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San Diego Community News Network

San Diego Uptown News

'The Big Idea'

Every movement has its moment, and the Reeve Foundation has found its own.



Olympic champion Amy Van Dyken-Rouen is captain of Team Reeve All Stars competing at Suja Rock 'n' Roll Marathon on May 31. (Courtesy of Team Reeve)

By Lucia Viti

Calling all San Diego runners to lace up to help revolutionize the world of 6 million Americans inflicted with spinal cord injuries. Team Reeve, the fundraising arm of The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, is assembling its first All Star Running Team to run this month in two Uptown events, including the Suja Rock 'n' Roll San Diego Marathon on May 31.

Team Reeve All Stars will run united in Christopher Reeve's dream of a world without wheelchairs. Although Reeve may be best known for his movie role as Superman, his life

as an activist for the disabled defines his greatest accomplishments. Paralyzed during an equestrian competition in 1995, Reeve became a public and political spotlight for spinal cord trauma. Until his death in 2004, Reeve worked tirelessly to obtain funding to support the recovery and repair of neurological function from spinal cord injuries and complex diseases of the brain and central nervous system.

The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, established in 1999 as an adjunct of the American Paralysis Association, remains dedicated to curing spinal cord injuries. San Diego's Team Reeve Chapter is

working with the foundation to raise \$15 million to afford 36 spinal cord injury patients the opportunity to participate in epidural stimulation therapy, a breakthrough study known as "The Big Idea."

Epidural stimulation of the spinal cord has been shown to improve cardiovascular, bladder, bowel and sexual function; temperature regulation; the ability to stand; and voluntary control of legs for those suffering from paralysis. Its safety and efficacy have been proven on four patients, so The Big Idea will accommodate a larger and more

see Reeve, page 9

Pedal power

BikeSD envisions a world-class bicycling city

Ken Williams | Editor

If a determined Samantha "Sam" Ollinger has her way, San Diego will become a world-class bicycling city in the near future. She has yet to find one naysayer about her ambitious goal since she co-founded BikeSD with two friends.



BikeSD participants celebrate one of their recent rides (Courtesy of BikeSD)

"Our vision is to transform San Diego into the world's best city for bicycling," she said. "I've never met a single person who doesn't think that this is possible."

With a near perfect climate for alternative forms of transportation, America's Finest City has few excuses for lagging behind other cities like Portland, Seattle

see BikeSD, page 23

Dance fever

Local choreographers 'strip away' the masks we wear

Ken Williams | Editor



"Dancer Briefs" will explore what's under the masks we wear. (Courtesy of Compulsion Dance & Theatre)

Few artistic mediums bare the soul more deeply more than dance, and the upcoming "Dancer Briefs" performances next month at the ion theatre dare to push the envelope even further.

Choreographer Michael Mizerany, artistic director of Compulsion Dance & Theatre, says the idea behind "Dancer Briefs" is threefold.

"One, every dance is brief, and no dance is longer than eight minutes," he said. "Two, every dance needs to strip away any physical, emotional and/or psychological masks we wear to hide our true intentions, our hidden lives or secret desires. And three, every dance features an undergarment — slip, lingerie, dance belt, flannel underwear, etc. — the range and choice is exclusively up to the choreographers."

The theme allows individual choreographers take whatever direction that inspiration leads them.

"I delineate the overall concept and then give the choreographers the freedom to choose the themes they want to explore," Mizerany said.

"For example, Lara Segura will present 'It's Always The Quiet Ones' — contemporary — which is a tongue-in-cheek striptease," he said. "Sidney Franklin and Katie Amarillas will premiere '#GameOn' — a competitive tap number with hidden underpinnings. Grace Shinhwa Jun will debut her new work 'Disclosure' — hip-hop fusion — that challenges the idea that revealing equates honesty. All very different genres with their own unique examination of what it means to strip away the facades we hide behind."

One of the more unusual pieces will be choreographed and performed by Travis Ti, who is well known in San Diego as an acrobat and aerialist.

"I met Michael Mizerany when I did 'Carni-

see Dance, page 21

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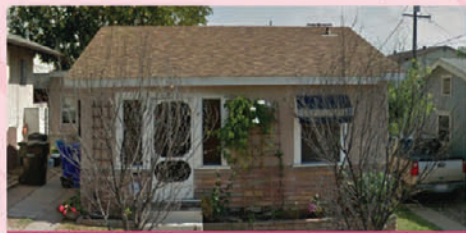
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San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria addresses the Hillcrest Town Council (seated at the table) and a packed audience. (Courtesy of Hillcrest Town Council)

Hillcrest Town Council update

By Benny Cartwright

San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria spoke to a full room of community members at the May 12 meeting of the Hillcrest Town Council (HTC). Gloria addressed the crowd for nearly an hour, discussing many city issues that are big on the community's mind right now.

Gloria started by sharing his opinion about the proposed city budget, saying "this is a very good budget with a \$70-\$80 million surplus." Noting that it has been a long time since city residents have heard the words "surplus" and "budget" in the same sentence, Gloria said that the biggest challenge now is figuring out what to spend the money on and how to invest it back into the neighborhoods.

Of interest to Hillcrest is the new fire station that community members have long been asking for. Fire Station No. 5, located on University Avenue at Ninth Street,

was placed in service in 1951 and is far too small and outdated. Gloria believes groundbreaking on the replacement station will begin within the next six weeks, and a temporary station will be set up near the intersection of Park Boulevard and Polk Street during construction.

The long-awaited Hillcrest/Mission Hills Branch Library should also break ground around the end of the next fiscal year, Gloria said. Commenting on how long the community has waited for this project to begin, Gloria joked that the faded sign that says the building on Washington Street at First Avenue is the future site of a new branch library will "finally come down after 75 million years."

Other topics included homelessness in the community, which was also addressed earlier in the meeting by Ben Nicholls, executive director of the Hillcrest Business Association (HBA). With the support of Gloria's office and the HBA, the

Alpha Project has been operating in the neighborhood for just over a month, and has provided services to over 90 people. These services range from simply providing bottled water to people in need, to finding shelter. The Alpha Project's efforts in a month's time have placed five homeless people in shelter.

Nicholls says that the current program with Alpha Project is a year long, with hopes of finding permanent funding. He said about \$50,000 a year is needed to fund the program in Hillcrest.

Gloria encouraged Hillcrest groups to check out the work and programs that some of the resident and business groups in Downtown San Diego have successfully enacted to model programs in that neighborhood.

Other topics addressed include the proposal to raise the minimum wage in the city, which he says will

be on the ballot in June 2016, along with referendum reform, climate change and bicycles. While his time was limited on how much he could speak to these topics, he was able to touch on each of them and give updates.

Community members asked questions about a variety of issues, with a lot of discussion centering around the restoration of the Georgia Street Bridge, which is

over 100 years old. Gloria noted that the crumbling bridge will be completely replaced but will look just as did a century ago when it was first constructed. The project will include adding sidewalks to both sides of University Avenue; currently only the eastbound side of the street has a sidewalk. The project will cause some disruptions and traffic diversions, but he encouraged community members to contact his office if they think detours aren't done in the best way so they can consider alternatives.

The next meeting of the HTC is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Joyce Beers Community Center, located in the HUB Hillcrest Plaza. For more information, visit hillcresttowncouncil.com.

—Benny Cartwright is secretary of the Hillcrest Town Council. ♦

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Dogs on leash are welcome at Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park in Normal Heights, but Uptown residents have been clamoring for an off-leash dog park. (Photo by Ron Sanchez)



Mary Callan yearns for the day when her dog Ru can romp leash-free at Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park. (Photo by Ron Sanchez)

Going to the dogs?

By Catherine Spearnak

After 10 years of waiting, Normal Heights residents may be getting a start on having the off-leash dog park they have wanted for so long. But some community leaders don't think it's enough.

Last week, Mayor Kevin Faulconer set aside \$100,000 in the 2016 city budget to build an interim dog park at Ward Canyon Community Park, located near the boundary of Normal Heights and

Kensington, at the intersection of Adams Avenue and I-15.

But the amount of money allotted – and the dog park it will create – is far less than some Normal Heights residents wanted.

"I could say we're mad as hell," said Jim Baross, chair of the Normal Heights Community Planning Group. The comment may sum up the feelings of many mid-city dog lovers. "We're glad to be mentioned at all, but we're still not on the list. We've been park-deficient forever."

The community lobbied hard for dog park support. After holding a dog-park rally in February, collecting 1,200 signatures from Normal Heights residents in favor of a dog park, and hounding Councilman Todd Gloria for support, mid-city residents got it.

Councilman Gloria, who represents Uptown, placed a request for \$1.2 million in his budget to begin the \$7.9 million project, and submitted it to Mayor Faulconer, asking him to place it in his 2016 budget. The planned expansion of Ward Canyon Park includes the off-leash dog park, a community garden, a community town hall, and a lighted parking lot.

"The communities of mid-city deserve to have the expansion of Ward Canyon Park funded," Gloria said.

But the mayor has only included funds for the interim dog park in his budget, which is waiting for approval by the San Diego City Council on June 8.

"I am pleased that the mayor will be funding an interim dog park as a temporary solution," Gloria said. "But I will continue to fight for the first phase of the permanent expansion to be included in next year's budget."

The Mayor's Office did not respond to contacts, but in a press release put out May 15th, he touted his neighborhood improvement plan.

"Our economy continues to improve, and our neighborhoods should share in the wealth," Mayor Faulconer said. "I'm proposing several new community enhancements beyond what I announced in April. It's just one more thing

we're doing to boost programs that make a real difference in people's lives."

Ron Ferrero-Pham, a Normal Heights resident, business owner, and president of the Normal Heights Community Association, said he is happy the mayor is looking for funds for an interim dog park.

"But all we have right now is the promise that they may put some money in for a temporary solution," he said.

Normal Heights has courted other funding sources for the dog park, including Pet Smart and state Assembly Speaker Tony Atkins for state funds.

Ferrero-Pham says the new dog park would serve one-sixth of the city's dogs, and would be the only dog park on the I-15 corridor. Residents and their dogs in Normal Heights, Kensington, Talmadge, City Heights and even Mission Valley would benefit from the park.

"If it's the best we can do for now, we'll take it," Ferrero-Pham said.

Council members have several meetings to go through before deciding whether to approve the mayor's revised budget on Monday, June 8.

"I appreciate the Mayor including funding in the May Revise for a temporary dog park for Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park, and believe that my Council colleagues will support this reasonable interim solution that would address an urgent need in the mid-city communities," Gloria said. "This dog park is a significant step toward realizing a long awaited community asset, and I expect that we can make progress towards designing Phase I of this park in Fiscal Year 2017."

—Catherine Spearnak is a San Diego-based freelance writer. She can be reached at catherine.spearnak1@gmail.com.



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San Diego's first parklet opened outside of Caffé Calabria on 30th Street just north of University Avenue in North Park, offering shaded seating and a place to gather. (Photo by Ron Sanchez)

Parklets popular in Uptown likely to spread across the city

By Catherine Spearnak

Jasmine Tinio and her friend Kristina didn't realize the little dining spot they had perched on outside of Mama's Bakery & Deli on Alabama Street just south of El Cajon Boulevard was a parklet.

"It's great," Tinio said when she was informed about the unique space. "I like how it's spacious, it's away from the restaurant, but at the same time it could be a social gathering spot. It feels homey and comfortable."

Parklets — or pedestrian plazas — are small spots in parking spaces and unused bus stops that are accessible to all and serve as a gathering spot. They are usually the length of two parking spaces, and extend about six feet into the street, creating a pad for seating, flowers and shade.

San Diego City Council's Smart Growth and Land Use Committee recently approved new rules that will make it easier for businesses throughout San Diego to create the small spaces.

Currently there are two parklets in Uptown: one in front of Mama's Bakery & Deli and another in front of Caffé Calabria on 30th Street just north of University Avenue in North Park.

"I think it provides another amenity that businesses in the neighborhood could elect to have that would bring additional vitality that they don't currently have," said City Councilmember Todd Gloria, vice chair of the committee.

Gloria said he knows of at least three proposed parklets that will benefit from the new policies. They would be in front of The Moniker Group in Downtown's East Village, Café Madeline in South Park and Super Cocina in City Heights.

Chris Larson, a senior city planner, said city officials share Gloria's enthusiasm for parklets, which are popular in San



City officials have mandated that parklets must be open to the public and not exclusive for customers. (Photo by Ron Sanchez)

Francisco.

"We're looking forward to these being rolled out throughout the city," Larson told the committee. "It's a great improvement. It kind of gives the pedestrian a place in the street."

Sauravh Gupta was hanging with his fiancé Roma, and their dog Morty on a recent Sunday morning enjoying espresso in front of Caffé Calabria.

"This is nice," Gupta said. "I know San Francisco has a lot of these. I wish North Park and other surrounding areas would build more."

The owner of Caffé Calabria spent about \$35,000 creating the city's first parklet in fall 2013.

Some ask, what about the precious parking in Uptown that's going to create new parklets?

"Well, it's always a delicate balance," Gloria said. "We obviously lack parking throughout Council District 3. But the real solutions for that are not going to come from one or two parking spaces on streets here or there."

—Catherine Spearnak is a San Diego-based freelance writer. She can be reached at catherine.spearnak1@gmail.com. ♦



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Editorial

15,000 sons and daughters are left out in the cold

By Sharrise Magdalena Boop

Do you ever think twice as you slip into your nice, warm bed after a long day or as you tuck your little one in at night with a goodnight kiss what sacrifices were made for you to enjoy that freedom? Most of us do not. But there are more than 15,000 reasons why you should. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, 15,179 sons and daughters comprise the homeless men and women veterans sleeping on the streets of California alone — a figure more than the entire population of Corona Del Mar.

With the month of May, most of us think of Mother's Day or our three-day Memorial Day weekend. But the month of May is also recognized as National Mental Health Awareness Month and Military Appreciation Month. Besides worrying about what the card will read inside, what flowers to buy, or what gift to get for our moms to celebrate and thank them, we should remember all the mothers of those 15,000 sons and daughters; how no mother should ever have imagine their child sleeping out on the streets, or being sick with no one to help get them better — especially when their child has sacrificed so much for others.

So if you saw a child on the street alone, shivering in the cold, hungry and sick ... would you hurry past them? Or would you do something to help? Why then is it different for these veterans? They, too, are also someone's child.

With 1.8 million veterans in California, the largest population of veterans in the nation, the approval of Proposition 12 in 2008, Assembly Bill 639 in 2013, and Proposition 41 in 2014 have all made strides toward providing housing for veterans. However, that's not enough. Similar to putting a bandage on a stab wound, it may temporarily stop the bleeding but it won't fix the underlying problems or what's happening below the surface.

With veterans suffering from higher levels of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) due to their exposure to extreme violence and brutality in the military, in conjunction to possible traumatic brain injury and military sexual trauma, the conditions alone are directly linked to the greater perceived need for mental health services. Due to the lack of social support this population receives, these veterans struggle with psychological ailments and unfortunately do not utilize the services available to them. That is why they need mental health professionals who are aware of their mental health condition and are able to assist them appropriately.



Sen. Robert Huff (center), author of Senate Bill 689, greets Alison Yee (left) and Sharrise Boop (right) on April 20 at the California State Capitol in Sacramento. (Courtesy of Sharrise Boop)

Senate Bill 689 therefore ensures for veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless that once these individuals are placed into a housing program funded by Proposition 41, programs with a mental health professional on staff will address the individual's mental health conditions accordingly. Senate Bill 689 will also provide job training, mental health and drug treatment, case management, care coordination, and physical rehabilitation. This will ultimately improve the veteran's self-determination and self-efficacy to be better equipped to excel in other aspects of their lives.

Join Sen. Robert Huff, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Sacramento, College Hospital of Costa Mesa, CarePossible and ShareOurSelves, along with countless veterans, active duty members, and friends and family of veterans and active duty members who have already pledged their letters of support. Do something today and contact your legislators and elected officials in support of Senate Bill 689.

This legislation will help provide mental health services to over 15,000 deserving sons and daughters. Senate Bill 689 deserves your attention and support.

—Sharrise Magdalena Boop lives in San Juan Capistrano and is currently enrolled in the master of social work program at the University of Southern California. ♦

Editorial

Report on veteran suicide brings awareness to military mental health

By Alison Yee

Contrary to popular belief, Memorial Day is not just about having the day off from work and watching the parade on television, nor is it about waving your American flag on the front porch of your house. It's about defending the heroes of our country and helping those veterans who are no longer able to fight their own battles. While it is important to honor those who have lost their lives while in service, it is equally as important to acknowledge the huge population of veterans who are suffering everyday from severe mental and emotional distress. It's time to address the stigma towards mental illness and face the facts: We are all vulnerable to mental health issues.

There are 15,000 veterans sleeping on the streets of California and 8,300 of them need mental health services. A report by the Department of Veterans Affairs showed that about 8,000 veterans commit suicide each year, equating to 22 suicides daily. As a community, we need to recognize the enormous population of homeless veterans that are suffering from a mental illness. How often do we acknowledge someone living on the streets but walk past them with our nose in our phones? Maybe our inactions actually contribute to the larger problem.

Homeless veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or military sexual trauma are more vulnerable to mental health conditions including depression, PTSD, substance abuse disorders, bipolar disorders, personality disorders, and suicide.

The solution is clear: Veterans need more of our attention.

There's no reason to perceive homeless veterans any differently than if he or she was your own family member. It's time to express our support for policies that have the potential to enhance services that are crucial for survival. Although there are services available, the California Research Bureau found that "California's veterans use fewer benefits than do their peers at the national level." This is due to lack of intensive outreach.

California SB 689 (find out more at tinyurl.com/m66j6xj) is the first step toward a resolution. If passed, homeless veterans will be provided essential services like mental health assessments, crisis interventions, individual and group therapy, and support groups, all of which will have a licensed mental health professional that is available 24/7. These programs will allow mental health professionals to thoroughly assess each veteran and create a treatment plan that is unique to that individual's needs. By implementing this bill, veterans will be getting the attention they need by professionals who are trained and have the education necessary to prevent further suicides and promote mental wellness.

The wraparound treatment that SB 689 will produce is exactly what veterans need in order to reduce and prevent the risk of suicide. We can't sit here any longer to watch our great heroes surrender and fall to their own demons. There is something that can be done, and we have the opportunity to help ensure that this population receives the safety and support that they deserve.

The reality is that these people are mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers, cousins, grandparents and friends. If they were your family member, what would you do to help them? This Memorial Day, do more than just hang a flag or watch the parade. On your day off, call your Sacramento legislature and tell them to support SB 689 so that veterans receive the services they need. Today, you have the opportunity to save a life.

—Alison Yee is a first-year graduate student in the USC School of Social Work program. ♦

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UptownBriefs

Chefs from the Pony Room at Rancho Valencia prepare for the 24th annual Mama's Day food and wine gala, which raised enough money this year to provide 57,680 home-delivered meals to those with cancer or AIDS. (Courtesy of bluewesley.com)

MAMA'S DAY MAKES \$175,500 TO FEED AIDS, CANCER CLIENTS

The 24th annual Mama's Day 2015 on May 8 raised \$176,500 for Mama's Kitchen, a nonprofit organization that prepares and delivers hot, nutrition-specific meals for free to people affected by AIDS or cancer throughout San Diego County. The money raised will provide 57,680 home-delivered meals for Mama's Kitchen's clients. An estimated 750 people attended the food and wine event held at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine, featuring more than 55 of San Diego's top restaurants and executive chefs. Sam "The Cooking Guy" Zien returned for the seventh consecutive year as the event's culinary host, entertaining VIPs at a private pre-event reception. Zien performed a cooking demonstration at the special reception with a hosted bar. "An amazing night was had by all spotlighting our organization and mission," Alberto Cortés, executive director of Mama's Kitchen, said in a statement. "I would like to thank the volunteers, sponsors, guests, donors and Mama's Kitchen staff for their support in fulfilling our mission of providing nutritious meals for San Diego's critical ill." Guests sampled an array of entrees, beverages and desserts, and also bid on an extensive silent auction. The best-selling auction items included a private dinner with Sam "The Cooking Guy" and a skybox for 20 guests at Petco Park. Mama's Day 2015 was presented by Nordstrom and hosted by Sycuan Casino.

NORTH PARK COACH HONORED FOR 60 YEARS OF SERVICE

Councilmember Todd Gloria recognized longtime North Park Little League Coach Joe Schloss with a day in his honor on May 16 with a ceremony at Morley Field, where 88-year-old Coach Joe has dedicated his time to teaching baseball to local youth for 60 years. The San Diego Chicken and representatives from County Supervisor Ron Roberts' office and the North Park Little League also participated. Coach Joe's coaching has positively impacted his players and helped them learn integrity and the importance of physical activity. A World War II Navy veteran, Coach Joe has also owned A-B Sporting Goods in North Park for decades and raised his family in the neighborhood. He has vowed to keep coaching baseball for many more years.

FREE SHUTTLE DURING LUNCH-TIME IN HILLCREST

A free, lunch-hour shuttle service in Hillcrest, launched May 18, connects major employers like UC San Diego Health System as well as residents and visitors. Aiming to reduce traffic congestion and parking challenges, "The Park Hillcrest Lunch Loop" runs Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The 10-minute loop will make four stops delivering riders within footsteps of 50 Hillcrest eateries. Riders use the Park Hillcrest mobile app to follow the trolley on its route and discover restaurants, parking tips, pricing and locations. The Uptown Community Parking District, in partnership with UC San Diego Health System and the Hillcrest Business Association, is behind the shuttle service. Visit parkhillcrest.com for more information.

TIMKEN MUSEUM OF ART WINS ENERGY-SAVING AWARD

U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy on May 19 awarded the Timken Museum of Art with the 2014 EPA Battle of the Buildings Energy Star award. The museum, located in San Diego's historic Balboa Park, is being recognized for reducing its energy use by more than 50%, preventing more than 80 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions from being released into the environment. As part of its effort to reduce energy use, the museum converted 50-year-old light fixtures to advanced LED lighting and installed new timers, dimmers and sensors. More than 5,500 buildings across the United States competed in the fifth annual Energy Star Battle of the Buildings: Team Challenge. The museum's efforts support the City of San Diego's Climate Action Plan (CAP), which identifies measures to effectively meet greenhouse gas reduction targets for 2020 and 2035. Energy and water efficient buildings are one of five strategies listed under the city's CAP to achieve the targets. Other strategies include increasing clean and renewable energy, zero waste and climate resiliency.

TAIWAN MOVIES FEATURED AT MOPA

The second annual Taiwan Cinema Spotlight, a partnership between the Taiwan Academy, Pacific Arts Movement and the Museum of Photographic Arts (MOPA), opens May 28. The annual program at MOPA focuses on a different aspect of Taiwanese cinema each year. This year's Taiwan Cinema Spotlight focuses on Hou Hsiao-hsien, who Village Voice critic J. Hoberman hailed as the world's greatest working narrative filmmaker. The three-film retrospective "Growing Up With Hou Hsiao-hsien" looks at the theme of coming-of-age, especially important in a nation where "growing up" has been such a politically and socially fraught subject in the past half-century. The three featured films in this year's program are: "Dust in the Wind" (1986) on May 28 at 7 p.m. "Daughter of the Nile" (1987) on May 29 at 7 p.m. "Millennium Mambo" (2001) on May 30 at 5 p.m. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit mopa.org/hhh.

see Briefs, page 23

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Letters

More feedback on Kensington Commons

Reference [see "Kensington Commons, urban living fitting into a community," Vol.7, Issue 9]. After reading the article, I decided to visit the project; the overall impression was not good. Santa Barbara residents would be appalled to hear this project described as Santa Barbara-style. And the rather bland architecture certainly doesn't reflect the more exemplary architecture to the west. I assume the building was photographed at a distance in an attempt to mask the facade. And I assume it was photographed from Marlborough rather than from Edgeware in order not to show the 34 SDG&E meters lined up along Edgeware — certainly not pedestrian-friendly. The project sets a low bar for implementing the City of Villages. I hope the city does better in the future. And, furthermore, the project does nothing to stunt outward sprawl. No property has been removed from the market and no plans in the County have been revised in conjunction with the approval of this project. —Dave Potter The letter from Hugh and Frances Kamen is greatly appreciated. I am amazed at the distorted promotions of Kensington Commons. It certainly does NOT fit at all with the historic Kensington neighborhood. And it was defi-

nitely not approved by any majority of Kensington residents. The massive profit-producing project has created serious traffic and parking problems and its largest business on the property has not yet opened. Apparently, neither the developers nor the city have any commitment to mitigate these concerns.

—Hollis Allen, Kensington resident



Reader Dave Potter doesn't like seeing 34 meters on Kensington Commons building fronting Edgeware. (Courtesy of Dave Potter)

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John Pearson built a Revival-style home at 3544 Mississippi St. in 1926 (left) and a Craftsman-style house at 3593 29th St. in 1925. (Photos by Katherine Hon) Pear (left) and John Pearson enjoy a picnic on a San Diego beach. (Courtesy of Kari Koskinen)

Pauly's Addition: an early North Park subdivision

By Katherine Hon

If you think North Park south of University Avenue is a crazy quilt of mismatched streets and block configurations, you are correct. The patchwork of subdivisions ("tracts") resulted from various landowners designing their paper kingdoms as they liked and filing subdivision maps at different times.

One of the first areas to be mapped extended from Alabama to Boundary streets between University Avenue and Upas Street. In the early 1870s, two pioneer merchants, Aaron Pauly and Joseph Nash,

and the city trustees created three subdivisions on the three pueblo lots that encompassed this area: Pauly's Addition, Park Villas and West End.

Pauly beat the city trustees by six weeks, filing his map for Pauly's Addition on April 1, 1873. The West End map was filed May 17, 1873. Although Joseph Nash had a map of his large Park Villas tract prepared in 1870, the official subdivision map was not filed until Oct. 14, 1887 because of an extensive legal dispute.

Pauly's Addition is bordered by Alabama and Arizona streets on the west and east, and by University Avenue and Upas Street on the north



and south. Individual lots originally measured 25 feet wide (fronting the north-south streets) by 125 feet deep, although lots were often sold in pairs to create 50 feet of street frontage decades later when development finally began in the early 1900s.

Pauly was born in 1812. He was an original "forty-niner" who came to California during the gold rush and moved to New Town San Diego in 1869 when the town was brand new. He set up a large and successful general merchandise store at the foot of Fifth Street, renting the wharf and store from Alonzo Horton. Pauly was the first president of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce. He ran his store — which later became an important supply center and assay office for Julian gold miners — with his sons Frederick and Charles. A young George Marston was an assistant bookkeeper in this store for

a year, and he took his meals at the Pauly home. Both Aaron and Charles entered the real estate business in 1875. Aaron Pauly died in 1900, just before his subdivision began to fill with homes. His son Charles died in 1925, when development in Pauly's Addition was thriving.

One of the first building permits in Pauly's Addition was issued on Feb. 2, 1910 for a house built by F.L. Edwards on the northeast corner of Texas Street at Landis Street. This rambling bungalow still graces the corner. Many master builders worked in the tract, including Alexander Schreiber, Edward F. Bryans, and the team of Ralph Hurlburt and Charles Tifal.

Certain builders had a particular fondness for Pauly's Addition. John Pearson obtained a building permit for a Spanish Revival house at 3435 Texas St. on Oct. 19, 1925, and permits for four similar houses on Mississippi Street in successive years, at 3544 on June 28, 1926; at 3530 on Dec. 1, 1926; at 3536 on March 21, 1927 (his family home); and at 3575 on Jan. 23, 1928.

John Pearson was the older brother of master builder Pear Pearson. The brothers were born Johan and Per Olsson in Espelunden, Sweden in 1885 and 1887, respectively. Johan came to the United States in 1904, and Per followed in 1905, where they both "Americanized" their first names and changed their last name to Pearson. The brothers lived in Denver, then came to San Diego in the early 1920s with their families. John Pearson lived in North Park homes, several of which he built, the rest of his life. He died in 1952 at age 67.

Although John Pearson is not recognized by the city as a master builder, he was responsible for many high-quality bungalows reflecting

various architectural styles and finely detailed interiors. Several of his Craftsman homes reflect his Swedish heritage with rounded porch columns and intricately scrolled eaves and rafters. An especially attractive example of his work is 3593 29th St. built in June 1925, which has been designated individually significant for both its Craftsman exterior and elements of its interior.

The North Park Historical Society (NPHS) plans to nominate John Pearson as a master builder. The nomination to the City Historical Resources Board will need to include his history and a compilation of the homes he built. Basic information has come from Pear Pearson's granddaughter, Kari Koskinen, and building permit records compiled by the late Donald Covington. NPHS invites anyone who has information about John Pearson or a house that he built to contact Katherine Hon at info@northparkhistory.org or 619-294-8990.

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



Elsa and John Pearson (left) and their young daughter Ruth pose for a portrait with Helen and Pear Pearson (right) in Denver, circa 1910. (Courtesy of Kari Koskinen)

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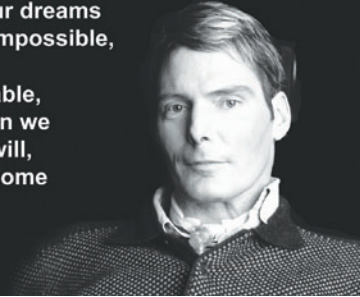
FROM PAGE 1
REEVE

diverse study group.

“Our mission is to prove the effectiveness of epidural stimulation and challenge the notion that the spinal cord, once damaged, can’t be repaired,” said Deborah Flynn, the foundation’s western regional

[THE BIG IDEA]

So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable.



An inspirational message from Christopher Reeve.
(Courtesy of Team Reeve)

director. “Funds will recruit 36 new participants to undergo epidural stimulation while collecting data to expedite therapy to the clinic where it could benefit many more; but it all starts with the next 36.”

“The Big Idea is more than a chance to support critical research,” said Stevie Hutchinson, the foundation’s projects and development manager. “It’s an opportunity to mobilize and transform lives. Fifteen million dollars will fast-track the most promising paralysis research to date – epidural stimulation – to reverse the damaging and life-threatening conditions associated with paralysis.”

The Reeve Foundation believes that The Big Idea will redefine what it means to live with spinal cord injury and positively alter the lives of patients who are dealing with multiple sclerosis, Lou Gehrig’s disease (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS) or strokes. This five-year study will also work with the FDA and other federal agencies to optimize the translation of its findings to clinical settings.

Olympic champion Amy Van Dyken-Rouen is captain of Team Reeve. The six-time gold medal winner survived an ATV accident in 2014 that severed her spinal cord and paralyzed her from the waist down. According to Team Reeve, “In the months that followed her accident, Dyken-Rouen used her injury as a platform to address the realities of living with spinal cord injury and the complexities of navi-

gating the health care system.”

“As an Olympian and even more recently with my injury, I’ve learned that teamwork is paramount to success,” Van Dyken-Rouen said. “To truly make a difference — to change the world — we need to unite and charge towards the finish line. If my story inspires even one person to join Team Reeve, we will be one person stronger to advance our collective mission of discovering cures for spinal cord injury.”

Team Reeve, a growing initiative sponsored by volunteer steering committees, hosts athletic events to raise money and awareness through communities and corporations. Chapter activities also include education and media outreach to trauma and rehabilitation centers, Quality of Life recipients and

the scientific community.

“This is a philanthropic endeavor that can change the world,” Flynn said. “Never stop moving, never stop hoping and together we will find the cures that so many people need.”

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



The medal awarded to marathon winners (Courtesy of Suja Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon)

Runners must register for the Suja Rock ‘n’ Roll San Diego Marathon, held May 31, before signing in as Team Reeve San Diego All Stars. A one-time \$25 Team Reeve registration fee will subsidize a personal fundraising web page. Participants who raise \$250 will be reimbursed for their \$25 website registration fee. Team Reeve All Star Runners will also receive a Team Reeve performance shirt and a press kit. To register for the event, contact Stevie Hutchinson at shutchinson@christophereeve.org. Visit wreevebigidea.org for more information on The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation.

Team Reeve will also run in the 5k Team Reeve Run on May 30 at Balboa Park.

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Mary Murphy is all smiles May 16 as her Mary Murphy Champion Ballroom dance studio celebrated its 25th anniversary in Hillcrest. (Courtesy of Kash Photo)

Mary Murphy's Champion Ballroom Academy celebrates 25 years

By Kai Oliver-Kurtin

Twice a year, Mary Murphy's Champion Ballroom Academy in Hillcrest holds dance performances to showcase the talent of its students and instructors. To celebrate the studio's 25th anniversary, Murphy hosted what she called one

of the best shows she's ever had at Champion Ballroom on May 16.

At this sold-out event, dancers of all ages from children to senior citizens performed in every genre of ballroom dance. Students took center stage during the first act, some partnered with their instructors, before the professional dancers stole the floor.

Owner Mary Murphy, a former competitive ballroom dancer, is best known for her role as a judge and choreographer on the Fox TV show "So You Think You Can Dance." Murphy emceed the event, telling the crowd: "Year after year I've had to listen to people say, 'Oh, she's closing down; the



Ballroom student Alina Golubchik dances the cha-cha with instructor Sergey Kvashyn, a five-time Ukraine champion and World semi-finalist in international and Latin ballroom. (Courtesy of Kash Photo)

studio is going under,' and now here we are 25 years later."

"After 25 years, the level of the growth in the business and the quality of dancing has just been tremendous," Murphy said.

Murphy, a Carlsbad resident, holds annual Halloween and anniversary bashes at the studio. She also runs two national dance competitions, the Holiday Dance Classic in Las Vegas and the Hollywood DanceSport championships in Los Angeles.

"So outside of everything else I do in the studio, these two events are really all I have time for," Murphy said. "I try to do two, and do them well."

The Champion Ballroom is in Hillcrest (3580 Fifth Ave., second floor), where Murphy found it filled with office spaces in 1990. After examining the building plans, she had the offices ripped down and a state-of-the-art maple dance floor put in their place. She bought the

building in 2008 but didn't own the land until later.

"I felt like if we build it, [the studio] they will come," Murphy said. "I built the biggest standing floor in Southern California with no poles in it, and I researched and I built the best dance floor."

"Professional dancers, when they come here, they're actually spoiled," she said.

The Season 10 male winner of "So You Think You Can Dance," Du-Shaunt "Fik-Shun" Stegall, was a special guest performer during the 24th and 25th anniversary showcases at Champion Ballroom.

"The energy and the people here are so welcoming," Stegall said. "Since the show, it's cool to be here and still interact with Mary—she's an awesome person and really brings the entertainment."

Even with Murphy's demanding schedule, she spends a lot of time at the studio and still offers private lessons for select clients. The instructors she has hired at the studio are professional dancers with impressive competitive dance titles.

Private and group lessons are available in international-style ballroom and Latin; American-style ballroom (smooth and rhythm); salsa and Latin styles (Argentine tango, Bachata and Merengue); social dances (West Coast Swing, hustle/disco); theatrical dance (exhibition dancing/cabaret); ballet; and wedding dances.

New clients can take advantage of a \$49 introductory package that includes two private lessons and one group class. For more information, visit championballroom.com.

—Kai Oliver-Kurtin is a local freelance writer who enjoys covering events, restaurant news, culture and entertainment. Contact her at kai.sdnnews@gmail.com.

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Changing of the guard

Normal Heights-based Young Audiences of San Diego hires new executive director

By Margie M. Palmer

Young Audiences of San Diego (YASD) has selected Tara Graviss as its new executive director. Graviss replaces Felicia Shaw, the interim executive director who left to join the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission earlier this month.

Based in Normal Heights, YASD has spent the past 50 years dedicating its mission to helping make sure that arts education is available to children within the region. Board chair Cathy Stephenson said that because of this, the organization searched long and hard to find someone who was well-rounded, passionate about the arts, and had fundraising and management experience.

"Young Audiences of San Diego inspires children to imagine a world, and to create a world through the arts and different arts forms," Stephenson said. "It was really important to us to hire someone who understood our background but could also help communicate our passion to potential funders."

The official search began last November, she said, and although their focus was primarily regional, they did entertain a few candidates who were located outside of the immediate area.

"There were a few who were really interested and who had the ability to come to San Diego and hit the position from the ground running because they already knew our partner school system and our arts partners," Stephenson said, noting that although the organization worked its way through several rounds of interviews with highly qualified finalists, they believed Graviss was the best fit.

The new executive director's resume includes over 15 years of executive planning, administration, communications and marketing experience in the nonprofit sector. Her nonprofit background includes leadership roles at Sylvan Learning Centers, A Reason to Survive, and the Center for Community Solutions. She expects to receive her master's degree in expressive arts therapy in June 2016.

Graviss, who noted she has been volunteering in arts and arts education for about as long as she can remember, became involved with YASD in 2011 after learning that the organization was looking to fill a vacancy on the board of directors.

Throughout her tenure in that role, she ran YASD's annual fundraiser on three occasions; each year, she helped increase their gross and net funding and was also able to help bring in a handful of corporate sponsorships that the organization did not previously have.

Once Graviss realized the executive director's position was available and she had an interest in pursuing it, she recused herself from the board and tossed her hat into the ring.

"For me, it's about following my passions and calling. I was really involved in YASD for

several years and it really felt like the stars aligned," she said. "I'm excited to be a part of it and am lucky that I get to do something I'm so passionate about full-time."

She and Stephenson said they are very much looking forward to the path ahead.

"There are still a lot of people outside of the arts education community that don't know who we are. It's our hope to expand our pro-

file and our footprint so that more people know about what we're doing and so we can ultimately serve more children," Stephenson said. "I really feel [Tara] is well-equipped to do a wonderful job and we're just delighted that she is at the helm."

"We are already working on collaborations with the San Diego Unified School District as well as the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture,"



Tara Graviss is the new executive director of Young Audiences of San Diego, based in Normal Heights. (Courtesy of YASD)

Graviss said. "Once we have our infrastructure down, we'll be moving forward with some other ideas, and will continue to work to serve children in San Diego the best way we can."

—Margie M. Palmer is a San Diego-based freelance writer who has been racking up bylines in a myriad of news publications for the past 10 years. You can reach her at margiep@alumni.pitt.edu. ♦



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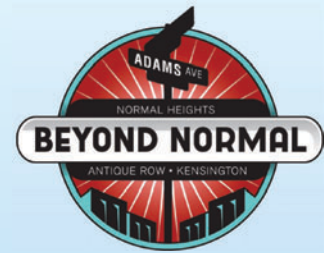
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For 5-7 year olds. In this camp we will be targeting all the necessary skills for literacy development. These include phonemic awareness (rhyming, blending, segmenting, substituting, etc.) as well as narrative language and story retelling development, 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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The all-American boy who had a deep, dark secret

Closeted actor's life revealed in documentary coming to FilmOut

Ken Williams | Editor

Actor Tab Hunter had it all: movie star and pop music idol. But his secret nearly put an end to his amazing career before it started. A new documentary reveals it all.

With his boy-next-door good looks, Tab Hunter was arguably the hottest teen idol of the 1950s, a hit at the movie box office and a pop singer who once knocked Elvis, the "king of rock 'n' roll," off the top of the Billboard charts.

For all the fame and fortune that came his way, Hunter hated the spotlight and fiercely guarded his privacy. And he had good reason: He was gay at a time in history when homosexuality was considered a mental illness in the U.S. and when gays and lesbians were routinely harassed or arrested by police.

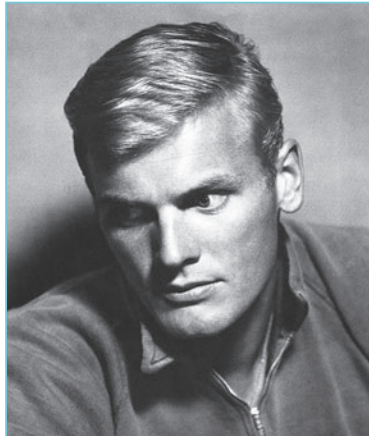
A gay scandal nearly derailed Hunter's promising career before it got started, when his former agent betrayed him like Judas to protect his hot new client, Rock Hudson, from being outed as a homosexual.

All of this, and so much more, are revealed in the fascinating documentary, "Tab Hunter Confidential," the Opening Night attraction at FilmOut San Diego's 17th annual LGBT Film Festival.

The documentary — based on Hunter's bestselling 2005 memoir in which he publicly came out as gay after a lifetime of rumors — was directed by Jeffrey Schwarz and produced by Allan Glaser, Hunter's longtime partner.

Hunter, Glaser and Schwarz will attend Opening Night at 7 p.m.

May 29 at Observatory North Park and the legendary actor will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the FilmOut board of directors.



Tab Hunter was known as the all-American boy. (Courtesy of "Tab Hunter Confidential")

"Tab Hunter Confidential" is the Opening Night selection at the 17th annual FilmOut San Diego LGBT Film Festival at 7 p.m. May 29 at Observatory North Park theater. For tickets or more information, visit filmoutsandiego.com.

At age 83, Hunter has given up on Hollywood but not forgotten the great memories.

"I was never really comfortable in the public eye," he said, explaining how his strict German Catholic mother encouraged modesty, or

"nothing for show."

Hunter lives in Montecito in Santa Barbara County, California, where he enjoys the quiet life with Glaser and dotes on his beloved horses. He's been a horseman since he was a teenager, and as a stable boy was befriended by actor Dick Clayton. It was Clayton who encouraged the handsome young man to get into acting and who would eventually become his long-time agent and confidante.

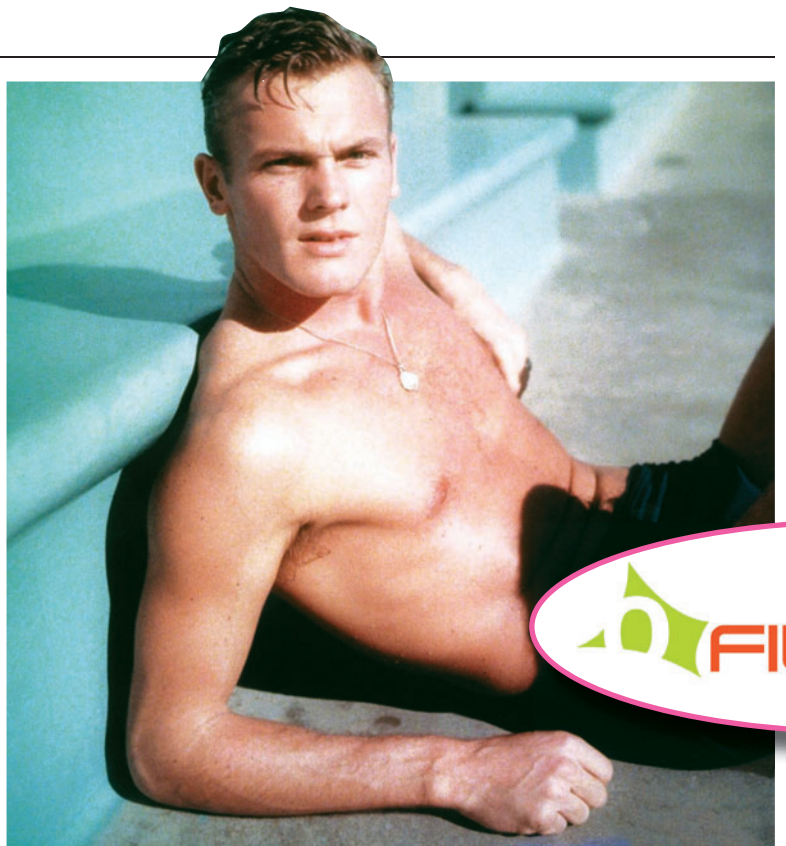
In a free-flowing conversation with San Diego Uptown News, Hunter recalls the glory years when he was close pals with sexy stars such as Natalie Wood, Debbie Reynolds and Sophia Loren — red-hot actresses in the 1950s with whom he was romantically linked — but in effect they were all "beards" to help hide his homosexuality.

"Natalie was so sweet," Hunter said. "She was a great kid. She was like my little sister."

In those days, the major studios ruled Hollywood and actors were groomed to fit a clichéd image. Hunter was 6 feet tall, athletic, blue-eyed and looked like a blond surfer, so the studio knew he would make the girls swoon. Warner Bros. dubbed him "The Sigh Guy," probably because all the teenage girls sighed whenever they saw him on the big screen or performing his hit songs.

"I was the all-American boy," Hunter said, "and James Dean was the rebel."

The big studios went to great lengths to protect their investments, and Warner Bros. executives must have fainted when a



Tab Hunter once ruled both the box office and the Billboard charts, but his fabulous career was almost derailed when he was arrested in 1950. (Courtesy of "Tab Hunter Confidential")

scandalous Tinsel Town magazine called Confidential published a report revealing that Hunter was once arrested at a "pajama party" in 1950 in LA along with other gays and lesbians.

Hunter described the PJ party as fairly innocent by today's standards, with gay guys drinking and dancing together around a pool along with some lesbians. In his case, he was in his late teens, not of legal drinking age. He originally was charged with "idle, lewd or dissolute conduct" and that charge was reduced to "disorderly conduct" and he was fined \$50, according to imdb.com.

For about two weeks after the

Confidential expose, "I was a nervous wreck," Hunter recalled. Then a major poll came out, revealing that "The Sigh Guy" had won the audience award for best newcomer.

"And that was it," Hunter said. "The fans didn't care. And I never thought about it again."

The incident, which could have trashed his blossoming career, did not stop Hunter from his romantic adventures with famous men. He fell madly in love with Olympic ice skater Ronnie Robertson, then later had a "wonderful relationship" with hot new actor Anthony Perkins ("Psycho"). He also mentioned a fling with Russian ballet great Rudolf Nureyev and actor Scott Marlowe. Since 1983, he has been partnered with Glaser, a producer with whom he made the cult classic, "Lust in the Dust" (1985), and "Dark Horse" (1992) and now "Tab Hunter Confidential."

Hunter is "really pleased at the great reception" the documentary has received at film festivals since it has its world premiere at South by Southwest (SXSW) in Austin, Texas.

"I guess people can relate to it," he said, noting that he had not seen the film on the big screen until he watched it recently at a festival in Seattle.

He said he enjoyed watching the old clips from his movies and the archival interviews with his former co-stars that are included in the documentary.

"I look at it as my past life," Hunter said, enjoying a good laugh. "I've been there, I've done that."

A conversation with Hunter inevitably comes down to an easy name-dropping of all the wonderful stars he crossed paths with: James Dean, Jane Fonda, Burt Reynolds, Angie Dickerson, Natalie Wood and Robert Wagner, who he calls "RJ" as a sign of affection.

Hunter was romantically linked to Wood at a time when his face was on the cover of every teen magazine in the country and his singing career was taking off. In 1957, Hunter's single, "Young Love," climbed to No. 1 on the music charts and he knocked Elvis down a peg.

"Natalie was going out with Elvis for a while, before she met RJ," he recalled. "She said Elvis wasn't happy that I used his backup singers on my record!"

If only Elvis knew Hunter's big secret.

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

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Clockwise from bottom left: Meg Gibson, Carolyn Michelle Smith, Lauren Blumenfeld, and JD Taylor. Actor photos by Jim Cox.



(l-r) Zachary Quinto and James Franco share a somber moment in the movie, "I Am Michael," which will close FilmOut this year. (Courtesy of "I Am Michael")

Stranger than fiction

Director discusses film that profiles an LGBT activist who becomes an anti-gay preacher

Ken Williams | Editor

In a true story that seems more like fiction, "I Am Michael" — FilmOut San Diego's Closing Night showcase — delves into an LGBT-rights activist's shocking religious transformation into an outspoken anti-gay Christian preacher.

Michael Glatze, a charismatic Dartmouth graduate with a degree in English literature and creative writing, eagerly advocates for gay rights as co-founder of Young Gay America and YGA magazine. Michael and his longtime partner, Bennett, live the typical gay life in San Francisco, partying with the boys until dawn. But when Bennett, an architect, takes a job in New England, Michael reluctantly comes along, setting the stage for a remarkable and almost unbelievable change after a health scare forces Michael to confront his mortality. After withdrawing from his partner and friends and agonizing within, Michael suddenly renounces his homosexuality and embraces evangelical Christianity and its anti-gay bigotry.

The controversial film premiered with considerable buzz earlier this year at Sundance. It stars James Franco as Michael and Zachary Quinto as Bennett. The cast includes Charlie Carver as the young Tyler, who would become part of a "thruple," or a three-way relationship, and Emma Roberts as the young woman Michael would eventually marry. Look for memorable supporting roles performed by Daryl Hannah, Leslie Ann Warren and others.

"I Am Michael" is inspired by a 2011 New York Times Magazine article titled "My Ex-Gay Friend," written by Benoit Denizet-Lewis. The article generated a national dialogue, catching the attention of James Franco and his production company, and they optioned the material for a possible movie.

Justin Kelly then came aboard as co-writer with Stacy Miller, and he would go on to direct the movie under the mentorship of the legendary director Gus Van Sant.

Kelly told Gay San Diego that the creative team took great pains to be as fair as possible in telling

Michael's complicated story. Both Kelly and Van Sant are openly gay, so they wanted to keep their personal feelings in the background.

"The goal from day one — me, Gus, James — was to take a neutral, non-judgmental approach to telling the story," Kelly said.

At a time when LGBT issues are moving forward at a staggering speed — from gay marriage argued this spring at the U.S. Supreme

I didn't grow up with a religious background. I grew up with John Waters as an idol."

After meeting Michael and interviewing his ex-partners and friends, Kelly came away with a series of clues about why he believes the religious transformation occurred. This is the heart of the movie. The one thing that struck him was that Michael did not change his sexual orientation because of "ex-gay" therapy.

"He didn't go through conversion therapy," Kelly said.

Franco seemed the perfect choice to play the role of Michael; Kelly said they share the same charisma and a common smile.

"With James onboard, I thought Zach was a great fit," he said. "Being a gay actor was a bonus. I love having an out gay actor play the part of Bennett."

Quinto, who has perfected the art of playing the villain in movies and on television, is cast against type and playing a softer character in "I Am Michael." Kelly marveled at how Quinto grasped the character of Bennett and "made him a real guy."

In the movie, Michael cannot terminate his emotional connection to Bennett even after he declares he is a heterosexual and marries a woman he meets at the seminary. Many viewers will wonder if Michael truly is the man he claims to be, as it raises the tantalizing issue about the fluidity of human sexuality where not everyone is 100 percent straight or 100 percent gay.

Kelly notes the hot-topic debate of "choice" vs. "born that way" when it comes to sexuality. He thinks it is a superficial argument when there are still places worldwide where people can be stoned to death simply for being gay or accused of being gay.

The film's story ends in 2013, when Michael was still proselytizing



(l-r) Charlie Carver and Zachary Quinto become romantically linked in "I Am Michael." (Courtesy of "I Am Michael.")

Court, Olympic hero Bruce Jenner coming out as transgender, and U.S. states beginning to ban "ex-gay" therapy as junk science — a film like "I Am Michael" appears timely and relevant.

Kelly said the filmmakers' goal was less about sending a message and more about starting a conversation between people who support the LGBT community and those who don't really understand the issues.

"The film is really about the power of religion and belief," Kelly said.

In Michael's case, the fear of dying triggered a search for the meaning of life and an unquenchable thirst for faith. Just as Michael had poured his heart and soul into fighting for gay rights, he suddenly switched gears and devoted all his energy into his newfound fundamentalist religion.

In doing research to write the script, Kelly went to Wyoming to meet Michael, who at the time was still studying at a seminary. Michael showed up at the meeting, holding a Bible, spouting anti-gay rhetoric.

"It was very bizarre to me, very intense," Kelly said. "I'm gay.



James Franco plays Michael Glatze, an LGBT activist who becomes an anti-gay preacher. (Courtesy of "I Am Michael")

"I Am Michael" will be shown at 7 p.m. May 31 at FilmOut San Diego LGBT Film Festival at Observatory North Park theater. For tickets or more information, visit filmoutsandiego.com.

ing against homosexuality. Two years later, Michael has apparently toned down his rhetoric.

"He is no longer anti-gay because of this film," Kelly explained.

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

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By FilmOut San Diego

Friday, May 29, 7 p.m. – OPENING NIGHT

"Tab Hunter Confidential" — California premiere
2015, directed by Jeffrey Schwarz, U.S., 92 minutes

In the 1950s, Tab Hunter was No. 1 at the box office and on the music charts. He was Hollywood's hottest star and America's "boy next door" idol. Romantically linked to Natalie Wood, Debbie Reynolds and Sophia Loren, nothing could damage Tab Hunter's career. Nothing, it seems, except that Tab Hunter is secretly gay. In the documentary, the real Tab Hunter for the first time shares his story as a happy, healthy survivor of the Hollywood rollercoaster. Appearances by Debbie Reynolds, Lainie Kazan, John Waters, Connie Stevens, Clint Eastwood, Robert Wagner, George Takei and a multitude of archival interviews.

Trailer: youtube.com/watch?v=CKrhI2una2w

With: "Bendick & The Monster"

2014, directed by Frank Mosvold, Norway, 10 minutes
In this animated short, a boy encounters a monster underneath his bed who dreams of being a cabaret singer. Bendik helps the monster follow his dreams, while the monster helps Bendik with his mother's overbearing boyfriend. It's a touching story of finding yourself and challenging preconceived expectations of identity.

With: "Tom In America"

2014, directed by Flavio Alves, U.S./Brazil, 16 minutes
For 50 years, Michael (Oscar nominee Burt Young) and Betty (Oscar nominee Sally Kirkland) have been united by one guiding principle: no secrets. But when a provocative Tom of Finland doll triggers Michael's long-buried desires, Betty discovers that secrets have been part of their life all along.

Saturday, May 30, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sponsored by SDGLN/SDPIX
11 a.m. **"Best of LGBT Shorts"**
Short 1: **"Safe Word"**

2014, directed by Todd Lillethun, U.S., 16 minutes
A gay couple decides to spice up their relationship but find themselves in peril when fantasy and reality start to blur in this comedic thriller.

Short 2: "Captive" — West Coast premiere

2015, directed by Michael Noonan, Australia, 6 minutes
A confused old man receives a disturbing leaflet in the mail and realizes that his name, his home – and the one he calls "soul mate" – are not what they appear to be.

Short 3: "09:55 — 11:05, Ingrid Ekman, Bergsgatan 48"

2014, directed by Cristine Berglund, Sophie Vukovic, Sweden, 15 minutes
As 67-year-old Ingrid retreats from the outside world to deal with cancer, a younger home-care employee named Frida knocks on her door and awakens feelings that Ingrid can't shut out.

Short 4: "Pipe Dream"

2015, directed by Yudho Aditya, U.S./Indonesia, 14 minutes
16-year-old resident nerd, Peter Epstein-Takahashi, worries that his penis is too small and struggles to make it bigger before his first BJ.

Short 5: "Eden" — West Coast premiere

2014, directed by Fábio Freitas, Portugal, 12 minutes
"And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed." – Genesis 2:8. In this contemporary portrayal, João and Pedro live in this idyllic garden. However what João wants the most is for Pedro to be happy and the only way he found to make that happen is to support him in his escape with Sara. On the other hand, Pedro learned how to love João and does not want to leave the garden. But one of them ate the forbidden fruit.

Short 6: "An Afternoon" — West Coast premiere

2014, directed by Søren Green, Denmark, 8 minutes
Mathias has decided that "today is the day" to tell Frederik that he is in love with him. But when the time comes, will he be ready to make the first move?

Short 7: "Plunge" — West Coast Premiere

2015, directed by Kate Lefoe, Australia, 6 minutes
A romantic day trip is shrouded in mystery as the relationship of two young women is revealed.

Short 8: "Off A Cliff"

2014, directed by Cédric Jouarie, Taiwan, 5 minutes
Jhongwei has something important to say to Damon, his boyfriend, but the time isn't right. Then again, is it ever?

Short 9: "Sex Date"

2014, directed by John Sobrack, U.S., 16 minutes
In a case of mistaken identity gone right, Randall, who is being pursued by the law, finds more than refuge when Kenton mistakes him for his hook-up.

1 p.m.

"How To Win At Checkers (Every Time)"

2015, directed by Josh Kim, Thailand/U.S./Indonesia, 80 minutes
Young Oat (Ingkarat Damrongsakul) faces an uncertain future when his older, gay brother Ek (Thira Chutikul) must submit to Thailand's annual military draft lottery. While the parents of Ek's wealthy boyfriend Jai (Arthur Navarat) are able to maneuver their son out of the draw, Ek has no options. Unable to convince his brother to do whatever he can to change his fate, Oat takes matters into his own hands resulting in unexpected consequences. The film is set in the economic fringes of Bangkok and examines the joys and challenges of growing up in contemporary Thailand.

Trailer: youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=mxRWBi5WZFE

With: "Pepper"

2014, directed by Marc Cleary & Craig Robert Young, U.S., 18 minutes
When an experienced drag queen encounters a lost boy outside her club, Pepper is reminded of the importance of family with her own estranged son.

3 p.m. — FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHT

"Gameface" — California premiere
2014, directed by Michiel Thomas, U.S./Belgium, 99 minutes
This moving documentary shows the quest for self-



"In the Turn" profiles Crystal, a 10-year-old transgender girl, and how the Vagine Regime embraced her. (Courtesy of "In The Turn")

The 17th annual FilmOut San Diego LGBT Film Festival runs May 29-31 at the Observatory North Park. For tickets or more information, visit filmoutsandiego.com.

realization of LGBT athletes and their acceptance in society. Following the parallel stories of athletes Fallon Fox (MMAs first transgender pro fighter) and Terrence Clemens (a rising gay college basketball player in Oklahoma) during their coming out process, "Game Face" sheds light on the obstacles LGBT athletes face throughout their career.

Trailer: youtube.com/watch?v=SHKx9evsC-M

5:15 p.m.

"BFFs"

2014, directed by Andrew Putschoegl, U.S., 90 minutes
One of the funniest films of the festival, BFFs Kat (Tara Karsian) and Samantha (Andrea Grano) have been gifted a weekend vacation to a couple's retreat. The only problem... the single women are straight! Needing a vacation, they find themselves immersed in an intensive workshop with gay and straight couples fighting to save their relationships. In the process, the lines of friendship begin to blur as they are faced with asking themselves: Could there be something more than just Best Friends Forever? The film also stars television veteran actors, Richard Moll, Jenny O'Hara and Pat Carroll.

Trailer: youtube.com/watch?v=LSNALNfTMIQ

With: "Bachelorette"

2013, directed by Anna Linke, Germany, 15 minutes
While celebrating a friend's bachelorette party, Stefanie shockingly surprises the entire group with whom she finds more intriguing.

7:30 p.m. — BOYS CENTERPIECE

"Paternity Leave" — West Coast premiere

2015, directed by Matt Riddlehoover, U.S., 90 minutes
Caught in a moment of passion on the eve of their 4-year anniversary, Greg (Jacob York) soon begins feeling nauseated, fatigued, and moody and - most unfortunately - fat. At his wit's end - his boyfriend Ken (Charlie David) insists he see a doctor who's stumped and refers the couple to a specialist. To every-one's amazement, Greg is pregnant! Shock, stress, and fear settle in, and Greg's relationship gets put to the ultimate test in this delightfully funny rom-com. With Chris Salvatore.

Trailer Clip: youtube.com/watch?v=MDWjEp1mIU

With: "The Cream" — West Coast premiere

2014, directed by Jean-Marie Villeneuve, France, 8 minutes
Gilbert, a quirky young man, is out for a Sunday jog in the forest. When a muscular, athletic man passes him at tremendous speeds, Gilbert is left confused, curious and ultimately aroused by his secret.

With: "You. Me. Bathroom. Sex. Now." —

West Coast Premiere
2015, directed by Francisco Lupini-Basagoiti, U.S./Spain/Venezuela, 17 minutes

When Antonio discovers his boyfriend of eight years is cheating on him, he decides to find solace amongst friends: an outrageous drag queen, a wisecracking older man, and one sexy stranger at the neighborhood dive bar. It's a comedy about a man trying to forget about love, in all the wrong places.

10 p.m.

"Seed Money: The Chuck Holmes Story" —

West Coast premiere
2015, directed by Michael Stabile, U.S., 70 minutes
This documentary is a revealing look at Chuck Holmes, San Francisco Falcon Studio's founder/pornographer turned philanthropist. Holmes helped shape and create gay identity in the years after Stonewall, and became a founder of gay rights advocacy groups like the Human Rights Campaign and the LGBT Victory Fund ... only to find later in life that while his philanthropic money was welcome, he wasn't. Appearances by John Waters, Jeff Stryker, Chi-Chi La Rue, Holly Woodlawn, Jake Shears, Zak Spears and John Rutherford. This film contains nudity and scenes of sexual situations

With: "Hole" — California premiere

2015, directed by Tony Radevski, Australia, 5 minutes
Two men share an unlikely encounter at a bathroom gloryhole in this insightful animated short.

With: "Midnight" — West Coast premiere

2015, directed by Ted Wilkinson, U.S., 22 minutes
Shane (Sean Paul Lockhart) and Aiden (Anderson Goncalves) are a couple who decide to try an open relationship. As one-on-one encounters turn into group orgies ... will their experiment broaden their horizons, or lead to mistrust and paranoia?

Sunday, May 31, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sponsored by San Diego Uptown News/Gay San Diego 11 a.m.

"WASP" — California premiere

2014, directed by Philippe Audi-Dor, United Kingdom/France/Lebanon/Switzerland, 72 minutes

Having left England for a romantic escapade in the south of France, Olivier (Simon Haycock) and James (Hugo Bolton) invite Caroline (Elly Condon) along at the last minute. The trio arrives in a little Provencal village, somewhat cut off from the world. Though everything seems calm between the pool, sunshine and a village visit, Olivier finds himself more and more

intrigued by Caroline. A tension of sexual jealousy and possessiveness inevitably escalates between the three of them.

Trailer: youtube.com/watch?v=bMV2SL4hmqs

With: "Little Secrets" —

California premiere
2014, directed by Remo Kaufmann, Germany, 20 minutes
While accompanying his girlfriend at a birthday party, Tim recognizes a male lover from years past. They try to hide ancient secrets, but things seem to spin out of control as the evening progresses in this dramatic short film.

1 p.m. - GIRLS CENTERPIECE

"In The Turn" — California premiere

2014, directed by Erica Tremblay, U.S., 91 minutes
The documentary follows Crystal, a 10-year-old transgender girl, as she navigates growing up in rural Canada. After being denied the right to join athletics due to her gender, Crystal serendipitously discovers the Vagine Regime, an international queer collective of roller derby players comprised of people of all shapes, sizes, backgrounds and identities. The Vagine Regime not only accepts Crystal, but actively supports her journey. The film weaves Crystal's story into the broader narrative of the evolution of roller derby from a niche sport into a social movement with strong roots in the LGBTQ community.

Trailer: youtube.com/watch?v=ONcmU6pF2Fw

With: "cONSensual" —

West Coast premiere
2015, directed by Jaymee Carvajal, U.S., 1 minute
A "One Night Stand" (ONS) is used as a destigmatizing tool against the shame and guilt of exploring female sexuality in this stylized encounter that's simply Flawless.

3 p.m. — INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

"Drown"

2015, directed by Dean Francis, Australia, 93 minutes
Sundrenched lifeguards, Sydney beaches, male competitiveness and jealousy frame this tense and gripping Australian drama. Surf lifesaving champion Len (Matt Levett) is a legend in the cloistered surf club until the arrival of younger, faster, fitter and openly gay Phil (Jack Matthews). Through the summer, Len's enraged reaction to Phil begins to reveal his own confusion about his own sexuality climaxing in an intoxicated evening filled with jealousy, homophobic fear and unrequited lust. Can Len accept his identity, or will he only bury it? Warning: This film contains graphic depictions of homophobic violence.

Trailer: youtube.com/watch?v=czB_EDA2rPg

With: "Want It" — West Coast premiere

2015, directed by Lee Haven-Jones, United Kingdom, 11 minutes
When the owner of a luxurious home returns unexpectedly to find an intruder...the tables are turned, and the intruder finds himself naked and powerless.

5 p.m.

"Jess & James" — U.S. premiere

2015, directed by Santiago Giral, Argentina, 90 minutes
In this sexually-charged, road-trip, coming-of-age tale, Jess (Martin Karich) and James (Nicolas Romeo) feel trapped in their lives. After meeting for a sexual encounter, the two young men set off on a spontaneous road trip across rural Argentina to reunite with Jess' estranged brother. On their journey, they confront strange occurrences and engage in a ménage à trois affair that brings them closer. Their newly found affection grows, all while discovering a fresh vision of freedom and happiness. This film contains graphic depictions of sex.

Trailer: youtube.com/watch?v=EGFNlqmMhIA&feature=player_embedded

With: "Ten Minutes Left" — U.S. premiere

2014, directed by Joris van den Berg, Netherlands, 7 minutes
Rodrigo is recently out and feeling a bit uncomfortable in a gay bar. As closing approaches, the music is switched off, house lights come on and Rodrigo starts to panic. He only has 10 minutes left to find his date!

7 p.m. — CLOSING NIGHT

"I Am Michael" — California premiere

2015, directed by Justin Kelly, U.S., 98 minutes
Based on a true story, the film depicts gay activist Michael Glatze (James Franco), the managing editor of popular queer San Francisco-based XY magazine as a proud gay man in a loving relationship with his partner Bennett (Zachary Quinto). After Glatze faces a health scare, he turns to Christianity and renounces his homosexuality, eventually becoming a Christian pastor and marrying Rebekah (Emma Roberts). Director Justin Kelly's piercing exploration is as compelling and complex as Michael's transformation. With Charlie Carver, Daryl Hannah and Leslie Ann Warren.

Trailer Clip: files.secureserver.net/0fuqEX08sRV/nib

With: "Tomorrow"

2014, directed by Leandro Tadashi, U.S., 11 minutes
New Year's Eve 1999 finds college-bound Clark and Trevor concerned about the future of their friendship, and a request for Clark to be Trevor's wingman ensures things will never be the same again. ♦

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Get Happy!**
Dr. Ink

What was previously the long-outdated Kelly’s Pub in Old Town is now an impressively remodeled drinking spot allowing us to tap into our inner child. Home & Away joins a growing trend of bars stocking their establishments with games. Unlike Tabletop Commons in Hillcrest, which opened recently with an inventory of 70-plus board games, or Coin-Op Game Room in North Park, known expressly for its video-arcade environment, H&A plays up the classics with pingpong, foosball, giant Jenga and darts. A small stack of board games enters into the mix as well, should you want to test your word skills in Scrabble while imbibing on classic cocktails and craft beer. There’s even a basketball hoop in the parking lot, which wasn’t in use when I visited during happy hour. The bar picked up shortly after 5 p.m., attracting a mix of all legal ages. An elderly woman to my left, dressed in black and sporting oversized sunglasses, ordered her usual vodka and tonic. On a high top

several feet away from the spacious bar, a 20-something couple engaged in a game of Cards Against Humanity while swigging suds by Green Flash Brewing Company. The large, outdoor smoking patio turned lively as well, as patrons looked onto a vigorous match of ping-pong played by two average Joes. The ball rarely bounced off the table. While pretty much ignoring several flat screens hanging behind the bar, each of them showing different sporting events, I eased into a “penicillin” cocktail priced at \$6. It’s among nine specialty cocktails that cost \$9 outside of happy hour. The lemon juice-infused scotch drink is a newcomer to the modern cocktail craze, dating to 2005, when it was supposedly introduced at Milk and Honey in New York City. Honey and ginger enter into the equation as well. Although here the bartender finishes the elixir with a few spritzes of Laphroaig mist, an herby single-malt whiskey that reminded me of hippy perfume as it clung invisibly to the rim of the glass. Quelling the drink’s kick, I ordered a basket of Tater Tots sprinkled with fresh parsley. They were as good as any – crispy on the outside, fluffy inside. But next time around, and with a few extra cocktails in my system, I’ll seize

Home & Away
2222 San Diego Ave.
(Old Town)
619-501-0522
Happy hour:
3 to 7 p.m.
Monday through Friday

upon the grilled cheese sandwich that flew past me a couple times. It’s made with gruyere, brie and Provolone and with “tomato spread” and basil to boot. The bar, which opened in February, brings to this southern end of San Diego Avenue a refreshed structure that became a dated eyesore when it was Kelly’s Pub. The new owners have given it a fresh paint job along with a newly built patio and window shutters flaunting live succulents between the louvers. Yes, there’s repurposed wood everywhere in the redesign, but in never-changing Old Town, the look is novel and inviting. ♦

RATINGS

DRINKS: ★★★★★

The cocktail list resurrects nine classic cocktails, some with modern alterations such as an Old Fashioned made with mezcal and honey and the not-so-dated “penicillin” accented with smoky Laphroaig mist.

FOOD: ★★★★★

A succinct menu spotlights wedge salads, burgers, wings and a gourmet grilled cheese sandwich made with Provolone, brie and gruyere. I ordered the Tater Tots, which were crispy and abundant.

VALUE: ★★★★★

Signature cocktails during happy hour drop from \$9 to \$6 apiece. For all other drinks, including craft drafts, you can shave off a buck.

SERVICE: ★★★★★

The bartender was quick to explain the happy hour bargains and took only a minute before making the drink I ordered. In addition, the Tater Tots came out in less than five minutes.

ATMOSPHERE: ★★★★★

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TRAVELER'S DEPOT

UPTOWN FOOD BRIEFS

BY FRANK SABATINI JR.

To everyone's shock, **Wang's North Park** abruptly ceased operations on May 19, alerting its fans in a Facebook post stating, "We are very sad to let you know that Wang's North Park has closed for business. Thank you all very much for the support you've shown us over the years. We really appreciate it and will miss the good times together." No explanation was given for the closure, and the building is reportedly up for sale. The 15,000-square-foot Asian fusion restaurant opened in November 2011 in a building that was originally home to the first free-standing JCPenny from the late 1950s to the mid-1970s. It was later occupied by Big Lots and REI before sitting empty for a few years.

We're told it will be another three months before **Dunedin** replaces the shuttered **Eddie's Philadelphia Steaks Hoagies and Burgers** in North Park. The restaurant, named after a surf town in New Zealand, will feature similar chow to that of its sister kitchens: **Ragland Public House** in Ocean Beach; **Queenstown Public House** in Little Italy and **Bareback Grill** in Pacific Beach. Look for a big selection of burgers, some crowned with Edam cheese and one made from lamb, plus Kiwi-inspired chicken sandwiches and rivers of beer and wine pulled from casks. 3501 30th St.



Stone Brewing Co. will sell prized releases before closing South Park tasting room. (Photo by Studi Schultz)

Chef Fred Piehl of **The Smoking Goat** in North Park recently took over the lease of nearby **Mosaic Wine Bar** for opening a second restaurant by early fall. "It won't be a French-bistro concept like The Smoking Goat, but rather something more casual and completely different," he told *San Diego Uptown News* during his preliminary formatting of the new kitchen and menu. Piehl hinted at California-style pizzas and a greater focus on locally sourced vegetables compared to the Goat's repertoire of meatier dishes. He has also begun settling on a name from "a shortlist of possibilities" while choosing a design firm capable of giving the space "a whole new look and feel." 3422 30th St.

Lack of outdoor space factored into **Stone Brewing Co.**'s decision to forgo renewing its lease at the **Stone Company Store-South Park**, according to company spokesperson Nickie Pena. The outlet, which opened in 2011, will cease operations on June 7. But as a show of customer appreciation, the tasting room will make available several special releases each day, beginning June 5, for a "Draft Tastic Finale." The offerings include a mix of Stone drafts and bottles on lauded brews such Barrel-Aged Brown Ale with Balaton Sour Cherries, Xocoveaz Mocha Stout, Spice Oddity, Guardian's Slumber and more. 2215 30th St., 619-501-3342.

A bevy of award-winning chefs from San Diego, Baja and beyond are teaming up for the newly launched Barrel Smoker dinner series, held the third Thursday of every month at **Planet Rooth Design Haus** in Bankers Hill. The dinners, hosted by chef and master craftsman Gustaf Anders Rooth, spotlight foods cooked in Rooth's inventive iQ Oak Barrel Smoker made of wine barrels. Each dinner will feature multiple courses prepared by a few different chefs — and with a guest winery or brewery taking part. The series kicked off May 21 with a family-style meal prepared by chefs Javier Plascencia, Flor Franco and Ricardo Heredia. Wines from Lomita Winery in Valle de Guadalupe were poured. For information on upcoming dinners, visit planet-rooth.com. Reservations are required. Tickets can be obtained on eventbrite.com, under Barrel Smoker dinner series. 3334 Fifth Ave., 619-297-9663.

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ELE Collective opened **Park & Rec** in University Heights on May 21, and follows with a series of grand-opening events scheduled over Memorial Day weekend, May 23-24. The cocktail-centric establishment replaces **Bourbon Street Bar & Grill**, which long catered to LGBT customers. Though now tailored to the community at large, its new ownership will continue supporting LGBT fundraisers and events, such as the annual wine-tasting fundraiser for **Mama's Kitchen** that's already on the books for Aug. 4. The collective also owns the adjoining space that housed **Lei Lounge**, which has yet be recast, as well as **Waypoint Public** in North Park. 4612 Park Blvd., 619-795-9700.



Swedish native Gustaf Anders Rooth rolls out his oak barrel smoker for an ongoing dinner series at his design studio. (Photo by Tyler Beach)

A warm farewell to **R Gang Eatery** at 3683 Fifth Ave. in Hillcrest, which closed its doors May 10 to the tune of "tater tots freshly seasoned with the tears of our staff," per a Facebook post by chef-owner Rich Sweeney. The popular restaurant, famous for its playful comfort food, enjoyed a five-year run. Sweeney also recently left his post as executive chef at **Florent Restaurant & Lounge** in the Gaslamp District, but remains onboard as a partner.



Authentic thuringer bratwurst (Courtesy of Food for Thought Café)

At the lip of Golden Hill is a relatively new café, **Food for Thoughts**, run by two German guys who took over a room and hallway in what used to be the San Diego Physicians-Surgeons Hospital. On Mondays, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., they sell house-made sausages from a cart parked out front while bagels, sandwiches, salads and acai bowls are available daily inside the café. In September, however, they will utilize the larger back room to open a full-scale restaurant under the same name. "That area was actually the intensive care unit of the hospital," said co-owner Kai Schoettke, who moved to San Diego to attend college and then later "became bored" working temporarily at a bank. 446 26th St., 619-602-5541.

—Frank Sabatini Jr. can be reached at fsabatini@san.rr.com.

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(above) Classic poutine makes its way from Quebec to Hillcrest at Mess Royale, but don't miss the Norwegian salmon bagel sandwich (middle) or the poutine with sausage and peppers (bottom). (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.



When I lived in Buffalo, New York and frequented Toronto, poutine was the go-to dish for soaking up alcohol after nights of spirited bar hopping. Available only in Canada at the time, it was usually slung from casual diners and walk-up windows.

By all accounts, these sobering piles of French fries blitzed in cheese curds and brown gravy date to the late 1950s in rural Quebec, where French-Canadians gave the concoction its provincial name, a slang word for "mushy mess."

Poutine has since leapt beyond the confines of greasy-spoon eateries and into mainstream restaurants, spreading throughout the U.S. with versions that don't always pass muster with flag-waving Canadians.

Although at Mess Royale, which opened in Hillcrest last month, Montreal transplant Hugo Tassone gives us a taste of the real deal by adhering to the exact standards for making it.

He's also incorporated into the menu sandwiches using hand-stretched bagels shipped in from Montreal's eminent St-Viateur Bagel shop. And for those who think that Chicago is the only North American city that puts a signature stamp on hot dogs, Tassone exposes us to the wildly delicious "toasty dogs" served on grilled, buttered rolls that became concession-stand trademarks at the Montreal Forum during hockey games.

For the poutine, Mess Royale uses hand-cut fries that are double-fried. The gravy comprises a secret blend of spices and meat stocks. It's thin and somewhat salty – not much different from American brown gravy except for its subtle, caramelized flavor detected by the keenest of palates.

Cheese curds are the critical ingredient, providing the soft, buttery joy spots strewn throughout the dish. Tassone searched high and low for them in the U.S. before finding a Wisconsin dairy farm that produces the curds with the exact same flavor and texture as those used in Quebec.

"It's a young cheese that has to feel a little squeaky between your teeth," he says, adding that he goes through nearly 200 pounds of the curds every week.

Both the gravy and cheese are present in all of Mess Royale's poutines, which extend to about a dozen other versions beyond the "original."

The "Tony," for example, kept us equally engaged. It's crowned with sweet Italian sausage and zingy banana peppers, which so many San Diego kitchens sadly overlook in lieu of jalapenos. They're simply not the same thing.



Mess Royale

142 University Ave. (Hillcrest)

619-578-2909

Prices: salads, \$8;
poutine, sandwiches
burgers and hot dogs,
\$3.50 to \$12.50

If you prefer carne asada, pastrami or chicken and mushrooms in the mix, the menu obliges with several other modern varieties, including the "morning recovery" featuring bacon, sausage and a fried egg.

As one of the few people in the world who isn't nuts about bagels, the sesame-studded ones used here were a revelation because they're sweeter and airier than most. Arriving twice a week in refrigerated containers, the Montreal bakery dips them in honey water before cooking them in a wood-fired oven.

We chose a bagel sandwich containing gently smoked Norwegian salmon, garnished generously with cream cheese, capers, red onions and tomatoes – a winner all the way around. Other sandwich choices include avocado with cream cheese and veggies; pastrami and Swiss;



and roasted turkey with bacon, Jack cheese and chipotle mayo.

The "toasty dogs" are a must, and they're free on Tuesdays with the purchase of any poutine. Tucked into an unconventional roll that's buttered and grilled on the outside, the dog is buried under a juicy mantle of marinated coleslaw, sweet relish, onions and mustard. Had we not been floating in poutine-bagel heaven, we could have eaten a dozen of them.

Raves have been given to Mess Royale's grilled cheese sandwiches on country-style bread, which we didn't get around to trying. But we managed to squeeze in the "candied bacon bites" featuring thick squares of skewered bacon glistening in beer-maple glaze. Just when you thought trendy bacon recipes have reached their end, these little dandies come to the rescue.

Mess Royale greets with a bright, casual atmosphere featuring a giant rendition of the California flag altered by a bowl of poutine sitting beneath the bear's muzzle, and with the words: "Poutine Republic" written below. Indeed, Tassone's wish of "bringing something unique to San Diego" means we could now add "Canadian" into our ethnic dining options.

—Frank Sabatini Jr. can be reached at fsabatini@san.rr.com.



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

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.

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Answer key, page 19

Uptown Crossword

Plus

1	2	3			4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12			13		14					15			
16					17					18			
19					20				21				
22				23				24					
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		54	55				56	57			58		
59					60					61			
62					63					64			
65					66						67		

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

1 Groove
4 Mail
8 Red-coated cheese
12 Will- ____-wisp
14 Veil material
15 Thatch
16 Other, abroad
17 Kind of soup
18 Military transport
19 Prophet
20 13
22 Locks
24 Bean variety
25 Luxurious
26 Scout, at times
29 Weep
32 Snub
35 Church area
36 Harry's successor
37 Landed
38 Mad
40 Corn lily
41 Crew
42 Stravinsky ballet
43 Baffled
45 Spelling contest
46 Elate
48 Salamander
49 Skill

50 Was charitable
54 10
58 Washington's Janet
59 Grotto
60 Merchant ship
61 Old king of England, Denmark, and Norway
62 Sharif
63 Water nymph
64 To be, in Belleau
65 Departed
66 List ender
67 Affirmative

DOWN

1 Perch
2 Complete
3 12
4 Chastise
5 Actress Lena
6 Blackthorn
7 17
8 Savor
9 Prie- ____
10 Mimic
11 Chart
13 Sound distance
14 Instrumentalist's concern
21 Links shout

23 Neighbor of Isr.
27 Foolish
28 Crazy ____
29 26
30 Migrant worker
31 Rosary unit
32 Metrical foot
33 Kind of club
34 Nine
39 Caviar
40 Valid
42 Farm unit
44 English ref. bk.
47 Disclose
49 Prevent
51 Pill
52 Harden
53 Is overly fond of
54 Fortune's partner
55 Lendl
56 Decree
57 Hipbones
59 Daunt

Answer key, page 19

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Sudoku
Puzzle from page 18

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

Plus
Crossword from page 18

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

Charlene Baldrige



George Bernard Shaw's 1894 comedy, "Arms and the Man," was meant – like all his plays – to lampoon society, the times and mores (customs and conventions) as in practices, and to point out that in many ways women are superior creatures, and men, with their warlike tendencies, mostly fools.

Aided by a fine company and lavish design work, director Jessica Stone upholds Shaw's intent in her production at The Old Globe, which continues through June 14.

At the forum following the

performance of May 19, the actors evinced insight and intelligence, a unified appreciation of Shaw, and a zest for what they are doing – playing a glorious work of language and wit and enjoying it to the hilt. We learned, among many other things, why Zach Appleman, who plays Shaw's honest character, Captain Bluntschli, speaks a different English than the others. It was a conscious directorial decision designed to set the character, a Swiss, apart from the others. He knows and understands their language, here an uninflected American English, but is the foreigner among them.

You may remember Bluntschli, the chocolate loving mercenary who is pursued by enemy soldiers and climbs a drainpipe into the boudoir

"Arms and the Man"

by George Bernard Shaw
Tuesdays - Sundays
with weekend matinees
through June 14
The Old Globe Theatre,
1363 Old Globe Way
(Balboa Park)
theoldglobe.org
619-234-5623

of the high born Raina Petkoff (Wrenn Schmidt), who is engaged to the "heroic" Major Sergius Saranoff (Enver Gjokaj), who led his cavalry into a line of machine-gun wielding opposing troops. Sergius overran the enemy only because their ammunition would not work in their guns. Thus, he became an instant hero.

Raina saves Bluntschli by hiding him, falls a bit in love with him, and off he goes in the morning, disguised in her father's coat. Conrad John Schuck portrays her blustering father, Major Paul Petkoff. In his coat pocket Raina has placed her portrait. After the brief war is over, Bluntschli returns to the Petkoff estate, ostensibly to return the coat, but hoping to see Raina again.

Other characters are Catherine Petkoff (Marsha Mason), the Major's wife; her servants Louka (Sofiya Akilova) and Nicola (Greg Hildreth); a Russian soldier (Jake Millgard), and a brilliantly invented Village Musician (violinist Ernest Saucedo), a gypsy type who adds merriment with his inventions.

As Mason pointed out, Shaw is not performed frequently these days because his plays require large companies and intricately



(top) Zach Appleman as Captain Bluntschli, Enver Gjokaj as Major Sergius Saranoff, and Wrenn Schmidt as Raina Petkoff in "Arms and the Man." (bottom row) Raina Petkoff (Wrenn Schmidt) gets the attention of Captain Bluntschli (left) and Major Sergius Saranoff (right). (Photos by Jim Cox)

designed scenic and costume elements, here beautifully made manifest by scenic designer Ralph Funicello, costume designer David Israel Reynoso, lighting designer Austin R. Smith, and Mark Bennett, who composed the original music and is sound designer.

There were numerous, apparently entranced young people in the audience on May 19. Exposure to this finely done and brilliantly constructed play is definitely a

gift to them; in fact, Shaw seems to be the gift that keeps on giving regardless of time's passing. We still suppress women and the lower classes, assume poses, and fight wars, Shaw the socialist and pacifist seems to say. How about that?

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

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FROM PAGE 1

DANCE

val!’ at the Coronado Playhouse when he was the choreographer. So through that show, I was able to get to know Michael and he was able to discover my other pastime of doing circus arts and asked me if I would perform a little ditty for the ‘Dancer Briefs’ show,” Ti said.

“I think our piece will be very different from the rest of the numbers because it’s not really dance heavy but more based on movement and strength. It will still be choreographed to music and I think it will add a great aspect of variety to the show.”

Ti will rely on his day job to construct his piece for “Dancer Briefs.”

“Me and my circus buddy, Ehrick Costello, will be choreographing and performing this number. The number will be a bit of an avant-garde adagio circus act,” Ti said. “The number will be about balancing the weight of societal labels and their implications. While also trying to balance these labels, we want to try and blur them, to see past them and realize that in the end, we are all just human. The act will be a ‘living-statue’ type act that will feature many different acrobatic poses showcasing the strength, versatility and beauty of the male human form.”

Ti is not a complete neophyte to dance, but is courageous enough to admit his limitations.

“Doing this show and performing in the ion theatre will be a new experience for me. I have done adagio before for various shows — usually circus-themed — and I have done dance for musical theater,” Ti said. “I would not say I



(l to r) Travis Ti and Ehrick Costello rehearse their piece that will be part of “Dancer Briefs” opening next month at ion theatre in Hillcrest. (Photo by Travis Ti)

am a trained dancer, but have taken a couple of modern dance, ballet and hip-hop classes, and think I can keep up pretty well.”

Ti is grateful that Mizerany is giving him the chance.

Mizerany, a resident of Uptown, is one of the hardest-working choreographers in San Diego. He is the creator of the popular dance series “Hot Guys Dancing” and “Malashock/RAW” and is a choreographer at local theaters such as Diversionary, Cygnet and more.

As such, Mizerany sees growth in dance in America’s Finest City.

“San Diego has a vital and energized dance community,” Mizerany said. “Not only do we have the larger companies like San Diego Dance Theatre, Malashock Dance and San Diego Ballet, but there are many new companies such as my own, Compulsion Dance & Theatre as well as Blythe Barton Dance, youturn Contemporary Arts, to name just a few.”

In “Dancer Briefs,” Mizerany will also showcase his solo, “Via Dolorosa,” which premiered in January at “Hot Guys Dancing.”

Other pieces will be by Bradley R. Lundberg, who debuts a romantic and sensual duet featuring Justin Viernes and Erica Ruse.

Anne Gehman’s new work “Left Eye, Right ‘I’” is also a duet — about the values of self-portraiture and self-identity.

As Mizerany and other choreography push the boundaries, viewers are forewarned that “Dancer Briefs” contains mature themes and partial male nudity.

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

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Calendar of Events

FEATURED EVENTS

Live Music – Luke Wade and Pawnshop Kings Friday, May 22

Luke Wade, pop-soul singer and contestant from Season 7 of NBC's "The Voice," will headline with his band No Civilians. Wade combines bits of his Texas roots with his powerful vocals for an exceptional sound. Check out the video for his latest single "As Long As She Knows" for a taste of his emotive style. Opening the show will be Pawnshop Kings, a pair of Southern California brothers who also play a soul-inspired brand of music with a touch of folk. The show kicks off at 9 p.m. and tickets start at \$12. Visit TheMorrow.com for more information.

Operation Rebound Concert Marathon Sunday, May 24

San Diego organist Carol Williams will play for 12 hours and 15 minutes (a world record) to raise funds for local wounded warriors. The event is free, but donations are encouraged for Operation Rebound, a program of Challenged Athletes Foundation. Ambassadors from the program will also appear throughout the day to share stories about Operation Rebound. Williams will perform from 8 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. and include songs from various genres including classical, jazz and Broadway show tunes. She hopes to raise \$20,000 for Operation Rebound. The concert will be held at Spreckels Organ Pavilion (1549 El Prado, Balboa Park). Visit melcot.com for more information and to donate online.

Live Music – Pigpen Theatre Co., Pearl and The Beard, and Goodnight, Texas Saturday, May 30

The musical lineup at Soda Bar (3614 El Cajon Blvd., Normal Heights) should be both entertaining and unique. Starting the night will be Goodnight, Texas, an Americana outfit that blends classic country and folk for a timeless sound. Their storytelling songs are accompanied by everything

from banjo to mandolin. Also on the bill are Pearl and the Beard, a folk-pop trio featuring charming harmonies and toe-tapping rhythms. Headlining are Pigpen Theatre Co., who are both a theater company and a band, interestingly enough. They're currently on tour as the latter and preparing to release their second full-length indie-folk album this summer. With seven members, the band creates a big sound with an expected cinematic element for soaring songs. Doors open at 8:30 p.m., tickets are \$14. For tickets and more information visit SodaBarMusic.com.



Pints for Pups Sunday, May 31

Thorn Street Brewery (3176 Thorn St., North Park) will host this fundraising event from 3 to 6 p.m. During those hours, 20 percent of proceeds will be donated to Baja Dog Rescue; an organization that rescues and rehabilitates abandon, abused and unwanted dogs. Ciro's Pizza and Beerhouse will also be on hand with food items for sale, also donating 20 percent of proceeds to Baja Dog Rescue. Thorn Street Brewery is collecting donations of items for the organization now through May 31. Items needed include; dog food, old towels, sheets and blankets, old collars and leashes and more. Visit ThornStreetBrew.com for a full list of donation items and more information.

Old-fashioned Hymn Sing: 'Our Song Shall Rise Thee' Sunday, May 31

First Presbyterian Church (320 Date St., Bankers Hill) will hold

this annual event marking the end of the church orchestra's musical year. The event will feature the orchestra along with soloists, and a men's quartet accompanied by piano and organ performing well-loved hymns. There will also be one orchestral piece accompanied by Highland dancing. The event starts at 6 p.m. with an ice cream social afterwards in the church's courtyard. There is no charge for admission, just a free-will offering. For more information call 619-232-7513.

RECURRING EVENTS

Daily:

Don't Try This at Home!: Six varying times per day until September, 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 rhfleet.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.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.



Uptown Democratic Club: 6:30 p.m., Joyce Beers Community Center hosts these meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month. New members wanted. 1220 Vermont Ave., Hillcrest. Uptowndemocrats.org.

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:

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. Sdurotary.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. North-parkfarmersmarket.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.

Cinema Under the Stars: 8:30 p.m., classic movie screenings at 4040 Goldfinch St., Mission Hills. Tickets start at \$15. Topspresents.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 Twigg's Coffeehouse at 4590 Park Blvd., University Heights, free. Comedyheights.com.

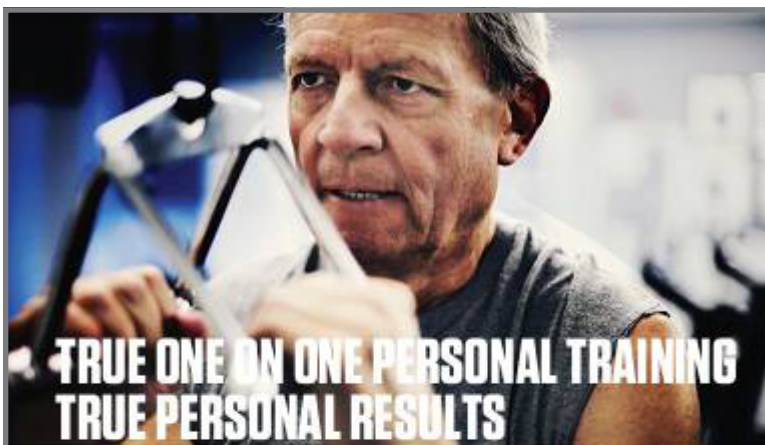
Sundays

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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FROM PAGE 7

BRIEFS

SERVING SENIORS RAISE
RECORD-SETTING \$460,000

Serving Seniors (serving-seniors.org) raised \$460,000 at its annual “Experience of a Lifetime” gala on May 7. Monies raised will provide 184,000 meals through the agency’s nutrition program, which nourishes thousands of low-income and homeless seniors in San Diego County.

The amount is the largest total raised at an individual fundraising event in the organization’s 45-year history.

Sponsored by Semptra and SDG&E, “Experience of a Lifetime” provided nearly 300 attendees with wine tastings from premier wineries across California as well as a charcuterie and locally sourced canapés, while listening to live music and bidding on silent and live auction items. An opera duet transitioned guests from cocktails

to dinner where Del Mar Country Club Executive Chef Tommy DiMella created an exclusive menu with fine wine pairings, also inspired by The Californias.

Prior to the sit-down dinner, there was a special VIP reception to honor seniors who had touched the lives of the event guests and sponsors. The honoree champion was Deborah Szekely, the founder of The Golden Door and Rancho La Puerta, who was recognized for inspiring others through her volunteer activism, as well as embracing wellness long before it was popular.

ANGELIKA FILM CENTER &
CAFÉ TO OPEN IN SAN DIEGO

The Angelika Film Center & Café, a state-of-the-art boutique cinema that is a cultural icon in New York City, will open its first West Coast complex by late summer at Carmel Mountain Plaza.

Angelika is dedicated to offering patrons provocative and engaging film programming — from independent, foreign and specialty

movies to the best commercial products from the major studios. The luxurious cinema, to be located along the I-15 corridor at Carmel Mountain Road, will have 12 auditoriums and feature full VIP recliner seats in a stadium setting. Visit AnglikaFilmCenter.com/SanDiego for more information.

UPDATE ON PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The University Avenue Pipeline Replacement Project is now underway on Fifth Avenue in Hillcrest, between Robinson Avenue and Washington Street.

Workers will install new water pipelines along Fifth Avenue and Washington Street, starting May 26.

During construction, temporary inconveniences will occur.

Limited access within the immediate work zone will be granted.

There will be pipe, fittings, equipment and storage containers staged along the work zone.

Road closures, detours and restricted access will occur between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. ♦



The Johnny Weissmuller pool at the historic Lafayette Hotel on El Cajon Boulevard in North Park will be the final stop for the Bike Month Bash at The Lafayette Hotel on May 30. Participants will enjoy a DJ party and a swim after the bike ride. (Courtesy of Lafayette Hotel)

FROM PAGE 1

BIKESD

and Minneapolis, where bicyclists share the road with drivers even in rainy or snowy weather.

BikeSD is a nonprofit advocacy organization that is independently operated through the support of members. Ollinger recently began serving as BikeSD’s full-time executive director to advocate for their cause.

To raise money to support their efforts, BikeSD presents fun events for bicyclists, like the Bike Month Bash at The Lafayette Hotel, coming May 30. The 15-mile ride will showcase El Cajon Boulevard — once the jewel highway leading into the big city — by traveling through North Park, City Heights and the College Area, before returning.

The Bike Month Bash at The Lafayette Hotel will be limited to the first 250 people who register, because the big perk at the ride’s end is a DJ party and a swim in the famous Johnny Weissmuller pool (capacity 250) at the historic hotel that recently underwent a major renovation. In the 1920s, the European-born Weissmuller won five Olympic gold medals for swimming and a bronze medal for water polo for the Americans, then he became even more famous playing Tarzan in the movies. Like some other celebrities of his day, Weissmuller would hang out at the Lafayette as a quick getaway from the bright lights of Hollywood.

This “historical tour” should appeal to all types of riders, including inexperienced bikers, since it is crosses mostly flat terrain. Ollinger said there is only one slight hill

to climb during the route, which will veer off El Cajon Boulevard onto Utah Street and south to Upas Street, then return north on 30th Street back to “The Boulevard.”

Participants will be joined by “ride monitors who will point out the potential of El Cajon Boulevard,” Ollinger said, pointing out opportunities for transit, bicycling, walking, redevelopment and promoting the unique cultural communities living and working along the major east-west highway that was part of U.S. 80 from 1926 to 1964, before the creation of Interstate 8.

Ollinger may seem like an unlikely candidate to lead the growing bicycling movement in San Diego. She’s not even native to America’s Finest City, having been raised in Pennsylvania after her parents immigrated from India. After graduating from Temple University in Philadelphia with an accounting degree, Ollinger decided to move to the West Coast “because my husband wanted to live by the beach.” They figured they would search for their “perfect” city by traveling up the Pacific coast.

“Our plan was to start in San Diego and go up the West Coast,” Ollinger said. “Six years later, we are still in San Diego. It’s grown on me!”

But Ollinger wasn’t happy with one aspect about San Diego. We have a climate that was ideal for bicycling, but the city wasn’t embracing that culture in car-crazy California.

“I was very surprised when I moved to San Diego that everyone was not all on a bicycle all the time — I didn’t know much about San Diego prior to moving here,” she said.

“On the East Coast, I didn’t ride in the winter or on hot summer days so I was looking forward to spending more time outdoors here. My curiosity to understand why most San Diegans didn’t ride is what led me to being an advocate, and luckily our 1,200-plus donors and members and my seven-person board do believe that San Diego can be the best city for bicycling too,” Ollinger said.

“I’m motivated by a simple idea; what happens if we try to advance an idea — how far can we go?” she said.

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



Bike Month Bash at The Lafayette Hotel starts at 10 a.m. May 30 with a 15-mile ride that will showcase El Cajon Boulevard. Afterward, the riders will be able to swim in the Johnny Weissmuller pool at the Lafayette Hotel. For more information or to register, visit bikesandiegoculture.org.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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THIS YEAR'S WINNERS!

San Diego is known for its thriving Uptown neighborhoods, with close-knit communities that are full of life — families, parks, culture, food, music — and non-stop entertainment. It has vibrant nooks and crannies where residents, locals and visitors return again and again.

We recently asked the readers of San Diego Uptown News to tell us their favorite restaurants, bars and retail businesses found throughout our Uptown neighborhoods and a few beyond.

Uptown coverage starts at the birthplace of California — historic Old Town and Mission Hills — and moves to the lively and colorful Hillcrest "gayborhood," on through the hip enclaves of North Park and University Heights and the cozy kick-back neighborhoods that cling to the canyons overlooking Mission Valley: Normal Heights, Kensington and Talmadge. It also extends down to those neighborhoods nestled along the border of Downtown:

Bankers Hill, South Park and Golden Hill.

That's a pretty wide swath and from each point, far and wide, our readers have chosen the best of the best in categories such as breakfast, chiropractor, happy hour, wine bar, art gallery, romantic dining, massage, florist, museum, local bar, and many, many more.

Some winners have been serving customers in their Uptown neighborhood for decades, while others are new to the scene but clearly already making an impact.

In this edition's 16-page pullout section, we offer the full list of reader-chosen winners, and highlighting many of the winners along with their missions to serve.

To each of our winners, we extend a heartfelt congratulations on your Best of Uptown award and we hope our loyal readers — and your loyal customers — continue to show you patronage and appreciation for many years to come.



Merrill Gardens



Rachel Young



Evelyn Ascough



Tony Azar



Cali "O" Burgers

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Martinis Above Fourth
Ortega's A Mexican Bistro
Hillcrest Brewing Company
S&M: Sausage & Meat
Rich's
The Patio on Goldfinch
The Patio on Goldfinch
Pizzeria Luigi
Bleu Boheme
Top of the Bay (tie)
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Dali Llama
Salerno's Winery
Blue Water Seafood Market & Grill
True North Tavern
The Wellington Steak & Martini Lounge
Sushi Deli
Amarin Thai
Plumeria Vegetarian Restaurant
Village Vino

- SILVER
- Croce's Park West
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Brazen BBQ
Hillcrest Brewing Company
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Great Maple
Urban Mo's
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Lalo's Tacos & Mexican Grill
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Viejas Casino
Sycuan Casino
Croce's Park West
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Café On Park
Comedy Store
Dance Club
Big Front Door
D Bar San Diego
Croce's Park West
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Best of Uptown 2015 Winners

Food & Drink

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San Diego, CA 92103
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crestcafe.net

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2760 Fifth Ave.
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crocesparkwest.com

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breadandcie.com

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3766 Fifth Ave.
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babycakesandiego.com

BARBECUE

Phils BBQ

3750 Sports Arena Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92110
619-226-6333
philsbbq.net

Brazen BBQ

441 Washington St.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-816-1990
brazenbbq.com

BEER

Ballast Point Brewing Company

10051 Old Grove Road
San Diego, CA 92131
858-695-2739
ballastpoint.com

Hillcrest Brewing Company

1458 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-269-4323
hillcrestbrewingcompany.com

BILLIARDS

Pecs

2046 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92104
619-296-0889
pecsusa.com

Nunu's

3537 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-295-2878
nunuscocktails.com

BREAKFAST

Crest Café

425 Robinson Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-295-2510
crestcafe.net

Great Maple

1451 Washington St.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-255-2282
thegreatmaple.com

BRUNCH

Counterpoint

830 25th St. #100
San Diego, CA 92102
619-564-6722
counterpointsd.com

Urban Mo's

308 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-491-0400
mosuniverse.com

BURGER

Cali "O" Burgers

1290 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-692-9999

organicburgerrestaurantsandiego.com

Although, Cali "O" Burgers just opened last year and may be new to the restaurant scene, we know what quality organic burgers are. We pride ourselves in serving ethical food. Our beef is grass fed and our poultry products are pastured. In addition, our produce is locally sourced whenever available. Are you feeling adventurous? Try the ostrich or elk burger! If you have more traditional tastes, we have a selection of bison, turkey, chicken, and quinoa burgers. Not much of a burger person? Do not worry, we offer an array of salads like the Baja Caesar or the North Park. Craft beers, iced-tea, and a variety of sugar-cane sodas are on the menu as well to quench your thirst and compliment your delicious hamburger or salad. No time to dine in? Don't worry, we also offer carry out and your meal will be prepared as soon as you stop in. Give us a visit at Cali "O" Burgers and taste the difference. Call today!

Urban Mo's

308 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-491-0400
mosuniverse.com

BURRITO

El Zarape Restaurant

4642 Adams Ave.
San Diego, CA 92116
619-692-1652
elzarape.biz

Lalo's Tacos & Mexican Grill

1266 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-294-6810
lalostacos.com

BUSINESS LUNCH

Croce's Park West

2760 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-233-4355
crocesparkwest.com

Fig Tree Café

5119 Cass St.
San Diego, CA 92109
858-274-2233
figtreecafehillcrest.com



CASINO

Sycuan Casino

5485 Casino Way
El Cajon, CA 92019
619-445-6002
sycuan.com

Barona Casino

1932 Wildcat Canyon Road
Lakeside, CA 92040
619-443-2300
barona.com

CASINO BUFFET

Barona Casino

1932 Wildcat Canyon Road
Lakeside, CA 92040
619-443-2300
barona.com

Sycuan Casino

5485 Casino Way
El Cajon CA 92019
619-445-6002
sycuan.com

see Food & Drink page 5

GREAT MAPLE



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DAY & NIGHT
EVERYDAY

**Uptown News
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HILLCREST**

FROM PAGE 4

FOOD&DRINK

CASUAL DINING

Crest Café
425 Robinson Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-295-2510
crestcafe.net

Croce's Park West
2760 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-233-4355
crocesparkwest.com

CHINESE CUISINE

Wang's (Closed)
3029 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92104
wangsnorthpark.com

The Asian Bistro
414 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-296-4119
theasianbistro.com

COCKTAIL

Sycamore Den
3391 Adams Ave.
San Diego, CA 92116
619-563-9019
sycamoreden.com

Polite Provisions
4696 30th St.
San Diego, CA 92116
619-677-3784
politeprovisions.com

COFFEE SHOP

Pappalecco
3650 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-906-5566
pappalecco.com

We are the best coffee shop because we are way more than just a coffee shop. It's because we do things together. Because here, eating and drinking genuine, homemade products is more than a must — it's a given. Because love illuminates the path toward our mission; because we care for others and our sense of togetherness irradiates to the community; because we live in the light of the present moment, always focused on the human being standing in front of us, as our ultimate goal is the enhancement of human dignity. Because we love the earth; every plant, every tree, every flower, every drop of water is indescribably marvelous to us. We are the best because WE LOVE. Our home is your Tuscan home and any time you come here you will always be greeted with a smile, "for a smile is the beginning of Love." Come visit our other locations in Little Italy and the Midway District.



Claire de Lune Coffee Lounge
2906 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92104
619-688-9845
clairedelune.com

COMFORT FOOD

Crest Café
425 Robinson Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-295-2510
crestcafe.net

Café on Park
3831 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-293-7275
cafeonpark.com



COMEDY CLUB

American Comedy Club
818 Sixth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92101
619-795-3858
americancomedyco.com

Comedy Store
916 Pearl St.
La Jolla, CA 92037
858-454-9176
thecomedystore.com

DANCE CLUB

Air Conditioned Lounge
4673 30th St.
San Diego, CA 92116
619-501-9831
airconditionedlounge.com

Rich's
1051 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-295-2195
richssandiego.com



DELI

The Deli Llama
3702 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-295-4666
delillamasd.com

The neighborhood deli — a wonderful concept from a bygone era, whimsically recreated at The Deli Llama. They put customers first and that means great quality, great service and a great experience. Award-winning sandwiches, salads, soups and Panini, along with vegetarian and gluten-free options and specialty drinks like GT Kombucha in 12 flavors. They offer delivery and catering for office lunches, meetings and special occasions. Drop in and experience the little neighborhood corner deli where customers are known by name and treated like family. Unleash your inner Llama!

Big Front Door
4135 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-255-4100
bfsandiego.com

Big Front Door is a savory deli offering quick and delicious meals prepared fresh and on-site. The menu features creative and hearty made-to-order sandwiches, soups, salads and sides, artisan cheese, breads and baked goods, specialty sodas, and light to-go entrees, inspired by the region and the world. Our home is a contemporary, state-of-the-art facility that welcomes customers with a relaxed neighborhood atmosphere, detailed customer service and spectacular contemporary deli fare. BFD's offerings are complemented by an in-house specialty wine and craft beer retail shop that features unique selections from smaller, boutique producers.



DESSERT

Extraordinary Desserts
2929 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-294-2132
extraordinarydesserts.com

see Dessert page 6

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Uptown News
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Fash·ion (n)
a popular trend, especially in styles of dress or ornament

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Optometrist
Kristy Cambone
Erika Caesar, Holly Linden
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urban-optiks.com
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3788 Park Blvd, Suite 5
San Diego, CA 92103


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Ex·per·tise (n)
one who possesses exceptional skill or knowledge

Urban Optiks offers a highly skilled and experienced optical staff which includes one of San Diego's finest Optometrists. In an ever advancing optical industry, Urban Optiks provides a high level of expertise and care not easily found elsewhere.

Ex·per·i·ence (n)
a personal encounter through direct contact or participation

Urban Optiks offers an exceptional "customer experience" in an upscale, yet unassuming boutique-style environment with personalized concierge-level attention to each individual's unique needs. Urban Optiks prides itself in bringing back the true meaning of customer care.

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FROM PAGE 5
DESSERT

D Bar San Diego
3930 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-299-3227
dbarsandiego.com

DINNER
Red Door Restaurant & Wine Bar
741 W. Washington St.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-295-6000
thereddoorsd.com

Croce's Park West
2760 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-233-4355
crocesparkwest.com

DONUT SHOP
Nomad Donut
4504 30th St.
San Diego, CA 92116
619-431-5000
nomaddonuts.com

Golden Donut
2360 University Ave,
San Diego, CA 92104
619-298-2352

FAMILY RESTAURANT
Red Door Restaurant and Wine Bar
741 W. Washington St. San Diego, CA 92103
619-295-6000
thereddoorsd.com

Olympic Cafe
2340 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92104
619-692-9082
olympiccafesd.com

FARMERS MARKET
Hillcrest Farmers Market
3960 Normal St.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-299-3330
fabulouhillcrest.com

Little Italy Mercato Farmers Market
2210 Columbia St.
San Diego, CA 92101
619-233-3898
littleitalysd.com/mercado

FAST FOOD
Luna Grill Fresh Mediterranean
350 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-296-5862
lunagrill.com

Five Guys Burgers and Fries
670 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-299-9105
fiveguys.com

FINE DINING
Bertrand at Mister A's
2550 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-239-1377
bertrandatmisteras.com

Cucina Urbana
505 Laurel St.
San Diego, CA 92101
619-239-2222
urbankitchengroup.com

FRENCH CUISINE
Bleu Boheme
4090 Adams Ave.
San Diego, CA 92116
619-255-4167
bleuboheme.com

Hexagon
495 Laurel St.
San Diego, CA 92101
619-236-0467
hexagonrestaurant.com

GREEK CUISINE
Olympic Café
2340 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92104
619-692-9082
olympiccafesd.com

Alexi's Greek Café
3863 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-297-1777

Alexi's Greek Café has been in Hillcrest since the '80s and has some of the best Greek food in town! Wonderful, good old fashioned home cooking! Among the stellar lunch specials are pita sandwiches filled with gyros or falafel served with fries or salad, plus a medium drink for \$5.75. For dinner, entrees such as Greek-style chicken, plated gyros, dolmades (stuffed grape leaves) and moussaka (beef and eggplant lasagna) sell for \$8.50. To the surprise of newcomers, they include a feta-laced salad; classic avgolemano soup accented with lemon, chicken and rice; french fries; pita bread and the all-important tzatziki sauce mingling garlic and grated cucumbers. Stop by for the best Greek food in Uptown!

HAPPY HOUR
Martinis Above Fourth Table + Stage
3940 Fourth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-400-4500
martinisabovefourth.com

S&M: Sausage & Meat
4130 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-344-2177
sausageandmeat.com

HEALTH FOOD STORE
Sprouts
4175 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-291-8287
sprouts.com

Whole Foods
711 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-294-2800
wholefoodsmarket.com

HOT WINGS
Buffalo Wild Wings
1640 Camino del Rio N. #1376
San Diego, CA 92108
619-298-7068
buffalowildwings.com

FROM PAGE 6
HOTWINGS

Wingstop #603
1901 El Cajon Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92104
619-297-9464
wingstop.com

Visit us on our El Cajon Boulevard location, right beneath The Boulevard sign! We're not in the wing business; we're in the flavor business. It's been our mission to serve the world flavor since we first opened shop in '94, and we're just getting started. Wingstop is the destination when you crave fresh, never-faked wings, hand-cut seasoned fries and any of our famous sides. For people who demand flavor in everything they do, there's only Wingstop — because it's more than a meal, it's a flavor experience. Call today for great flavor!

INDIAN CUISINE
Bombay Exotic Cuisine of India
3960 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-297-7777
bombayrestaurant.com

Tandoori Hut
3890 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-295-4488
tandoorihutca.com

IRISH PUB
Oscar Wilde's Irish Pub
1440 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
oscarwildespub.com

The Ould Sod
3373 Adams Ave.
San Diego, CA 92116
619-284-6594
theouldsod.com

ITALIAN CUISINE
DiMille's Italian Restaurant
3492 Adams Ave.
San Diego, CA 92116
619-283-3153
dimilles.com

We opened for business on October 28, 1978 under the direction and guidance of Mamma and Pappa DiMille. The recipes for all the menu items were developed by Mamma DiMille, and included the same recipes she had learned from her mother and grandmother. At DiMille's we realize that you have everything to do with our growth. After all, it was our hard work that made the restaurant, but it was you, who made us famous! Looking for catering in San Diego? No matter what the occasion, Dimille's Catering has the right food and the best service to make your event a huge success. No Stress — No Mess

Busalacchi's A Modo Mio
3707 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-298-0119
busalacchis.com

JAPANESE CUISINE
Ichiban
1449 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-299-7203
ichibansandiego.com

DaoFu
3332 Adams Ave.
San Diego, CA 92116
619-281-6888

JAZZ BAR
Croce's Park West
2760 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-233-4355
crocesparkwest.com

Seven Grand San Diego
3054 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92104
619-269-8820
sevengrandbars.com

LATE NIGHT DINING
Saigon on Fifth
3900 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-220-8828
Saigon On Fifth offers fine Vietnamese cuisine, is a Zagat Rated Restaurant, and has an average of 4.5 stars on Tripadvisor.com. We are conveniently located in Hillcrest

and are known for our laid-back atmosphere and great prices. Additionally, we care for our customers with both courteous and friendly service. There is something for everyone whether it be scrumptious Pho, pineapple fried rice, noodle, shrimp, spring rolls, lemon grass soup, coconut pancakes. These are just a few of our items and there is much more. Our establishment is open late until 3 a.m. for those late night cravings. Both indoor and outdoor dining is available and small and large groups can also be accommodated for. We are ready for whatever your party may bring. Give us a call today and experience delicious and fine Vietnamese cooking. We look forward to seeing you!

Counterpoint
830 25th St. #100
San Diego, CA 92102
619-564-6722
counterpointsd.com

LIVE MUSIC VENUE
Martinis Above Fourth Table + Stage
3940 Fourth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-400-4500
martinisabovefourth.com



Croce's Park West
2760 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-233-4355
crocesparkwest.com

LUNCH
Big Front Door
4135 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-255-4100
bfdsandiego.com

T Deli
1469 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-682-4069

MARGARITA
Ortega's Mexican Bistro
141 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-692-4200
ortegasbistro.com

Baja Betty's
1421 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-269-8510
bajabettyssd.com

MARTINI
Martinis Above Fourth Table + Stage
3940 Fourth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-400-4500
martinisabovefourth.com
Martinis Above Fourth not only offers the finest American cuisine but provides great entertainment and is considered the premier supper club in San Diego. Range from across the United States from Los Angeles to New York. Watch some cabaret or experience our "LIVE!" performances with no cover charge. There is something for everyone. Enjoy our upscale food from Chef Sergio Barrios, who incorporates seasonal flavors in his eclectic dishes. Most importantly try our signature martinis, which have won over 100 awards. We also offer beer, wine and other specialty drinks. Gift cards are also available. Come have dinner and see a show with us. Immerse yourself in great food, great entertainment, but most importantly great fun. Make a reservation and call us today. We look forward to seeing you!

see Martini, page 8

MERRILL GARDENS AT BANKERS HILL

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Uptown News

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Flame-Grilled
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with any combo**
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**Uptown News
BEST OF
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SAN DIEGO**

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& ORGANIC**

Dine in or take out.
1290 University Ave, Hillcrest **619-692-9999**

FROM PAGE 7 MARTINI

Uptown Tavern
1236 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-241-2710
uptowntavernsd.com

MEXICAN CUISINE
Ortega's Mexican Bistro
141 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-692-4200
ortegasbistro.com

El Comal Mexican Restaurant
3946 Illinois St.
San Diego, CA 92104
619-294-8292
elcomalsd.com

MICROBREWERY
Hillcrest Brewing Company
1458 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-269-4323
hillcrestbrewingcompany.com

Mike Hess Brewery
3812 Grim Ave.
San Diego, CA 92104
619-255-7136
mikehessbrewing.com

NEW RESTAURANT
S&M: Sausage & Meat
4130 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-344-2177
sausageandmeat.com

Kettner Exchange
2001 Kettner Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101
619-255-2001
kettnerexchange.com

NIGHT CLUB
Rich's
1051 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-295-2195
richssandiego.com

Fluxx
500 Fourth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92101
619-232-8100
fluxxsd.com

OUTDOOR DINING
The Patio on Goldfinch
4020 Goldfinch St.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-501-5090
pationongoldfinch.com

Busalacchi's A Modo Mio
3707 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-298-0119
busalacchis.com

PET FRIENDLY DINING
The Patio on Goldfinch
4020 Goldfinch St.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-501-5090
pationongoldfinch.com

**The Ritual Kitchen
& Beer Garden**
4095 30th St. San Diego, CA 92104
619-283-1720
ritualtavern.com

Connecting you with brewing pioneers and our handcrafted food is what we're all about. When you seek the finest drink and heartiest fare this evening, tread no further than through the doors of the Ritual. It is our pleasure to serve you piping hot food and a rich selection of beer and wine. Our tavern reflects the honor we pay to the traditions of old. Taste the worldly flavors of Britain, Germany, New Orleans, and the trade winds spirit blowing around us. Make your visit to the tavern at Ritual.

PIZZA
Pizzeria Luigi
2121 El Cajon Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92104
619-294-9417
pizzerialuigi.com

Project Pie
3888 Fourth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-241-2881
projectpie.com

ROMANTIC DINING
Bleu Boheme
4090 Adams Ave.
San Diego, CA 92116
619-255-4167
bleuboheme.com

Croce's Park West
2760 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-233-4355
crocesparkwest.com

ROOF TOP LOUNGE
Top of the Bay (tie)
1646 Front St.
San Diego, CA 92101
619-239-6800
doubletree3.hilton.com

Bertrand at Mister A's (tie)
2550 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-239-1377
bertrandatmisteras.com

SALAD
Big Front Door
4135 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-255-4100
bfdsandiego.com

Café On Park
3831 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-293-7275
cafeonpark.com

SANDWICH
Deli Llama
3702 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-295-4666
delillamasd.com

Hillcrest Sandwich Company
3780 Fifth Ave. #1
San Diego, CA 92103
619-293-0248
hillcrestsandwich.com

SD COUNTY WINERY
Salerno's Winery
17948 CA-67,
Ramona, CA 92065
760-788-7160
salernowinery.com

South Coast Winery
34843 Rancho California Road
Temecula, CA 92591
951-587-9463
wineresort.com

SEAFOOD
**Blue Water Seafood
Market & Grill**
3667 India St.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-497-0914
bluwaterseafood.com

Anthony's Fish Grotto
1360 N. Harbor Dr.
San Diego, CA 92101
619-232-5103
gofishanthony.com

SPORTS BAR
True North Tavern
3815 30th St.
San Diego, CA 92104
619-291-3815
truenorthtavern.com

The Rabbit Hole
3377 Adams Ave.
San Diego, CA 92116
619-255-4653
rabbitholdsd.com

STEAKHOUSE
**The Wellington Steak &
Martini Lounge**
729 W. Washington St.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-295-6001
thewellingtonsd.com

Morton's, The Steakhouse (tie)
285 J St.
San Diego, CA 92101
619-696-3369
mortons.com/sandiego

Donovan's Steak & Chop (tie)
570 K St.
San Diego, CA 92101
619-237-9700
donovanssteakhouse.com

Donovan's Steak & Chop House sets the standard for fine dining excellence where USDA 100 percent prime steaks reign supreme. Complemented by cordially friendly service and an award-winning wine list, in a stylish lively atmosphere, Donovan's is the perfect setting for an intimate dinner for two, or a special celebration with friends, family and associates. After 15 years, Donovan's Steak & Chop House in UTC has moved to a new location at 1250 Prospect St., in the Village of La Jolla. We look forward to serving you in our new oceanfront location. Created with the needs of a highly selective clientele in mind, Donovan's evokes the classic steakhouse experience, providing prime steak and chops in a sophisticated atmosphere for a one-of-a-kind dining affair. It is the perfect destination for getting lost in luxury and enjoying epicurean delights where mouth-watering prime steakhouse fare is paired with a thoughtfully selected wine program that has earned the prestigious award of excellence from Wine Spectator. For the ultimate dining experience, the only name you need to know in San Diego is Donovan's.

FROM PAGE 8
FOOD&DRINK

SUSHI

Sushi Deli
228 W Washington St.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-231-9597
sushideliusa.com

Wonderful Sushi
1288 University Ave.
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For almost 10 years, Bodhi Massage & Wellness Center has served San Diego as a respite and neighborhood sanctuary. Located in a century-old craftsman home, nestled under a Sacred Ficus or "Bodhi" tree, the ambiance is set before you walk in the door. The aroma of handcrafted candles and essential oils entice all who enter, and compassionate staff greets you with smiles and refreshing spa water. With services ranging from deep tissue to Thai yoga massage and couple's treatments, there is something for everyone. You can also add-on reflexology, aromatherapy, a deep scalp treatment, or a radiant face renewal treatment to any session. Our practitioners are of the highest level of talent and handpicked based on education, experience, and the ability to provide results for our clients. The Bodhi team is dedicated to serving you with simply the best massage, acupuncture and bodywork available for many years to come.

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Mission Hills Antiques
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Alexander Salazar Fine Art
1040 Seventh Ave.
San Diego, CA 92101
619-237-8813
alexandersalazarfineart.com

Alexander Salazar, Harvard Graduate and well-respected international art dealer, opened Alexander Salazar Fine Art in March 2010 in Downtown San Diego. He holds a master's degree in Theology and Art from Harvard University and a second master's in Sociology and Art from Boston College. While an undergraduate at Colorado College he lived in London to study both modern and contemporary art and then moved to Florence, Italy to study the masters, such as Bernini and Botticelli. With over 15 years experience as an art dealer, Salazar has built private and corporate collections worldwide. Specialties: corporate art collections, hotel art collections, art appraisals, art investments, private collectors and young collectors.

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see Retail&Entertainment, page 10

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FROM PAGE 9
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Rachel Young
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San Diego, CA 92101
619-584-0505
rpylaw.com

Rachel P. Young Law Office provides legal advice in a multitude of areas for San Diego's diverse community. Located in Downtown San Diego, attorney Young's areas of practice include real estate, adoption, divorce, restraining orders, LGBT matters, injuries and more, for both individuals and businesses. Young graduated from California Western School of Law in December 2006, was admitted to the California Bar June 2007, and immediately entered private practice, opening her office Downtown that same year. Since then, she has handled hundreds of cases, chaired a multitude of trials in all areas, and has substantial experience in negotiation. Being a small business, attorney Young is able to provide clients with one-on-one attention, which larger firms cannot provide. She is always extremely committed to her clients, from listening to the goals they want to achieve, to providing in-depth explanations so they can make informed, educated decisions. For any questions, more information, or to schedule a free consultation, call her office or email ryoung@rpylaw.com

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see Bank, page 11

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FROM PAGE 10
BANK

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see Dentist, page 12

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FROM PAGE 11 DENTIST

heart of San Diego. Whether, you live near Fashion Valley, North Park, University Heights, Mission Hills, or other nearby locations, this establishment is a hop, skip, and a jump away. Patient forms are available online. We hope to see you today and would love to help you have an amazing, bright beautiful smile. Give us a call today.

Dr. Evelyn Ascough
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For over 20 years, dentist Evelyn Ascough has been committed to her patients and their health, driven by her love and passion for her job. She firmly believes healthy gums and healthy teeth are essential to a person's wellbeing. After receiving advanced training at UCLA in esthetic dentistry, she opened up her own clinic in San Diego. One of the few dentists in San Diego licensed to perform laser periodontal, also known as laser assisted new attachment procedure (LANAP), Ascough offers this to her customers as an alternative to minimize discomfort. Her business specializes in high quality dental care in a friendly, trusting environment, performing any procedure from teeth whitening to braces or crowns. She personalizes her business using her own artistic tendencies to enhance patients' smiles, stating that, "a beautiful smile can have a dramatic impact on a person's life." At Ascough Dentistry, clients' needs are always put first, down to the finest detail and individualized care. For more information about Evelyn Ascough, visit her website or search "Cosmetic Dentist San Diego" online.

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Dr. David Shamblaw is a primary care physician with over 15 years of experience and specializes in general, preventive medical care and HIV. Dr. Shamblaw truly cares about his patients and listens to each and every individual concern, by creating a welcoming and comforting environment in which patients can discuss their health. He is also a member of the American Academy of HIV Medicine, Greater San Diego Business Association and the San Diego County Medical Society. He also participates in clinical trials at his practice. Services include immunizations, routine screenings for cardiovascular disease, cancers, and sexually transmitted diseases. The practice is conveniently located in Hillcrest and offers free parking. Come make an appointment today at Dr. Shamblaw's office and experience genuine and exceptional care.

Robert Houghton

1855 1st Ave. San Diego, CA 92101
619-233-4044
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Dr. Robert Houghton emphasizes that trust is the major foundation of a doctor-patient relationship. He is a family care physician, has a fellowship in preventive cardiology and also specializes in HIV. Dr. Houghton is a member of the board of medical quality assurance and is certified in aviation medicine as well as the American Academy of HIV medicine. Not only does Dr. Houghton genuinely care about his patients, he is also fluent in German, English and Spanish. Medical examinations for Class 2, Class 3 and prospective pilots are available. Medicare insurance is now accepted. Anti-aging services are offered at the practice as well. Dr. Robert Houghton believes that "aging is optional." Patient forms can be accessed online. Come make an appointment today and you can trust Dr. Houghton to help you with your medical needs.

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see GYM/HEALTHCLUB, page 13

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hillcresthousebandb.com
Hillcrest House Bed & Breakfast, founded by Anne Callahan, is now in its 10th year of business and Callahan has over 35 years of experience in the hospitality industry. She is also a member of the San Diego Tourism Authority board of directors, serves on the board of the San Diego Hotel Motel Association, and is a member of the board of directors of the California Association of Boutique & Breakfast Inns. Her establishment has won numerous awards including Best hotel from Uptown News and is top-rated by both Tripadvisor.com and Yelp.com. Callahan emphasizes how Hillcrest House is a neighbor and community member to San Diego. Whether close friends, mothers, fathers, sisters,

or brothers are coming into town, Hillcrest House will provide them with a warm welcome and the upmost service and care. Hillcrest House is the place for your friends and family to stay no matter the occasion. Call today and learn what exceptional service is

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MUSEUM
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Striving to preserve history and demonstrate culture, the Museum of Photographic Arts (MOPA) is an internationally renowned center for visual learning located in Balboa Park. The museum's endeavors address historical, cultural and social issues through its exhibitions, films and educational programs. Believing that "art is for everyone," MOPA launched the first Pay What You Wish museum program in Southern California. Visitors decide the price of admission every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday until Aug. 28. Commemorating Balboa Park's Centennial of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, MOPA presents the United States premiere of "7 billion Others." This groundbreaking video installation captures the answers to

see Museum, page 14




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BEST OF GAY SAN DIEGO

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Exp. 6/30/15

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BEST OF GAY SAN DIEGO
2013
BEST OF GAY SAN DIEGO
2014

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Inside the White Buddha Lounge

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3900 Fifth Ave. #120 | Open 7 days a week! 11am - 3am
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SaigonOnFifthRestaurant.com

FROM PAGE 13
MUSEUM

45 questions through 6,000 interviews from 84 countries. New films on display throughout the exhibition make it a must-see again and again. For a more interactive experience, the new photo policy at MOPA allows photography in the museum. Visitors are encouraged to document and share their trip photos.

Natural History Museum
1788 El Prado,
San Diego, CA 92101
619-232-3821
sdnhm.org

NEW BUSINESS
S&M: Sausage & Meat
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sausageandmeat.com

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San Diego, CA 92101
619-473-2837
greatergoodrealty.com

OPTOMETRIST
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San Diego, CA 92103
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urban-optiks.com

Here are just a few of the reasons why you should make Urban Optiks your one-stop destination for all of your eye care needs:

Fashion: Urban Optiks offers the finest collection of high quality classic, modern and vintage-inspired frame lines from around the world, featuring exclusive handcrafted and fully customizable fashion-forward eyewear. **Technology:** Urban Optiks offers unsurpassed eye examinations utilizing the latest generation of electronic refraction and diagnostic equipment and delivers superior optical results through the use of

innovative custom digital lens technology. Specialty contact lens and laser vision services are also available. Expertise: Urban Optiks offers a highly skilled and experienced optical staff, which includes one of San Diego's finest optometrists. In an ever-advancing optical industry, Urban Optiks provides a high level of expertise and care not easily found elsewhere. Experience: Urban Optiks offers an exceptional customer experience in an upscale, yet unassuming boutique-style environment with personalized concierge-level attention to each individual's unique needs. Urban Optiks prides itself in bringing back the true meaning of customer care.

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Hillcrest Pawnshop
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San Diego, CA 92103
619-297-1224
hillcrestpawnshop.com

PERSONAL TRAINER
Ben Kleinert, Fix body group
1010 University Ave. C-203,
San Diego, CA 92103
619-295-9791
fixbodygroup.com/team/ben-kleinert

Adam Winter, Adam Winter Lifestyle
1727 University Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
858-722-6190
adamwinterlifestyle.com

PET BOARDING
Camp Run-A-Mutt
3265 India St.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-795-6421
camprunamutt.com



The Golden Paw
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619-299-2068
thegoldenpaw.net

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San Diego, CA 92104
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southbark.com

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Coronado, CA 92118
619-435-3513
wagntailscoronado.com

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619-286-6348
billhowe.com

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619-328-6418
tomdinardoplumbing.com

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FROM PAGE 14
RETAIL&ENTERTAINMENT

REAL ESTATE AGENT

David Stone,
Greater Good Realty
639 Kettner Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101
619-473-2837
greatergoodrealty.com

Tony Azar, Metropolitan Group
3930 Idaho St.
San Diego, CA 92104
619-944-6901
tonyazar.com

Tony Azar, a resident of San Diego, is an active member of the San Diego Association of Realtors. As a realtor, Tony is dedicated to the needs of his clients, whether in residential, residential income, or commercial real estate. He is determined to make their buying or selling property a positive experience, and as stress free as possible. Tony comes from a background in banking and investment and has performed in leadership roles and in management positions, and has brought this experience into the world of real estate. He uses his vast knowledge to help serve his community and through volunteer work with several organizations, and has proudly been a co-sponsor of the University Heights summer concerts held in Trolley Barn Park for the last 12 years. Living in San Diego, Tony understands the needs and pleasures of living in this extraordinary community. He enjoys helping others in their search for the perfect home. If you, or someone you know, is thinking of buying or selling a home, income or commercial property, just call! Tony is here to help with any of your Real Estate needs so contact Tony for a complimentary home buyers/sellers guide or a market analysis of your property.

REAL ESTATE OFFICE

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greatergoodrealty.com

Ascent Real Estate
410 Kalmia St.
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most have a full kitchen, balcony, washer and dryer. And while the community is second to none, the residents who choose to live here make the community truly unique. Residents take advantage of the salon, bistro, fitness center, multiple gathering spaces, secure underground parking and landscaped courtyard areas. Merrill Gardens at Bankers Hill is happy to help residents enjoy more. Call us today or visit us online.

St. Paul Seniors
2635 Second Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-239-2097
stpaulseniors.org

TANNING SALON

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619-298-1826
itan.com/locations/hillcrest
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3039 Adams Ave.
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619-280-1957
avalontattootwo.com

Enigma
3041 Adams Ave.
San Diego, CA 92116
619-516-4343

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The Gentlemen's Tux Club
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619-239-8901
tuxclub.com

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619-294-6660
menswearhouse.com

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619-297-0219
sandiegoanimalclinic.com

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Coronado, CA 92118
619-435-6611
hoteldel.com

U.S. Grant Hotel
326 Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101
619-232-3121
usgrant.net

WOMENS APPAREL

Bazaar del Mundo
4133 Taylor St.
San Diego, CA 92110
619-296-3161
bazaardelmundo.com

Urban Outfitters
3946 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-209-5279
urbanoutfitters.com


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Corepower Yoga
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San Diego, CA 92103
619-295-9642
corepoweryoga.com

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San Diego, CA 92116
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