death or got sick and died. And if they didn't, they were very likely to end up on the dinner table.

They also gave birth. It could be pretty grisly, and there would have been no way to hide it, even if my parents' folks had wanted to. As for me, when a fish in our aquarium goes belly-up, I distract the kids and flush the carcass down the toilet, telling them that Mr. Fishy had to "go to the beach." Likewise, I tell them that the mousetraps I set up in the pantry are just to scare the little rodents

away with their snapping noises.

In terms of my qualifications as a farmer, I never had the chance to be in 4-H or anything, but I have a couple important skills under my belt. I have raised four dogs, only one of which had to be given up for adoption (when we finally accepted that he couldn't be housebroken, a condition that made life in our ninth-floor apartment unpleasant for everyone).

I have overseen the drama of the fish tank, including dozens of births, a handful of deaths and several bouts of disease. I'm usually able to keep at least half of the vegetables I plant in the backyard alive until harvest time. Maybe three-eighths. Would you believe one-third?

I am also really good at squinting into the distance while sifting soil through my fingers, as if contemplating how I can best channel the forces of nature to my benefit. Clearly, I have some misgivings about this enterprise.

Am I just getting sucked into a fad that will cost me money, time and energy? Would I rather eat something “artisanal” and “locally-sourced” off of the menu at the latest trendy restaurant? What if the chickens don’t lay eggs? What if my girls don’t have any interest in them? What if they see a raccoon go on a chicken-killing spree and they never sleep again because of the horrible nightmares? Am I a poser?

These are concerns that my grandparents didn't have the luxury of entertaining, and yet they are very real concerns to wannabe urban agrarians. And like my forebears facing droughts and seemingly endless winters, I will bravely confront them, my steely eyes focused on the distant horizon, just beyond the Sea World Sky Tower.

—*Andy Hinds is a stay-at-home dad, blogger, freelance writer, carpenter and sometimes-adjunct writing professor. He is known on the internet as Beta Dad, but you might know him as that guy in North Park whose kids ride in a dog-drawn wagon. Read his personal blog at betadadblog.com. Reach him at betadad@gmail.com or @betadad on Twitter.* ♦

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(Photos by Ron Stern)



Global Gumshoe

Ron Stern

I am frequently asked where my favorite place is to visit. Since I have traveled to Switzerland more than any other country, I suppose the answer is obvious. What's not to love? Spectacular snow-covered mountains, safe cities, fabulous hotels, chocolate and natural and

Typically Swiss in Geneva

man-made attractions always beckon me to return.

My latest trip was in mid-April to Geneva when the last vestiges of winter were fading. Intermittent rain showers gave way to deep blue skies, puffy white clouds and trees just starting to blossom. To me the entire country is, in a word, cute. Everything from the architecture to the cleanliness to the efficiency are all typically Swiss.

Geneva could be called the world's smallest metropolis. Home to 200,000 inhabitants, it is best known as the birthplace of the International Red Cross as well as the home to 32 international organizations, including offices for the United Nations. The Red

Cross museum is particularly impressive with moving displays of humanity in the face of decades of world war.

Geneva also played a pivotal role in the Reformation under the preaching of John Calvin at the Cathédrale St-Pierre. The new International Museum of the Reformation is a newer addition to the city and traces the history of this movement and its influence on modern civilization.

The Rhone River flows to Lake Geneva, creating beautiful opportunities for walking along the waterfront. At dusk, the city takes on a new look as the sky turns dark blue and the lights of the many shops reflect off of the water. This

is also the time when people stroll along the lakefront, have a meal in one of the many cafes or just to people watch.

The Jet d'Eau fountain is a focal point of Lake Geneva. The column of water shoots out of the base and rises to an amazing height of 560 feet. At night, lights illuminate this water feature, making it a convenient landmark for finding your way around the city.

Of course, dining in and around Geneva can be as simple or as elegant as you wish. Many sidewalk shops sell a wide variety of fare, from baguettes filled with meats and cheeses to sausages, chocolates and afternoon tea. Cheese is, of course, always in popular demand and fondue is on the menu at many local restaurants.

Most of the tourist areas consist of cobblestone streets with a variety of retail shops, many of which offer luxury items like watches and jewelry. If you love chocolate like I do, you will be in heaven as there are about 10 different chocolatiers, all plying you with taste-tempting creations.

One of the more unusual, and arguably one of the best, is Philippe Pascoet. Starting as a relative unknown, he has built a reputation and following featuring unusual chocolates infused with various intense flavors from things like jasmine tea, cognac, basil and saffron. I had to throw out some clothing from my suitcase just to make room just for the chocolates I wanted to bring back.

Contrary to popular opinion, Geneva isn't just a place for bankers and big business types. There is a hidden side to this beautiful city that most never see. Just 15 minutes from the city center is

an entire countryside waiting to be explored and is quite popular with locals for cycling, horseback riding and wine tasting.

The charming 18th century township of Carouge is a few minutes by tram. This small village has 600 shops and restaurants, many of which are one-of-a-kind. The Philippe Pascoet chocolate shop is located here, along with many artisans still using old-world tools and craftsmanship making everything from clocks to perfume.

If you have never been to Switzerland, you owe it to yourself to add this to your own "bucket list." The country is safe, easy to navigate, loaded with beauty and fun to explore. This must be the reason I keep coming back. Whether you come in the spring or other times of the year the cities of Bern, Geneva and Zurich will work their "cute as a button" charms on you so that your first visit certainly won't be your last.

Where to stay

Le Richemond, a Dorchester Collection: Part of the Swiss Deluxe Hotel group, the Le Richemond is ideally located right in the heart of the city with many rooms offering balconies and stunning views of Lake Geneva, Brunswick Gardens and the Alps.

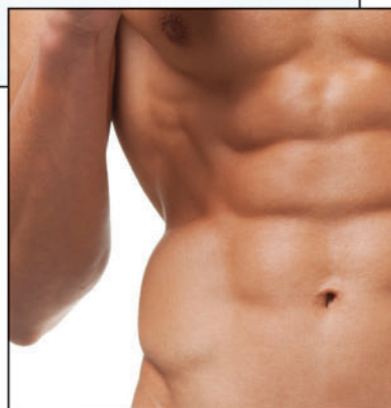
Mandarin Oriental, Geneva: This is another fine property situated on the River Rhone within walking distance of most shopping and historic districts. All of the rooms offer views of the river, Old Town and the mountains.

—Ron Stern can be contacted at travelwriter01@comcast.net or by visiting ronsterntravel.com and globalgumshoe.com. Promotional considerations were provided by Switzerland Tourism, Geneva Tourism, Zurich Tourism as well as the hotels and other providers mentioned in this article ♦

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TAKING TATTOOS TO THE COMMUNITY

Local artist strives to be neighborhood 'stronghold' for giving back

By Morgan M. Hurley
SDUN Assistant Editor

Steph Burnside has been inking skin in San Diego for over a decade, eventually opening her own shop Vivid Tattoo and Piercings in University Heights back in 2009.

Last year that property was put up for sale, and although Burnside was given first dibs on it, in October she packed up her goods and moved to Hillcrest. The new shop is located at 449 University Ave., near the iconic Hillcrest sign and just above Gilbert's Shoe Repair.

This new venture has ushered in not only a new location for Burnside, but also a new chapter; a fresh start.

In the past, Burnside took what she called a "back-seat" role when it came to her artists, letting them do their own thing while she established herself as a new business owner and kept pace with her own clientele. She admits she lost some artists that way, because what people actually need are guidance and a more structured environment.

Since the move, she's spread out some of the responsibilities and even allows her girlfriend Dana to pitch in. These changes have freed her up to focus on growing the business, mentoring her staff and getting more involved with the community.

"This has all taught me to really appreciate people," Burnside said. "Back when I was younger I was always such a giver. It was so uncomfortable for me to 'get,' ... and now I realize ... you are taking something away from [people] by not letting them give to you. It was a really hard lesson for me to learn."

The shop itself is a large, industrial-looking space, with high open ceilings, red brick sidewalls and wall-to-wall metal and glass sliding windows facing out over University Avenue. Burnside, who originally went to art school with plans to be an art curator, has adorned the space with an eclectic assortment of art.

"My whole goal with this shop is one, to have a safe and comfortable environment for everybody to come to," Burnside said. "The second thing is [to] focus on custom stuff. ... I don't want to be the shop where you just get the next guy and he doesn't know how



Their expansive, art-filled space (Photo by Anulak Singphiphat)

to do what you are looking for, but there's a guy right there who does it perfectly and it's his life studies."

She said this doesn't mean they won't still take walk-ins, they just prefer to do a better job matching up their artists with the work the clients want. As such, her clients and her staff remain the most important pieces of the puzzle, especially if she expects repeat business.

"I want it to be a big party, like an event," she said. "I want people to really have a great feeling after they leave here."

One thing Burnside is very vocal about are people who do tattoos at home on the weekend.

"I'm gonna do a gall bladder surgery on you, because I read a book about it and I have the instruments. Is that cool? We're gonna do it at my house," she said sarcastically.

"You're opening skin, creating blood [and] scarring people for life," she said. "They are ruining people and creating a harder job for us. It's creating plenty of work; most of my work is cover up work now."

Though her staff has changed along the way for various reasons, she feels she's got a good fit.

"It's about getting the right frame of mind, the right mode, the right zing," she said. "We have such an amazing vibe 99 percent of the time, it's just getting to the 100 percent. I'm trying to really fill in the gaps."

Currently Vivid has two piercers, Molly Smiley and Ironhead Mike. Artist Daniel Silva, also shop manager, specializes in portraits, realism, 3D and has "the tightest, most fine lines ever," Burnside said. Another full-timer is female artist Devon Dagger, a "neo-traditional," while Ian Malcolm does lettering and bold "new-school" designs. Several part-timers round out the staff, including traditional



(l to r) Dana Lavia and Steph Burnside (Photos by Anulak Singphiphat)

artist Nikki Degner and Hondre Moreno, whose "Polynesian flowers look so real it seems like you can wipe the dew drops off of them," Burnside said.

Willis Thweat is a black and grey fantasy and skull work specialist who recently fell victim to a tragic motorcycle accident, putting him in a temporary coma. The shop recently held a very successful fundraiser at Ruby Room to assist with bills while he is on the mend.

Getting more involved in the community is also at the top of Burnside's bucket list. Mardi Gras was held right below their windows, and she is excited about CityFest, participating in the LGBT Pride parade and getting more involved in fundraisers.

"If anyone has a benefit we will always donate gift certificates," Burnside said. "I want people to know that they can always come to us, because we want to be a neighborhood stronghold for giving and we are part of the community."

Contact Burnside and Vivid Tattoo by calling 619-487-0237 or visit them online at vividtattoo.net or facebook.com/vividtattoo619/.

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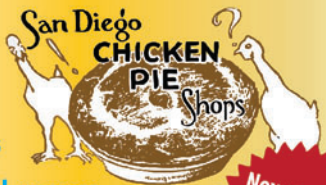
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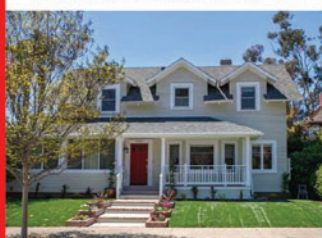
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Carol has lived in Southern California her entire life, so she has a knowledge of several different areas and in multiple counties. Carole has had her real estate license for nearly 40 years, and has worked in residential, commercial and property management throughout 4 different counties during her career. San Diego is in Carole's heart. Her family has resided in La Mesa for over 30 years, and both of her sons are raising their families in San Diego now. Client satisfaction is Carole's number one priority! She offers the knowledge, qualifications and commitment to represent you in all aspects of the sale or purchase of your home or property.



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REALTOR®
Windermere Hillcrest/Mission Hills

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Shane is a familiar face to the San Diego real estate market having been a past co-chair of the Metro Pitch sessions for San Diego Metro Caravan and a recipient of numerous awards including Rookie of the Year, Salesman of the Month and Year. Shane comes to Windermere as a seasoned Realtor® focusing on metro San Diego communities including North Park, Burlingame, Marston Hills and Kennington among others. As a former baseball coach and sponsor of the North Park Little League and a former member of the North Park Community Planning Committee, Shane is strongly tied to his local community. Shane's client list continues to grow as he lives up to his motto of "making lifelong friends one client at a time."

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