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# San Diego Uptown News



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HBA's Sonya Stauffer

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Sacred meals

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The Patio

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'She-Rantulas'

## David Cohen and Verant Group take ownership of the Birch North Park Theatre



By Margie M. Palmer  
SDUN Reporter

The Birch North Park Theatre has finally come under new ownership, and community members are welcoming this changing of the guard with open arms.

The historic building, which has been on the market since early 2011, has been purchased by West Coast Tavern owners David Cohen, Bobby Jones and the Verant Group. Verant Group owns a total of seven restaurants throughout the city including North Park-based True North and the increasingly popular Uptown Tavern in Hillcrest.

The theatre's now-previous owner Lyric Opera took over the

property in 2006 when they purchased it from the City of San Diego for \$12.5 million. Approximately 70 percent of the sale was subsidized through redevelopment funds, with the performance group having agreed to pay off the remaining \$4 million mortgage.

Unfortunately, lagging ticket sales and rough economic conditions did not fare well for Lyric Opera, which was forced to file for bankruptcy in 2011. Last year, Cohen and his partners purchased their mortgage and last month, a U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge approved the transfer of the 32,000 square-foot

see Birch, page 11



West Coast Tavern owner David Cohen

## Voice of San Diego hosts mayoral discussion at Birch

By Manny Lopez  
SDUN Reporter

The four front-runners in the race for San Diego Mayor squared off in a non-traditional, no-holds-barred debate hosted by the nonprofit news website Voice of San Diego.

The 700-seat Birch North Park Theatre was nearly filled to capacity as residents gathered on Nov. 5 to hear Councilmember David Alvarez, former City Attorney Mike Aguirre, former Assemblymember Nathan Fletcher and Councilmember Kevin Faulconer answer questions about their visions for the City.

VOSD CEO Scott Lewis moderated the debate—labeled a discussion—which included no opening statements by candidates and no time limits on their responses. Lewis encouraged the audience to stomp their feet if they felt any candidate was “droning on for too long.” Numerous times throughout the debate, the system was put into action.

“We had a little bit of a different approach and I thought it was fun,” said Lewis after the debate. “Candidates can send mailers all the time and have other groups send them out on their behalf, but I think when they’re right next to each other, it’s a lot harder to be aggressively lying.”

Lewis added that he researched statements made by the candidates throughout the campaign and then prepared questions to confront them with the things they’ve said to get their reactions. Additional questions came from audience members and through social media.

Candidates were queried on topics such as paid beach parking, water desalination, homelessness, fees for trash collection and racial profiling by police. At one point, Lewis asked why there were no women on the stage, which drew a loud applause

see VOSD, page 11

## An Egyptian Revival

Hillcrest's Egyptian Quarter's unveiling comes Nov. 14

By Hutton Marshall  
SDUN Editor

If you roamed Park Boulevard just south of University Ave. back in the '20s, you'd find a style that has long since left Southern California. Characterized by pharaoh heads, Persian cats and engraved scarabs, the area was defined by the then-popular styles of Egyptian Revival and Art Nouveau.

Gone now are the landmark establishment that defined this Egyptian microcosm decades ago, such as Fox Theater and the Garden of Allah, but new businesses have cropped up in their place. Fox Theater has turned into the Atomic Bazaar. The Egyptian, an apartment complex, hangs relics of the area at its peak nearly a century ago. Walking Park Boulevard today, it's easy to spy several architectural oddities around the street: scarabs and pharaohs etched into the adobe walls of buildings.

Another thing you'll notice today are the

trashcans. They're painted in bright, eye-catching colors ordained with Egyptian scenes. These don't date back to the '20s; they don't date back two months ago. They're the sign of a revitalization of the area—of the “Egyptian Quarter” as it's come to be called.

This spur of effort was started about two years ago, shortly after Sam Khorish opened up Heat Bar & Grill, a lavish remodel of a building constructed in the '50s, which draws heavily on the Egyptian style for the restaurant's interior theme.

It was around this time that a couple of the other soon-to-be Egyptian Quarter businesses began gathering in Heat to discuss their plans for the quarter. They all had the same thing in mind: getting people to the area.

“I had to gather all the businesses, which some joined and some didn't. Many were discouraged and said, ‘Oh, nothing is going to happen. You're wasting your time,’” Khorish recalled about the Egyptian Quarter's humble



Visual artist Rook designs a trash receptacle in Hillcrest's Egyptian Corridor (Photo by Hutton Marshall)

beginnings. “But some of us got together, with the help of Ben at the time, we slowly got things approved through the business association.”

Egyptian Quarter businesses face a peculiar problem geographically. Lying between University & 30th and the heart of Hillcrest, several local business owners say that although they're not geographically isolated, they're often overlooked in the grand scheme of Hillcrest.

That's why when Khorish and several others on the street got together, they knew they'd have to make things happen for themselves, at least

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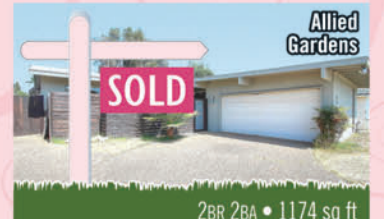
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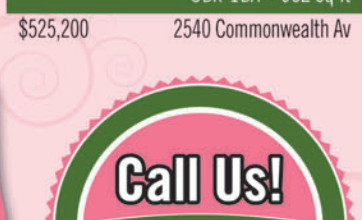
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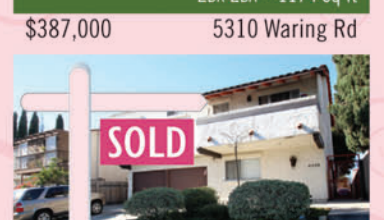
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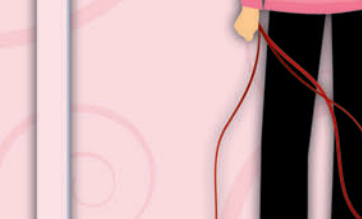
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**SOLD** 3BR 2BA • 1468 sq ft  
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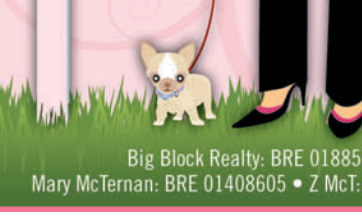
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\$345,000 4545 Arizona St #302



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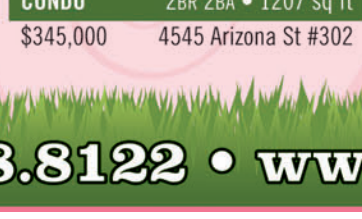
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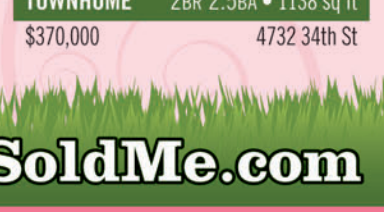
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# Mid-City Interim Height Ordinance passed unanimously by city council

By Hutton Marshall  
SDUN Editor

On Tuesday, Nov. 5, the City Council voted unanimously on the initial hearing on the Mid-City Interim Height Ordinance, which will limit building heights in Mission Hills to 50 feet, and to 65 feet in Hillcrest until the Uptown Community Plan update is enacted. While this was the initial hearing of the measure, and will return for another vote by the council in coming weeks, Mission Hills Heritage Chairman Barry Hager, a supporter of the height limit, called this second reading “perfunctory.”

“It was about as clean a victory as you can get,” Hager said. While there is no definite timeline in place for the Uptown Community Plan’s completion, Hager anticipates this will be done by the end of 2015.

“It sounds like 18 to 24 months if everything goes smoothly,” Hager said. “We’re eager to begin working with the city on putting together a plan that works for everyone.”

The interim height limit affects only one aspect of the final community plan, which will regulate a wide range of building codes. The interim height ordinance is contentious among populated neighborhoods in Uptown and Mid-City, because while many like Hager argue that it preserves the character of these neighborhoods—fearing they will become a duplicate of

San Diego’s downtown—others argue that limiting building heights without a discretionary process stifles development and community input.

A Nov. 6 post on Great Streets San Diego’s website written by Walter Chambers admonished the passing of the IHO, calling it a “complete failure for Uptown and for everyone involved.”

“Needless to say, 10 years of an interim planning ordinance has spooked developers, and nearly halted economic development in Uptown,” Chambers wrote. “Now uptown can only sit by and watch as new development goes up in North Park, Little Italy, Golden Hill, Downtown, and Bankers Hill.”

“There’s still plenty of development taking place. We’ve had quite a few projects built that are within the interim height limit such as the 3940 on fifth avenue—where Snooze and D Bar are located” Hager said in defense of the ordinance. “There’s no reason why you can’t build what needs to get built within 50 or 65 feet. That’s still a big building.”

Ultimately the newly recreated Planning Department, which was consolidated into Developmental Services by former Mayor Jerry Sanders, will produce the plan that will be heard by city council. Hager said community planning groups, which will give their input to the planning dept., will begin meeting next month. ♦

# San Diego Interim Mayor Todd Gloria awarded leadership fellowship

From SDGLN, Nov. 6, 2013  
SDGLN Staff

SAN DIEGO – Interim Mayor Todd Gloria is one of 24 elected officials from around the U.S. to be awarded Aspen Institute’s Rodel Fellowships in Public Leadership.

The fellowships are awarded to the nation’s most promising young political leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to effective and principled bipartisan governance, according to the institute.

“These are men and women who have forged records of excellence at all levels of American government,” said former Congressman Mickey Edwards, the program’s director. “All of them have been nominated for the fellowship by their peers and by political observers and community leaders who have singled them out as the best of the best of our emerging political leadership.”

The Aspen Institute program was established in 2005 and today includes Fellows who have since gone on to serve as governors, members of Congress, high-ranking local and state officials, and members of the President’s Cabinet.

Members of the new leadership class include: Stacy Abrams, minority leader of the Georgia House of Representatives; Justin Alford, president of the Maine Senate; Andy Berke, the mayor of Chat-



Todd Gloria  
(Courtesy SDGLN)

tanooga, Tennessee; Oklahoma state representative Lisa Billy; Pennsylvania state representative Kevin Boyle; Arizona state representative Heather Carter, and Lieutenant Governor Spencer

Cox of Utah.

Also, Colorado state representative Brian DeGrosso; Risa Ferman, district attorney of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania; Nevada state representative Lucy Flores; San Diego City Council President and interim Mayor, Todd Gloria; Texas state representative Eric Johnson, and Missouri Secretary of State Jason Kander.

And, Nevada state representative Ben Kieckhefer; Chicago City Clerk Susana Mendoza; Nebraska state legislator Amanda McGill; West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey; Kraig Paulsen, speaker of the Iowa House of Representatives; Minnesota state senator Roger Reinert; Missouri state representative Ryan Silvey; Shap Smith, the speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives; Dayne Walling, the mayor of Flint, Michigan; Lieutenant Governor Drew Wrigley of North Dakota; and Kim Wyman, the Washington secretary of state. ♦

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# Meet Sonya Stauffer

## the new Executive Director of the Hillcrest Business Association

San Diego Uptown News Editor Hutton Marshall sat down with incoming Hillcrest Business Association Executive Director Sonya Stauffer, who was appointed just three weeks ago. Stauffer, a Seattle native, spent more than three decades raising her children—now 30 and 32—in Cedar City, Utah, prior to arriving in San Diego in Spring of last year.

In the small, wide-windowed HBA office located on Fifth Ave. just south of University Ave. she discussed her first three weeks on the job, her vision for the association, and what she's seen so far in the community.

"It's been really good learning all over what I did several years ago," Stauffer said about her brief period on the job thus far. "It's been about 14 years of economic development working for Cedar City, [Utah], then working for myself all those years, and now going back and working in this sector. It's been a fun change."

Stauffer, who transitioned to real estate in '95 after working in economic development for Cedar City, said working to ensure the continued success of established Hillcrest festivities was a big focus starting out.

Outgoing HBA Executive Director Benjamin Nicholls left his post to take a job at McFarlane Promotions, which oversees five of the biggest events of the year, including Taste of Hillcrest and San Diego Pride. She said "working side by side with them a little bit closer," would be a top initiative.

Stauffer acknowledges that her extensive real estate background is a key reason she was appointed to this position, and hopes to leverage that by working with development to "make it a better neighborhood for business."

On Tuesday, Nov. 5, the city council unanimously approved the Mid-City Interim Height Ordinance, which, in a nutshell, will limit the height of buildings in Hillcrest to 65 feet until a permanent community plan comes into effect, expectedly around the end of 2015. When asked her opinion on the matter, Stauffer said that while she didn't know the exact height of the larger buildings here in Hillcrest, she generally supported vertical expansion in the name of economic development.

"Always when there's a supply and demand in real estate, people are going to want to go up, because—and it does limit if you look at it that way—a lot of times they don't start breaking even until developers have a certain amount of condominiums they can build, or parking spaces they can build," Stauffer said.

"The profit comes from the addition," she continued. "There's always that break over number for any developer or investor, so if you are limited, then for a lot of people it wouldn't make sense to build or to do any type of development ... so you've got to go high."

When asked what from Nicholls's tenure as executive director

she would like to see continued, Stauffer mentioned several initiatives.

She said "working closely with the businesses and being more proactive in our involvement with them" was something she knows Nicholls would like to see done. Stauffer also reiterated that working with the events already established was a "great moneymaker here in Hillcrest."

Beyond that, she said streamlining the office procedures

done," she continued.

She also stated that she saw Hillcrest as a place where her skills and experience in real estate would be well utilized.

"I could see myself working with the businesses [similar to my work] with Cedar City development, and a lot of times these positions are about development and working with the businesses, and highest and best use of land and buildings," Stauffer said.

When she's able to escape the daily grind, Stauffer enjoys outdoor activities—right now, the season calls for snow skiing, she says—and getting out of the city for road trips.



Hillcrest Business Association Executive Director Sonya Stauffer (Courtesy of HBA)

internally, as well as circumventing sluggish bureaucracy were two big pushes Nicholls would advocate.

"I know a lot of times when you get involved with committees and groups, you get politics, which makes it difficult to drive things home and that's why it takes so long," Stauffer said. "Getting everyone on board and keeping everyone focused is always difficult, so continuing that and just the teamwork and focus is really important."

The conversation then strayed from politics into what attracted Stauffer to the Hillcrest community, which she's relatively new to, having made the permanent move to San Diego in 2012.

The draw was that [Hillcrest] was a smaller community, not the City of San Diego," Stauffer said. "I was used to working in a population of 25,000 people, so I liked that the community was smaller and the opportunity to get a few more things done hopefully."

"Of course, we have to deal with San Diego as well, but hopefully in a smaller community like this ... we can drive a few things home and get a few things

"I get away on these kind of power weekends," Stauffer said. "Before I took this position, I took a trip up through Flagstaff and did a little bit of the Route 66, popped off a little bit here and there."

Finally, now that she's been interacting with the plethora of local businesses, she has quite a few to recommend.

"I was able to stop by at [Chocolat Bistro]—really good, and we had one of our meetings at D Bar, also really good," Stauffer said. "The décor in there is really nice, and the food is excellent. I would definitely invite my friends to come dine there." "And I love babycakes, we shoot over there all the time to have quick meetings outside of the office," she continued. "Haven't eaten a lot of cupcakes, but I take them to my friends and family all the time."

After the interview "officially" drew to a conclusion, Stauffer spoke of the importance of inclusion within the Hillcrest Business Association, saying that the HBA could only prosper when the businesses in Hillcrest are involved and feel accepted. For more information about the HBA, visit hillcrestbia.org. ♦



# Jimbo's ...Naturally! to serve Downtown

## First location opened in North Park in 1984

Dave Fidlin  
SDUN Reporter

When Jim "Jimbo" Someck sought to open another organic and natural food grocery store, Downtown San Diego was not at the top of his list.

"I didn't think I could find a place Downtown that had much space," Someck said. He said he also didn't like the idea of opening inside a mall, since cars could not park right in front of the store.

To make matters worse, when Someck first toured the intended space in April of 2011, he was not happy, later calling it "an abomination."

The idea seemed doomed from the start, but Westfield management was willing to work with the local grocery chain, and as of Oct. 16, Jimbo's ...Naturally! became the newest tenant within Westfield Horton Plaza. Someck not only found adequate space for his fifth location, the 28,000-square-foot store became his largest.

Through a series of tweaks in the conceptual phase, Someck and the mall's ownership devised a mutual plan that resulted in a three-level space within the popular Downtown shopping destination. A walk-up entrance via steps or an escalator exists on level one, the store is physically located on level two, and new escalators and a "cartveyor" were installed to shuttle shoppers up to parking on the fourth level.

Several hundred people attended the grand opening festi-

ties on Oct. 16—which included a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a number of speakers, including "Jimbo" himself and several local officials who each took turns at the podium: County Supervisor Don Roberts, Interim Mayor Todd Gloria, City Councilmember Lori Zapf and San Diego Downtown Partnership CEO Kris Michell, among others.

"I've been involved in the natural foods industry for over 40 years and my passion has always been organics and supporting local organic farmers," Someck said. "I know that these are buzz words now but that has been our focus ever since we opened our doors to our first store in 1984 because that is who we are. We walk the talk."

Zapf, who said she launched her own natural endurance bar in Jimbo's Del Mar store decades ago, lauded the grocer for his practices.

"Jimbo believes in local companies, he believes in buying produce locally and supporting the community and I was one of those businesses many years ago that he said yes to and got my business going," Zapf said.

Someck's foray into the grocery store business began well before 1984, the year the first Jimbo's store opened in North Park. Although his transition to vegetarian had already started, after Someck moved to San Diego from New York in 1974 and began working at People's food in Ocean Beach, it solidified his direction and he is a vegan today.

"There are a lot of people out there who don't eat the diet I eat, and we really should appeal to everyone and just carry the highest quality of foods in whatever category people want to eat," he said. "I eat the way I eat because I am a product of the experiences I had, other people have had other experiences."

The North Park store, which Someck admits put him "on the map," closed in 1997 and the property currently houses Ranchos Cocina, another local vegetarian food chain. As he sought to expand around the county, Someck said he continued to receive comments from San Diegans who fondly recalled the store's presence in the Uptown area. Fifteen years later, he is happy to be moving nearby.

"We're excited to be Downtown," Someck said. "We look forward to serving the residents and business people. There aren't many stores [here] selling high-quality foods, so I think we're filling a void."

Someck had his construction and design team deliberately pay homage to the Downtown neighborhoods as pieces of the puzzle came together. Old photos of the area are on display throughout the store, and local references abound, as evidenced by the Little Italy-themed deli, the Gaslamp Bistro and shopping aisles named after area streets, like Market, Kettner and Grape.

The new store features a number of the signature options



Owner Jim "Jimbo" Someck addressed the crowd at the opening of new Downtown store. (Photo by Morgan M. Hurley)

one would find at other locations, including a large selection of wines and cheeses, a made-from-scratch bakery, organic produce and hormone-free beef, poultry and pork.

As part of the company's dedication to the local communities it serves, on Thursday, Oct. 31, Jimbo's donated approximately \$23,500—a portion of its opening weekend proceeds—to Connections Housing, a housing and services center located at 1250 Sixth Ave., designed to reduce homelessness in San Diego. The local chain holds two community fundraisers per year and Someck told the grand opening crowd that his stores had recently passed the \$1 million mark in charitable giving.

"Our community is very fortunate to have a business like Jimbo's, who offers great food

to their customers and invests in their community to make it a better place for all," said Ben Avey, media relations manager with Family Health Centers, parent of Connections Housing.

"I don't care how successful our business would be, without working with the community that we are in, it wouldn't feel right, so we will be actively involved in whatever we can," Someck said, adding that he'd met with Downtown San Diego Partnership on Oct. 29, to see how else they could become greater involved.

"That's our goal, to be part of the fabric of the community," he said.

For more information, visit jimbos.com.

Assistant Uptown News Editor Morgan M. Hurley contributed to this report. ♦



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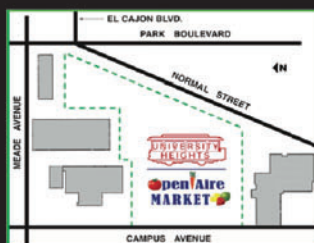


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## Editorial

# Manchester's media monopoly

By David Mannis, publisher,  
San Diego Uptown News

This week we learned that San Diego's daily newspaper, U-T San Diego, has purchased a group of eight independent, community newspapers in the areas of La Jolla, Del Mar, Solana Beach, Carmel Valley, Rancho Santa Fe, Rancho Bernardo, Poway, and Ramona, all which fall under one publishing group.

It's wonderful to see that the U-T's ownership recognizes the importance and value of local community news.

Our San Diego Community News Network (SDCNN) is comprised of three hyper-local newspapers—San Diego Downtown News, San Diego Uptown News and Gay San Diego—that serve three distinct communities in all of their diversity with a combined distribution of nearly 60,000.

We cover the events, the people and the news that make up each of these communities and do so in depth and in a way that doesn't always make it to the U-T or the local network television stations. We are also proud of the great advertising partnerships we have developed in our four years of operation.

A similar local community news outlet, San Diego Community Newspaper Group (SDCNG), remains one of the few remaining independently owned community newspapers in the county. Since 1989 it has operated the following three coastal papers: The Peninsula Beacon, the Beach & Bay Press, and La Jolla Today (formerly La Jolla Village News) which competes with Manchester's La Jolla Light.

SDCNG Publisher Julie Hoisington also mentioned the acquisition in an editorial piece this week in her own papers. Hoisington said that her news group "strives to provide communities with news taking place in residents' figurative (and sometimes literal) backyards that would otherwise go unreported." She also said her publications "try to be a true reflection of the neighborhoods they serve and be the independent voice for these communities."

The motives behind U-T's purchase would seem—on the surface—to be market share in a declining print

market; especially since community newspapers haven't seen that same decline in the last decade that larger print papers such as the U-T have experienced.

If this is indeed the motivation, it is important to note that another community outlet—the Coast News Group in North County—actually gained market share when the U-T purchased the daily North County Times last year. If logic prevails, SDCNG may also gain.

I agree with Hoisington that such a move must make business sense which means cuts may be expected, though it remains to be seen whether the U-T will retain all eight papers or gobble them up like they did with the North County Times. Time will tell.

While many may view this move as just another example of big business absorbing the smaller business, it is our hope that the voice of these communities will not be lost and that the U-T will maintain the independence of these papers into the future.

*David Mannis has been in the publishing business for over 30 years, producing a number of weekly shoppers, community newspapers, including La Jolla Village News, Beach & Bay Press, and The Peninsula Beacon, as well as several magazines. A graduate of UC Santa Barbara, Mannis is married with two sons and has been a resident of San Diego for over 50 years. ♦*



## Letters

[See "What makes Caryn run?" Vol. 5, Issue 21 and "Letters" Vol. 5, Issue 22]

Dear Editor and Readers:

Just about anyone who knows either Dale Larabee or me knows we are best friends. When Dale told me that he was going to write a column for your weekly paper, I shared his enthusiasm and encouraged him to develop columns of interest. Since I too write frequently as editor and publisher of my Hoover High Class of 1960 Newsletter, I understand that not everyone likes what you express. Dale and I have forceful personalities where we don't always mince words. That sometimes comes out in our written communication and in our speech. On more than one occasion, I found myself having to apologize for coming on too strong. At 71 years of age, I have learned to modify my expressions—to cool my jets.

I thought that Dale's article captured the spirit of this runner. As I've seen her run down Adams Avenue I understood her attire in August, but not in February. Not since Todd Leigh's days of running in only a singlet and shorts in the dead of winter have I seen a runner so scantily clad. In Todd's case, no one cared or looked twice. What I learned about Caryn from Dale's article, was that she has brains, a meaningful career and a personality. Seems that the other contributors to the Letters to the Editor also picked up on that.

Michael, you are a person I genuinely like. You add to the neighborhood, especially with your garden and the Little Free Library, but also your basic demeanor as I have experienced over the past 20+ years. Seems to me that one can give Dale a mulligan if you take exception to his written views. Dale and Diane are amongst the stalwarts of Kens-

ington: a founder of Litter Pickers, founder and co-race director of the Miracle Mile, an original KSAC runner (Boston Marathon with Ken Macintyre, Mike Wexler, and Eddie Nares), participant in the parade (without any resemblance of having a marcher's coordination). As a regular on Facebook, where my high school and college classmates from the extremes of the political right and left regularly blast away at my middle-of-the-road to moderate liberal views, I counsel that we are all friends, and should confine our vitriolic expressions to other venues. Michael, whether you liked or disliked Dale's article—it isn't that he was making the big bucks as a columnist or that he was writing inappropriately for a neighborhood paper. Dale was doing what comes natural to him, serving the community in the best way he knows how. If everyone were to match him in contributions to how we live, the community at large would be better off.

Sincerely, Peter B. Stafford

[See "Letters" Vol. 5 Issue 22]

Dear Mr. Lesniak;

Ain't life grand! How do we explain why the smallest heads get the biggest mouths. It is easy to criticize as evidenced by Mr. Lesniak's letter of October 25th. The writer who we see as doing nothing but criticize seeks to destroy an author who has spent 40 years of life contributing in so many ways to Kensington.

Two proverbs stand out: Talk is cheap and if you can do, do. If you can't do, criticize.

Mary Ellen, Kensington ♦

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San Diego Uptown News encourages letters to the editor and guest editorials. Please email both to [anthony@sdenn.com](mailto:anthony@sdenn.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@sdenn.com](mailto:anthony@sdenn.com).

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HILLCREST RITE AID CELEBRATES GRAND RE-OPENING

The newly renovated Hillcrest Rite Aid pharmacy, located at 535 Robinson Ave., will celebrate its grand re-opening on Nov. 23 by hosting a health fair. The event will educate residents about free wellness programs offered by Rite Aid, as well as showcase savings programs on prescription medications. Guests will have the opportunity to receive assessments for skin and memory, diabetes risk, COPD, mammograms, HIV, and much more. The event will be held from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Robinson Avenue location.

NEW LEED CERTIFICATION GOAL FOR BALBOA PARK

Interim Mayor Todd Gloria and other local leaders announced a new sustainability goal for Balboa Park at the Old Globe in Balboa Park Nov 4. Through joint efforts with local partners, the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership is adding several buildings to its LEED certification portfolio, bringing the total number of planned certified buildings up to 10. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. It is a rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council for the design, construction and operation of green energy structures. The LEED certifications are a result of the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership’s Environmental Sustainability Program, a collaborative effort by the City of San Diego, San Diego Gas & Electric, and the San Diego Green Building Council. The program has resulted in an annual savings of more than \$1 million in energy use at Balboa Park. “The collaborative efforts between the City, SDG&E, the San Diego Green Building Council, and Balboa Park Cultural Partnership have made it possible for Balboa Park to be on its way to becoming one of the most sustainable cultural parks in the world,” Gloria said in a press release.

SAN DIEGO COMPLETES RACE FOR THE CURE

Over 13,000 people participated in last Sunday’s 17th Annual Komen San Diego Race for the Cure in Balboa Park, raising \$1.1 million for free breast cancer treatments, services and support for cancer patients. “The Race for the Cure is fun and festive, but this race is more than just a celebration,” said Laura Farmer Sherman, executive director of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, San Diego. “The Race provides critical funding for families in San Diego County affected by breast cancer and because of the tremendous turn out and support, thousands of uninsured and underinsured women will get the help they need.” The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure is the largest funder of breast cancer research in the world. For more information, visit komensandiego.org.

COMMUNITY VALET KICKS INTO HIGH GEAR

The Uptown Community Parking District held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 1, for the Park Hillcrest Community Valet on Fifth Avenue. The new Community Valet stand is located on the sidewalk next to Urban Outfitters at 3946 Fifth Ave. This much anticipated valet service near the intersection of Fifth and University avenues has made Hillcrest parking that much easier for area shoppers. Once parked, shoppers can use the Hillcrest Parking Trolley to get to their destinations and back to the parking valet. For more information, visit parkuptownsd.org.

KPBS ANNOUNCES NEW LOCAL HEROES FOR NOVEMBER

Union Bank and KPBS, in honor of American Indian Heritage Month, have announced the most recent inspirational “local heroes,” Jane Dumas and Rose Margaret Orrantia. Dumas is a member of the Jamul Band of Kumeyaay Indians and a founder of the San Diego American Indian Health Center. She is also a master speaker with the Indigenous California Language Survival (ICLS), and a member of the California Indian Storytellers Association (CISA) and has held other prestigious roles. Orrantia works with foster youth transitioning to adulthood in her role as a program manager at the Academy for Professional Excellence’s Tribal STAR program at San Diego State University. She previously served as the executive director of the Indian Child and Family Services (ICFS) organization, a foster program that works with the American Indian population in both San Diego and Riverside. Both women will be honored later this month at the KPBS Local Heroes banquet, held

Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 5:30 p.m. at the La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, 700 Prospect St. “KPBS has the pleasure of partnering with Union Bank to celebrate these outstanding local heroes,” said KPBS General Manager Tom Karlo in a press release. “KPBS is proud to feature these honorees in our programming as they inspire us and make a positive difference in our neighborhoods and the world.” Throughout November, KPBS will air video profiles of Dumas and Orrantia, showcasing how they made a difference. For more information or to view the videos, visit kpbs.org/heroes. To nominate a new local hero, visit unionbank.com/heroes.

COASTER HOLIDAY EXPRESS TICKETS TO GO ON SALE

Tickets for the holiday-themed COASTER Holiday Express train ride go on sale Nov. 14 and will feature Santa and his friends to entertain riders on this popular holiday event. Families will have two opportunities to hop aboard the Dec. 7 holiday train, the first leaving Oceanside Transit Center at 10 a.m., and the second at 12:30 p.m. The fun-filled 90-minute experience will take riders on a non-stop, round-trip ride to Sorrento Valley and back. Santa and his friends will be on board to pose for pictures. This trip sells out, so buying tickets early is recommended. Tickets are \$6 for all passengers and available at GoNCTD.com/eticket or 760-966-6500.

NEW EGYPTIAN QUARTER

Hillcrest will host its first ever Egyptian Bazaar & Movie Night Nov. 14 at 3811 Park Blvd. The open-air event will be a chance for Hillcrest residents to enjoy a fun movie under the stars event. The night will kick off with the unveiling of Hillcrest’s Egyptian Quarter. This collection of businesses on Park Boulevard between University and Robinson avenues is known for its Egyptian style revival architecture, restaurants, and various vintage and retro stores. In keeping with the Egyptian motif, the night’s feature will be the classic Cleopatra, starring Elizabeth Taylor. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own blankets and chairs and grab a seat in the pop-up park which will be located in the small parking lot between Numbers and Heat Bar & Kitchen. The park will be decorated as a desert oasis complete with hot cocoa and bags of freshly popped popcorn. Food is also available at Heat Bar & Kitchen. Vintage clothing, retro furnishing and live art will be available in a park sale before the show. For more information, visit facebook.com/EgyptianQuarter or call 619-299-3330.

CITY COUNCIL PASSES LINKAGE FEE

On Nov. 4, the San Diego City Council voted in favor of amending the San Diego’s Workforce Housing Offset, previously known as the linkage fee, which will up the one-time fee paid by commercial developers building in San Diego. The fee will go toward providing affordable housing to low-wage workers. Mayoral candidates Kevin Faulconer—who voted against the fee at the meeting and have previously called the measure a “jobs tax”—and Nathan Fletcher both stated that the “500 percent” increase was excessive and would stifle development in the city. A press release from the office of Interim Mayor Todd Gloria stated that the fee remains a “small percentage of development costs,” and that San Diego’s municipal code mandates the fee be updated yearly. The measure narrowly passed 5 to 4 after failing in 2011. Councilmember Myrtle Cole, who replaced former Council President Tony Young in District 4, gave progressive council members the final affirming vote needed to pass the fee increase. According to the San Diego Housing Commission, the recommended fee will generate an additional \$8 – \$10 million annually, translating to an additional 80 – 100 units each year once fully implemented.

SOUTH PARK RESIDENT TRAVELS TO EDUCATION CONFERENCE IN QATAR

Kim Richards, founder of KDR PR, a San Diego public relations firm, traveled to Doha, Qatar from Oct. 26 – 28 to co-facilitate the first STEAM round table, which was co-sponsored by Qatar Foundation International and New York Academy of Sciences. STEAM signifies the incorporation of arts and creative thinking into STEM education, an important tool for engaging students in these technical fields. Richards also co-founded the UCSD Extension of STEAMConnect, an organization “bridging the gap between the business community, arts organizations, science and education institutions to collectively elevate STE-aM education. Richards said she learned several new techniques that can be incorporated into the classroom and professionally to encourage out-of-the-box thinking in STEM fields. ♦



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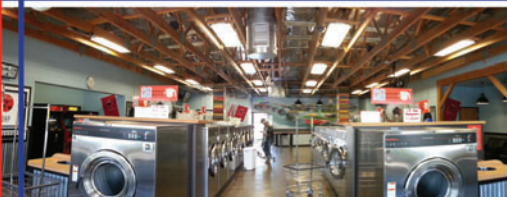
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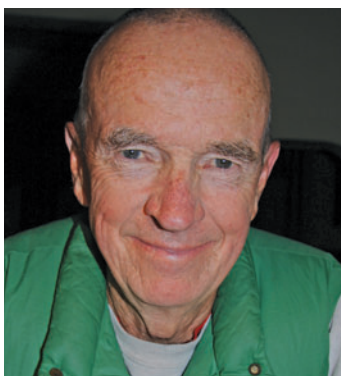
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## I got to sit in the front row



**Larabee Laments**  
Dale Larabee

I was the perfect person to moderate the Oct. 17 Mayors' Forum at the Kensington Church. I have run in one election in my life. That was for president of my fraternity pledge class in college. I lost. I have met Diane Feinstein, coached Susan Davis' son in soccer and lived in the same neighborhood as Jerry Sanders. He shops at Von's as do we. That was my total experience in politics—probably similar to most of the audience.

I moderated the Mayor's Debate between Bob Filner and Carl DeMaio shortly before their August 2012 election. It was a brawl. Filner was rude and insulting and avoided answering my questions. He consistently blasted his favorite whipping boy, Doug Manchester, and tied DeMaio

to Manchester and the good old boys Downtown. DeMaio wasn't much better answering questions. Both answered the questions they wanted asked or picked part of mine and answered that. DeMaio entered our small church with a parade of followers, carrying signs and chanting. I thought this was out of place, like he was walking into a Hare Krishna Convention. Filner stepped into the ring alone, shadow boxing. Before we started the presentation and to loosen things up, I told DeMaio I wanted him to tell a joke. "I can't tell a joke! I don't know any jokes," he almost whined. I said he must remember a joke from second grade or could ask one of the younger members of his parade group. "I can't tell a joke," he repeated. I scrapped the idea. Filner might have told a dirty one.

Toward the end of the questions that night, I asked each candidate what they did for fun. Filner lowered his gloves for one minute and told us he read, listened to music and hiked. DeMaio said he only loved to campaign. I left the church thinking that for a major city like San Diego, we didn't have much to choose from for mayor, and we sure were not going to laugh much. I voted for Filner. OK, hit me.

Mike Aguirre, David Alvarez and Nathan Fletcher showed for our Oct. 17 Forum. "Forum" to

make the event more civilized. Kevin Faulconer didn't come due to a conflict—one that several people in the audience attended and arrived before the debate started. What a refreshing change! Our three candidates were funny, relaxed, professional and respectful. No low blows, no blows at all except that Alvarez looks like he just graduated from high school, Fletcher flip-flops from one party to another and Aguirre was a one-issue candidate demonizing the outrageous city pensions—still.

The three candidates joked around. When I asked them what they did to have fun, Alvarez cracked he liked to read the negative articles about Fletcher in the Union Trib. After Darryl Kistler, the church minister stared at the three men in suits across the room and articulately challenged them to undo all the harm done by Filner, no matter who won. Fletcher began his opening two minutes with, "Boy I am glad he is not running for mayor." Aguirre maintained his perfect record to immediately stop talking whenever the timekeeper raised her red stop sign often with hilarious results. This is a good group. Although I was ticked off Faulconer didn't show, I know he is a solid candidate as well.

I told the audience as we ended the program that no matter which candidate won the election, including the no show Faulconer, "we are in for a huge upgrade."

We are, so remember to vote on Nov. 19. ♦

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Uptown News

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# Malashock unveils RAW4

## Bold, high energy dance takes the stage

By Anthony King  
SDUN Reporter

There are plenty of ways to classify dance—from grandiose ballet to street-smart krumping, and from modern jazz to the pop-culture speed of “So You Think You Can Dance”—but there really is only one purpose: to tell a story.

It is up to the choreographers to determine just what that story will be and the dancers to interpret that story, but it also takes a little interaction from a third sphere, the audience. And for four years, audiences in San Diego have fallen under the spell of the annual production “RAW,” a collaborative evening of contemporary performances produced by Malashock Dance.

Independent choreographer Michael Mizerany is producing “Malashock/RAW4,” bringing the company’s unique, cutting-edge dance to the Lyceum Stage Nov. 14 – 16. Mizerany will be debuting his piece “Unspeakable,” calling it “high energy work that is unabashedly bold and undeniably risky.”

In part, “Unspeakable” addresses a taboo subject: physical desire in a very dysfunctional family, but he said he has never really shied away from difficult subjects. “The whole thing behind RAW for me is confronting issues that people normally think dance won’t do,” Mizerany said. “I think that dance can address things in a really good way.”

In a previous “RAW,” Mizerany brought bullying to the dance floor, which he said came from a very personal place in his past. While his experience dealt with bullying because of his sexuality, the bullying piece was a universal look at an epidemic that has plagued almost everyone.

“We’re all human beings, and we all go through the same trials. [It is] more about things we share and less about things that make us different,” he said, acknowledging that young people dealing with their sexuality today, while still difficult, have more support and resources available.

“If we focus on things that make us similar ... we’re still part of the change. We’re still part of the cycle,” he said.

In “Unbelievable,” Mizerany brings five Malashock dancers together to convey the touchy subject: Nicholas Strasburg, Justin Viernes, Blythe Barton, Stephanie Harvey and Laura Bender.

Strasburg, a North Park resident who also danced in Mizerany’s bullying piece, said he especially appreciates Mizerany’s style.

“His subject matter is usually dark, especially for RAW,” Strasburg said. “He has a pretty good idea of a story line that he likes to do, and he has a definite technique and dance style that is unique.”

Technically trained at Seattle’s Cornish College of the Arts, Strasburg has a unique story himself, coming into dance. He was studying to be a roller coaster engineer at Portland State University—taking several physics classes focused on movement and velocity—when he realized he was literally moving in the wrong direction.

He said he was attracted to the unusual field because it was “something that makes so many people, so happy,” and then realized dance would achieve the exact same thing. After graduating from Cornish, he moved to San Diego and looked into City Ballet before approaching Malashock Dance.

The move, he said, was perfect, and exciting for him as well as his new audience.



(t to b) Courtney Meadows and Andrew Holmes (Photo by Raymond Elstad)

“I have never heard somebody come see a Malashock show who wasn’t surprised or wasn’t excited, or left bored,” Strasburg said. “It’s a very dynamic style of modern [dance]. ... It’s always exciting to watch because we do work that seems to defy how the body wants to move.”

Strasburg said dancing Mizerany’s choreography is not just physically challenging, but by adding emotional aspects to the movement gives another layer of challenge to the performance. Learning the moves, however, comes first.

“When you start learning a dance, our bodies do the movement so often that we create muscle memory, so our bodies remember how it wants to move with the momentum of how we’ve been doing it,” Strasburg said.

Those emotions – sometimes cathartic, sometimes overpowering – come later, and Mizerany is quick to say he does ask a lot from his dancers.

“Physically it’s just go, go, go,” Mizerany said, calling the emotional side “some of the hardest stuff” to present to the audience. For him, the pay off is worth it.

“It certainly challenges people to look at dance in a different way,” he said.

In addition to Mizerany’s “Unspeakable,” the show also features new choreography by Malashock Dance Artistic Director John Malashock and guest choreographer Andy Noble, whose NobleMotion Dance company is located in Houston. Malashock, a Mission Hills resident, will debut “The Garden Path of Lou & Laurie,” a drama depicting an imaginary, yet doomed, relationship that uses songs by counter-culture musicians Laurie Anderson and the late Lou Reed.

In “Beast,” Noble has choreographed an “aggressive, physically-daring and theatrical” story, organizers said, that uses facial expression and movement to initiate the choreography. Movement in the dancers’ faces are examined, then distorted: “unlocking the inner beast,” they said.

“Malashock/RAW4” will be staged for three performances, Nov. 14 – 16 at 8 p.m. at the Lyceum Stage, 79 Horton Plaza in Downtown. General admission tickets are \$25, and there is a VIP reception after the final performance on Saturday; tickets (which include the show) are \$75.

For tickets visit [lyceumevents.org](http://lyceumevents.org) or call 619-544-1000. For more information on Malashock Dance, visit [malashockdance.org](http://malashockdance.org).

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# Friends of Balboa Park salute volunteers

Manny Lopez  
SDUN Reporter

The Friends of Balboa Park (FOBP) celebrated its 13th annual "Salute to Volunteers and Visionaries," on Oct. 29, with an award luncheon at the historic Balboa Park Club ballroom. The awards recognized outstanding volunteers that have demonstrated significant and long-term contributions of service to the park.

Formed in 1998, FOBP—originally named the Millennium Society—is a non-profit advocacy, fundraising and volunteer outreach organization, dedicated to the preservation and propagation of the 1,200-acre historic park. Executive Director Kathleen Stoughton said that in the past 12 months, more than 400 volunteers from all walks of life have provided over 5,000 hours of service for FOBP in a large variety of areas.

Stoughton identified several major projects recently completed by the organization, including: restorations of the lily pond, construction of the park information kiosks, planting of the Australian garden and providing funding for buses to bring fifth grade school children to the park.

"This place without a doubt runs on its volunteers," said Jim Hughes, outgoing chairman of the Friends of Balboa Park. "There might be less than 1000 total paid staff, but you go into any institution, museum or the Zoo and there are literally thousands of people that put in a minimum number of hours to qualify as a volunteer." Interim Mayor Todd Gloria presented five Inspiration Awards, which are given to volunteers nominated by their peers in the Balboa Park community. This year's winners included Harold Doerr of the Spreckels Organ Society; Andrea Fleming of the San Diego Civic Youth Ballet; Dick Murphy of the San Diego Automotive Mu-



he Gildred family with the Millenium Award. (Photo by Manny Lopez)

seum; Stella Vasilakis of the Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol; and Ruth Voorhies of the Japanese Friendship Garden.

"This has always been one of my favorite events," Gloria said. "The park is run by volunteers who contribute collaboratively with our city employees and all of these people deserve great awards and I'm glad that the Friends of Balboa Park is acknowledging them."

"This is an annual celebration of all the wonderful things that Balboa Park does for the community," said former state senator Christine Kehoe, who added that she lives walking distance from the park. "It's a wonderful way to see old friends and interact with people who love Balboa Park."

County Supervisor Ron Roberts presented the Millenium Award—given to individuals and organizations committed to the betterment of the park—to the Gildred family of Rancho Santa Fe. The award recognized the family's three generations of leadership, stewardship and volunteer activity in Balboa Park, which started with Philip L. Gildred, who served as the managing director of the California Pacific Exposition in 1935.

"As children, we lived a couple of canyons away from the park and this is where we grew up," said Philip Gildred, Jr. "My mother and father were very involved with the institutions here and so it just was second nature that we followed in their

footsteps."

Betty Peabody, a founding member of the organization was a featured speaker. She noted that financial times have changed and more public and private partnerships are forming, because the city no longer has the money to do everything that needs to be done.

"The park as everyone knows is a tremendous asset to San Diego and it's important that we maintain it," Peabody said. "We thought we would be enhancing things, but as it turned out, we're introducing new programs to make the park better for future generations. We owe that to the visionary forefathers who preceded us."

County Supervisor Ron Roberts—who during the organization's inception gave \$10,000 to help get it off the ground—said it's important for a park of this magnitude to have a supportive organization like the Friends of Balboa Park. He added that in a city with so many priorities such as San Diego, there are important projects that otherwise won't get done.

Stoughton said upcoming projects include re-landscaping the Persian Rug and Zoro Gardens, bringing water-wise irrigation to the park, and restoration of the Sefton Guard Houses, the Botanical Building and the El Cid balustrades.

After 13 years of service, award recipient Fleming said she still gets excited when people enter the Casa Del Prado Theater.

"I love to be part of the park and watch the faces of the people who come back year after year to enjoy the theater," said Fleming. "It's a wonderful honor to be able to work with the San Diego Civic Youth Ballet for so many years and be able to watch my daughter grow up and dance and follow in my footsteps."

For more information about Friends of Balboa Park, visit [friendsofbalboapark.org](http://friendsofbalboapark.org) or call 619-232-2282. ♦

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FROM PAGE 1

BIRCH

theatre to the new owners.

Cohen said they officially took ownership last week.

“We’ve actually been looking at the space for the past four years, and now the timing just worked out,” he said. “The feedback has been very positive and people seem to be excited. People have already started to ask me when we’re going to start doing more shows.”

Cohen said that since West Coast Tavern opened in the theatre’s lobby, he’s seen a steady decline in bookings.

“Lyric Opera was understaffed and wasn’t able to capitalize on the space. It didn’t have the in-house resources to book and manage those events,” he said. “It was running at the capacity it could handle with the number of people they had on staff.”

He, along with North Park Main Street Executive Director Angela Landsberg, agrees that when the theater doesn’t have events, all surrounding businesses suffer.

Landsberg said that while the previous director of the Birch Theatre performed excellently under the difficult circumstances, running a theater also tasked with the instability of a bankruptcy is a challenge.

“The limited financial resources prevented them [from] fully utilizing the magnificent venue to its greatest potential, which in turn impacted the en-



The Birch North Park Theatre

tire district’s ability to capitalize on this one of a kind San Diego icon,” Landsberg said. “The North Park Theatre was the catalyst for the revitalization of this community over a decade ago. It will now have the leadership and management to carry forward its legacy.”

Since North Park Main Street promotes development that supports arts, culture and entertainment, while preserving the historical integrity of the community, Landsberg feels Cohen’s business model fits perfectly with their mission.

This model includes expanding the 731-seat venue to its original 1,200-seat configuration. From there, the space will host a mix of concerts and movies with full food and alcohol service. Cohen describes the vision as the Casbah meets Cineopolis.

The remodel will start in the beginning of the year, he said, and

they plan to stay true to the original building. The calendar will be full of bookings starting in June of 2014 and will include nationally touring acts.

“I think it’s really going to bring a renaissance again to North Park,” Cohen said. “There’s a lot of talk about how it revitalized the neighborhood when it reopened in 2006. This will be the second revitalization and will bring even more people to the community.”

Landsberg said the local business community is welcoming the change with open arms.

“[David Cohen and the Verant Group] have a vision for creating a local destination as well as a theater that can bring people together from all over the region to this thriving commercial district,” she said. “I hope to see lines out the door at the theater and those same people enjoying all of the shops, eateries and galleries that North Park has to offer.”◆



FROM PAGE 1

VOSD

from audience members. He then asked the candidates for their perspectives on women in the work place in light of former Mayor Bob Filner’s sexual harassment scandal.

Alvarez stated that his campaign manager is a woman and that several key positions within his office are held by females. He said it was unfortunate that no women were in the race and pointed out that there are many great female elected officials such as State Assembly Leader Toni Atkins, former Councilmember Donna Frye and former Assemblymember Lori Saldana. All three endorse Alvarez.

Aguirre jokingly chimed in that the right thing for Alvarez to do is step aside so that one of them can run.

Faulconer said he was surprised that among the 11 candidates who qualified for the ballot, none were women. He said voters will be looking for a candidate who is honest, upfront and willing to say what they want to do and stick with it.

Fletcher said that there were a lot of courageous women that came forward to denounce Filner, acknowledging that it must have been difficult for them. He said San Diegans owe a debt of gratitude to the women who came forward and that the era in which such a climate existed in City Hall is now in the past.

“This format was a lot more free flowing, and I think it was good because people want to see who you really are, and I think this gives you an opportunity to do that,” Alvarez said. “I don’t think there were any new questions asked, but it was definitely a



(T-B) Candidates sit around VOSD CEO Scott Lewis; Birch Theatre’s sign the night of the debate (Photos by Manny Lopez)

more conversational approach.”

“I liked the forum; I think it was great for a lot of back and forth and it allowed for more in-depth answers,” said Faulconer, the lone Republican among the top candidates.

Fletcher said that all of the forums provide the same opportunity and that despite massive spending by outside groups, his campaign is holding strong.

“San Diegans are ready to see a city that functions and does the basic things like make sure neighborhoods are invested in and assure that we have safe communities and good opportunities for jobs,” he said. “We can continue with the status quo or we can make a change and go in a different direction. I represent that change.”

Aguirre praised Lewis for his command of the issues, ability to engage the candidates and for not asking questions unrelated to the election.

“I think a lot of people haven’t made up their minds yet and they’re still trying to figure out who I am and what I am,” Aguirre said. “I may not be a viable candidate, I think I am, but if I do get elected, I’ll be beholden to no one.”

The election will be held on Nov. 19. If no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote, a runoff election between the top two will be scheduled for February.◆

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# A masked affair for the neighborhood

## Snooze celebrates two years, their staff and good causes

Morgan M. Hurley  
SDUN Assistant Editor

Hillcrest's Snooze, an A.M. Eatery opened to great fanfare in November of 2011, and with its colorful motifs, playful décor, delicious food and über-friendly atmosphere, the Colorado-based breakfast restaurant fit perfectly into the neighborhood.

Two years later, all the hype has yet to die down and crowds continue to assemble.

On Nov. 22, the staff—led by recently promoted General Manager Nick Papantonakis—is inviting the entire community to join in the celebration of their two year anniversary with a Masquerade Party, from 6 – 10 p.m. at their place of business, located at 3940 Fifth Ave.

Since Snooze closes at 2:30 p.m. every day, the entire restaurant will be taken over for the event, which will feature an upscale menu, including hors d'oeuvres and tray-passed finger foods, event-themed cocktails, a carving station and even caviar. A small selection of beer and wine will also be available.

Tickets to the family-friendly

event are \$15 and all proceeds will go to this year's benefactor, Feeding America San Diego, a local food bank that serves all of San Diego County. Attendees are also encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to further help the nonprofit.

Papantonakis—who signs his emails “aka Clark Kent” with good reason—said last year's “Snooze's Fun House” anniversary party raised \$1,500, which was split between the Surfrider Foundation and ARTS (A Reason To Survive). This year the goal is to raise a total of \$1,000 for Feeding America.

To help facilitate meeting that mark, Snooze will be selling drink and “entertainment” tickets for \$1 each at the party, as well as donating 10 percent of all sales on the Hillcrest location's actual anniversary date, Nov. 18.

Aside from live music and dancing at the anniversary party, Papantonakis said the restaurant will “definitely be going all out” with regards to décor and staff costumes. There will also be face painting, tarot readings, a fortune teller, a photo booth, and other fun activities, and those who bring non-perishables will receive an



Snooze will appreciate its Hillcrest staff at its second anniversary party on Nov. 22. Shown above is the crew that opened the store in 2011. (Courtesy Snooze Hillcrest)

entertainment ticket in exchange.

“Masks are ... I'm not going to say required, but highly, highly encouraged,” Papantonakis said, adding that those who arrive without one can choose a basic mask at the door and decorate it before entering.

The young superhero look-alike said the anniversary celebration also doubles as a staff appreciation party, meaning the entire Hillcrest crew will be in party mode, with staff from Snooze's new Del Mar location taking over kitchen and serving roles for the evening.

“We're very excited that we've made it this far and we want to celebrate that and take care of our staff and show them how much we appreciate them,” he said.

Staff appreciation is one of the many things that initially drew Papantonakis to the Snooze family not long after getting his degree in hospitality management at Colorado State University. He said

his first interview with owner Jon Schlegel was so impactful, he left feeling, “I have to do whatever I can to let them know how interested I am,” he said.

His persistence paid off and after a year in Fort Collins—the third of five Snooze locations currently in Colorado—he made the move to San Diego to open the Hillcrest location as assistant to then general manager, Robert Butterfield. Butterfield recently bumped up to regional manager to oversee the Hillcrest, Del Mar and soon-to-be location in Scottsdale, Ariz., making room for Papantonakis.

“We had a nice symbiotic relationship,” Papantonakis said. “He had 30-plus years of restaurant experience ... and has been one of the greatest teachers I've ever had.”

Papantonakis was also attracted to Snooze's eco-friendly practices, which include composting, recycling, small business partnerships and energy efficiency.

He said the Hillcrest location is able to divert 60 percent of their food scrap from landfills through their compost program.

In his third year as the Snooze representative on the board of the Hillcrest Business Association, Papantonakis launched his own sustainability committee with the HBA last spring. The group is currently focused on attaining “eco-district certification” for the neighborhood.

As for what else revelers can expect from the upcoming night of masquerade, Papantonakis preferred to offer few details.

“People will be dressed to the nines,” he said. “Plan for an evening of mystical, dark deeds.”

Those wishing to attend the masquerade party can purchase tickets anytime up to the date of the event at the Hillcrest Snooze location, 3940 Fifth Ave. For more information about Feeding America San Diego, visit [feedingamericasd.org](http://feedingamericasd.org).

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FROM PAGE 1

EGYPTIAN

initially. The small group began holding community meetings to talk about their idealistic plans—about returning the iconic theme to the area. They organized their first event, “Turn up the Heat,” a fashion show at Heat Bar & Grill featuring clothes from Edith Ernestine Fashion & Lifestyle, a resale clothing shop down the street.

“We got involved with the HBA at that point, because they kind of helped us promote once they found out we were businesses working together to do something on this end that was kind of forgotten,” said Edith Ernestine Owner Morgan Freeman. “They were like, “Oh, we need to be a part of these people, who are gonna do it whether we help them or not.”

“We thought it was interesting because we hadn’t seen much action—especially collaborative action like that—going on in that area before,” said HBA Marketing and Communications Program Manager Morgan Gamwell, who served as the liaison between HBA and the Egyptian Corridor. “It was really cool to see that they wanted to work together.”

Turn Up the Heat was a very successful, sold-out event that sparked a renewed energy into the community group, as well as additional support from the HBA. This support has so far included funding physical aspects of the revitalization, including lighting along building rooftops and commissioned artists creating the most visually dazzling trash receptacles in Hillcrest.

San Diego artist, Fizix, along with his partners in crime, Rook and Bishop, were commissioned to design these trashcans to fit the theme of the quarter. A longtime resident of the area, Fizix said these collaborative, Hillcrest-based projects are what he likes to do best.

“I’ve lived here for 14 years,” Fizix said. “I like to really put up my art here around town.”

The HBA reached out to Fizix at the

recommendation of Khorish, who had the artist paint the impossible-to-ignore mural on the side of Heat.

“First thing I’ve done on [Park Blvd.] was the Heat mural,” Fizix said. “I started just hitting up any business that would let me and doing 100-foot murals, 75-foot murals. That kind of got around town and now people just kind of try to find me.”

Now that the Quarter has truly begun to take shape, it’s again teamed up with the HBA to host the Egyptian Bazaar & Movie Night on Nov. 14 as a re-introduction to the quarter. Hosted in the parking lot at 3811 Park Blvd., right between Heat and Numbers, the event will have an outdoor screening of the 1963 film Cleopatra, and invite several other businesses to set up shop for the evening along Park Blvd.

“It’ll be a great chance for people to see that this part of the neighborhood is up and coming and it’s fresh and it’s new,” Gamwell said.

Looking forward, Khorish hopes to bring Fashion Week to San Diego—specifically, to the Egyptian Quarter. His dream is to have a permanent sign like Hillcrest’s on University Ave. and Park Blvd. to mark the beginning of the Egyptian Corridor.

For more information on the Egyptian Bazaar & Movie Night, visit Facebook.com/Egyptianquarter. ♦



(top to bottom) Some lasting Egyptian Revival architecture along Park Blvd.; An artistically dazzling contraption where garbage and waste is stored, catering to the newly revitalized Egyptian Quarter. (Photos by Hutton Marshall)

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(Photo by Sara Norris)



Habanero mac and cheese  
(Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

# Sacred meals

FRANK SABATINI JR. Restaurant Review



4655 Park Blvd. (University Heights)

619-255-8504

Average prices: Starters and salads,  
\$7 to \$12; entrees, \$16 to \$22



Pork tenderloin  
(Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Animal bones, voodoo dolls and amulets comprise a serious collection of peculiar artifacts at American Voodoo, a new restaurant in University Heights that does a better job at comforting diners than scarring them.

Opened recently by filmmaker-turned-restaurateur Joshua Hamlin, the kitchen team includes classically French-trained chef Daniel San Augustine, a culinary veteran who cooked for A-list celebrities while working for the famed, Los Angeles-based caterer, Chef LaLa. His seasonally driven menu at American Voodoo leans toward "West Coast Creole," but doesn't rule out such continental standbys as short ribs, mussels and sirloin. There's also a knockout version of fried chicken based on a South Carolina recipe from Hamlin's grandmother.

A rustic ambiance pervades throughout the cozy double-storefront space, although it feels less clichéd compared to a zillion other restaurants clad in reclaimed wood. Several voodoo dolls crafted by Hamlin's mom peer from arched shelving units containing myriad odd pieces he amassed in his world travels. Taxidermy is mixed into the scheme as well, along with Jakarta Blend wood tables and a unisex restroom that shocks with one of the wildest visionary-style paintjobs I've ever seen.

Complimentary biscuits made with a touch of molasses and served with honey butter keep guests noshing as they decide on dishes from a chalkboard menu perched near the front door. Regarding the absence of alcohol, it will soon be a thing of the past as Hamlin is expecting his beer and wine license in the coming week. He'll carry local brews, soju cocktails and an all-California wine list.

We started with grilled strawberry salad that recently replaced a similar medley using figs. The chef still had some figs in the house, so without any complaints from us, he tossed them in. The slightly charred fruits added novelty to the greens while the Meyer lemon vinaigrette clenched the entire salad together with a clean, bright flavor.

Red beans and rice needed only a few drops of hot sauce from the table to make them sing, as is usually the case. The chef uses pork stock in the recipe, although he's considering porking up the dish further with andouille

sausage. I vote "yes."

We also kicked off with habanero mac-n-cheese that is actually tame enough for scaredy cats. The sporadic bursts of capsaicin were quickly quelled by a velvety, well-constructed roux that took on a blend of luscious curds the chef wouldn't reveal. Ah, why is it that the best mac-n-cheese recipes are always kept top secret?

The organic fried chicken is all the rage. The half bird was accompanied with coleslaw and sweet potato mash spiked with nutmeg and cayenne pepper. Most remarkable was that even the thickest section of the breast piece cut effortlessly with our butter knives.

The chicken is first cooked sous vide for several hours, a French method of sealing food in airtight plastic bags and submerging them in low-heat water baths. Meats and vegetables cooked in this manner result in maximum flavor and tenderness since they don't come in direct contact with water or heat sources.

Here, the chicken then receives what tasted like a traditional Southern battering of flour and buttermilk before it's fried to a golden-brown crisp. If a spell was cast upon us that night, it was one that will taunt us with eternal flashbacks for this recipe.

Two other entrees circulated our table: Charbroiled pork medallions and pork short ribs. Both autumn-friendly dishes came with

moist apple-fennel dressing while the medallions featured the addition of roasted potatoes, Brussels sprouts and onions underneath. The chef encircled the sliced meat with the braising liquid from the ribs, enhancing it with brown sugar and soy sauce. It was a daily special worthy of encores.

The ribs were slathered seemingly with the same liquid, although with added flavor achieved from pre-smoking them before turning ultra tender in the oven. Beef short ribs, we're told, rotate through the menu on certain days.

"We want to be in touch with what our guests like," said Hamlin, adding that his chef is also proficient at creating meals for vegans by simply placing an advance call.

Pecan pie was tempting, but out of the question after gorging under the gaze of blessed voodoo dolls and a stuffed fox mounted artistically above the kitchen. Sweet potato brownies and banana bread pudding were also in the offing.

In addition to daily dinner service, the restaurant offers brunch on Saturdays and Sundays, although Hamlin and his team are preparing to extend it to seven days a week in the coming months. ♦



Succulent fried chicken  
(Photo by Sara Norris)

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Assorted Martinis  
(Photo by Dr. Ink)

# Social Sunday

## Come On Get Happy! Dr. Ink

When restaurants designate happy hour to their cramped bar areas only, it oftentimes means jostling for a stool or hightop while sloshing your precious martini over the knees of other patrons. The exact opposite holds true at Wang's North Park, where an enormous bar and lounge area easily prevents customers from ever crossing the line into the dining section.

The 15,000-square-foot Pan-Asian restaurant was once home to J.C. Penny before Fashion Valley Mall was built. Today it serves as one of the most exquisitely renovated spaces in North Park, featuring giant pendant lights floating over a calming expanse of earthy textures accented with vivid wall art. Separating the bar and dining room is a metal bonsai tree perched atop an illuminated light box that looks like an aquarium at first glance. Whoever the interior designer, a good dose of feng shui was applied.

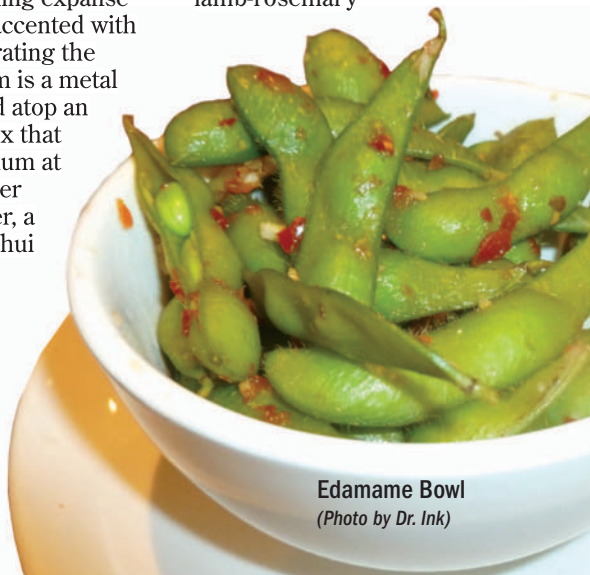
On "Social Sundays," happy hour runs until 8 p.m., an hour later than normal. Arriving with a touch of Daylight Savings Time blues, we discovered the good fortune of

paying only \$6 for well martinis that included lemon drops and appletinis. In their premium form, they're priced normally at \$10. Both cocktails were bright and fruity without being overly sweet. More importantly, the booze in them wasn't hidden.

The drink deals extend also to traditional well drinks, domestic bottled beer, select drafts and wines by the glass, all for \$4. Import brews cost \$5.

Certain munchies are even cheaper. A bowl of warm, spicy edamame or a pair of vegetable spring rolls cost only \$3 each. If there was ever a snack that distracts from drink intake, it's edamame, as we learned after feverishly popping the meaty beans from their pods in non-stop motion while our martini glasses quickly emptied.

We also ordered a trio of lamb-rosemary



Edamame Bowl  
(Photo by Dr. Ink)

dumplings (\$4.50) that paired to our tart martinis like red wine does to steak. Yet as the drinks slid down and the appetizers whetted our palates, we eventually reached for the regular dinner menu for sobering quantities of Thai basil noodles and honey-lemon chicken. In the end, we barely noticed the darkness that descended so stinking early. ♦

## RATINGS:

### Drinks: ★★★★★

The lemon drops and appletinis using well-brand liquor were large and tasted as good as any.

### Food: ★★★★★

The discounted steamed dumplings were a favorite at our table. They're available in lamb, pork, chicken, shrimp or vegetable. Also, the seasoned edamame in their pods are as booze-friendly as pretzels.

### Value: ★★★★★

Compared to the regular prices, you'll save between 30 and 40 percent on food and cocktails.

### Service: ★★★★★

Full wait service is provided in the bar lounge, and the staff was fast and attentive in delivering the goods and refilling water glasses.

### Duration: ★★★★★

Happy hour is offered daily, although on Friday through Sunday it caters to the weekend spirit by running a little longer.



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# THE PATIO

EST 2012

## comes to Mission Hills

By Anthony King  
SDUN Reporter

With the efforts of several recent restaurant developers, Goldfinch Street in Mission Hills could become a new dining hot spot in Uptown, rivaling destinations in other neighborhoods. Announced Oct. 21, owners of The Patio on Lamont Street signed a lease to open a second location of their popular restaurant in Mission Hills.

The Patio on Goldfinch will open its doors at 4020 Goldfinch St. in spring 2014. Renovations on the building, which currently sits vacant as an unfinished commercial site, will begin soon and once open, the 3,900-square-foot space is expected to seat approximately 200 guests.

Restaurant owner Gina Champion-Cain, along with property owner Jeff Silberman of Carleton Management, said The Patio on Goldfinch will bring an “exciting new edition to Mission Hill’s emerging culinary and cultural scene,” with an eye to help develop the next up-and-coming dining neighborhood.

“[Our] vision ... is to create the next entertainment and dining hot spot, similar to what 30th Street in North Park and Fifth Avenue in Hillcrest have become,” they said in a press release announcing the Mission Hills location.

Opened November 2012, The Patio on Lamont Street has grown to be one of Pacific Beach’s premier destinations for

“creative farm-to-table dishes,” representatives said in the release. The restaurant concept also includes craft-cocktails and a pet-friendly area.

The Patio on Goldfinch will feature similar menu items as the owners’ Pacific Beach restaurant, including dishes that use local, seasonal ingredients. There will also be a cheese cave, complete with a cheese expert on hand, and an outdoor patio open to pets that will include a fire-place and retractable roof.

The company’s Executive Chef John Medall will oversee the small plate and seafood menu, and Lucas Reeve, assistant general manager at the Lamont Street location, will take over as general manager once the Mission Hills restaurant opens, Champion-Cain said.

In addition to their “unique twist” on the neighborhood’s growing food and drink culture, representatives said they are designing a space with an “urban chic ambiance” based in sustainability.

Lahaina Architects will take the lead on the design, using recycled and “up-cycled” materials. ArcLight Cinemas will oversee the building’s LEED certification, with help from Sustainability Matters. Based in Mission Valley, Lahaina Architects designed the original Patio concept in Pacific Beach.

The Patio on Goldfinch will join Meshuggah Shack, Lefty’s Chicago Pizzeria, Brooklyn Girl Eatery and Special Delivery San Diego as dining destinations on the



The dining area of The Patio on Lamont Street in Pacific Beach (Photos by Shawn Baker)

4000 block of Goldfinch Street. The Gathering Bar and Grill, located on the same block at the intersection of Goldfinch and Washington streets, was recently pur-

chased by sibling restaurateurs John and Jill Ealy. The Ealys will be opening their new concept, Harley Gray Kitchen & Bar, in the near future as well. ♦

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Gilb's got Houck's number. Betty (Phil Johnson) looks on (Photo by Daren Scott)

# Diversiónary Village Raises 'She-Rantulas' Right

Charlene Baldrige  
SDUN Theater Critic

Fred, the landlord, one of the first victims and an entomologist in "She-Rantulas From Outer Space - in 3D," should have seen it coming when precious, precocious little Suzie asks for her own "T" hat. The big red "T" stands for Tarrytown Tarantulas, but it is the hairy legs coming off the side that so fascinate the 7-year-old girl. Everyone should have known something was amiss when all the men in Tarrytown began to disappear. It's all part of a plan to rid Earth of humans so the Arachnids—who are pretty indistinguishable from humans until they mature—can take over.

Based on 1950s end-of-the-world, space-invaders, space-abduction, fear-of-the-"other" films, the world-premiere play is co-written by Phil Johnson (Betty, Suzie's blinkered mother) and Ruff Yeager (director). It is set in an apartment on Main Street in 1957 in a town awash with "post-war tranquility."

In Diversiónary's gender-switching company are some of the city's best farceurs: Andy Collins (Harry the randy handyman and Harriet the vamp), Melinda Gilb (Flora the Avon Lady and others), Fred Harlow (Fred and Freida) and Tony Houck (Suzie). Collins has perfected his leer, both female and male. He is dead-on when it comes to sexual repression. Johnson develops his most subtle and beset role so far. Like other women of her era, Betty's modus operandi is "if we don't see it, it isn't there." Betty's mad scene, absolutely operatic, nearly destroying Chad Yeager's period set, warrants a return trip.

Houck is masterful in tempo and pitch, especially as Suzie comes into her hairy maturity (maturity takes only eight years and her birthday party is a hum-dinger). Unsurprisingly, both Gilb and Harlow—masters at physical comedy—also inhabit the humanity of their characters, which makes the satire deeply funny.

Humanity, dedication and sincerity are the soul of farce, espe-

*She-Rantulas From Outer Space - in 3D*

**WHERE:** Diversiónary Theatre, 4545 Park Blvd., (University Heights)

**WHEN:** 8 p.m. Thursdays - Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, and 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 11 (special industry night performance) through Nov. 17

**WEB:** [diversionary.org](http://diversionary.org)

**INFO:** 619-220-0097

cially when the farce is melodramatic. Timing is all-important as well. The entire company gets that and it can only get better as the run matures (this review is based on the opening night performance of Nov. 2). All are supported by Jennifer Brawn-Gittings' fabulous costumes, replete with crinolines and pointy-toe shoes, each funnier than the last; Peter Herman's period wigs and hair ornaments; Alberto Alvarado's makeup design; and Kevin Anthenill's original music and sound. Walter Murray is fight director; David Medina, the prop designer and set dresser; and Luke Olson, the lighting designer.

As they say, it takes a village to raise a child. This one takes the cake in more ways than one. ♦



Betty the typical '57 housewife (Photo by Daren Scott)

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

**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.

©2009 CNS/websudoku.com

Sudoku Answer key, page 19

**Uptown Crossword**

**'Duck'**

1	2	3	4				5	6	7			8	9	10
11					12		13					14		15
16						17							18	
			19									20		
21	22				23					24				
25			26				27	28	29		30			
31					32	33		34		35			36	
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40	41	42			43					44			45	46
48			49				50		51			52		
53					54				55	56	57		58	
59							60	61				62		
63					64								65	66
67					68							69		
70							71						72	

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

- ACROSS**

  - 1 Catchall category: abbr.
  - 5 Relocation aid
  - 8 Spot for a computer
  - 11 Decorative cases
  - 13 Lily plants with showy flowers
  - 15 Goof up
  - 16 *The Art of the Deal* author
  - 18 Wee
  - 19 Rotund standup comic
  - 21 Monk's moniker
  - 23 33 or 45, briefly
  - 24 Reverberant
  - 25 Poetic foot
  - 27 R-V connection
  - 30 Yankees manager Joe
  - 31 Meal
  - 34 Sagan's subj.
  - 36 Sun. delivery
  - 37 *The Power of Love* lead singer
  - 40 Windows predecessor
  - 43 Run for, as public office
  - 44 Eleven o'clock VIP
  - 48 Malfunction
  - 50 Baseball's Cobb and Hardin
  - 52 Hebrides island
  - 53 Grammarian, at times
- DOWN**

  - 1 Kind of school, for short
  - 2 "How was \_\_\_ know?"
  - 3 Artificial tan source
  - 4 See you later!: Ital.
  - 5 *Psycho* actress Miles
  - 6 *Man With \_\_\_*: 1995 film
  - 7 \_\_\_ plume
  - 8 Landlords, e.g.
  - 9 Large wardrobe
  - 10 Cupid associate
  - 12 Shpeak like thish
  - 13 Flower parts
  - 14 Red blood cell protein
  - 17 Slight depression
  - 20 Frat letter
- 21 Holiday purchase
  - 22 *Norma* \_\_\_
  - 26 Exclamation of annoyance
  - 28 Needlessly wordy
  - 29 Take advantage of
  - 32 Mystery novel principals, mostly
  - 33 Golf gadget
  - 35 American competitor
  - 38 "You ain't seen nothin' \_\_\_!"
  - 39 \_\_\_-fi
  - 40 Having multicolored spots
  - 41 Egg-shaped wind instrument
  - 42 Like a zebra
  - 45 Jihad
  - 46 A quarter of four
  - 47 Joplin's composition
  - 49 Mil. branch
  - 51 Ice cream treats
  - 54 Restorative treatment, briefly
  - 56 Owns
  - 57 Below-the-knee skirt
  - 60 Food fish
  - 61 Hook's sidekick
  - 62 E-mail command
  - 65 Brian, of rock music
  - 66 Slangy assent

Duck Answer key, page 19



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# You're Never Done With Doors

Maintaining your front door is a never-ending story

## HouseCalls Michael Good

I receive more questions from readers about front doors than any other topic. Hardly a day goes by when I don't talk to someone about their front door, text someone about their front door, email someone about their front door, telephone someone about their front door, get down on my knees and examine someone's front door, photograph someone's front door, research someone's front door or repair and refinish someone's front door. If I want to relax and go for a walk, I inevitably see a front door that needs some attention. Sometimes it's mine.

Of course, I've written about front doors, too. The first column I wrote for Uptown News touched on the topic. You'd think I'd be done with doors by now. But new questions keep coming up. And old questions keep getting re-asked. I'd really like to close the door on the subject. But you know how that goes: When one door closes, another opens.

### That's a solid wood door, right?

Front doors are subjected to a pretty harsh environment: rain, fog, cats, dogs, car exhaust, road dust, sunlight, ultraviolet light,



heat, cold, oxygen and people. It's not quite as detrimental as lying on the forest floor covered with moss, but it's close.

If your front door was built from a single slice of a tree, it would soon warp, check, crack and crumble—just like a log in the woods. To make it dimensionally stable and allow the wood to expand and contract, it's built of rails (the horizontal pieces), stiles (the vertical pieces) and panels (you know what those are). The whole thing is held together by mortises, tenons, pegs and animal hide glue. It was built in a factory with machinery that



(I to R) Red gum front door in a North Park bungalow (Photo by Zack Gemmell); Pyrographic art deco door with Egyptian symbols (Photo by Michael Good); A David Dryden arts-and-crafts house with hammered hardware (Photo by Zack Gemmell)

is still in use today.

Even if the door appears to be a solid piece of wood—if it looks like a single flat panel with perhaps a speakeasy opening in the upper portion—it still is made of rails and stiles covered with a plywood skin and an approximately quarter-inch thick veneer. It may also be built of small blocks of wood that are glued together.

### Why is the outside of my door oak and the inside gumwood?

Using veneers enabled the door designers to achieve various effects such as book-matching, tiger striping and quarter sawing.



Veneers also gave door designers the opportunity to mix woods, matching the inside of the door to the formal rooms and the outside to whatever they wanted.

Designers took the opportunity to express themselves with front doors, and they were manufactured in a wide variety of styles and woods—Douglas fir, pine, Redwood, white oak, yellow birch, red gum and Philippine mahogany—both here in San Diego and around the country. Your door was selected specifically for your house, but it could have been built anywhere.

### Why does the style of my door not match the style of my house?

Many, but not all, of the categories we use today to describe house types and styles are contemporary inventions and are used for the convenience of historians, writers, antique dealers and people in the trades. Every house was considered “modern” at the time it was built. Builders, especially in the 1920s, mixed various elements together. Stuff that doesn't go together in our minds—art deco and Spanish Colonial Revival, for example—made perfect sense to the designers of the day. If everyone was in a tizzy about King Tut's tomb, why not burn the Eye of Horus into the front door of an Andalusian-style cottage?

### Is that the original finish?

Every time I hear that question I want to say, “Don't be silly.” So I'm going to say, “Don't be silly.” Nothing lasts 80 years, at least nothing that you want to last 80 years. Miley Cyrus will be around forever. Congress will be with us always. But finishes don't last.

### Why does my front door open on some days and stick on others?

Wood expands and contracts

with moisture. That goes for the door, the jamb and the framing around it. The ground under the house also expands and contracts with moisture. Concrete crumbles. Earthquakes great and small move things around. The screws holding the hinges loosen from the weight of the door. Finally, all sorts of unseemly things might be going on in your walls—involving bugs, fungus and mold.

### Why does it need refinishing?

The wood in your door is no longer part of a living tree. It's destined to turn to dust. The only way to stop that from happening is to keep the forces of nature away from it. That's what finishes (either opaque like paint or transparent like varnish) are for. Water, sunlight and oxygen destroy wood. A high-quality marine finish repels liquid water while allowing water vapor to pass through. It protects the wood from U.V. rays. It keeps oxygen from destroying the wood fibers. It prevents mold and mildew from doing their work. It tells termites that there's nothing worth chewing here.

### How much is it going to cost?

Restoring a front door will never pencil out. You're not going to increase your home's value by the same amount you spend, as those Realtor surveys tell us will happen if we add a bathroom. But a bathroom doesn't have the emotional appeal of a front door (unless you really have to go).

Put another way, it will cost even more if you don't protect your door. Consider installing an awning over your door. Make sure rain is diverted away from it. Make sure your sprinklers aren't spraying it. Make sure you aren't splashing water on it when you water the potted plants.

Consider a screen door to block the elements (and the cats). If you're thinking, “I want people to see my beautiful door!” consider that the door is there for your pleasure, too. When the screen door is closed and the front door is open, you are the one looking at it while relaxing in your living room. And you should relax—your door is out of the sun and just sitting there looking beautiful. Nothing bad is happening to it. And I can relax, too, because my job here is done: I've given you a new perspective on your front door. ♦

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# Tasty Truck Tuesday is a local mobilization to mouth-watering stupor

Kevin Smead  
SDUN Reporter

There's an irony in being stuck in traffic on the way to a food truck event. Sitting for an extended period of time in traffic on the 805 south made me question my dedication to going to an event that should, in theory, come to me. However, the promise of a plethora of tasty food, huddled all together in one parking lot, was enough to motivate me. That, and like many other Americans around dinner time, I was hungry.

My destination was Smitty's Service, situated on the corner of Adams Avenue and Hawley Boulevard. Though it's a garage by day, every Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., the service station is turned into San Diego's very own interpretation of San Francisco's wildly popular food truck gathering Off the Grid. I was promised killer food, great music, and good company. These are all things I'm very much into, so why would I not go?

I parked a few blocks away and made my way down Adams. I knew I was on the right track once I heard the sounds of a blues harmonica, accompanied by the rest of local blues group Chickenbone Slim and The Biscuits. Its sound of down-home blues was instantly recognizable and very welcome.

Once I actually got to the station, I couldn't help but feeling like my senses were a bit overloaded. Not only did the warm sounds of Chickenbone Slim sedate me into some kind of bluesy calm, but I was greeted with complex, wonderful smells and various choruses of, "Oh that looks good!" This, I knew immediately, was going to be a problem.

By nature, I am a very indecisive person. This permeates many facets of my life. However, it's arguably worst when it comes to food. I take food pretty seriously. When presented with seven different food trucks, all of them offering up something looking mighty tasty, I was at a loss. Gathering myself, I decided the best course of action was to do some recon. What were other people eating?

I immediately noticed the gathering line at the Devilicious truck. Upon initial inspection of their menu, I could see why. It seems that in keeping true to their name, their theme is all things sinful. All crab crab-cakes sandwich? Check. Duck confit grilled cheese? Check. A positively unholy take on the classic BLT? Check. It wasn't until I noticed a patron behind me appearing to have some kind of religious experience, the catalyst of which was a sandwich on Devilicious' menu I hadn't previously noticed.

Butter poached lobster grilled cheese? Woah.

"From the looks of things, that sandwich is pretty good, huh?" I asked the guy.

"Best sandwich I've ever had," he said to me through a mouthful of lobster. He was selling me, sure, but with six other trucks, I'd be doing a disservice to myself if I went for the first thing I saw.

Despite what I had previously thought, my recon only made my decision more difficult. Everything looked delicious and with it all priced between \$9 and \$12,

it was certainly not an easy call. After some intense thought (and awkwardly looking at what people were eating over their shoulder) I decided to give my money to Tabe, an Asian-Mexican fusion truck, in trade for what looked to be a magnificent burrito.

I looked several feet up at the window of the truck and asked the cook to confirm what I had previously suspected, "Yeah bro, the 7th Heaven is basically a California burrito with our 5 spiced fries, portabella mushrooms, and caramelized onions. You get the Roja salsa and creamy aioli, too."

Indecisiveness aside, this was an easy call. I ordered my burrito (in my case with the protein of Korean BBQ beef) and the cook had it up in no time.

"Record time!" he said as he handed me my burrito. "You're going to love it!"

He was certainly not wrong. In hindsight, I could write an essay on the magnificence of that burrito. The perfectly crispy fries, the earthiness of the mushrooms and onions, the smoky sweetness of the Korean beef, all working together to create a cultural meet-up I was proud to be a part of. I've yet to mention the two sauces which played perfectly off of one another, with the aioli providing a cooling creaminess to counteract the Roja's heat. Cap it all off with a Faygo root beer, and I knew I had made the right decision. The man who had earlier extolled the virtues of the lobster sandwich tapped me on the shoulder as I sat on the curb eating my burrito.

"Should have got the lobster, man!" he said jokingly.

"Next time!" I replied in full seriousness.

After I finished eating, I caught the same cook who had made my burrito on his break. I went over, shook his hand, and introduced myself. We talked for a minute and he afforded me some insight into the workings of the event. The cook, whose name was Mark, explained that the event was organized by the food trucks with the permission of the garage. Various city codes prevent food trucks from selling on a lot of public property, so private property (such as, say, a service station) is where they mainly set up shop.

"We're trying to bring a mobile food court to the people," he said. "And events like these help us get through some of the slow times."

I thanked Mark again and decided to watch some more Chickenbone Slim before making my way back east. It was then that I had the brilliant idea of saving myself some trouble for next week by browsing the menus and pre-deciding what I'd eat. I asked a question regarding God Save the Cuisine's fish and chips when the member of the truck I'd be talking to, Kevin, let me down hard in a delightful British accent.

"We actually won't be here next week. The trucks rotate and are only here about once a month. The two mainstays are Operacaffe and Perogi Truck."

Crushed that the lobster grilled cheese might not be waiting for me next Tuesday, I headed to Perogi Truck to find out more. I was informed the best way to find out which truck would be where was to follow them on the various

social media sites. While I'll admit this is a different style of dining than I'm used to, I'm not one to turn down a good hunt, especially if there's a delicious sandwich waiting for me at the end.

As I left Smitty's, I was excited not only about chasing my white whale of a sandwich, but also about coming back next week to maybe discover something even better.

To track down food trucks in San Diego, follow @SDFoodTrucks on Twitter. ♦



Food Trucks and humans congregate at Smitty's Service Station every Tuesday (Photo by Hutton Marshall)



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## Calendar of Events

## FRIDAY, NOV. 8

**Preschool story time:** 10:30 – 11 a.m., Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 W. Washington St., free.

**Cinema Under the Stars:** 8 p.m., screening "Breakfast at Tiffany's" 4040 Goldfinch St., tickets start at \$14.

**"Adventures in Consciousness":** 6 – 9 p.m. Art exhibition at Kettner Arts Studio + Gallery, 1772 Kettner Blvd. in Little Italy

## SATURDAY, NOV. 9

**Golden Hill Farmers Market:** 8 a.m. – noon 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.

**Organ Concert:** 2 p.m., music by organist Carol Williams, Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park, free.

**Children's craft time:** 10 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.

**Conscious Music Fest:** Positive music festival. 1 – 3:30 p.m. & 7 – 10:30 p.m. at The Birch North Park Theatre, 2891 University Ave.

**Ray at Night:** 6 – 10 p.m., monthly art walk featuring over 25 galleries and businesses, Ray Street in North Park, free.

**Cinema Under the Stars:** 8 p.m., screening "Breakfast at Tiffany's" 4040 Goldfinch St., tickets start at \$14.

## SUNDAY, NOV. 10

**Hillcrest Farmers Market:** 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., every Sunday, Normal Street, between Lincoln and University avenues near DMV, free

## MONDAY, NOV. 11

**Metro CDC:** 3 – 4:30 p.m., monthly meeting on 2nd Monday of the month of the Metro San Diego Community Development Corporation, Fifth Avenue Financial Center conference room, 2500 Fourth Ave.

**Uptown Parking Advisory Meeting:** 5 p.m., monthly get together of the Uptown Parking Advisory Meeting, Joyce Beers Community Center, 900 Vermont St.

**North Park MAD:** 6 p.m., monthly meeting on 2nd Monday of the month of the North Park Maintenance Assessment District, North Park Adult Activity Center, 2719 Howard Ave.

**Golden Hill CDC:** 6:30 – 8 p.m., second Monday of the month meeting of the Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation, Golden Hill Recreation Center, 2600 Golf Course Dr.

## TUESDAY, NOV. 12

**Hillcrest Town Council:** 6:30–8 p.m., monthly meeting occurs on 2nd Tuesday of the month. Joyce Beers Community Center, in the Ralph's shopping center on Vermont St. Special guest Todd Gloria taking questions from the public.

**Old Mission Rotary:** 12 p.m., regular weekly meeting of the Old Mission Rotary Club, Best Western Seven Seas, 411 Hotel Circle South.

**Promotion Committee:** 11 a.m., 2nd Tuesday of the month meeting of the North Park Main Street Promotion Committee, 3076 University Ave.

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13

**Uptown Community Parking:** 5 – 7 p.m., monthly board meeting of the Uptown Community Parking District, Joyce Beers Community Center, 3900 Vermont St.

**Ken-Tal planning group:** 6 p.m., monthly meeting of the Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group held on second Wed. of the month. Franklin Elementary School, 4481 Copeland Ave.

**LEGO play time:** 5 – 6 p.m., children are invited to get creative with LEGOs, Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 W. Washington St., free.

**Egyptian Quarter Meeting:** 2 – 3 p.m., HBA office, 3737 Fifth Ave., Suite 202.

## THURSDAY, NOV. 14

**North Park Farmers Market:** 3 – 7 p.m. every

Thursday, parking lot behind CVS at 32nd St. and University Ave., free.

**Cinema Under the Stars:** 8 p.m., screening "Casablanca," 4040 Goldfinch St., tickets start at \$14.

## FRIDAY, NOV. 15

**Preschool story time:** 10:30 – 11 a.m., Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 W. Washington St., free.

**North Park Historical Society:** 6:30 – 8 p.m., third Friday of the month board meeting, Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Blvd.

**SDAD/ArtReach Exhibition:** 6 – 8 p.m., at the San Diego Art Department 3830 Ray St, in North Park. Over 40 pieces of original art will be on view and on sale during this month long exhibit.

**Cinema Under the Stars:** 8 p.m., screening "Casablanca," 4040 Goldfinch St., tickets start at \$14.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 16

**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 book sale:** 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Friends of Mission Hills Branch

**UH Library Children's Program:** 10:30 a.m., arts and crafts event for children, University Heights Library, 4193 Park Blvd.

**T-32, 3rd Saturday Stroll About:** 4 – 8 p.m., stroll the businesses of Thorn & 32nd streets, with new events monthly, North Park.

**Cinema Under the Stars:** 8 p.m., screening "Casablanca," 4040 Goldfinch St., tickets start at \$14.

## SUNDAY, NOV. 17

**Hillcrest Farmers Market:** 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., every Sunday, Hillcrest DMV, 3960 Normal St., free.

**Organ Concert:** 2 p.m., music by organist Carol Williams, Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park, free.

## MONDAY, NOV. 18

**Bankers Hill Residents:** 6:30 – 8 p.m., regular meeting of the Bankers Hill Residents, Inn at the Park, 525 Spruce St.

**Signs at Play-Mission Hills Library:** 1:30 – 12:30 p.m., Teach your baby to sign, First & third Mondays of the month, Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 Washington St.

## TUESDAY, NOV. 19

**Old Mission Rotary:** 12 p.m., regular weekly meeting of the Old Mission Rotary Club, Best Western Seven Seas, 411 Hotel Circle South.

**NPMS Economic Restructuring Committee:** 12 – 1 p.m. at North Park Main Street office, 3076 University Ave.

**Talmadge Community Council:** 6:30 p.m., community meeting every other month on the 3rd Tues. at Neighbor's Residence, 4760 Miracle Dr.

**Hillcrest Sustainability:** 2:30 – 3:30 p.m., third Tuesday of the month meeting of the Hillcrest Business Association Sustainability Committee: 3737 Fifth Ave., Suite 202

**North Park Planning Committee:** 6:30 p.m., third Tuesday of the month meeting of the Planning Committee, North Park Christian Fellowship, 2901 North Park Way

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20

**LEGO play time:** 5 – 6 p.m., children are invited to get creative with LEGOs, Mission Hills Branch, 925 W. Washington St., free.

**Avoiding Identity theft and elder fraud:** Mission Hills Library: 6:30 p.m., Special Agent John Roberts will discuss identity theft and scams aimed at seniors, Mission Hills Branch Library, 925 Washington St.

## THURSDAY, NOV. 21

**The Boulevard board:** 9 – 10:30 a.m., third Thursday of the month board meeting of the El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association, 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.

**North Park Historical Society:** 6:30 – 8 p.m., regular monthly board meeting, Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Blvd. ♦

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