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San Diego Community News Network

San Diego Uptown News



Art, dance, music and craft beer highlight the 19th annual Festival of the Arts in North Park on May 16.
(Courtesy of North Park Main Street)

Craft beer gets an expanded presence at 19th annual Festival of the Arts in North Park

Ken Williams | Editor

San Diego's famous craft beer, food trucks and ethnic cuisine, colorful artwork, local musicians and dancers: This is just a tempting sampling of the 19th an-

nual Festival of the Arts in North Park and a glimpse of why North Park is hailed as one of the hippest neighborhoods in America.

Coming May 16, the Festival of the Arts will close down the heart of North Park to street traffic as the enticing smells of kettle corn and street tacos waft through the air. This year's festival is bigger than ever with even more things to do, including the addition of a second beer garden to showcase specialty craft beer,

see Festival, page 10



The Kensington Commons project turned a desolate but high-profile corner of Adams Avenue into an oasis of urban living. (Courtesy of Allard Jansen Architects)

Kensington Commons, urban living fitting into a community

By Lucia Viti

Upscale living just got gentrified in the heart of historic Kensington. Kensington Commons, located on the corner of Adams Avenue and Marlborough Drive, celebrates

pedestrian- and pet-friendly urban living. The three-story building features 34 one, two, and one plus a den apartments; 65 parking spaces tucked below grade behind the building; and ground floor retail space that includes Stehly Farms

Organic Market, Pacific Dental Services, and a UPS Store.

Framed by wide sidewalks and palm trees as tall as the edifice, this Santa Barbara-style structure maintains Kensington's village identity while supporting San Diego's "City of Villages" design strategy, a concept that stunts outward sprawl.

Apartments sidle two furnished and flowered outdoor courtyards complete with fountains. Spacious rental only, nine-foot ceiling layouts include state-of-the-art kitchens, stainless steel appliances, gas ranges, quartz counter tops, hardwood-style flooring, plush bedroom carpeting, storage closets, and private balconies. Northeast views boast a Tuscan-style church steeple peeking through a blanket of trees. North views include vistas of Mt. Cowles and Mt. Helix as southern exposures lay way to street scenes.

According to Allard Jansen, one of the three principal architects and developers, cues for the

see Commons, page 9

Creating the 21st-century hermit

New delivery apps let Uptown residents stay in — for a cost

By Catherine Spearnak

It's 10 p.m. on a Friday and you have a hankering for some Thai food. But you're already in your jammies, and you don't want to drive to your favorite Thai restaurant.

There's a solution. Call Swingby. They'll have it to you in 40 minutes or less, said owner Wesley Hsu.

"I think it's a need a lot of people have," he said. "You know, they're craving a specific food and they don't want to get in their car and drive there. It's been an idea I've had for kind of a while."



Wesley Hsu is owner of Swingby, a food-delivery service. (Photo by Ron Sanchez)

Hsu isn't alone. Not only can San Diegans get a restaurant dinner, but notebooks, pens and other household goods, wines, beer and any kind of alcohol.

Even a cup of Starbucks coffee. Delivery services are on the rise all over the nation, making the need to leave your house almost obsolete. Food and beverage delivery is expected to be a \$100 billion market by 2019, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Hsu started his business from his Normal Heights home in June 2014. He delivers to the Uptown area and UC San Diego. In just a few months, Swingby has done so well he is looking for investors, and hopes to expand to all of San Diego County.

"If Uber can work, if Lyft can work, why wouldn't food delivery work?" said the 27-year-old UCSD graduate.

see Swingby, page 14

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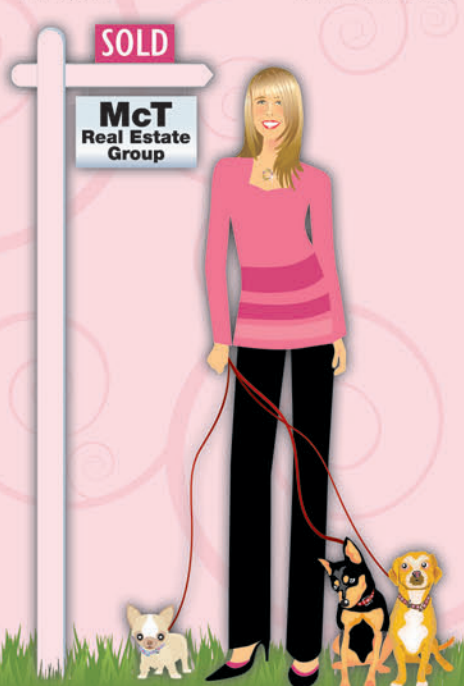
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Uptown's top trivia nights

By KC Stanfield

If you like alcohol and think you're an intellectually superior being, then there's no better event to go to than trivia night at a bar.

There are places all over San Diego that offer deals on drinks and a chance to win some bar credit and bragging rights for those smart enough to win. But not all trivia nights are created equal, so here are some of the best bar trivia nights in the Uptown area. These rankings are based on quality of the prizes, happy hour discounts during the competition and how transparent each bar is with their prizes and events. Factoring in things like atmosphere and competition would have been ideal, but that would require visiting all the trivia nights under the Uptown sun, which sadly wasn't a feasible endeavor. With that out of the way, here are the top five:



Play trivia on Mondays at Urban Mo's. (Photo by KC Stanfield)

1. Urban MO's Bar & Grill
7 p.m. every Monday

Hands down, the best trivia night goes to Urban MO's Bar & Grill. It offers double the prize money compared to the average trivia nights. First place gets \$60, second gets \$40 and third gets \$20. Not only that, but the trivia night overlaps with its Broke

AS\$ Mondays, which means \$4 happy hour cocktails and food.



Wang's North Park has trivia on Wednesdays. (Photo by KC Stanfield)

2. Wang's North Park
7 p.m. every Wednesday

Wang's North Park takes home the silver medal. First place wins \$30, second scores \$20 and third receives \$10. On top of that, their coinciding happy hour includes \$6 martinis, lemon drops, cosmos, \$4 well drinks, \$3 domestics and half off on appetizers. And to sweeten the pot, the event is also a part of Sunset Trivia, which holds two \$1,000 cash prize tournaments each year; the team with highest score out of every bar affiliated gets the big prize.

3. Shakespeare Pub & Grille
7 p.m., date varies monthly

The Shakespeare Pub & Grille is another great trivia contender with their semi-regular quizzes, which happen about twice a month. They offer a whopping \$100 for first place and \$75 for second. It's free to enter and you can play solo or join a team of up to six people. Unfortunately, happy hour ends when the questions begin. The next quiz night is April 26, but it's advised to get there early to grab a

seat and register — plus you'll be just in time for happy hour.

4. U-31 Cocktail Lounge
6:30 p.m. every Wednesday

The U-31 Cocktail Lounge takes fourth place overall, but definitely has a great weekly trivia night compared to many others in North Park. It offers the usual \$30, \$20 and \$10 rewards for the top three participants, but the real deal is the 50-cent wings (with the purchase of a beverage). If you come in first, you could buy 60 wings.



Hillcrest Brewing Company plays trivia on Tuesdays. (Photo by KC Stanfield)

5. Hillcrest Brewing Company
7:30 p.m. every Tuesday

Rounding things off is Hillcrest Brewing Company. In case you're lacking in a particular subject, you can form a team to fill the gaps. Like two other entries on this list, the prizes are \$30, \$20 and \$10 in gift cards for the first, second and third places. In addition to the trivia night, full-sized beers are \$2 off.

—KC Stanfield is SDCNN's editorial intern. Hutton Marshall contributed to this report. What bars do you think should have made the list? Email the editor at ken@sdenn.com. ♦

How to Sell Your San Diego Home Without an Agent

San Diego - If you've tried to sell your home yourself, you know that the minute you put the "For Sale by Owner" sign up, the phone will start to ring off the hook. Unfortunately, most calls aren't from prospective buyers, but rather from every real estate agent in town who will start to hound you for your listing.

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Joven Sibug co-owns Pedal Pushers Courier Service for Uptown and Downtown. (Courtesy of Pedal Pushers)

Bike messenger service puts pedal to the metal

By Alex Owens

In a world where photos, documents and other important messages can now be transmitted just by pressing "send" on a smart-phone, is there a place for an old fashioned messenger service?

Joven Sibug believes there is.

Sibug, 26, is a co-owner of Pedal Pushers Courier Service, a bike messenger service that started up in November to serve both Downtown and Uptown San Diego.

"Old school messenger work may have gone to the wayside, but certain legal documents, bank receipts and other documents

still need to be delivered in their original form," Sibug said. "Escrow documents can't be done with e-signatures and computers don't have big enough screens to show architectural blueprints."

Although Sibug is only in his mid-20s, he's an old soul in the bike messenger world. He estimates

he's delivered more than 30,000 parcels in a 10-year career as a self-proclaimed two-wheeled badass.

Sibug worked in San Diego for five years until plying his trade in San Francisco and New York, two cities where bike messengers are a normal part of the urban landscape.

"San Diego isn't as congested or as aggro as San Francisco or New York," he said. "There are some hills here, but after riding 40 hours a week, I'm used to them."

Other courier services in town use cars, but Sibug is hoping to convince locals of the benefits offered by bike messengers.

"It's the fastest way across Downtown traffic," he said. "We can weave in and out and not worry about finding parking."

It's not easy, and the risk of injury is real, but Sibug says he has developed a sixth sense for cycling.

"I compare it to surfing," he said. "Just like you can tell after a while what a wave is going to do, you can tell how a car or pedestrian is going to react."

The company has divided both Downtown and Uptown into four zones and charges based on distance biked and how soon a parcel must be delivered. For example, a document delivered from the County Courthouse on Broadway, to say, East Village, would cost \$9 if delivered in a four-hour period and \$17 if it needed to be there in 30 minutes.

Delivering that same document up to Hillcrest would cost a dollar more, while two bucks more would get it to Kensington.

Since the bulk of documents are delivered between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Sibug is also contracting with local businesses to deliver meals and other items during the lunch and dinner rushes.

"We contract those out so there is only a \$3 delivery charge added to the bill," he said.

Two of the restaurants that are now riding with Pedal Pushers include Rare Form Deli on J Street and Lefty's Chicago Pizzeria in Mission Hills.

Lefty's General Manager David Eskra is a fan.

"We hadn't figured out the best solution to our restaurant's delivery needs until now," Eskra said. "It's a fast and efficient way for us to offer delivery to our customers. And the fact that they are on bikes is definitely a plus!"

Carlos Franco, owner and florist at Green Fresh Florals in Hillcrest, is also happy to deliver flower petals via bicycle pedals.

"It's awesome because they staff a fleet of cargo bikes to get even the biggest job done when we need it," Franco said. "I mean, what is more romantic than getting flowers from your sweetheart on a bicycle?"

While Pedal Pushers is only a few months old, the reaction and response to his two-wheeled endeavor has Sibug optimistic about the future.

"San Diego is becoming more bike friendly. There's a new cycling culture blooming," he said. "I can see us as part of the fabric here."

That said, Sibug admitted there is still more work to be done.

"I do wish people would use their blinkers more," he said.

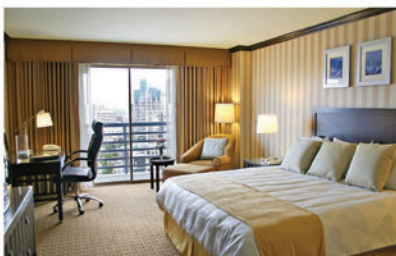
Pedal Pushers Courier Service is located at 330 A St., # 215. For more information, check out sdpedalpushers.com or call 619-456-8589.

—Alex Owens is a San Diego-based freelance writer. He can be reached at alexowenssd@gmail.com.

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Editorial

A letter from the new editor, Ken Williams

“Wherever there is a pervasive sense of community, a paper that serves the special informational needs of that community will remain indispensable to a significant portion of its residents.”

Warren Buffett penned those words a while back as his Berkshire Hathaway holding company began gobbling up newspapers large and small, at a time when the U.S. economy was still on the rebound and some papers were struggling to continue printing. Many journalists thought Buffett made a shrewd business decision because local newspapers have always been the lifeblood of a community.

Buffett’s words also ring true for the San Diego Community Newspaper Network, a collection of six popular papers that serve diverse communities from Downtown to Uptown to Mission Valley to La Mesa, and even our local LGBT community.

Community newspapers comprise the very foundation of journalism, serving readers with the local news they want to know and the local advertising on which they rely. Hyper-local news keeps readers informed on matters that concern them the most, frequently pocketbook issues that are often overlooked by reporters at bigger papers or television stations.

In two recent surveys by the Newspaper Association of America

Readership Study and the American Opinion Research Study, readers described community newspapers as educational, helpful, engaging, enjoyable, addictive, enlightening, compelling and desirable. As the new editor of Uptown News and Mission Valley News and contributing editor to the other four SDCNN papers, I hope to live up to those standards and expectations of readers.

For some of you, I’m a familiar face after spending more than five years as editor-in-chief of San Diego Gay and Lesbian News, a media partner of SDCNN. My byline has appeared on these pages during the time I spent at the online media source.

From 2005 to 2009, I worked as a senior copy editor at the San Diego Union-Tribune, before the ax fell on many of us as one of the biggest daily newspapers in the country fell victim to a depressed economy and the sale of the media corporation by David Copley. Before that, from 1994 to 2005, I worked as deputy copy desk chief at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in Texas. I’ve also had stops in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, Hollywood, Florida, and Hamilton, Ohio, so I’m now into my fourth decade as a journalist.

Please feel free to drop me a line at ken@sdenn.com or call me at 619-961-1952. News tips and story ideas are always welcome. And by all means, send a letter to the editor if you want to share your views with other readers. ♦

Letters

Reckless on two wheels

Had to chime into the frustration of sharing the road with a bicyclist and the reverse [see “In defense of reckless bicyclists,” Vol. 7, Issue 8].

When I am driving a vehicle I am often annoyed at the lack of consideration received from bicyclists; the vast majority won’t drive to the right and allow you to pass, and they almost never obey traffic signs, which I believe, is certainly against the law, and could result in a fine.

On the other hand, when I’m on my bike, I always try to ride on the extreme right of any roadway. However, I almost never stop at a traffic sign when it seems ridiculous to do so.

I believe that laws for bike riding need to be changed, perhaps allowing for a yield at all stop signs, just as a starter suggestion. (It should be noted that most motorists don’t come to a full stop at stop signs, and I have come close to losing my life when I’m on a bike and expect a motorist to actually stop at a traffic sign.)

With more and more bicyclists on the roadways we need to start educating both motorists and bicyclists, on what they must do, and what they should do.

I’m not aware if bike riders have to follow the same laws and guidelines as motorists (although I would assume that’s the case). I don’t even know if bicyclists are allowed to drive on sidewalks or not.

And I would assume that most motorists and bicyclists are in the dark as well. Thanks for bringing attention to this problem,

—Cuauhtémoc Q. Kish

I have ridden a bike in San Diego since 1976 and know how dangerous it is sharing the road with so many vehicles. I now drive much more than ride a bike and realize that some bikers think that they have all rights of way. Many times I have come very close of hitting or running into a cyclist because I did not see them until it was too late. Most of the times have been the cyclist’s fault because they are not as visible as another vehicle and especially at night when they do not have lights or reflectors. I do not ever want to have an accident with anyone, but realize that it may happen and wish there was a better way of sharing the road instead of wondering if I will have one of those horrible accidents. So far they have all been close calls and I hope it stays that way.

—Nick Beck

Care About South Park responds to South Park Business Group member

Care About South Park (CASP) would like to correct several of the inaccuracies in Donna Walker’s recent letter to the editor concerning our opposition to the planned South Park Target [see “Letters to the Editor” Vol. 7, Issue 8].

CASP has held only one rally; it took place in front of a closed business whose owner gave us permission. The gathering was peaceful, and the crowd was friendly. We ended the rally with a song by local schoolchildren and a 10-minute protest walk along 30th Street. We received no complaints that CASP caused any business to experience a “disruption” or a “loss in sales” or “made customers feel uncomfortable,” and there is no evidence to support any of those claims.

CASP is extremely supportive of South Park businesses. We oppose the planned Target in large part because we believe it will threaten the viability of small local businesses. We have never picketed any local store nor threatened to boycott any local store (except for Target if it takes over the Gala property). We have never misrepresented the South Park Business Group in media interviews because we have never mentioned the business group in interviews.

The South Park Town Council does not have a “singular agenda ... to stop TargetExpress” because the Council does not yet exist. When it is launched as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, it will be, as stated in the original Uptown News article, “strictly community education and community engagement ... a ‘big tent’ that welcomes a broad range of opinions.”

As for Donna’s charge that CASP “ignore(s) community feedback,” we will simply point out that 87 percent of respondents to an Uptown News poll opposed a South Park Target and only 13 percent supported it. Strong community feedback on this issue is why CASP was formed and why we will continue our peaceful activist campaign.

We agree with Donna on one point: The property owner has the right to lease to whomever he chooses. At the same time, neighborhood residents have the right to question how his choice will affect their quality of life (traffic, property values, community identity, etc.) We know that the San Diego-based Barons Market is still interest-

see Letters, page 7

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UptownBriefs

PROJECT PIE - HILLCREST IS A BIG SUPPORTER OF DINING OUT FOR LIFE

Project Pie - Hillcrest will donate 50 percent of its profits to Dining Out For Life San Diego on Thursday, April 30 – making it one of the most generous contributors to the local fundraiser for the San Diego LGBT Community Center to help fight HIV and AIDS.

“Everyone is touched by HIV. It is really important for more people to give even more generously to causes like this,” said James Markham, owner of Project Pie. “Dining Out gives us a chance to give back and do what is right. This event also creates a forum for people to learn about HIV — and education helps everything.”

Project Pie – Hillcrest opened in 2013 and Markham immediately began participating in Dining Out for Life. The restaurant is known for allowing people to customize their own pizzas, using their high-quality, fresh ingredients at an affordable price.

“People love to build their own pizzas, but there are some favorites on our menu,” Markham said. “Our Four Cheese Pizza is a classic, but I love our Roasted Brussels Sprouts Pizza. It is a killer!”

Project Pie – Hillcrest will be open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on April 30. No reservations are needed.

To learn about other restaurants that are participating in the fundraiser, visit diningoutforlife.org/sandiego.

FROM PAGE 6 LETTERS

ed in leasing the property for competitive terms. We hope that Donna and other South Park business owners will consider whether our community would be better served by a local retailer like Barons or a national corporation that recently paid over \$3 million in penalties for overcharging San Diego customers at its cash registers.

—Sabrina DiMinico, co-founder, Care About South Park

An endorsement in District 3

As a small-business owner in North Park for over 45 years, I have been continuously involved in efforts to maintain and improve the local environment, not only in the commercial sector but equally in the historic residential neighborhoods. To that end, I petitioned City Council to create the North Park Business Improvement District, known today as North Park Main Street, and served for 30 years on that board.

Our efforts to mitigate blight and stimulate commercial revitalization speak for themselves. I was also elected to serve on the Redevelopment PAC as well as the Small Business Advisory Board for many years. Recently I served four years as president of the San Diego Business Improvement District and was able to work closely with all 17 assessment districts in representing their needs and interests to the City Council.

In all these years I have had the support and close working relationship with District 3 elected council members, from Gloria McColl to Chris Kehoe, Toni Atkins and Todd Gloria.

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OLD TOWN'S ADOBE CHAPEL TO HOST SILENT FILM SERIES

Silent movies have all but been forgotten by film buffs of today, but they will live again in a special series coming to Old Town San Diego's Adobe Chapel Museum, starting May 10.

Save Our Heritage Organisation will present “Silent Sundays” featuring some of the pioneers of motion pictures, including the legendary John Barrymore, Douglas Fairbanks, Harold Lloyd and Rudolph Valentino.

Catch the early versions of Sherlock Holmes and Tom Sawyer, two classic characters from literature brought to life in the silent era.

The first silent film, to be shown on May 10, is “The Sheik” (1921), starring Tinsel Town's first male sex symbol Rudolph Valentino as a charming Arabian sheik who becomes infatuated with an adventurous, modern-thinking Englishwoman (Agnes Ayres) and abducts her to his home in the Saharan desert.

Valentino's sex appeal was so potent in this film that actress Bette Davis remarked: “A whole generation of females wanted to ride off into a sandy paradise with him.”

“Silent Sundays” will be presented May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9 and Sept. 13 at the Adobe Chapel Museum, 3963 Conde St. in Old Town San Diego. Light refreshments will be served at 7 p.m. with the silent film beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$10. ♦

During the thousands of hours sitting in public meetings, I was able to identify those city officials who were engaged and effective in performing their duties. Most of them were professional and concerned, but some were clearly more involved personally than others.

Anthony Bernal, serving as director of business and community projects under Councilmember Todd Gloria, impressed me with his knowledge and personal commitment to issues important to District 3 during the past decade. In all of the meetings in which I was involved, it was clear that he understood the problems we were trying to resolve and was able to offer positive solutions necessary to move the agenda forward. He represents the best characteristics of elected representatives. He listens. He remembers. He acts efficiently and professionally. He is a dedicated and committed worker and takes his job seriously.

I wish we had more elected officials with his talents, and I fully support his efforts to continue the wonderful success District 3 has enjoyed over the past half century. I strongly endorse Anthony Bernal for City Council.

—W. Patrick Edwards

Save the pepper trees

I have tried to get the city to consider ways to save those lovely old trees on Juan Street. [see “Old Town residents lament removal of Juan Street pepper trees,” Vol. 7, Issue 7]

I consulted with a highly regarded landscape architect who has done work for Balboa Park and many municipal and corporate clients. He told me that when there were three large trees adjacent to a sidewalk at the Veteran's Memorial in Balboa Park, they

saved the trees by making the sidewalk thinner than usual where the tree roots were located. He also advised AGAINST installing deep root barriers for big roots. Deep root barriers are used to prevent small roots from invading under a walk and then growing, so they make sense with newly planted trees but not with these very old ones with big roots.

The team working on this project is a bunch of young engineers. The city doesn't have the staff position of urban forester filled, so no one can stand up to people who only think of building things, not growing things. People in San Diego are notorious for destroying trees. Yet trees are among the most accepted means to improve the quality of urban life, and add a lot of value to property.

The value of each old tree along Juan Street is estimated at a minimum of \$4,000 to upwards of \$10,000, while a 15-foot-long by 5-foot-wide concrete sidewalk costs \$500 to install. A sidewalk could fail and be replaced many times before its cost would equal what would be lost by destroying those large old trees.

I hope you can interview people at the City about the waste of valuable assets that would occur if those trees are cut down, and write another column. We need to embarrass them into doing the right thing.

—Kay Stewart, California landscape architect ♦

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

College Area Business District
4704 College Ave. 92115
619-582-1093 | CollegeAreaBID.com

The College Area Food Experience (CAFÉ) is a restaurant tour highlighting the restaurants within the College Area Business District, which extends along El Cajon Boulevard from 54th to 73rd streets and north on College Avenue to San Diego State.

Work up an appetite on this self-guided tour, which offers something for everyone; authentic Mediterranean flavors, mouth-watering gastropub fare, or savory treats.

Tickets to CAFÉ will be only \$25 in advance and \$30 on the day of the event.

Tickets will be available early April 2015 so buy your tickets early and be sure to visit our website often to get the latest updates. CAFÉ promises to be one of the best food experiences you could ever imagine!

The College Area Food Experience is hosted by the College Area Business District, a business advocacy organization representing over 400 businesses along San Diego's famed El Cajon Boulevard — between 54th and 73rd streets — for over 19 years.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

First United Methodist Church of San Diego
2111 Camino del Rio South
619-297-4366 | fumcsd.org

20th Annual Spring Fling for Women

Ladies! The “Spring Fling” is turning 20, and you're invited to the party — a high-octane program filled with fun, food, fellowship, music and inspiration — May 9, at First United Methodist Church of San Diego in Mission Valley.

Pat Brown, San Diego's favorite weathercaster, gets it started at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary for the best darn door prize drawing in town!

Vocalist Marla Reid lets out all

the stops with a power-packed performance of Gospel music. Internationally known inspirational speaker Jane Rubietta has you laughing (and crying!) with her timely tips on how to “Worry Less and Live More!”

Then, don't worry — be happy! A luscious luncheon buffet awaits you in Linder Hall. Tickets are \$25, online at fumcsd.org/springfling. First Church is located at west of Texas Street in Mission Valley.

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Members of the Asakawa family are pictured circa 1919. Moto Asakawa (lower left) will share childhood memories of living in the Japanese tea house in Balboa Park in a presentation. (Courtesy of JAHSSD)

100 years of Japanese legacy in Balboa Park

By Katherine Hon

May is National Preservation Month, and the North Park Historical Society will celebrate with a special presentation at the monthly meeting on May 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the second floor Fellowship Hall at Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Blvd.

Historian Linda Canada will tell the fascinating story of

Japanese presence in Balboa Park that started with an ornate teahouse built for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. Because the teahouse was torn down in 1955, many San Diegans are unaware of this Japanese presence in the Exposition. After the Exposition closed, the Asakawa family lived in the teahouse and operated it as a concession from 1917 to 1942. Imagine the

adventures that the two Asakawa boys experienced growing up in Balboa Park!

Throughout 2015, the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego (JAHSSD) and the Japanese Friendship Garden are presenting "Garden of Unity: Balboa Park's Japanese legacy" at the Japanese Friendship Garden. The exhibition tells about the families and community leaders who were

responsible for 100 years of Japanese presence in Balboa Park. Artifacts, photographs and personal stories from many lenders are shown together for the first time to illustrate the work of the San Diego Yokohama Sister City Society, the House of Japan, and the Japanese Friendship Garden in assuring that the post-World War II friendship with Japan and the early presence of a teahouse in the 1915 Panama-California Exposition are not forgotten.

"Garden of Unity" will be open through December 2015 in the Exhibition House at the Japanese Friendship Garden. Visit the JAHSSD website jahssd.org or the Japanese Friendship Garden site at niwa.org for more information about the exhibit.

It is a sad historical fact that North Park's Japanese-American residents were among the 120,000 people forced to leave the West Coast in 1942 after the U.S. entered World War II. They included the Sato family, who operated a fruit stand at 3794 30th St., and the Kaneyuki family, who worked at Ishino Fruits at 3009 30th St. before starting their own business on 30th and Beech streets in 1930. They and many other families, including the Asakawa family, were sent away to the Poston, Arizona, incarceration camp. When Japanese-Americans began returning to San Diego following World War II, not many were able to return to their old homes and businesses, and the community was dispersed throughout the county. Most families who lived in North Park before the war found other places to live and work.

At the same time that families were getting settled, there was a growing attempt to formulate

friendly relationships between the people of Japan and San Diego, which culminated in the creation of the San Diego Yokohama Sister City Society. Members of that group hosted cultural, business and student exchanges throughout the 1960s and '70s, and eventually the Japanese Friendship Garden Society of San Diego was formed. This new organization worked with the House of Japan and other organizations to create the superb Japanese garden in Balboa Park now enjoyed by San Diegans and visitors from around the world.

The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego was founded over 20 years ago by a group of San Diegans who were held in the Poston III internment camp during World War II. Since that time, the organization has hosted many exhibitions and lectures and produced a pictorial book titled "Japanese Americans in San Diego," published in 2008 by Arcadia Publishing.

Our speaker for the May meeting, Linda Canada, has been affiliated with JAHSSD since 2004. A historian of San Diego history with a research interest in San Diego's early immigrant groups, she has served as the president of JAHSSD, and continues to serve as the organization's archivist. She'll share some stories that didn't make it into the exhibition, and talk about the related documentary that will premiere in May 2015. The presentation on May 21 is free and open to all.

—Katherine Hon is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. Reach her at info@northparkhistory.org or 619-294-8990. ♦

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FROM PAGE 1

COMMONS

eclectic structure were taken from the Kensington community. “The neighborhood calling card is full of Santa Barbara, Spanish colonial features,” Jansen said. “The stucco exteriors, tile roofs, exposed eaves, mission details, and courtyards add character and sparkle to the already charming Kensington.”

Kensington Commons was designed in collaboration with San Diego architects and developers, Allard Jansen, founding principal of Allard Jansen Architects; Richard Vann, executive vice president at Sunroad Enterprises; and Salomon Gorshtein, president of Alta Development. The former two-lot property hosted a gas station and a small apartment complex. Although the lots were purchased separately, Jansen and his colleagues decided that it made more sense to work as one, full-block boutique.

“We knew that we would have a better impact on the community landscape if we worked together,” Gorshtein said. “The final product, taken from the prototype already in Kensington, adds value and fits perfectly. The apartments are spacious and filled with sun. It’s important to have light in your life.”



(l to r) The interior at an apartment in Kensington Commons, which replaced an old gas station on the corner of Adams Avenue and Marlborough Drive. (Courtesy of Allard Jansen Architects)

Jansen noted that all retail tenants were situated solely on the ground floor to maintain a walkable street frontage. “Kensington Commons is not a strip center with curb cuts for driving cars,” he explained. “Street front stores and sidewalks border the entire building for a safe pedestrian experience. Retail space was carefully chosen to add to the community. Stehly Market will be a micro-market of everything organic and healthy with a juice bar and casual seating. The UPS store

is welcomed since Kensington is without a Post Office and PAC Dental rounds out the three.” “Although some locals were skeptical about the amount of traffic Kensington Commons would attract, our businesses were chosen to invite people walking, not cars,” Gorshtein said. “Now everyone is pleased.” The seven-year odyssey was not without early controversy. Residents feared and fought the original as too high, too big. Both

parties reached a satisfying agreement, and Jansen now calls it water under the bridge. While Kensington Commons does not sport a pool or a gym, amenities are within walking distance. Conveniences include a bus stop steps away, a YMCA, a Public Library, a collection of restaurants and easy access to Interstates 8 and 15. Jansen described Kensington Commons as a prime example of an urban infill project that has residential,

working and retail space all in one place. Residents don’t have to jump in their cars to run errands or enjoy dinner and a movie. “I’m really proud of Kensington Commons, which stops outward sprawl by rebuilding neighborhoods,” Jansen concluded. “But the true amenity of Kensington Commons is the neighborhood and its residents.”

—Contact Lucia Viti at lucia-viti@roadrunner.com. ♦



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Early Literacy Camp 12:30pm - 4:00 pm

For 5-7 year olds. In this camp we will targeting all the necessary skills for literacy development. These include phonemic awareness (rhyming, blending, segmenting, substituting, etc.) as well as narrative language and story retelling development, and teaching strategies for sight words. We will use a combination of reading strategies involving visual-auditory and kinesthetic approaches along with games and songs.

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FROM PAGE 1
FESTIVAL

something San Diego is becoming globally famous for.

Angela Landsberg, executive director of the North Park Main Street organization that stages the popular event, said this year's festival will easily be the largest one yet as organizers predict attendance will surpass 35,000 visitors from as far away as Orange County and Baja, California.

"What's new this year? How about a live art expo," Landsberg said. "It's like a big graffiti artists' party. Zipcar [the car-sharing company] is donating one of its vehicles to be painted out in colorful graffiti colors, and will be showcased around North Park and San Diego in the weeks to follow the festival.

"But that's not all," she said. "Delivery trucks will be painted. Dumpster bins will be painted. Everyday objects will be painted."

The art theme will carry over to children and teenagers with a special stage set up for them to try their own hands at painting.

Also for the youth is the Young People's Photography Contest with entries due by May 10.

Music and dance also construct the foundation of any arts festival, and this year there will be six stages devoted to those art forms. More than two dozen musical acts will perform at the Bar Pink Stage, 30th Street Stage, The Observatory Stage and Queen Bee's stage on Ray Street.

The Dance Stage will be set up on 32nd Street, highlighted by a troupe from Baja that will trek here from Mexico. More than 25 dance companies and 300 dancers will perform, including Visionary Dance Theatre, Alma Latina, Ballet Folklorico, Stage 7 and North Park's Vernetta's Dance Studio.

Landsberg said organizers splash into the local talent pool to choose musicians and dancers.

"San Diego has got so much talent in both those areas," she said. "I'm just so happy we can showcase our talent, and for free, to our community."

Festival organizers are noticing an increase in "local tourism," which Landsberg described as people who come from nearby counties.

"We are hoping it will continue to pick up as a local tourism attraction," she said.

Good examples of "local tourists" are the visitors who come up from our southern neighbor of Tijuana



The Festival of the Arts features local artists and craftsmen along with refreshing drinks made from local produce. (Courtesy of North Park Main Street)

and other parts of Baja. Tijuana will go head-to-head with America's Finest City, showcasing a popular Baja craft beer called Cerveceria Insurgente, stacking it up against well-known local craft breweries such as Stone Brewing Co., Mike Hess Brewing, Belching Beaver Brewery, Thorn Street Brewery and The Lost Abbey. Also noteworthy is the appearance of Hillcrest Brewing Co., the world's first LGBT-owned brewery that has proven to be quite the hit in Uptown.

More than 30 local breweries will be on tap at the Craft Beer Block, one of the few events that cost money at the festival and is restricted to those of legal drinking age. A \$40 ticket will get you 13 samples, 4 ounces each, of the locally-made craft beer that is all the rage. This popular activity will sell out quickly, so those interested are encouraged to visit the festival's website to purchase tickets in advance. Only a limited number of tickets will be reserved for the day of the event.

The beers gardens, so popular that there will be two of them this year, are free to enter for those 21 and older. Here you can get a full pour of craft beer (12 ounces) from Stone, Modern Times and Mother Earth beer for \$5.50. The first beer garden

will be located on University Avenue and 30th Street near the Main Stage and the other on 31st Street and University Avenue near Urbn Coal Fired Pizza at the Bar Pink Stage.

Landsberg said the festival — sponsored for the second consecutive year by San Diego County Credit Union — has more food vendors than ever before, including cuisines such as Cajun, barbecue, Filipino, Mexican, Italian and East African. Ten food trucks will serve up their trendy menus, along with local restaurants such as City Tacos, Waypoint Public and Urban Solace also open nearby.

"North Park is one of the most diverse communities in America, and our festival tries to capture that diversity," Landsberg said.

The festival originally got off to such a humble start in 1996, attracting only a few hundred people, she said. It's safe to say that the festival today is growing and thriving.

The 19th annual North Park Festival of the Arts takes place Saturday, May 16, on University Avenue between 30th and 32nd streets. For more information or tickets, visit northparkfestivalofarts.com.

—Ken Williams is editor of Uptown News and can be reached at ken@sdenn.com or at 619-961-1952. ♦

Dance Stage

11:00 – Vernetta
11:45 – Creative Dance Theatre
12:00 – Omo Ache
12:30 – Sohaila's Shining Stars
1:00 – Polonez
1:15 – San Diego Creative Project
1:30 – Stage 7
1:45 – Tangocentric
2:00 – Bonita Vista High School Dance Team
2:15 – Flamenco Arana
2:45 – Pride of Polynesia
3:15 – Jam Time Dance
3:30 – Ballet Folklorico en Aztlan Dance Company
3:45 – City Ballet Junior Company
4:00 – Axxiom
4:30 – Stage 7
4:45 – Ballet Folklorico Jalisciense
5:00 – Flamenco Sur

30th Street Stage
Hosted by Tim Pyles

11:00 – Jesse LaMonaca & The Dime Novels
12:00 – Mayfield
1:00 – Chateau
2:00 – Vinyl Mill
3:00 – Midnight Pine
4:00 – Blue Eyed Son
5:00 – Barbarian

The Observatory Stage

11:00 – 12:30 Vinyl Junkies Record Swap DJs
12:30 – Erik Canzona & The Narrows
1:30 – Michael McGraw & The Butchers
2:30 – Taurus Authority
3:30 – Afternoon Dream Serum
4:30 – Mr. Tube and the Flying Objects

Queen Bee's Stage on Ray Street

11:00 – Sinai and Rosie (belly dance)
12:00 – Love Boom (soul rock band)
1:00 – Dan Gindling Band (country rock band)
2:00 – Daniel Feld (Sinatra singer)
3:00 – SINAI (Cumbia singer/tango)
4:00 Super Groupie (hip hop)
5:00 zymm zymm quartet (swing band)



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Kensington Café serves up breakfast, lunch and dinner. (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.



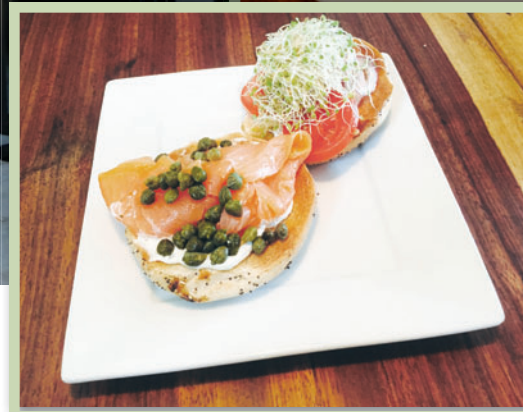
I was about 10 minutes ahead of my party for Sunday breakfast at Kensington Café, arriving at 9 a.m. sharp with the assumption of facing a wait list. But not only did I narrowly dodge the rush, the hostess ushered me straight to a four-top

table without requiring that my tardy companions be present.

Waking up with the woodpeckers on lazy weekend mornings has its rewards.

Another stroke of luck ensued when perusing the menu. Chilaquiles, yes! I had been recently craving them. In addition, everything on the menu is \$10 or less, including healthy salads and hot sandwiches also available during breakfast service.

The coffee fiend in our group wasted no time ordering a “flying



(l to r) A lox breakfast sandwich, the Edgeware sandwich, and pulled pork and eggs. (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

nun,” which our waitress described jokingly as “a heart attack in a cup.” It mixes four shots of espresso with condensed milk and a choice of regular or low-fat milk.

“Glad I’m not hanging out with him today,” one of my tablemates said as she sipped from a cup of regular joe that was neither weak nor robust. All of the coffee drinks at Kensington Café use beans from WestBean Roasters on Mission Gorge Road.

The kitchen was already out of certain fruits that go into a pineapple smoothie I ordered. So I ended up with a somewhat watery banana-blueberry-mango concoction that cried for a dollop of yogurt in the blend.

We skipped over the café’s famous streusel French toast and blueberry-cornmeal waffles



in lieu of savory dishes plated in restrained but satisfying portions you’d expect from a cute, neighborhood joint tailored to wise eaters. Basically, if you arrive with the appetite of papa bear, then mama and baby bear might need to relinquish some of their porridge to you.

Of the four dishes we ordered, the pulled pork hash was the best. Though not really hash in the traditional sense since the meat and potatoes weren’t fully intermingled, the flavors of the juicy, caramelized pork and tri-colored potatoes (sweet, purple and white) were tastefully clenched by Mexican crema and green onions.

Lemon-infused cream cheese added a gracious zip to the lox breakfast sandwich on a seeded bagel. The briny capers were aplenty, teaming nicely with the modest-sized salmon filet, red onions, alfalfa sprouts and a ruby-red slice of tomato. It was a step above most others with richer textures and brighter flavors.

Our tablemate who awoke that morning with lunch on her mind



Kensington Café

4141 Adams Ave.
(Kensington)
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Breakfast and lunch prices,
\$6.95 to \$9.75;
dinner entrees,
\$9.75 to \$16.95

ordered the Edgeware from the hot sandwich category. Named after the nearby side street, it looked like a grilled American-diner sandwich, but carried far more flair featuring thinly sliced beef we suspected was braised in red wine. On top was a judicious layer of super-buttery Swiss cheese and Dijon mustard, all tucked between two slices of hearty, grilled bread. A leafy arugula salad was served alongside.

My chilaquiles were underwhelming, except for the perfectly moist scrambled eggs on top. The beauty of classic chilaquiles is their lasagna-like construct of tortilla chips that turn a little soggy from garlicky red salsa, Mexican crema and grated Oaxaca cheese layered in between. Add extra points when minced white onions or roasted chili peppers enter the recipe.

Here, the dish is pretty basic, starting with a puddle of so-so green salsa at the bottom of a bowl capturing loosely arranged chips, a plop of under-seasoned black beans and a few sprinkles of unfitting feta cheese. The ingredients are crowned with two scrambled eggs and a mini scoop of fresh guacamole. A bottle of Tapatio Hot Sauce on the table came in as a necessary booster.

Conversely, the “pio pico tacos” made with soy chorizo don’t disappoint. I had them on a previous visit during happy hour, and they’re available for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The soyrizo was convincingly meaty and accented with hearty doses of garlic, paprika and hot pepper. It tasted better than the real deal.

The offerings at Kensington Café run generally along nutritious lines with other choices extending to green chili frittatas, spinach-mushroom scrambles, acai or bulgur wheat bowls and roasted turkey sandwiches. There’s also a variety of wholesome salads to kick-start the day such as the “vegan power” made with lime-toasted pepita seeds, quinoa and a slew of veggies in cilantro vinaigrette.

The café’s dinner menu goes into effect at 5 p.m., daily, when dishes such as baked brie, braised pot roast, red quinoa burgers and blackened tilapia summon you back with the few extra dollars you saved on breakfast.

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

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UPTOWN FOOD BRIEFS

BY FRANK SABATINI JR.



Vinavanti is on schedule to be the first urban winery in Hillcrest (Courtesy of Vinavanti)

Hillcrest will see its first urban winery with the July arrival of **Vinavanti**, which is moving its entire operation from Sorrento Valley into the former V Outlet building on University Avenue. Vinavanti president and winemaker Eric Van Drunen said he was looking for a bigger space in a more retail-friendly location for selling his certified-organic wines, which use grapes sourced from Ramona, Temecula and Warner Springs. “Since opening in Sorrento Valley three years ago, we’ve been producing about a dozen different wines annually,” Van Drunen added. “And our new location will feature a tasting room and a first-time food menu. 1477 University Ave., 877-484-6282.

More than 20 restaurants are taking part in the 26th annual **Taste of Point Loma**, from 5:30 to 9 p.m., April 22. The event is presented by the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and encompasses restaurants on Shelter Island, parts of Rosecrans Street and several of its side streets. New to the lineup is **Vessel Restaurant at Kona Kai** and **Pomodoro Restaurant Italiano**. They will be joined by repeat participants such as **The Wine Pub**, **Old Venice Restaurant**, **The Elegant Truffle**, **Mitch’s Seafood**, **The Pearl** and more. Admission is \$25 or \$15 for cyclists, students and active military. Tickets include a sample dish from each restaurant. For more information, visit peninsulachamber.com.

The eco-conscious **Hammond’s Gourmet Ice Cream** in North Park has introduced several first-time flavors to its ever-changing repertoire. As of this month, look for candy ginger, Jack Daniel’s, Kahlua Cream and Reese’s Pieces in the rotation. Known for its super-premium ice cream containing 18 percent butterfat, the shop features a communal table made from a fallen eucalyptus tree and a chandelier crafted from repurposed sundae cups. 3077 University Ave., 619-220-0231.



Tabletop Commons has a playful atmosphere. (Courtesy of Tabletop Commons)

A restaurant and bar featuring tabletop games and a comic-book motif has soft-opened in Hillcrest, in the Google-style building that formerly housed **Commonwealth Ultra Lounge**. Its new tenant, Evan Jones, promises a playful atmosphere at **Tabletop Commons**, where guests can square off over popular games such as Cock & Bull, Boss Monster, Say Anything and many more. Craft beers and specialty cocktails augment a menu of comfort food and desserts authored by Chef Miguel Valdez, who recently helmed the kitchen at **100 Wines**. A few empty wall spaces for rotating artists are yet to be filled. 1263 University Ave., 619-487-1382.



New dishes herald the arrival of spring at Bleu Boheme in Kensington. (Courtesy of Bleu Boheme)

Leave it to the French kitchens for snagging some of the first seasonal bounties when devising their spring menus. Chef Ken Irvine of **Bleu Boheme** in Kensington has just introduced a new list of dishes that unite early asparagus and English peas in farro salad; fresh heirloom cauliflower and haricots vert for steak au poivre; and pistachios and local strawberries in apricot-mascarpone tarts. In addition, mussels cooked in a variety of different sauces and herbs are now available in 1- or 2-pound pots. 4090 Adams Ave., 619-255-4167.

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Machaca Burrito with Scrambled Eggs: skirt steak simmered slow with peppers, onions and tomato	French Toast topped with Sweet Agave Cinnamon Apples	

All dishes are under \$10

FREE folklórico dancing

FROM PAGE 1

SWINGBY

Hsu isn't the only entrepreneur with that idea. Saucey delivers any alcohol, wine, beer and spirits, to neighborhoods in San Diego, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Chris Vaughn, Saucey CEO and co-founder, created the business when he found he and his fiancée, an operating room nurse who works long hours, couldn't order a bottle of wine to complete their dinner.

"You can do anything on demand, but when it came to ordering a bottle of wine, there wasn't a service," he said.

It'll cost you, though. A case of 24 bottles of Corona beer costs \$41.50 for delivery from Saucey, and \$27.99 plus tax at BevMo.

Still, people must forgo the cost because Saucey is expanding in San Diego, as well as San Francisco and Los Angeles.

"It's going very well," Vaughn said. "People like to have beer, wine, cocktails and spirits at their door in 20 to 30 minutes. It's a very seamless, fast process."

Postmates, a delivery service throughout San Diego as well as nationally and internationally, delivers just about anything — even Starbucks — for a delivery charge.

"Postmates acts as a personal assistant," said Postmates deliverer Tim Palcho. "A pound of apples, a Mac — anything I

can legally get you, I'll bring."

On its website, Postmates posts general store items. For example, a box of 28 Huggies is \$13.49, two ballpoint pens are \$6.79, and six pingpong balls are \$3.49. There's a service fee of \$2.14, and a delivery fee of \$12.25. Total: \$38.16

But a cup of Starbucks will really cost you. A grande vanilla macchiato can be delivered to your front door or office in one hour for \$15.45.



Hsu of Swingby is convinced delivery services are the way things are going. He's ambitious with his business and hopes to increase his fleet of seven drivers to hundreds in San Diego.

"So if someone is really willing to pay for it, they can get something delivered from Chula Vista to Oceanside," Hsu said.

—Contact Catherine Spear-nak at catherine.spearnak@gmail.com. ♦

'Uncanny Valley' director discovers the humanity in sci-fi

By David Dixon

The concept of artificial intelligence has been featured in numerous films and books. Yet, A.I. has not been examined nearly as much in live theater. The San Diego Repertory Theatre at Horton Plaza is a member of the National New Play Network, which is taking a big risk by examining this topic through the local premiere of "Uncanny Valley."

The work is directed by Jessica Bird, an associate producer at the La Jolla Playhouse and a producer in residence at the Rep. Bird has also directed and acted as an assistant director for many plays. While her resume is already impressive, Bird considers "Uncanny Valley" to be her "big break."

Set 40 years in the future, the plot revolves around an unusual liaison between a 70-year-old neuroscientist, Claire (Rosina Reynolds), and a non-biological being that she has created, Julian (Nick Cagle). At first, Claire acts as a surrogate mother who tries to teach Julian about being human, and all the nuances and complexities that it entails. As events unfold and time passes, their connection to each other dramatically changes in unexpected ways.

Audience members might expect the director of "Uncanny Valley" to be a die-hard fan of futuristic adventures from writers such as Philip K. Dick and Ray Bradbury. Ironically, the sci-fi elements were not what attracted Bird to Thomas Gibbons' script.

"On the outside, the story seems like a piece about a robot and a scientist," she said. "There are those elements, but at the heart of it, the tale is about humanity and



Jessica Bird directs "Uncanny Valley." (Photo by Daren Scott)

what makes us human. Claire and Julian really develop a mother/son relationship and they become bonded with one another."

Since Bird is not the most devoted follower of sci-fi, after she first heard about the drama, she was not sure if it would appeal to her.

"When I was asked to read the script, I thought I was probably not going to like the plot very much," she said. "After I read it, I realized that 'Uncanny Valley' is a really great play and deals with much more than just futuristic concepts."

The director believes that the theatrical piece will appeal to a broad audience.

"I think the technology community is going to enjoy this, but even people that wouldn't consider themselves sci-fi fans will find plenty to appreciate," she said.

Although "Uncanny Valley" is set several decades in the future, Bird senses that the Gibbons' vision could become a reality.

"Right now, there are scientists and companies that are experimenting with combining artificially intel-

ligent robots and human consciousness," she said. "The way technology is moving, it's like you have 100 years of progression in 10 years. I personally think A.I. is going to intertwine with our lives. Not necessarily with robots, but instead will result from artificial limbs and things that people are turning to for medical reasons."

An issue that she believes will continue to get bigger is "how far will you go with technology," she said. "People that are making the breakthroughs have a huge ethical responsibility in their hands."

After the run of "Uncanny Valley" is over, Bird looks forward to transitioning from one-day directing to directing a show written by Sarah Ruhl. The playwright is best known for her Tony nominated comedy "In the Next Room (Or the Vibrator Play)," "Eurydice," and the 2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist, "The Clean House."

"She speaks to the female experience and is very poetic and creative in her pieces," she said. "I would love to direct one of her plays sometime soon."

However, until then, her focus is on her current project, "Uncanny Valley." A major reason why Bird believes audiences will enjoy the production is because of the originality and ambition of the unique event.

"There are not many plays that try to depict robots on stage," she said. "The creative talent and work that the actors are putting into it is pretty fascinating to watch."

Bird's intriguing comments makes the San Diego Rep's staging seem like a deeply insightful and emotionally compelling two-header.

—Contact David Dixon at david-dixon0202@gmail.com. ♦

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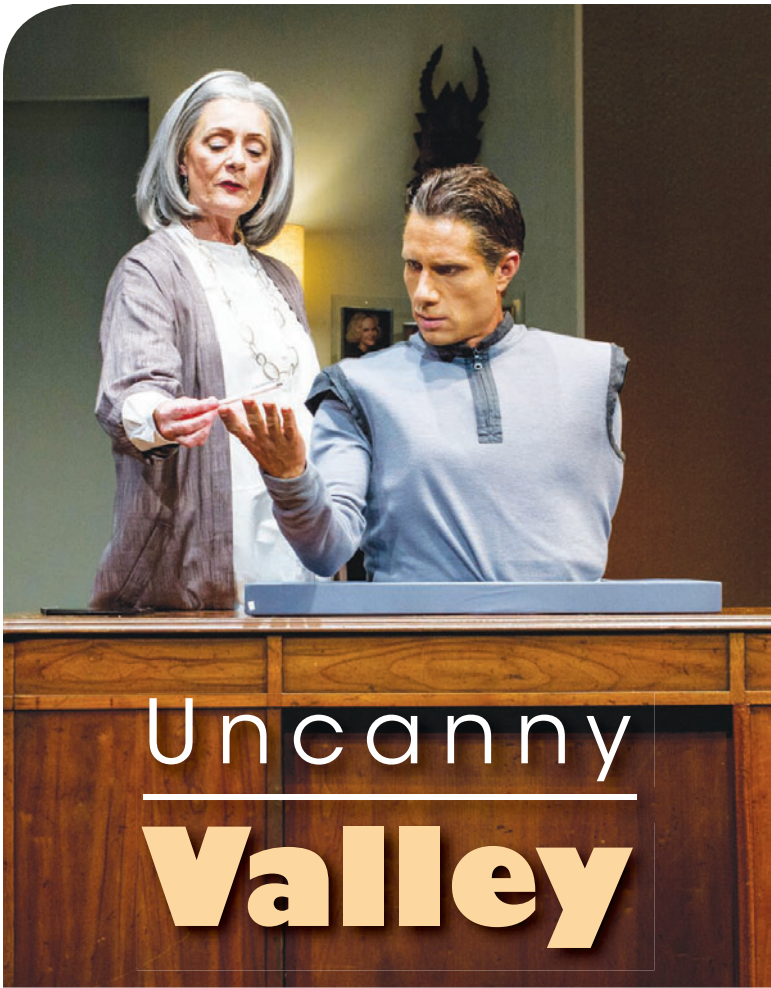
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Rosina Reynolds and Nick Cagle star in "Uncanny Valley." (Photos by Daren Scott)

Theater Review

Charlene Baldridge



Playing at San Diego Repertory Theatre's Space through May 10, Thomas Gibbons' "Uncanny Valley" is an absolutely delicious play, acted superbly by Rosina Reynolds and Nick Cagle, directed astutely and with heart by Jessica Bird.

Designed to the nth, the clothes (Michelle Hunt Souza) and the set (Robin Sanford Roberts) delight the eye, especially as enhanced by lighting designer Kristin Swift Hayes and sound designer Kevin Anthenill. Souza creates the perfect shade for Reynolds' all-weather trench coat and handbag and the perfect cut for Cagle's suit, although they are no doubt more than slightly retro because the play takes place in "The Not Too Distant Future."

Claire (Reynolds) is no novice at creating human intelligence; she was a pioneer and remains a leader in the field. Julian (Cagle) is her latest model, and as the play opens she is training him to see, discern individuals, and to react appropriately in social situations.

Though at first Julian has no arms and legs, Claire eventually teaches him to use those limbs as

well as his limber mind. The audience on Sunday, April 19, seemed as enthralled with Julian's development as Claire is.

The scientist is totally taken by her creation and seems to be reluctant to let him go; he has become her confidant, especially in regard to parenting. Julian, although anatomically correct, does not expect to procreate. The topics they discuss — the calculat-

ing, ambitious scientist and her calculating created being — are quandaries common to humankind. The surprises are equally human.

One surprise is caring more for Julian than for Claire, despite the problems that assail her. The playwright insists there are three Julians: the one Claire created; the one who resulted from her training; and the Julian he becomes after leaving the laboratory.

For fear of spoiling the play for you, no more will be said about the plot; however, it is not surprising that "Uncanny Valley" is such a hit around the country.

With her air of condescension, Reynolds embodies the woman who has sacrificed everything for her career. Cagle, so impressive in La Jolla Playhouse's "Peer Gynt" a while back, uses all his mimetic and physical skills to great effect, and somehow, at the same time, manages gradually to create someone we'd like to meet and get to know.

The term "uncanny valley" — and I crib from the program notes — was coined in 1970 by Masahiro Mori to describe our strange revulsion toward things that appear nearly human, but not quite right ... he realized that designing his

"Uncanny Valley"

by Thomas Gibbons

Wednesdays through Sundays
through May 10
San Diego Repertory
Lyceum Space
79 Horton Plaza
Tickets \$31-\$75
ssdrep.org or 619-544-1000



robots to have vaguely human qualities made them more likable, but getting too close to resembling actual humans was off-putting and even disturbing.

The Rep's production of "Uncanny Valley" — a National New Play Network rolling world premiere — makes clear why all

these fears exist; moreover, it plumbs the philosophy of what it is to feel and be human.

—Charlene Baldridge has been writing about the arts since 1979. You can follow her blog at charlenebaldridge.com or reach her at charb81@gmail.com. ♦

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The cast of The White Snake. Photo by Liz Lauren, courtesy of Goodman Theatre.

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(l to r) The El Silencio old fashioned, the hot-selling Balboa burger, and The Last Word cocktail. (Photos by Dr. Ink)

Come On Get Happy! Dr. Ink

Dive bars either suddenly disappear because of neighborhood gentrification or stand proudly for decades like rare, protected trees.

Rarely do they rebrand under the same ownership while maintaining their celebrated grittiness, as we've seen with the recent birth of Balboa Bar & Grill.

This used to be Tin Can Ale House, where canned beer ruled the day with dozens of common labels. But in an age when craft cocktails continue raining down on the populace like an unrelenting

monsoon, managing partner Tom Logsdon decided it was time to get his feet wet.

With the new name depicted in a retro tourist-style mural painted on the bar's facade, Logsdon eliminated the canned-beer inventory and developed with his staff a cocktail program that spins immortal classics with in-vogue ingredients.

The El Silencio old fashioned, for example, uses smoky mescal instead of bourbon. It's garnished traditionally with orange peel, but not without the bartender torch-

ing it to give it more zing.

My drinking cohort described the drink as tasting like "an old house in a very good way." As with all 10 cocktails on the newly introduced list, it's \$1 off during happy hour. So are the four craft drafts that rotate regularly.

I chose a Prohibition-era classic known as The Last Word, shaken in its pure form with gin, green Chartreuse, maraschino liqueur and fresh lime juice. Despite its partial resurrection over the past few years, the drink somehow escaped me until now. Served in a martini glass and

RATINGS

DRINKS: **★★★★**

From a focused list of newly introduced cocktails, the El Silencio old fashioned bewitches the palate with its smoky mescal while The Last Word reveals a poised blend of gin, green Chartreuse, maraschino liqueur and fresh lime.

FOOD: **★★★★**

Burger hounds will be hard-pressed to find others that win over the popular yet basic Balboa burger featuring a seared, ultra-juicy beef patty with American cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion and house aioli.

VALUE: **★★★★**

The discounts on cocktails and a small selection of draft beer are only \$1, but their regular prices don't exceed \$10. A sweeter bargain is applied to the Balboa burger, which drops down from \$7.75 to \$5.

SERVICE: **★★★★**

Our bartender, Nick, was genuinely friendly and quick to point out the new cocktail program he helped create.

ATMOSPHERE: **★★★**

Though somewhat dark and barren, and void of décor except for framed postcards showing San Diego in its early days, the interior is nonetheless comfortable and roomy.

hauntingly herbal, I loved every sip. Although if rye whiskey is your thing, The Final Word with yellow Chartreuse serves as a wily alternative.

Other cocktails include a Mexican gimlet made with tequila and olive juice; the tropical Hotel National with black rum, apricot brandy and pineapple juice; and the California Bulldog, which mixes Coke with vodka, Kahlua and Galliano liqueur.

Burgers carried over from the Tin Can days remain a big deal. And for good reason.

The hot-selling Balboa cheeseburger we each ordered, priced at \$5 during happy hour, exuded sumptuous, clear juices when biting through their semi-crispy exteriors. They're tucked into bulging bolillo rolls with lettuce, tomato and onions; simple but divine and yet another reason I'll return to this black-walled joint appointed by a jukebox stocked fittingly with Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin and Electric Mud. ♦

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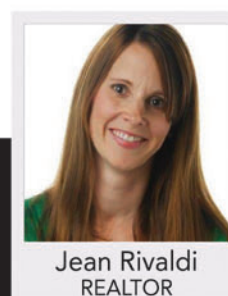
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ArtWalk takes place April 25 and 26 in Little Italy, and places an emphasis on making art a hands-on event for children. (Photo by Paul Nestor)

ArtWalk reaches out

Artists and attendees help share the gift of art

Morgan M. Hurley | Contributing Editor

Mission Federal's annual ArtWalk, an art festival extravaganza taking place in Little Italy April 25 and 26, is more than a place where for 31 years, artists of all genres share and sell their wares and music fills the air from five different stages.

It is also a place that for nearly a decade has helped support a nonprofit on a mission to spread the joy of art to children who otherwise would not have it in their lives.

ArtReach was launched in 2007 by two art-loving sisters, Judy Silbert and Sandi Cottrell, the current managing director of ArtWalk. ArtReach is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that offers basic art programs to schools and children in need.

Silbert is its executive director, and in the eight years since she first filed the paperwork to get it started, ArtReach has literally reached into the hearts and minds of over 30,000 children in San Diego County.

Their first pilot workshop in 2007 at Garfield Elementary in North Park included 470 students; in 2015, Silbert projects that number will be 9,594.

That is a staggering number for a nonprofit with a two-person staff, consisting of Silbert and her workshop and curriculum coordinator Sarah Holbach, and six full-time contracted artist / workshop facilitators.

ArtReach provides art workshops free of charge to the schools out of their own fundraising efforts and through various grants and sponsorships that they, or the individual schools they support, receive. The children ArtReach connects with come from "Title 1" elementary schools throughout the county, schools considered to have limited resources and a large percentage of children that receive free or reduced lunch programs, Silbert said. In other words, children who would not have art in their lives at all if it were not for ArtReach and its programs.

Jefferson Elementary in North Park is an example of a school that was receiving ArtReach's traditional free workshops and recently received a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) grant that allowed ArtReach

graphics designer/photographer; and one who focuses on textile art.

"I go into the classrooms when I can," Silbert said. "But my job is to write grants and create fundraisers and talk to the media to find the funding to support our free workshop programs."

ArtWalk's support has been instrumental in the expansion of ArtReach's programs.

"The mission of ArtReach is at the core of the work we do to produce these large art festivals," Cottrell said. "We believe art education is not a luxury in schools, but rather a necessity."

Every year since 2009, ArtWalk has given the nonprofit booth

space to share their story and gather donations. ArtReach also participates in KidsWalk, the interactive section of ArtWalk set aside for children and their families.

For the last three years, ArtWalk has also established the "Artists Give Back" program, where every artist who participates at ArtWalk can voluntarily sign up to give a portion of their weekend sales to ArtReach. Thirty-five have chosen to this year.

ArtWalk is taking their support of the nonprofit a step further in 2015 with "Salute to Balboa Park." A separate booth will be set up adjacent to the ArtReach information booth, with the artwork of 30 different artists all inspired by the Balboa Park Centennial on display. Juried by the San Diego Art Institute, 25 percent of the sales from the "Salute to Balboa Park" artwork will go to ArtReach.

"It has been a rewarding journey, helping ArtReach grow since its inception," Cottrell said. "Our team and our participating artists will continue to find new ways to fundraise for ArtReach and to educate the community about the importance of art in schools."

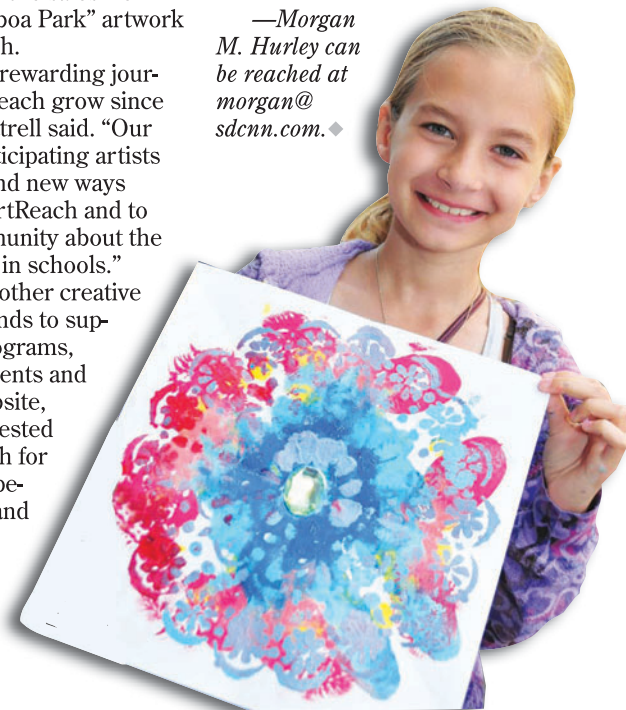
ArtReach has other creative ways of raising funds to support their free programs, such as special events and through their website, where those interested can donate enough for the purchase of specific art supplies and know where their funds are being used. ArtReach is also partnering with Bodhi Tree Concerts for an

upcoming Latin Jazz concert, and in June are holding a fundraising evening at 57 Degrees in Midtown called, "Paint Your Heart Out."

"Our main point is just to get art experience to kids," Silbert said. "It's all about creativity and being comfortable with solving problems creatively and I think we really help kids do that. Then those students become confident and it leaps the boundaries from art class to other areas. Teachers see their students in a different way and peers start seeing those students differently, too."

ArtWalk takes place from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., April 25 and 26 on India Street, between Ash and Grape streets. Attendance is free. For more information, visit artwalk-sandiego.org.

—Morgan M. Hurley can be reached at morgan@sdcnn.com. ♦



ArtWalk benefits ArtReach. (Photo by Paul Nestor)

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

9/6

**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

Answer key, page 19

Uptown Crossword

From the Neck Up

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			
37					38						39			
40			41						42					
									44					
45	46							47				48	49	50
51						52	53							
54						55					56			
57						58					59			

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

- 1 Seniors disparager
- 6 Daily fare
- 10 Warm sensation
- 14 Anorak
- 15 Taj Mahal site
- 16 Easter plant
- 17 Sudden enlighten-ment
- 19 Frank
- 20 German philosopher
- 21 Cleric
- 23 Consider seriously
- 24 Contradict
- 25 Belgian port
- 28 Distinguishing fea-tures
- 31 Revel in self-satis-faction
- 32 Whittles
- 33 CEO
- 34 Tear
- 35 Soft-pedaled
- 36 Dale's companion
- 37 Hosp. test
- 38 1957 Literature Nobel
- 39 Desert plants
- 40 Brimless chapeau
- 42 Most timorous

DOWN

- 43 Surveyers
- 44 Up-and-coming one
- 45 Canadian capital
- 47 Drove back
- 51 Platform
- 52 Spokesperson
- 54 Fencing weapon
- 55 Women's magazine
- 56 Provide financial grants
- 57 1981 film
- 58 Clairvoyant
- 59 Transactions
- 1 Wanted letters
- 2 John Irving character
- 3 Dies ____
- 4 White supremacist
- 5 Digression
- 6 Fixed in time
- 7 Stravinsky
- 8 Go astray
- 9 Interfered with
- 10 Liturgical hymn
- 11 Assent without action
- 12 Cooking ingredient
- 13 Ed or Keenan
- 18 Kind of dog
- 22 Charity
- 24 Reveals
- 25 Dreaded persons
- 26 Glossy
- 27 Reluctant to speak
- 28 Consume
- 29 Scottish garb
- 30 Acrobatic maneuver
- 32 Catamounts
- 35 Knotted fringes
- 36 Widow's peak, e.g.
- 38 Ball of thread
- 39 Made bird sounds
- 41 Chemical enzymes
- 42 Figure on the quad
- 44 Hinder
- 45 River of central Europe
- 46 Runner's goal
- 47 Dominion
- 48 Mother of Castor and Pollux
- 49 EPA concern
- 50 Morning droplets
- 53 ____ Miss

Answer key, page 19

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Sudoku
Puzzle from page 18

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

From the Neck Up
Crossword from page 18

A	G	I	S	T	D	I	E	T	G	L	O	W
P	A	R	K	A	A	G	R	A	L	I	L	Y
B	R	A	I	N	S	T	O	R	M	O	P	E
S	P	E	N	G	L	E	R	P	A	R	S	O
		H	E	E	D	B	E	L	I	E		
O	S	T	E	N	D	E	A	R	M	A	R	K
G	L	O	A	T	P	A	R	E	S	V	I	P
R	E	N	D	M	U	T	E	D	H	I	L	L
E	E	G	C	A	M	U	S	C	A	C	T	I
S	K	U	L	L	C	A	P	S	H	I	E	S
		E	Y	E	R	S	D	O	E	R		
O	T	T	A	W	A	R	E	P	E	L	L	E
D	A	I	S		M	O	U	T	H	P	I	E
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Lefty's Chicago Pizza
Pizzeria Luigi
Turf Supper Club

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1137 25th St.
1116 25th St.

KENSINGTON/
TALMADGE

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Kensington Cafe
Kensington Vet Hospital
Kensington Grill
Kensington Club
Public Library - Kensington
Salon Bordeaux

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4141 Adams Ave.
3817 Adams Ave.
4055 Adams Ave.
4079 Adams Ave.
4130 Adams Ave.
3393 Adams Ave.

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(l to r) A vintage photo of Balboa Park 100 years ago. Fred C. Schmohl did most of the plaster design work along the Prado. (Courtesy of SOHO)



for the whole family on The Isthmus, especially if dad just got out of prison — gambling, opium smoking, mock naval battles, stuntmen on bicycles, actors making movies, roller coasters, Ferris wheels, alligators, a volcano and an aviatrix doing loop-the-loops while dropping rose petals from 1,500 feet. It was the kind of place you could get your baby tattooed.

The doings on the Prado were perhaps just as craven, but with better manners. The industrial and cultural exhibits trumpeted the relentless march of technology that would someday transform the lives of all Californians — in a romantic garden setting, no less, surrounded by fantastical castle-like architecture. These edifying and educational exhibits included a cow and milkmaid made of butter, a plantation of laborers from Ceylon harvesting tea (sponsored by Lipton), a demonstration of a “gasifier” from the Moreland Truck company, vacuum cleaners and stoves, and a painting of a cow so real it defied the senses.

You could watch bread being baked, food being packed (by machines, what a novelty!) and water being pumped into an orchard of exotic fruit trees (oranges!), sponsored by International Harvester. (Even the dirt had an underwriter.)

Attendance grew during the summer, and the year ended much as it began, with a bang. The organizers brought out the cavalry again, and the U.S. Marines to boot. Admission was free at the concessions on The Isthmus, and there were follies girls at the Café Cristobal and Asian dancers, too. Finally, at the stroke of midnight on Dec. 31, 1915, there was a fusillade of aerial bombs and noise-makers. And with that, it was over.

Or was it? The organizers sat down and counted the receipts. In all, there had been 2,050,030 admissions by ticket or passes in 1915. Naturally, they thought, “Why stop now?” They renamed and reconfigured the Exposition — it now was the Panama-California International Exposition — borrowing exhibits from the now-closed San Francisco World’s Fair, and remodeling and rebranding the buildings to reflect their new cosmopolitan focus.

It might have gone on forever if World War I hadn’t gotten in the way. On April 5, 1917, the U.S. entered the war, and Expo activities came to a sudden halt. Local booster D.C. Collier, who’d fought tirelessly for the Expo, now went to Washington, D.C. to give it away, offering the Expo buildings to the federal government for use as a boot camp. The Dream City had become just another military facility, a collection of cavernous

buildings converted into a hospital, barracks, and training center. There was still entertainment to be had on the Prado, but it was presented by the USO.

Considering its unconventional history, it should come as no surprise that the 100-year anniversary of the Panama-California Exposition has had its own fits and starts, lows and highs, grandiose plans and pedestrian realities. The celebrations, such as they are, are now underway at many of Balboa Park’s museums. SOHO, Save Our Heritage Organisation, has four Expo exhibits up and running, including one touching on the architects and designers who shaped the Exposition’s buildings and landscape.

“Balboa Park Exposition Designers 1915-1935,” which is on display in a couple upstairs bedrooms and a hall at the Marston House, keeps clear of controversy, of which there was plenty — we’re talking about architects and artists, after all. What it does offer is insight into the unsung designers, artists and artisans who actually made the buildings at the center of Balboa Park, such as Clarence Samuel Stein, who produced the site plan for the California Quadrangle (not Advisory Architect Bertram Goodhue, who gets much of the Expo design credit).

The exhibit and accompanying book also uncover the story of the sculptors responsible for the Expo’s distinctive plaster detailing. Fred C. Schmohl did most of the plaster design work along the Prado. His son Henry supervised the crew of 26 artists. The elder Schmohl worked on expositions for Chicago, Atlanta, Nashville, Omaha, Buffalo, Charleston, St. Louis, Portland, Jamestown, Seattle and San Francisco. Who were the guys who built the Expo? They were likely something like Schmohl. He was an immigrant (from Germany), he followed the expos around the country for decades, and when he settled down, he did so in Hollywood, working for Paramount Studios.

“Many [visitors] will know the name of Bertram Goodhue or Richard Requa,” says Alana Coons, SOHO’s education and communications director. “But it took a team of designers, artisans, and landscape professionals to pull off something as monumental as the Panama-California Exposition. We hope their stories will help people understand how rare and utterly irreplaceable Balboa Park is, so they will stand by her side the next time she needs help.”

“Balboa Park Exposition Designers 1915-1935: The Making of the Dream City” runs through November at the Marston House on Seventh Avenue. Admission is included with the price of the home tour.

—Contact Michael Good at housecallssdun@gmail.com. ♦

The dream that could have been a nightmare

100 years ago some scrappy San Diegans created a city of the imagination in Balboa Park

House Calls Michael Good

The Panama-California Exposition began with a bang, nearly collapsed in a fit of whimpering, then found its courage and loudly carried on, successful beyond all reasonable expectations. The 27-month party began at midnight on Dec. 31, 1914, when President Woodrow Wilson touched a telegraph key and set off a barrage of fireworks and electric lights on the darkened Prado, from 2,300 miles away.

Attendance in the first week hit 100,000 (in a city with a population

half that). Then the whimpering began. For the rest of the month, attendance averaged only 27,000 per week. Rumors began to spread that the Expo was about to close.

The organizers fought back — and not for the first time. They’d been struggling to get this thing off the ground since 1909. They called out the cavalry — literally — sending 16 platoons on horseback parading up Sixth Avenue. For Chinese New Year, they summoned a dragon — a 300-foot-tall mechanical monster with smoke pouring from its mouth — and sent it careening down “The Isthmus,” the Expo’s fun zone. Neighboring states pitched in. For George Washington’s birthday, the

state of Washington held a potlatch in its Expo building, giving away apples and apple cider. The Women’s Board got involved and sponsored a dance in the Plaza de Panama.

Apparently, these enticements worked. February was not a complete disaster, with attendance of 133,162. In March, the figure rose to 153,042. But more important, the Exposition turned a profit of \$24,467.97. From the first month debacle, the organizers learned an important lesson — that automobile race they staged in Point Loma in January, the one that drew 50,000 spectators? Probably not a good idea when you’re putting on an Expo on the other side of town.

This confusion of goals and profusion of interests bedeviled the Expo and its organizers. Were they raising money? Raising awareness? Promoting industry? Promoting the Expo backers and boosters, many of whom, like Point Loma real estate investor D.C. Collier, had vested interests? Or were they just trying to show the world a good time?

This scrappy naïveté was built into the Expo’s DNA, beginning with the Chamber of Commerce meeting that launched the campaign to bring a World’s Fair to San Diego. Among the movers and shakers assembled, no one thought to inform the mayor, who was traveling and learned about it after the fact (then enthusiastically jumped on board).

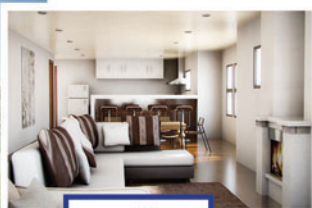
With parents like these, no wonder the Expo grew up a bit schizophrenic: On a hill above the little border town there stood a Dream City, a paean to higher culture and higher ideals. Along the streetcar tracks behind this noble enterprise there lurked the Prado’s evil twin, the fun zone, that tribute to the Depravity of Man. There was entertainment

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Guests indulge in food and wine on the luxurious excursion of the Napa Valley Wine Train. (Photo by Ron Stern)

Affordable luxury vacation on the East Bay

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Ron Stern



Nestled between Napa and Sonoma on the north and San Francisco on the south is a little pocket of bliss known as Diablo Valley. Compared to its higher-priced neighbors, this relatively unknown travel venue is affordable without sacrificing the niceties that make for an elegant getaway.

Located about an hour's drive northeast of San Francisco International Airport, Diablo Valley encompasses the city of Concord as well as surrounding areas of Contra Costa County. Unlike many high-priced Bay Area travel destinations, Diablo Valley is surprisingly reasonable. Whereas a typical two-night stay with parking in San Francisco might cost upwards of \$648, comparable lodging in one of nine hotels in the area will only set you back about \$358.

Known as the sunnier and warmer part of the Bay, Diablo Valley's great weather is one of the reasons people are discovering this vacation alternative. With easily accessible public transportation via the BART system, local tours and shuttles, it's possible to park your car at your departure point and go carless during your entire visit.

You also won't have to compromise touches of luxury for frugality. Diablo Valley has ample opportunities for both. According

to Mayor Tim Grayson, "The city of Concord is the largest city in the fourth wealthiest county in the world's eighth largest economy."

Todos Santos Plaza is the centrally located heart of town and stretches across an entire city block. With a variety of restaurants, free summer concerts and the local farmers market, this is a good place to begin your exploration of the area.

breathtaking experience with views rivaling those of Tanzania's Mt. Kilimanjaro. On a clear day, you can see the Golden Gate Bridge, downtown San Francisco and Alcatraz Island. Lingering at the end of the day affords sunset photo opportunities and then stargazing.

No trip to Diablo Valley would be complete without indulging in a luxurious excursion aboard the Napa Valley Wine Train. Featur-



Diablo Valley, north of San Francisco, has a charming downtown and offers a luxury vacation at an affordable price. (Photo by Ron Stern)

Looming 3,849 feet above the valley below, Mt. Diablo State Park is one of the area's premier high-lights. A scenic road winds its way across ribbons of green-laden hills and countryside with opportunities for hiking, biking, cycling, horse-back riding, a visit to Rock City, and general sightseeing.

The summit of Mt. Diablo is a

ing restored Pullman railcars with plush furniture, Honduran mahogany panels and brass accents, this historic train is a way to experience the glory days of travel by rail.

The three-hour journey features excellent cuisine and wines as you glide past gorgeous scenery and

see Travel page 23

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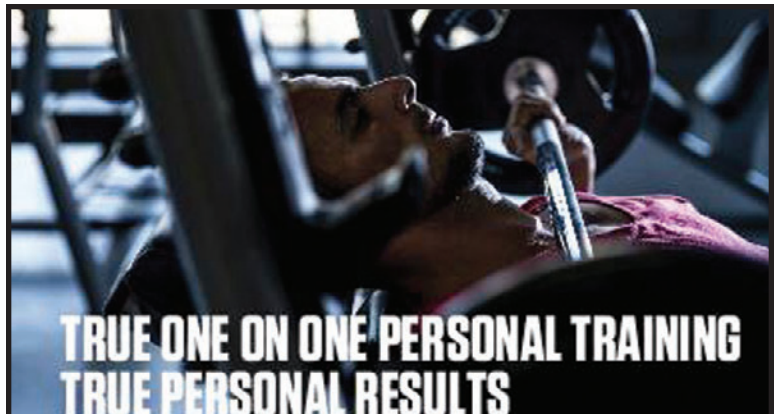
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May 19, 2015: Egg Freezing Social

June 3, 2015: Egg & Sperm Donors

June 25, 2015: Reproductive Law Workshop

with Rich Geisler, Esq.

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Calendar of Events

FEATURED EVENTS

**Mission Hills community garage sale****Saturday, April 25**

Several homes throughout Mission Hills will participate in this community garage sale. Maps and addresses of participating homes will be available at Coldwell Banker (1621 West Lewis St.) on the day of the event and the homes will also be designated by bright yellow signs. The sale will run from 8 a.m. – noon. Visit missionhillscoldwellbanker.com for more information.

"Centennial Concert"**Saturday, April 25**

The Hillcrest Wind Ensemble presents this concert to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. The concert will take place at the San Diego Woman's Club (2557 Third Ave. Bankers Hill) near Balboa Park. The ensemble will recreate parts of the 1914 New

Year's Eve concert, which also served as the dedication ceremony for the Spreckels Organ Pavilion and was the first event of the exposition. The 45-piece ensemble is slated to perform California's state song, "I Love You, California," along with other selections including popular ragtime pieces from the era. The concert starts at 7 p.m. Visit hillcrestwindensemble.com for more information and advance tickets, which start at \$15.

**Adams Avenue Unplugged Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26**

This free two-day festival returns to the communities along Adams Avenue once again. Over 170 musical performances will take place in bars, restaurants and other establishments throughout Kensington and Normal Heights. There will also be four outdoor community stages hosting additional sets of music. Attendance is free, however reserved seating can be purchased for high-demand performances with proceeds going toward musicians' fees. Adams Avenue Unplugged runs from noon – 10 p.m. on Saturday and noon – 7 p.m. on Sunday. Headliners include Anais Mitchell, Hot Buttered Rum, Cody Lovaas and David J. For a full event schedule and more information visit adamssavenueunplugged.com.

Donut and beer pairing Sunday, April 26

Nomad Donuts and Thorn Street Brewery are hosting two pairing sessions — one at 12:30 and one at 2 p.m. at the brewery (3176 Thorn St., North Park). The event will pair three donuts with three 5-ounce tasters of beer. The beers to be tasted (subject to change) are Thorn Street's Golden Hills Pils, Castaway Coconut Porter and Santos Stout. The pairing costs \$10 per person and tickets must be pre-purchased. Visit thornstreetbrew.com for the full menu and tickets.

"Once Upon A Tiempo Mariachi Spectacular" Sunday, May 3

Classic 4 Kids will present this concert conducted by Dana Zimbric and performed by the Classics Philharmonic Professional Symphony Orchestra as one of their three seasonal shows. The family concert will take place at the Balboa Theatre (868 Fourth Ave., Downtown) starting at 2 p.m. The bilingual Spanish and English musical story-telling concert with guests from Southwestern College's Mariachi Garibaldi, dancers from Ballet Folklórico Jalisciense and more, is appropriate for all ages. The show will combine mariachi-inspired music and classic fairy tales for a unique performance. There will also be a "C4K's Kids Chat" session after the performance for families to ask questions and learn from the conductor along with featured musicians and guests. Visit classics4kids.com for more information.



RECURRING EVENTS

Daily:

Don't Try This at Home!: Six varying times per day until May, a live science show is presented with demonstrations that are too messy, loud or shocking to try at home. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado, Balboa Park, free with admission. Visit rh-fleet.org for more information.

Mondays:

Singing Storytime: 1:30 p.m., learn what's going on inside your baby's mind, strengthen your bond and sing songs together at Mission Hills Library, 925 Washington St., Mission Hills, free. Library92103.org.

Open Mic Night: 7:30 p.m., the mic is open to you at Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, free. Lestat's.com.

**Tuesdays:**

Curbside Bites: 5 – 8:30 p.m., gathering of gourmet food trucks at 3030 Grape St., South Park. Curbsidebites.com.

Tasty Truck Tuesdays: 6 – 9 p.m., Smitty's Service Station hosts several food trucks under their well-lit shade structure, 3442 Adams Ave., Normal Heights. Sd-foodtrucks.com.

Open Mic Charlie's: 7 – 10 p.m. (except the third Tuesday), open mic night at Rebecca's Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, free. Rebeccascoffeehouse.com.

Wednesdays:

Wang's Trivia: 7 p.m., free trivia competition for prizes, tournament for \$1,000. Drink specials during trivia range \$3 – \$6. Wang's North Park, 3029 University Ave., North Park. Wangs-northpark.com.

Wednesday Night Experience: 7 – 8 p.m., uplifting and spiritually inspiring experiences for all, weekly at Universal Spirit Center, 3858 Front St., Hillcrest, love offering requested. Universal-spiritcenter.org.

Young Lions Music Series: 7 p.m., each week features a new "young rising star" chosen by Gilbert Castellanos. Castellanos will also join in during the first set, the Expatriate Room, Croce's Park West, 2760 Fifth Ave., Bankers Hill, \$5 cover. Crocesparkwest.com.

Storytelling: 7 – 8:45 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month featuring members of Storytellers of San Diego at Rebecca's Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, donations welcome. Ages 12 and up. Storytellersofsandiego.org.



Wednesday Jazz Jam Session: 7:30 p.m., Gilbert Castellanos hosts the Jazz Jam Session with special guest musicians at Seven Grand, 3054 University Ave., North Park, free. Seven-grandbars.com.

Thursdays:

Uptown Sunrise Rotary Club meetings: 7 a.m., weekly meeting at Panera Bread, 1270 Cleveland Ave., Hillcrest. Sduro-tary.org.

Gentle yoga for seniors: 2:45 – 3:45 p.m., presented by The Center and Silver Age Yoga Community Outreach (SAYCO) at The San Diego LGBT Center, 3909 Centre St., Hillcrest, free. Thecentersd.org.

North Park Farmers Market: 3 – 7 p.m., in the parking lot behind CVS at 32nd St. and University Ave., North Park, free. Northpark-farmersmarket.com.



Kornflower's Open Mic: Sign-ups at 6:30 p.m., open mic (no poetry or comedy) 7 – 10 p.m. Family friendly event at Rebecca's Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, free. Rebeccascoffeehouse.com.

Kirtan Musical Meditation: 8:15 p.m., chant and sing contemporary mantras celebrating love and life at Pilgrimage of the Heart Yoga, 3287 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, donation requested. Pilgrimageyoga.com.

Fridays:

Preschool Storytime: 10:30 a.m., at Mission Hills Library, 925 Washington St., Mission Hills, free. Library92103.org.

Fridays on Fifth: 4 – 9 p.m., various restaurants and bars offer discounts and specials for a social hour on Fifth Avenue between Washington Street and Pennsylv-

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A server shows off a bottle of wine. At right, a conductor of the Napa Valley Wine Train. (Photos by Ron Stern)

FROM PAGE 21
TRAVEL

grape-laden vineyards. Lunch menus include starters like red and green apple endive salad and entrees such as mustard rubbed pork tenderloin, almond encrusted salmon piccata and a mouth-watering dessert. There are several packages, including winery tours with prices starting as low as \$179 per person.

Arriving early in advance of your train ride will give you time to walk to the nearby Oxbow Public Market for some specialty food and wine shopping. Fine chocolates, organic Italian pastries, cheeses and spirits are offered by local merchants in this 40,000-square-foot venue in a beautiful setting along the Napa River.

Music lovers can enjoy an outdoor concert and open-air seating at the Concord Pavilion. Surrounded by lush green hills and open spaces, this entertainment venue, one of California's finest, has hosted some of the biggest names in music.

There are nine hotels in the Diablo Valley region that will satisfy any price-conscious budget. Some, like the Hilton, also have amenities that rival many high-end properties in the Bay Area. This includes an award-winning restaurant and wine bar, an executive lounge with snacks and drinks and PURE hypo-allergenic rooms.

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With an abundance of sunshine, affordable accommodations and natural beauty, Diablo Valley is earning its newfound slogan: Defying Expectations!

To encourage tourists to visit

the area, guests who book a two-night stay at participating Diablo Valley Hotels through Dec. 30 will receive a \$50 Sunvalley American Express gift card. This can be used wherever American Express is accepted. See deal section of their website above.

—Contact Ron Stern at travel-writer01@comcast.net. ♦

FROM PAGE 22
CALENDAR

nia Avenue, Hillcrest. Fridayson-fifth.com.

Cinema Under the Stars: 8:30 p.m., classic movie screenings at 4040 Goldfinch St., Mission Hills. Tickets start at \$15. Topsresents.com.

Saturdays
Old Town Saturday Market: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., on Harney Street and San Diego Avenue, Old Town, free. Oldtownsaturdaymarket.com.

Golden Hill Farmers Market: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., on B Street between 27th and 28th streets, Golden Hill, free. Sdmarketmanager.com.

Children's Craft Time: 10:30 a.m., at Mission Hills Library, 925 Washington St., Mission Hills, free. Library92103.org.

Melodies in Balboa Park: 1 – 5 p.m., the San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory ensembles fill Casa del Prado with classical music, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, free. Sdys.org.

Celebrity Book Readings: 2 p.m., local celebrities will visit the "Ingenious! The World of Dr. Seuss" at the San Diego History Center on the second Saturday of each month to read their favorite Seuss stories to those in attendance, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park, free. Sandiegohistory.org.

Comedy Heights: 8 – 10 p.m., local comedians take the stage next to Twiggs Coffeehouse at 4590 Park Blvd., University Heights, free. Comedyheights.com.



Sundays

Free Pancake Breakfast: 8:30 – 9:45 a.m., every second Sunday this neighborhood breakfast precedes worship service and Sunday school at Normal Heights United Methodist Church, 4650 Mansfield St., Normal Heights. Email nancy@nhunited.org.

Hillcrest Farmers Market: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., under the Hillcrest Pride Flag, Harvey Milk and Normal streets, free. Hillcrestfarmersmarket.com.

—Email calendar items to ken@sdenn.com. ♦

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100 Years of Art in Balboa Park (1915-2015)



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