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Homebrewers come to town

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Riding the rails

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San Diego Community News Network

San Diego Uptown News

A house made of onyx and imagination



This Richard Requa house was built in 1927 for Leslie C. Mills, a civic-minded merchant. The sweeping patio overlooks lush gardens and an orchard originally landscaped by Milton Sessions, nephew of the legendary Kate Sessions. It is one of five homes on the 2015 Historic Home Tour, part of the Old House Fair on June 20. (Photo by Andy McRory)

A rare Richard Requa headlines the Old House Fair Home Tour in South Park

By Michael Good

(Editor's note: The Old House Fair takes over South Park and Golden Hill on Saturday, June 20. More coverage on pages 12 and 13.)

Considering his reputation as one of San Diego's most influential and prolific architects, it's surprising there aren't more historic houses with Richard Requa on their plaques in the Uptown area, where there are scores of Irving Gills and historic homes by other early 20th-century masters.

You'd think we'd be awash with Richard Requa houses — rambling ranches, Spanish casitas, Moorish masterpieces. Some of this absence may be due to poor record keeping, some may be because many of the houses he designed are in ritzy neighborhoods and have been remodeled beyond recognition. Some of it may be due to the way he worked — Requa seemed more than willing to delegate, share credit, even design anonymously.

But mostly it's due to who he was. Requa wasn't just an architect. He was a photographer and filmmaker, a book author and a newspaper columnist. He was a lecturer, mentor, inventor, and champion of good design and taste. He wasn't content just to design houses; he wanted to design

see Tour, page 11

Going HOG wild

Harley owners and bridge players team up to fight Alzheimer's disease

Ken Williams | Editor

Two diverse groups, typically from different social settings, are teaming up to raise money for the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

The San Diego chapter of the Harley Owners Group (HOG) and the Redwood Bridge Club are partnering to benefit the Alzheimer's Association's annual national fundraiser called "The Longest Day" because it is held on June 20 from sunrise to sunset on the summer solstice.

The Longest Day symbolizes the challenging journey for those diagnosed with Alzheimer's and the families and caretakers who will be impacted by the disease that has no treatment or cure. Teams are urged to create their own fun experience as they raise money and awareness about Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's is considered a skyrocketing epidemic, as baby boomers head into their retirement years. In San Diego, more than 60,000 people live with the disease and that number is expected to double in the next 15 years. Alzheimer's is now the third leading cause of death in San Diego, according to the association.



Coffee Kaufman, San Diego HOG director, gives a ride to Trish White, co-director of the Redwood Bridge Club. (Photo by Mike Lewis)

Robin Parker, assistant director of the local HOG group, explains why she got involved in The Longest Day. "It is very simple," she said. "Alzheimer's scares the hell out of me, and I ride a Harley!"

"Steve aka 'Bear' (my husband) and I, along with our son, live in Clairemont, very close to the houses we grew up in. Bear and our son were both born here in San Diego, I was born in California and moved to San Diego at the age of 6 months old. Bear and I bought our first Harley in 2009, and now we own three of them. We

see Alzheimer's, page 14



The newly opened Holiday Inn Express at 635 Hotel Circle South was built with millennials in mind. (Photo by Ken Williams)

A new hotel designed for millennials

Ken Williams | Editor

Millennials — who came of age around the turn of the 21st century — are said to be the first generation to grow up in the era of computers and smartphones. And now comes a new eco-friendly hotel that caters to that generation with all the high-tech conveniences in its spacious lobby and all its rooms.

Enter the Holiday Inn Express & Suites — Mission Valley, the first newly built Holiday Inn Express in San Diego in more than a decade. Featuring 104 rooms on five floors, the new hotel at 635 Hotel Circle South had a soft opening on May 21 while the final finishing touches were still ongoing.

Built by the Hotel Investment Group, based in Old Town, the new property is an IHG Green Engage hotel designed for sustainable usage of water and energy while making the hotel cost-effective for guests. The hotel boasts two electric car charging stations, plus pay parking (\$18 per day) either in an underground garage or outside the complex it shares with the shuttered Vagabond Hotel, which is undergoing a thorough renovation and will be rebranded by the Hotel Investment Group as Hotel Iris.

This Holiday Inn Express is 100 percent smoke free, from the individual rooms to the public spaces on the ground floor, including the outdoor swimming pool area visible from the lobby through glass "garage doors" that roll up when the weather is nice.

Like other Holiday Inn Express locations, the Hotel Circle hotel serves up the complimentary Express Start breakfast in

see Hotel, page 23

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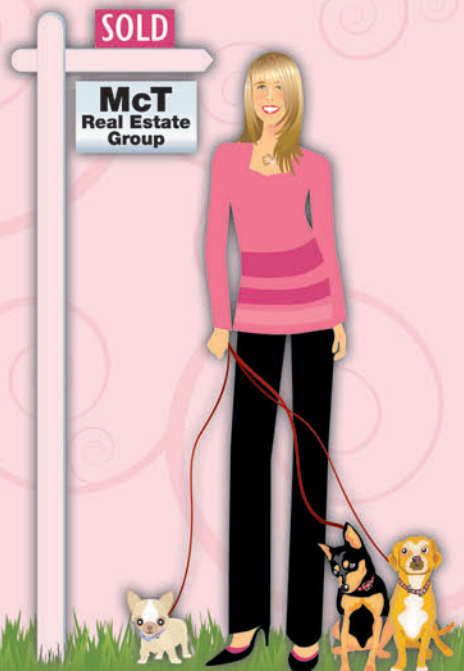
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Lunch loop trolley circles Hillcrest in trial run

Morgan M. Hurley | Contributing Editor

On May 18 to much fanfare, Elizabeth Hannon, the chief operating officer of the Uptown Parking District (UPD), launched the Hillcrest Lunch Loop, a free, lunchtime shuttle that will connect Hillcrest residents, visitors and employees of local businesses with the restaurants of west Hillcrest.

The pilot program, funded by Uptown parking meter revenue and made possible through a partnership between UPD, UC San Diego Health Sciences and the Hillcrest Business Association (HBA), will run through July.

Also on hand to cut the ribbon and ride the first loop was District Three Councilmember Todd Gloria, two officials from UCSD — Assistant Director Zachary Schlagel and Gerard Philips, director of care coordination, and Megan Gamwell, HBA marketing and communications program manager.

Geared to reduce traffic congestion, parking challenges and boost local businesses, the 10-minute, four-stop loop operates Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and will deliver its riders within steps of nearly 50 Hillcrest eatery options.

The Hillcrest Lunch Loop — along with two other UPD trolley initiatives, one that runs on weekend nights and another that supports the farmers market — is but one example.

“The trolley is a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decrease

the number of drivers who are getting in the car at the hospital’s parking structure and driving into Hillcrest, and increase walkability,” Hannon said. “When someone parks at the DMV [after hours] and contemplates walking or taking the Hillcrest trolley to their destination — either are good choices for parking, for your health, and for the environment.”

Hannon, who spends her long days attending meetings, writing

meeting about SANDAG’s bicycle plan, it was Hannon who grabbed the microphone when the speakers began to falter amidst the chaos, calming the crowd with her wit, compassion and clear understanding of the issues at hand.

“In Hillcrest, there are two ways we can impact parking,” she said recently from a seat on the Lunch Loop trolley. “We can increase supply and we can manage demand by introducing pedestrian safety projects and bicycle infrastructure. Providing biking as an option decreases the impacts on parking because more people are riding their bikes safely.”

Hannon said she and her staff are also looking at ways — outside of the many politically charged plans in the works — to increase supply in Hillcrest.

“On-street parking is not necessarily maxed out here and because there are some streets that we can angle park and add spaces by converting the parallel parking,” she said.

With parking angles ranging from 35.5 to 90 degrees and the opportunity for more space with each degree of angle, visibility and safety is also a factor.

“In a residential or a business community where cars are angled, people just naturally drive slow,” she said. “It calms traffic and that makes it safer to walk and with cars slowing down you’re going to feel safer, too.”

“[Angled parking] is also a benefit to the businesses because you can actually see what’s around,” she continued. “Not only is there more

parking and a decrease in the amount of time you have to circle around to find a spot, it will provide storefront businesses more visibility.”

On the flipside, the Lunch Loop is expected to not only support the area’s restaurants, but the employees at UCSD’s Health and Sciences group as well.

“UCSD is our main demographic,” Hannon said, adding that based on a survey they found that nearly 200 hundred of their employees get in their car and drive to lunch on any given day.

“Our staff’s current options are fairly limited,” Schlagel said. “They have access to our cafeteria and various vending machines ... [which now] have healthy, sustainable and locally grown foods available. That being said, it is difficult for staff to get into the community to eat, as the closest restaurants are Jack in the Box and Panda Express, and they are each a 10-minute walk each way.

“In the time it takes to walk to one of those restaurants on Washington, they can now access virtually any Hillcrest restaurant on the Lunch Loop,” he said.

Though the east end of Hillcrest is not currently included, if things go well during the pilot, Hannon sees the potential of adding another trolley to service not only the residents and seniors on the east end

of Hillcrest, but also the businesses along Park Boulevard.

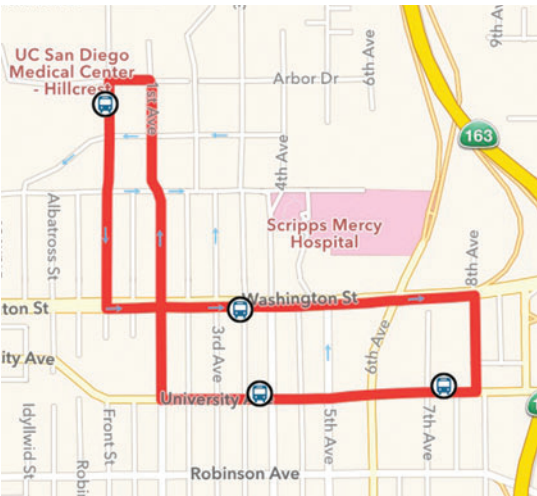
“We want to make sure that the ridership is there and that the times are working but we needed to keep our routing at 10 minutes or under,” she explained, adding that during the post-launch review a trip to Trader Joe’s increased the ride by seven minutes. “People only get an hour for lunch so you don’t want to take a 20-minute trolley in each direction to get to the other side.”

Those interested in giving the Lunch Loop a whirl can download the ParkHillcrest app to their phone, where you will find the live trolley tracker, showing you exactly where the active trolley is along its route; maps for each of the three trolley services; parking and valet options throughout the neighborhood, and more.

Riders are also encouraged to “Like” the ParkHillcrest Facebook page and visit parkhillcrest.com. You can even find menus for most of the area restaurants found within walking distance of the loop and decide your destination before you board or order ahead.

For more information about the Uptown Parking District, visit parkuptownsd.org.

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



The Hillcrest Lunch Loop is a free trolley service for the west side of Hillcrest. (Map courtesy of Uptown Parking District)

grants, overseeing the parking budget, contemplating new initiatives and networking, is a plethora of parking-, bicycle- and pedestrian-based information and she doesn’t shy away from hot-button issues.

Parking and bicycle supporters have drawn their swords on each side in recent months, creating a divide that hasn’t been seen since the height ordinance debates.

At a heated Uptown Planners

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Dr. John Martin is a retired medical physician and surgeon who discovered The Change Fitness 3 months ago. “Since my retirement, I have started working at The Change Fitness to improve my strength and flexibility. This weight training system is efficient and safe, and has produced rapid increase in muscle mass and flexibility, which are very important in maintaining a good quality of life. It has also improved control of my diabetes and lowered my cholesterol to a normal level without the need of statin medication. I strongly recommend The Change Fitness to anyone interested in living strong!”

RN Mary Dixon is a Clinical Study Manager and Registered Nurse. “Before I started working with my trainer at The Change Fitness, I was over-weight and out of shape. My strength and muscle formation were at an all-time low. Now, my results speak for themselves. I have more strength than even before. I’ve lost weight and have a was it line for the time in many years. My trainer focuses on both exercise and nutrition to help me achieve the goals we’ve set. I’m frequently asked how I manage to look younger than my years, and my response is that I come from a good gene pool and I work out at The Change Fitness!”

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Legendary slugger Ted Williams once lived in this house on Utah Street in North Park. (Photo by Tom Leech)

Ted Williams' North Park home is a reminder of San Diego's past

By Tom Leech

One of San Diego's legendary baseball figures, a man who was one of my heroes, once lived just around the corner from me in North Park and I didn't even know it.

Go back a few decades to when I just arrived in San Diego to work at the major aerospace company out at Kearny Mesa. That was the General Dynamics Astronautics facility, employing 40,000 work-

ers to develop and build Atlas and Centaur rockets. I was one of many recent college graduates hired by General Dynamics; half the cars in the company parking lot had out-of-state license plates.

A pressing problem for us mostly engineer types was where to live. On my first day in the company's new employee check-in area, I ran into a fellow new hire, Paul, with whom I had worked a year before as a summer intern at Wright-Patter-

son Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. All of us new hires were then sent to an orientation to the company and its products. There I hooked up with two other imports and with Paul, the four of us decided to look for a place to live.

The obvious place for four bachelors to call home would have been the beach communities. Slight problem was rentals raised their prices for summer (and we were all about out of funds having just paid

for our four or so years of college). So somehow we found a workable two-bedroom apartment in North Park. The location was Kansas Street, a short distance from the North Park Theater (where they showed reel-to-reel films back then). North Park wasn't especially exciting, but it worked.

Once the summer ended, the beach rentals went down significantly, so we found a small house right at the beachfront in North Mission Beach. No question that location provided us with a bit more excitement than the North Park abode. We discovered the hot cultural hangouts along the boardwalk, from the Beachcomber to Maynard's. Someone came up with a surfboard, only about 10 feet long, which took two of us to carry from our house to the shore. We beach bums barely tried it out, but a couple of General Dynamics cronies did come down for some brief surfing shots.

Fast forward a few decades, and both the beach communities and North Park have changed considerably. I have since learned much about San Diego's history and key figures.

One that was intriguing had personal roots for me from back when I was a kid in a small town in Indiana. My chums and I were big baseball fans, rooting for mostly nearby teams like the Chicago White Sox or Cubs, the Detroit Tigers and the Cleveland Indians. My pal Bill and I were ardent Boston Red Sox fans, and had the Bosox symbol pasted on our bicycles. Needless to say, our hero was a left-fielder and super hitter named Ted Williams. During my years here in San Diego I had learned about Ted's baseball start playing for Hoover High School and the early Padres

team at Lane Field, Downtown. The Hall of Champions at Balboa Park had ample info about him, and a major road off Interstate 15 north of Poway was named the Ted Williams Parkway.

When Ted died in 2002, I joined a big crowd for a Ted memorial at the Hall of Champions and heard stories from many locals about who had grown up with Ted and stayed close over the years. Following that, I went to the museum's book store and bought a biography, "Hitter: The Life and Turmoils of Ted Williams." While intently reading about his career from the early years, I came across the address of the house where his mother lived and where Ted had spent much time. And, wait a minute, what's that address? On Utah Street? In North Park? Oh lordy, Ted's family house was just one street over from where I lived on Kansas Street and all of about three blocks away! So for those several months I lived there decades ago, had I known Ted's actual nearby house, I would have made a practice of checking if the Splendid Splinter was visiting his mother and perhaps actually seen my early hero. But no such thing happened.

Lesson learned: Be a more careful researcher about personal heroes who may be living in my vicinity. Hmmm, did I also miss out on La Jolla High School graduate Raquel Welch?

—Tom Leech is a frequent contributor to Mission Valley News, and author (with Jack Farnan) of "Outdoors San Diego: Hiking, Biking & Camping." For information about many ways to enjoy our natural areas, visit outdoorssandiego.com. ♦

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Proposed Hillcrest community park may have Tijuana influences

By Catherine Spearnak

The possible creation of a small community park in Hillcrest moved one step closer to reality Sunday afternoon when architectural design students from Tijuana visited the site.

Design students from Escuela Libre De Arquitectura crossed the border for an initial site visit on Normal Street between University Avenue and Harvey Milk Street. The Hillcrest Pride Flag flagpole stands in the median where the small proposed park would be.

To the east of the proposed park is a 7-Eleven and to the west is Hillcrest Brewing Company and businesses that include Oscar Wilde's Irish Gastropub.

The students made their first visit to Hillcrest to see what the site looks like. From suggestions collected by the Hillcrest Business Association (HBA) from community members and their own vision, the students will draft a park proposal to present to the Hillcrest community and to city planners.

"We've had hundreds of ideas and suggestions from the community, from urban gardens to dog parks to an event space. I am excited to see community ideas come to fruition," said Benjamin Nicholls, executive director of the HBA.

Nicholls said the HBA queried two local architecture schools, the New School of Architecture and the Woodbury University School of Architecture, but they had no inter-



The Hillcrest Pride Flag will be the centerpiece of a proposed community park on Normal Street between University and Harvey Milk Street. (Photo by Benny Cartwright)

est in participating in the project. Showing enthusiasm were officials of Escuela Libre De Arquitectura, which is part of the thriving arts and culture scene in Tijuana.

The park proposed by the HBA will need to be approved by the Uptown Planners and the Hillcrest Town Council before going to a final vote by the San Diego City Council, which Nicholls anticipates will come in 2016.

Nicholls said the first designs from Escuela Libre De Arquitectura design school should arrive in Hillcrest within three weeks.

"My hope is they will take all the community comments and get together and design the park," Nicholls said.

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

UptownBriefs



Mission Hills resident Richard Nares and his wife Diane attended "the one hundred" event in Boston. (Courtesy of Emilio Nares Foundation)

MISSION HILLS MAN WINS NATIONAL ACCLAIM

Mission Hills resident Richard Nares, co-founder and executive director of the Emilio Nares Foundation (ENF), was recently selected as a 2015 honoree of "the one hundred" at the eighth annual gala May 26 at the Westin Copley Place Hotel in Boston.

The one hundred, created and supported by Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, recognizes 100 individuals and groups from around the globe whose commitment to the fight against cancer is inspiring and revolutionary.

ENF helps navigate families through their child's journey with cancer and ensures no child misses a cancer treatment due to lack of transportation. For more information visit enfhope.org.

SAN DIEGO TO MAKE MUSIC FOR BALBOA PARK CENTENNIAL

San Diego Makes Music is a free concert experience that invites all community musicians to participate

on Sunday, June 14 at 3 p.m. in the Plaza de Panama at Balboa Park.

Mainly Mozart has invited 33 high-level amateur musicians to sit side-by-side with members of the all-star Mainly Mozart Festival Orchestra under the baton of Music Director Michael Francis. Since there's not enough room onstage for everyone to play, musicians of all ability levels are encouraged to participate from the audience. This is a day for all of San Diego to join forces in celebration of music making and the Centennial of Balboa Park, one of the city's most iconic landmarks and cultural hubs.

"San Diego Makes Music is a project that elicits the interest of amateur musicians in our community to perform classical repertoire alongside professional musicians," Mainly Mozart director of artistic operations Drew Cady said in a statement. "Through this experience, we hope to empower and give them encouragement to strive toward a higher level of skill in their pursuit as musicians. An hour side-by-side with a professional musician can fortify one's intentions to aspire as a musician and play with more commitment and passion."

If interested in participating, visit mainlymozart.org/san-diego-makes-music to sign up.

D BAR CO-OWNER NAMED TO TOP TEN PASTRY CHEFS IN AMERICA

Lisa Bailey of D Bar San Diego in Hillcrest has earned a top national award among pastry chefs.

Bailey was honored June 1 at the 22nd annual Top Ten Pastry Chefs in America Awards at the Institute of Culinary Education in New York City.

The awards recognized the top toques of tuile, cocoa and sugar

for their talent and unique culinary vision. The 2015 winners will be featured in the August issue of Dessert Professional magazine.

Bailey co-owns D Bar with her husband, Keegan Gerhard, of "Food Network Star" fame. Gerhard won similar awards in 2002 and 2004.

MOVIE NIGHTS RETURN TO NORMAL HEIGHTS

Normal Heights United Methodist Church and the Normal Heights Community Association team up with the Adams Avenue Park & Recreation to host Movie Nights during the summer in Ward Canyon Park and Adams Park, starting at sunset.

June 6: "Big Hero 6," at Adams Park

June 27: "Hotel for Dogs," at Ward Canyon Park

July 18: "The Mask," at Ward Canyon Park

July 25: "Paddington," at Adams Park

August 15: "The Princess Bride," Ward Canyon Park

August 22: "The Jungle Book," at Adams Park

More information at nhunited.org/family-movie-nights.

HILLCREST TOWN COUNCIL MEETS JUNE 9

The Hillcrest Town Council will gather Tuesday, June 9, at 6:30 p.m. at Joyce Beers Community Center at The Hub | Hillcrest Market.

Topics for discussion include an update on the Uptown Bike Corridor Project and San Diego Pride.

BURLINGAME NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION TO MEET

The Burlingame Neighborhood Association board will meet on Tuesday, June 9, at Mazara Trattoria (2302 30th St). To keep up with the group, visit burlingamesd.com.

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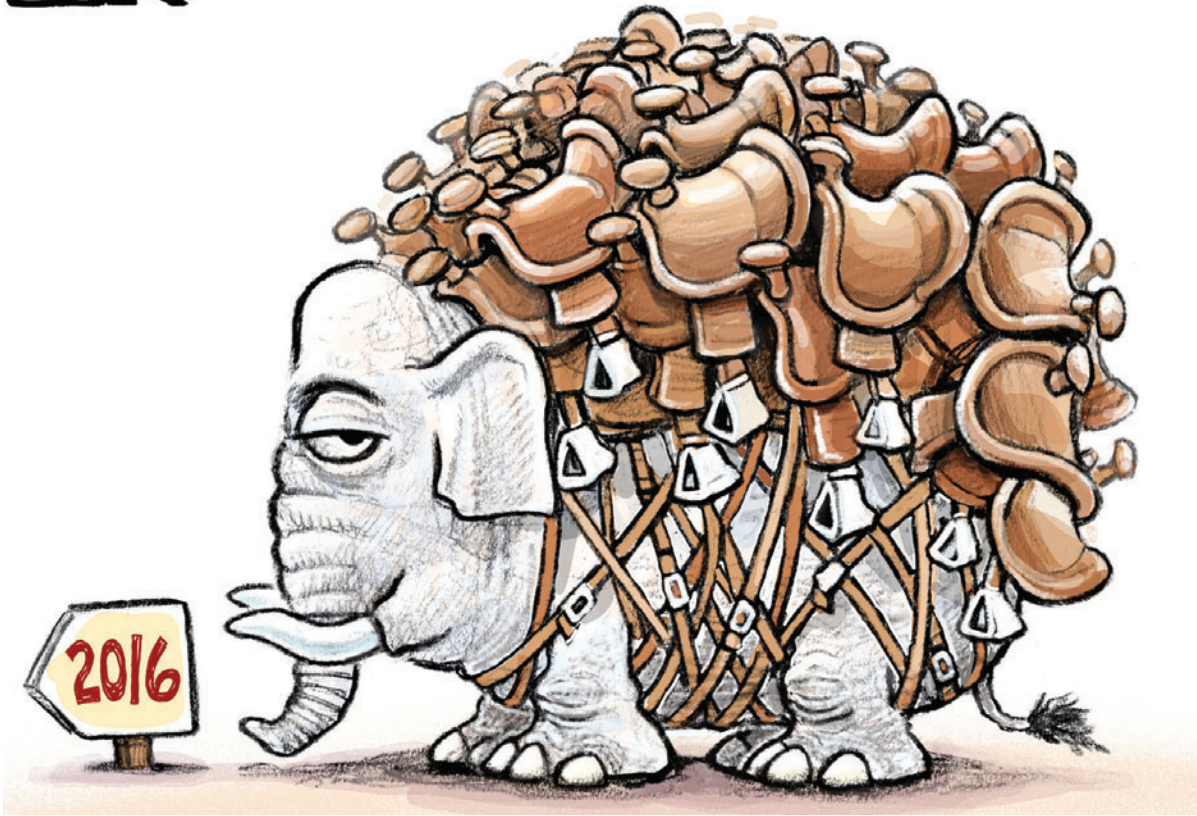
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Editorial

Keeping kids safe around the water this summer

By Michael Murphy

Kids love pools. But a swimming pool can be a dangerous place for children and tragedy can strike in an instant. With summer on the way, now's the perfect time to remember some basic guidelines for keeping your loved ones safe around the water.

First, make a habit of doing the following

— Learn how to swim and teach your children how to swim. It's not just a skill you can use to have fun and stay fit, it will help keep you and your children safe.

— Never take your eyes off a child around a pool, not even for an instant. And if a child is missing, check the pool first. Every second you save could be the difference between life and death.

— Make sure someone is assigned the task of watching the children during poolside gatherings. Don't assume you will hear a child in trouble in the pool. Rarely does a child splash around before drowning — he or she simply sinks silently under water.

— If you're leaving a babysitter in charge of the kids, make sure the babysitter understands the critical importance of constant supervision around the pool.

— If you're taking the kids to a public pool or spa, make sure it complies with all local, state and federal safety regulations.

You can also take a number of proactive steps to make sure your loved ones stay safe:

You should install a 5-foot-high fence around your pool, one with a self-closing and self-latching gate. And never prop open the gate. Make a point of installing alarms on any doors or windows that open to a pool area. And avoid keeping any furniture next to the fence that a child might use to climb over the fence.

You should make sure your pool has an anti-entrapment drain cover that complies with all regulations. Each year dozens of children are injured or killed when an outdated pool drain sucks them down.

Last but not least, everyone in the family should learn CPR, especially if you have a pool in your backyard. Kids should learn it, too. Not long ago, two 13-year-old boys in National City used CPR to save the life of a 6-year-old boy who was spotted at the bottom of a pool at an apartment complex. The boy would not have survived had the two teens not been trained in CPR.

By following these basic guidelines, you and your family can enjoy a fun, safe and relaxing summer by the pool or at the beach.

—Michael Murphy is general manager of American Medical Response in San Diego. ♦

Why you need to take the Senior Affairs Advisory Board survey

By William Kelly

San Diego's adult older population is a rapidly increasing percentage of the city's residents.

Recent professional studies at the city, county, state and national level duplicate the warnings of a looming national aging crisis that cannot be ignored.

The older adult population is increasing fastest in the western U.S., and lacking proper planning, shortfalls in available, accessible and affordable housing, health care, transportation and underfunded social safety nets will soon negatively impact the quality of life in every age group and neighborhood.

San Diego's Paul Downey, a widely recognized authority on aging, reported that one out of four homeless San Diegans is aged 60 or greater and the number of San Diegans over the age of 60 will double by 2030 to one in four residents.

The Elder Index also tells us that two out of five [40 percent] seniors lack enough money to meet their housing, food, health care and transportation needs.

Other sources show one out of every four adult San Diegans is currently caring for one or more senior relatives and that one out of four homeless persons is a veteran.

Our mayor and City Council are ultimately responsible for city policies, ordinances, laws, projects and budgets impact-

ing all San Diegans. The City of San Diego Senior Affairs Advisory Board (SAAB) was given the responsibility of informing and advising them of the needs of older adults as they carry out that responsibility. Recognizing both the diversity and commonality of each City Council district, SAAB is visiting each district and conducting an anonymous 10-15 minute voluntary survey of adults aged 49 or greater.

The geographic, economic, financial, cultural, social, physical and mental health, family and other factors of San Diego's diverse population are what determines the priority levels of concern for each of us, younger and older alike. Accordingly, there are no one-size-fits-all strategies to address the challenges before us.

The information being collected will underscore older adult priority concerns down to the neighborhood level. Mapping the results and overlaying that map with one of existing transportation, shopping, medical care facilities, services, programs, recreation/entertainment facilities, and housing inventory and costs will highlight deficiencies by neighborhood and district.

As a result, your participation in the survey is critical to achieving viable San Diego solutions that identify and address the challenges.

San Diego can and is attempting to head off a potential human disaster; but government, nonprofits, businesses, community organizations and SAAB member volun-

teers cannot do the job without the valuable information you provide by completing the survey.

Help us help you and each other. Take the survey.

Remember: The alternative to working together as a community now to heed the warning signs, is waiting until we reach crisis levels, and far more drastic steps — at even greater cost and negative impact on the lives of every San Diegan — will be then necessary.

Thank you for your participation.

For cost and time efficiency, please take the SAAB survey online at:

English version: surveymonkey.com/s/SeniorAffairs

Spanish version: surveymonkey.com/s/SAABenEspanol

For a paper copy, call 619-236-6362 or mail a request to:

Attn: Senior Survey
San Diego Office of ADA
Compliance
1200 Third Avenue, Suite 924
San Diego, CA 92101

For more information about SAAB, visit their website at sandiego.gov/saab.

—William Kelly can be reached at wekbill@yahoo.com. Please do not forward the surveys to him, since it will only delay the time it takes to get to the right people. ♦

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Letters



The Lily Pond outside the Botanical Building is a popular attraction in Balboa Park, where a charter school wants to locate. (Photo by Son Appareil Photography)

Open letter to Charter Review Committee about Balboa Park

By David Lundin

(Editor's note: This open letter was sent to San Diego City Council president Sherri Lightner and members of the Charter Review Committee by David Lundin, president of the newly formed Balboa Park Heritage Association, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation.)

San Diego has a limited number of parkland, an ever-growing population, and some political and business forces motivated by greed or good intentions, which seek to privatize these precious public lands. We believe parkland should be protected and remain as public parkland.

Parkland is a scarce and precious public resource in any city, particularly in one expanding and becoming increasingly urbanized. Parkland will always be under pressure to be used for other purposes, to be sold or leased, or to be developed in part for non-park purposes. We believe to best preserve parkland for the next several generations of San Diego residents and visitors, existing City Charter protections of parkland should be both maintained and strengthened.

As president of the newly formed Balboa Park Heritage Association, we both [1] strongly oppose any weakening of the existing parkland's protective language in the City Charter and [2] will propose new, more explicit protective language as amendments to the City Charter as part of the current comprehensive Charter Review process. We hope you will support these efforts to protect our parkland.

We propose clear, explicit and easily understood language as a Charter amendment to achieve this purpose. Absent strengthened protections, our parkland will be subject to intense uses incompatible with the look, feel, atmosphere and objective of public parkland.

Only last month a San Diego charter school operator proposed locating a newly created educational complex for their campus in Balboa Park. To make this permissible, the proponents suggested new Charter language to permit educational use of parkland, including Balboa Park.

This proposed amendment could lead to the development of open public Balboa Park lands for privately controlled school buildings, fenced school recreational facilities and grounds, and additional development incompatible with the public recreational use of precious Balboa Park lands and assets.

The sole proponent of this proposal is the operator of a Bankers Hill charter school having designs on acquisition of a favorable leasehold or purchased lands in Balboa Park and development of a school campus. This proponent states its proposal is a possibility for a small change that could

open up a big idea. It suggests that revenues from such a public-private partnership could be a partial solution to the millions of dollars in unfunded deferred maintenance liabilities facing Balboa Park.

That big idea is a prescription for disaster for both the public and Balboa Park. It is the city's moral and legal obligation to properly maintain Balboa Park. This duty is non-delegable. Breaching this duty should never be used as justification to surrender parts of Balboa Park to non-park uses. Balboa Park could be converted to a commercial mall and revenue-producing site for multiple charter schools. Generating revenues is not the purpose for San Diego's public parks.

We have urged the City Council to reject this proposal as wholly incompatible with both the critically important Charter protections now applicable to Balboa Park and other parkland, and to the moral and legal duty of this Committee, the City Council and the mayor's office to maintain, protect and defend this precious and unique public property from unneeded and unnecessary encroachment.

Existing park protective language in the Charter reads as follows at Article V, Section 55 of the current Charter:

"All real property owned in fee by the City heretofore or hereafter formally dedicated inperpetuity [sic] by ordinance of the Council or by statute of the State Legislature for park, recreation or cemetery purposes shall not be used for any but park, recreation or cemetery purposes without such changed use or purpose having been first authorized or later ratified by a vote of two-thirds of the qualified electors of the City voting at an election for such purpose. However, real property which has been heretofore or which may hereafter be set aside without the formality of an ordinance or statute dedicating such lands for park, recreation or cemetery purposes may be used for any public purpose deemed necessary by the Council.

Whenever the City Manager recommends it, and the City Council finds that the public interest demands it, the City Council may, without a vote of the people, authorize the opening and maintenance of streets and highways over, through and across City fee-owned land which has heretofore or hereafter been formally dedicated in perpetuity by ordinance or statute for park, recreation and cemetery purposes."

We have proposed this language be amended, clarified and strengthened to read as follows:

"All real property owned in fee by the City heretofore or hereafter formally dedicated in perpetuity by ordinance of the Council or by statute

of the State Legislature for park, recreation or cemetery purposes and real property which has been heretofore or which may hereafter be set aside without the formality of an ordinance or statute dedicating such lands for park, recreation or cemetery purposes [hereinafter "parkland"] shall not be used for any but park, recreation or cemetery purposes without such changed use or purpose having been first authorized or later ratified by a vote of two-thirds of the qualified electors of the City voting at an election for such purpose.

The proponent of any non-park, recreation or cemetery use of parkland shall have the burden of first demonstrating by a preponderance of the evidence that such proposed use of parkland will affirmatively enhance and not diminish the free public park and recreational use and enjoyment of parkland, before such proposal may be authorized or later ratified by a vote of two-thirds of the qualified electors of the City voting at an election for such purpose. This predicate determination shall be made by the City Council, and shall be subject to de novo review by any Court having jurisdiction over parkland and subject matter.

The City Council may authorize the opening and maintenance of streets and highways over, through and across parkland [hereinafter "Streets and Highways Use"], provided the City Council shall have the burden of first making an affirmative finding supported by a preponderance of the evidence that such proposed Streets and Highways Use of Parkland will affirmatively enhance and not diminish the free public park and recreational use and enjoyment of Park Lands. This predicate determination shall be made by the City Council, and shall be subject to de novo review by any Court having jurisdiction over parkland and subject matter."

This proposed amendment does the following to clarify, enhance and strengthen protections of park lands:

1. The definition of "parkland" is made inclusive of both properties formally dedicated in perpetuity by ordinance of the Council or by statute of the state legislature for park, recreation or cemetery purposes and real property which has been heretofore or which may hereafter be set aside without the formality of an ordinance or statute dedicating such lands for park, recreation or cemetery purposes;

2. Any proponent of any non-park, recreation or cemetery use of parkland would have the burden of first demonstrating by a preponderance of the evidence that such proposed non-compliant use of parkland will affirmatively enhance and not diminish the free public park and recreational use and enjoyment of parkland; and

3. Use of parkland for street and highway uses would be fully subject to this same standard, protecting park lands from de facto condemnation for street and highway uses regardless of the impact on use and enjoyment of parkland.

We understand the Charter Review is a process, involving all elements of city government and the public.

We hope these suggestions will assist in a process that ultimately will be successful to best preserve parkland for the next several generations of San Diego residents and visitors by both maintaining and strengthening existing Charter protections of scarce and increasingly precious parkland.

Please join us un this important effort. Contact us at LoveBalboaPark@gmail.com.

David Lundin
President, Balboa Park
Heritage Association

Letters



Rubble is all that remains of the historic Michels-Carey House, home of the LGBT movement in North Park. (Photo by Charles Kaminski)

Historic Michels-Carey House demolished in blow to LGBT community

The historic Michels-Carey house at the corner of Florida Street and El Cajon Boulevard in North Park was demolished May 29 by HG Fenton, the developer.

Seems that the city issued the demolition permit around 1:30 p.m. May 29 and a few hours later at around 5 p.m. the Saltbox house was demolished. The city sent a fax stating the demolition permit "may" have been issued in error. But by the time it was sent/received, the house was gone.

It seems odd that the news that the house was to be considered by the California Office of Historic Preservation announced a few days before the demolition was subsequently followed by the developer's action. The developer was aware of the state process since late in 2014 and commented on the house to the state when the first draft of the nomination was distributed to Fenton.

The architects for the project,

Foundation for Form, are community members and expressed no interest along with the developer in saving the house.

This is a tragedy for San Diego's LGBTQ history of place. Lambda Archives of San Diego and Saving Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) were uniformed and taken by surprise of this action. Both are researching how this happened, given that there were assurance by city staff that if a demolition permit was requested there would be a review of the permit by Historic Resources staff.

The building was going to be reviewed for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places in August by the State Historic Resources Commission.

Lambda and SOHO will be evaluating their options.

Chuck Kaminski
Lambda Archives of San Diego
board of directors

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Humphreys lineup is a mash-up of old and new

Tunes About Town

Jen Van Tieghem



Each year, Humphreys Concerts by the Bay boasts an eclectic lineup of bands playing throughout the spring, summer and fall at the beautiful waterside location.

Despite growing competition from nearby music venues, Humphreys has once again announced nearly 60 upcoming shows, with more to be added.

Their musical guests range from classic-rock outfits to up-and-coming singer-songwriters with everything in between. Humphreys will also welcome a handful of comedians this year rounding out their diverse offerings. The season is already off to a great start with recent sold-out shows by Interpol and Steely Dan; there are certainly more sell-out days to come.

With most of the shows falling in the summer months, here is a look at some of our picks for shows in June, July and August.

June 12 - Ingrid Michaelson

Despite penning several successful pop songs over the last decade, Michaelson is still a seemingly underappreciated singer-songwriter. From the sweet and simple "The Way I Am" to the dance-worthy "Parachute," the songstress has a talent for crafting addictive tunes. Her latest earworm "Girls Chase Boys" was released on last year's "Lights Out." That album also spawned "Time Machine," a catchy ditty with an equally captivating video, which features cameos from several actors including Rainn Wilson and Donald Faison. Tickets start at \$40 with dinner and hotel packages available. 7 p.m.

June 28 - Smash Mouth/Toad the Wet Sprocket/Tonic

This lineup of pop-rock goodness will bring together three hit-making bands from the '90s and early 2000s. Those of us that grew up with "All-Star" (Smash Mouth), "All I Want" (Toad the Wet Sprocket) and "If You Could Only See" (Tonic) as our high school soundtrack won't want to miss this one. All three bands are likely to perform songs that span their lengthy catalogs and entice fans

both old and new. Tickets start at \$53 with dinner, hotel and meet-and-greet packages available. 7 p.m.

July 2 - John Butler Trio

This Australian band presents an interesting combination of folk-rock with funk and bluegrass elements. Known as a "jam band," the group is known for extended musical interludes. Their infectious rhythms can be heard on their latest single "Only One." Soulful singer Anderson East will open the show. This show is standing room only. Tickets are \$48. 7:30 p.m.

July 5 - Indigo Girls

The prolific folk duo will wrap up Fourth of July weekend with their gorgeous harmonies. Though their career started in the 1980s, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers have stood the test of time with songs that hold up just as well. The two



Soulful singer Jill Scott will perform Aug. 25 at Humphreys Concerts by the Bay. (Courtesy of Humphreys)

to perform several of their many hits and well as obscure fan favorites. The group is known to exude as much energy now as they did 30 years ago and we can't wait to dance in our seats to this fun and enduring music. Tickets are \$65. 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 25 - Jill Scott

Recently added to this year's Humphreys lineup, Jill Scott's show is sure to sell out fast. The soulful songstress is known for her solo work as well as numerous



The B-52s will be at Humphreys Concerts by the Bay on Aug. 15, part of a robust schedule of events. (Courtesy of Humphreys)

have had a career many only dream of, as talented musicians (and political activists) whose songs have become contemporary classics. With over a dozen albums on their resume, the set should include plenty of hits as well as deeper cuts. Our fingers are crossed for "Shame on You" and "Love of Our Lives." Tickets start at \$49 with dinner and hotel packages available. 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 15 - The B-52s

With a career spanning decades and genres, this alt-rock, new wave group is still going strong. Though they haven't released an album since 2008, The B-52s have a long catalog to draw from. The unique band - both visually and musically - is sure

collaborations with various stars interweaving genres from jazz to hip-hop. The Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter is getting ready to release her next album, so we're hoping to get some sneak previews from that as well as old favorites like "Cross My Mind" and "A Long Walk." Tickets start at \$86 with dinner and hotel packages available. 7:30 p.m.

This smattering of shows is just the tip of Humphreys' musical iceberg.

Visit HumphreysConcerts.com for a full schedule that stretches through the end of October.

—Reach Jen Van Tieghem
at jen@sdenn.com. ♦

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Brew's Up

National conference returns to San Diego and North Park

Suds in the city

Cody Thompson



With more than 100 breweries in operation and countless more in the planning stages, San Diego has solidified itself as the craft beer capital of America. That being said, it's no surprise that craft beer fans and brewers alike from all over the world look forward to visiting our suds-soaked landscape any time the opportunity presents itself.

The latest occasion is Brew's Up San Diego — the 2015 National Homebrewers Conference. The conference is an educational gathering that gives homebrewers the chance to learn new skills and techniques, or expand their knowledge of brewing while increasing camaraderie.

"This will be our second time hosting the National Homebrewers Conference at the Town & Country Resort in Mission Valley," said Gary Glass, director of the American Homebrewers Association. "Their space works very well for our event and the Town & Country staff is great to work with."

"There is really nothing else like the National Homebrewers Conference. Anyone who knows a homebrewer knows just how passionate they are about great tasting beer. The friendships made and knowledge gained from attending this event with 3,000 fellow homebrewers and beer lovers will last a lifetime."

While the conference is taking place in Mission Valley, fear not; the North Park hipster neighborhood will be graced with many events leading up to the conference, inviting visitors to sample some of the best

San Diego has to offer in craft beer and food.

Angela Landsberg, executive director of North Park Main Street, filled in the details.

"The neighborhood of North Park is pleased to play host to beer enthusiasts from all over the nation. North Park has worked hard to put itself on the map as a destination for locals and travelers and these pre-conference events are the perfect chance for North Park to shine," Landsberg said.

"San Diego, and especially North Park, is a hub for craft beer. By bringing enthusiasts together, it gives people from many different regions a chance to see what this community is doing to support the economically successful craft beer industry."

Visitors on Tuesday, June 9, are invited to sample food and taste special craft beer offerings during a special edition of Taste of North Park. The event is a self-guided walking tour through the popular 30th Street craft beer corridor, where guests will be able to sample food from 10 of the area's most popular restaurants and sip on special pours from five breweries in the area. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at tuesdaytasteof-northpark.bpt.me.

The following day, June 10, Waypoint Public hosts a Ballast Point Progression Dinner. For \$65, guests will enjoy a three-course meal prepared by Waypoint's partner Brian Jenser and Ballast Point's Executive Director and Specialty Brewer Colby Chandler. The dinner will highlight Ballast Point's progression from homebrewer to San Diego fan favorite. Tables are available at 7 and 8 p.m. For information and reservations, go to chefandbrewerdinner.bpt.me.

Also happening Wednesday is the North Park Mobile Brew Hop, and it's 100 percent free. Thirsty locals and visitors will be able to board a shuttle from the Town and Country Hotel and be escorted to some of the greatest beer destinations in North Park. They include Mike Hess Brewing, Rip Current Brewing, Ritual Tavern, Toronado and Fall Brewing Co.



North Park will host a number of events in association with the Brew's Up San Diego — 2015 National Homebrewers Conference. (Photo collage courtesy of Waypoint Public)

For information, visit the North Park Main Street at northparkmainstreet.com.

Even if you are not able to attend the conference itself, San Diego's Uptown establishments invite you to take part in festivities not only for out-of-town visitors, but for craft beer fan locals as well.

Glass talked about the impact the conference will have on North Park and its surrounding neighborhoods.

"It means great exposure for the incredible beer scene you have in North Park and San Diego. The area's breweries and beer

bars are going to experience a wave of the most knowledgeable and enthusiastic beer geeks (a term of endearment for us) from all over the U.S.," he said.

Landsberg echoed that theme. "San Diego has a wide variety of brewers and styles, large to small and everything in between. Along with its great weather, diverse communities, good food and friendly people, San Diego is the perfect place an event like this."

—Contact Cody Thompson at cody@threebzone.com.

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JD Taylor as Henry and Lauren Blumenfeld as Claudine in the West Coast premiere of Victoria Stewart's "Rich Girl," directed by James Vásquez, through June 21 at The Old Globe. (Photo by Jim Cox)

Modern setting for Henry James novel displays depth of characters

Theater Review

Charlene Baldrige



In 1880, Henry James came forth with a novel, at first in serial form, titled "Washington Square." In subsequent adaptations for the stage and screen, the story was titled "The Heiress" and concerned a socially gauche young woman whose physician father was abusive, widowed and wealthy. When love came along and his

daughter insisted on marrying an impecunious young man, the good doctor threatened to disinherit her. The young man, he declared, was after her money.

Readers may remember the 1949 multiple Academy Award-winning film with Ralph Richardson, Olivia de Havilland and Montgomery Clift.

Through June 21, the Old Globe presents a more recent take on the original James novel, playwright Victoria Stewart's "Rich Girl," which turns the tables on James in many ways. Highly successful as a television financial wizard (think Suze Orman) and



(l to r) Meg Gibson as Eve and Carolyn Michelle Smith as Maggie in "Rich Girl" at The Old Globe. (Photo by Jim Cox)

author, the man-hating Eve Walker (Meg Gibson) has raised an ungainly, socially inept daughter named Claudine (Lauren Blumenfeld) to adulthood. Claudine has zero self-esteem. A wise and witty confidant of both mother and daughter is Maggie (Carolyn Michelle Smith), who lives more in their mansion than in her own apartment.

As an underpaid intern in her mother's empire and a representative of her mother's charitable foundation, Claudine meets a handsome young theater director seeking grant money to save his foundering troupe. She turns down the grant request; nonetheless, to use the trite expression, Henry (JD Taylor) sweeps Claudine off her feet. Soon, they are engaged. Eve does everything she can to prevent the marriage and thwart the relationship, including taking Claudine away for a mother/daughter Africa safari, after which she produces legal documents disinheriting Claudine should she marry Henry. She is the control freak parent from hell.

Stewart stops short of making Eve or any of the four characters stereotypical. Instead, the playwright, abetted by the canny and empathetic direction of James Vásquez, leaves onlookers to make their own judgments; one supposes those judgments are based on individual life experience, the exercise of common sense, and the degree of romantic illusion. Just as Claudine at the

moment of denouement, we are deliciously torn between one and the other.

Seldom does one see a more integrated company. Blumenfeld is adorably insecure; Gibson walks the line between caring and crassness; Smith imbues her character with genuine warmth; and Taylor is wondrously, winningly handsome and inscrutable.

The nuance does not stop there. Even the setting's décor has humor (Wilson Chin is scenic designer). And the ladies' apparel tells the story of each (Shirley Pierson is costume designer). A favorite Claudine ensemble consists of mismatched polka dots. One longs to unpack the rest of the suitcases. The production is also enhanced by Amanda Zieve's lighting design, Mark Holmes and Paul Peterson's video design (hysterically funny after Claudine assumes her mother's TV show and persona), and Lindsay Jones's original music and sound design.

"Rich Girl" is the most satisfyingly turned-out production in a long while. Do not miss it.

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

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FROM PAGE 1
TOUR

neighborhoods and communities — entire cities, even. If he couldn't do it himself, he would try to persuade others to follow his lead. He liked to tell a story, enlighten and entertain, elevate his profession and the quality of his contemporaries' work. He wasn't pretentious. Or stuffy. He didn't mind poking a little fun at himself. (His column, which essentially told homeowners and builders, politely, that they were doing it all wrong, was called "Requa's Rants.")

Requa thought big. He didn't just think outside the box, he thought about the box, both inside and out, and then he thought of dozens of little boxes arranged around a courtyard, with red tile roofs on them. Requa designed the town of Ojai at age 32, perhaps the first planned community in America. In the 1920s, he laid out Rancho Santa Fe and supervised the design of the public buildings and many of the homes. He was the supervising architect of Kensington Heights. In the 1930s, he played a similar role in Presidio Hills and a development near San Diego State University. He designed commercial buildings, apartment buildings, military buildings and barracks. He ran a busy office and collaborated with many architects, both in his employ and out. He shared his insights with others, through lectures, movies, photographs, books, and newspaper and magazine articles. It's amazing he had the energy or time to design any houses at all.

Of the houses we know about that he designed solely himself, most were model homes for housing tracts, designs for influential people, or part of a project dear to his heart, like the Houses of Pacific Relations he designed and built for the 1935 Expo in Balboa Park.

Considering all this, it's pretty amazing that a house Requa personally designed, and whose construction he personally supervised, is part of this month's Old House Fair Home Tour in South Park and Golden Hill. Better still, El Tovar, an apartment building he designed on 28th Street, is included in this year's tour as well. It's a Richard Requa twofer, all within walking distance of the Old House Fair epicenter at 30th and Beech.

Both structures are remarkably intact. Were they in La Jolla or Coronado, they would have been restored beyond recognition, as has happened to other Requa designed houses.

Richard Smith Requa came to San Diego with his family in 1900, at the age of 19, from the tiny town of Norfolk, Nebraska, where his father sold men's clothes. In Rock Island, Illinois, where Requa was born, his father ran a shop called The Merchant Tailor ("dealer in fine hats, gents furnishings"). In San Diego he managed a rooming house called The Tourist, at 23rd and H Street. At one point, the family lived there, too.

Requa was a photographer before he was an architect. In 1904 he opened a studio and photo supply

store on Fifth Avenue. It was a family affair — his sister Rhoda was a clerk. But Southwest Photo Supply wasn't a financial success. After a year, he and his partner, Fred L Edwards, went back to working for FS Hartwell, an electrical contractor.

In 1907, after working as an electrician for six years, Requa managed to wrangle a site superintendent job from Irving Gill. Five years later, while Gill was turning his attention to the planning of the industrial city of Torrance, Requa struck out on his own. In 1912, he partnered up with the much older and more experienced Frank Mead, who had worked with Gill (and for a brief time was his partner).

Requa couldn't have picked two better mentors. Mead was experienced yet eccentric, famous for traveling around the Mediterranean in the back of an ox cart, in native dress, sketching everything he saw. Gill taught drafting and mentored many young architects. Gill spent the first part of his career trying to figure out how to reduce architecture to its basic, purest form — and the second part trying to persuade people to let him do it. Like Mead, he was impressed by the simple cubist structures of North Africa and he believed the architecture of the Missions, ranchos and other simple buildings of early California held the key to a new type of architecture for 20th-century Southern California.

In Requa's second book, "Old World Inspiration for American Architecture" (1927), he makes it clear Mead and Requa were still influencing his thought. "The greatest obstacle in the path of architectural progress in America is the prevailing notion that a building of architectural pretension must be designed in some recognized ancient and exotic style. ... Seldom is such a building in harmony with its environment or a true expression of its materials and purposes."

This is what people most often get wrong about Requa — that he was designing in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. He wasn't interested in historical recreation. He was carrying on Gill's project of creating an architecture appropriate for San Diego. He called it Southern California Architecture.

The OHF Tour house on a hill in South Park is an ideal example of the type. It was built for Leslie B. Mills and his wife Eunice. Mills was in the trade — he owned and ran an onyx and marble mine in Baja, and a tile factory in San Diego. He was active in the Ad Club and the Chamber of Commerce, as was Requa. Unlike some of Requa's better-known projects — the Del Mar Castle, for example, the Mills house is human-scaled. It's a comfortable family home. The present owners have been excellent stewards of this piece of San Diego history.

Rudd Schoeffel, who owns the house with his wife Sally, is a font of knowledge about the place, the era, Requa and the previous homeowners. Rudd, a long-time real estate professional who has owned a number of historic houses, can point out Requa's innovations, such as the concrete

stairs, scored and tinted to look like tile. (And the onyx decoration over the doorway.) According to Rudd, Requa was on the site nearly every day during the building of the project, which is full of custom touches.

The house was big news: It made the front page of the San Diego Union in 1927, as construction was about to start. Coincidentally, there's an announcement in the same issue about Requa's then-new column. This was the sort of brilliant synchronicity

that Requa would no doubt lecture the Ad Club about at their monthly meeting. Two write-ups in one issue. Another Requa twofer!

Requa's plan for a Southern California style of architecture was stymied by the Great Depression. Although he worked in the style for the 1935 Expo, most notably the Casa Del Prado and the Houses of Pacific Relations, Requa's last house was typical of the traditional minimalist style mandated by the FHA's lending guidelines. (The same

guidelines made Mediterranean flavored houses hard to finance, turned La Jolla into an exclusive enclave and made South Park a magnet for low cost housing.)

Requa died at his desk on June 10, 1941, at age 60, his dream of a new Southern California style only partly realized. But we can still gaze upon what Requa wrought in South Park and imagine what might have been.

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

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Exploring the history, neighborhood charm of South Park and Golden Hill

By Marsha Smelkinson

It started 17 years ago as a small block party with exhibit booths on Beech Street in what was known then as part of Golden Hill. Today, the Old House Fair is a signature event for South Park, where a neighborhood has built its identity around the historic charm of its streets lined with early 20th-century homes.

On Saturday, June 20, a few thousand visitors will take part in Old House Fair activities, which still center around the intersection of 30th and Beech streets, one of the central crossroads of South Park. There



This 1926 California bungalow, with Spanish Revival influence, emphasizes a horizontal link between the house and the land around it. This romantic, simplified version of the Spanish Revival or Spanish Colonial California bungalow evolved to fill the needs of the working-class budget. A great contrast to the turn of the century ornate Victorian style, in the 1920s and 1930s neighborhoods were dotted with these single-story stucco homes inspired by the launching of the 1915 San Diego California Exposition.

(Photo by Andy McRory)



After years of neglect and many owners, this two-story craftsman home, built in 1914, has been lovingly restored. Following the Craftsman style of the early 1900s, the features are symmetrical, with Douglas fir built-ins and sweeping views of the hills to the east. The home is perched on a hill, giving the entrance, as one ascends the flight of stairs, a majestic feeling. (Photo by Andy McRory)

they can buy tour tickets, visit exhibitors and artisans, enjoy music and dance performances by local residents, and partake in festive food highlighted by the Buona Forchetta Pizza Party.

The festival is mostly a free event, but the more extensive tours require tickets. Everyone will receive a free booklet with maps and historical information, and Urban Safaris will offer a guided walking tour of the neighborhood at 2 p.m.

Historic Home Tour ticket-holders can board a free shuttle bus that circulates around the five homes in South Park and Golden Hill. Three of the homes are within easy walking distance of the fair, and two are located about eight blocks away. Each home will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with docent guides providing highlight info in key rooms. Tickets are \$25 per person, available online (theoldhousefair.com) or at the fair on June 20.



This 1913 non-traditional Craftsman is very similar, in façade and floor plan layout, to another home on the Old House Fair Tour, but has some interesting differences. On approaching this home one notices the off-center, second-story door, leading to a rooftop mystery. Was the balcony never completed? The interior wood paneling and built-ins maintain the craftsman symmetry; however, the fireplace returns to the asymmetrical style.

(Photo by Andy McRory)

The Centennial Trolley Tours offer one-hour rides with narration, guiding riders to historic sites and iconic homes in South Park and Golden Hill. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids, and are available at the ticket booth at 30th and Beech.

There will also be a free shuttle between the Old House Fair and Golden Hill Park, site of the Golden Hill Centennial Expo Festival that opens at 11 a.m. Old House Fair visitors receive a \$5 photo booth voucher to use at Golden Hill Park on June 20.

Marsha Smelkinson and Maureen Ceccarelli are co-directors of the Old House Fair, which is produced by the South Park Business Group (which also organizes the quarterly Walkabouts in the neighborhood). Proceeds from the event are used to support maintenance, beautification and improvements in the area.

More information on the Old House Fair is available online (theoldhousefair.com) or by phone at 619-233-6679. ♦

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Built in 1929, this multi-family residence dubbed El Tovar is believed to have been designed by Richard Requa. This building and Requa's stately home on C Street are highlights of this year's Historic Home Tour. Two apartments will be open. A faux tower, showing the Mission influence, dominates the property. Old world elements, such as planked, heavy wood doors, ornate iron railings, low, pitched red tile roof, Moorish arches and low stucco courtyard walls, combine together to create this charming and unique building that stands true to its original design.

(Photo by Andy McRory)



Food at the Fair

- Beech Street Pizza Party by Buona Forchetta
- Food booths featuring Mr. Joey's Tacos, Olivia's Ghanian Kitchen, and Ledesma's Sweet Corn and Fresh Lemonade.
- VivaPops
- Eclipse Chocolate
- Specials at South Park eateries, including Buona Forchetta, Grant's Marketplace, The Station, and South Park Brewing Company

Live entertainment

- 10 a.m. — Frances Bloom Band
- 12:30 p.m. — Marcia Forman Band
- 2 p.m. — Paloma Aragon Arte Flamenco
- 3 p.m. — Marcia Forman Band

Artists & Vintage Row

- Vintage furniture, home accessories, jewelry, apparel and antiques
- Artists Row featuring handcrafted goods and fine art by local San Diego artists

Exhibit booths

- Booths line 30th Street from Cedar to Beech to Ash, open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., for local companies offering services and information about restoration, renovation, home repair and improvements
- "Ask The Experts" booth by SOHO San Diego (Save Our Heritage Organisation)
- Official South Park souvenir T-shirts, free maps, other services at the Information Booth
- Ticket booth is at 30th and Beech. Purchase tickets for Historic Home Tour and Centennial Trolley Tours. Will call for online purchasers opens at 9:30 a.m.
- Sponsors booths include Atlas Footing Services, Filtercon Technologies, Dunn-Edwards Paints and Home Restoration and Remodeling Services of San Diego

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- Home Tour Shuttle sponsored by Ed Landsberg, Scott & Quinn Real Estate. Provides free transportation between the historic homes on tour. Available only for ticket-holders. Maps and home addresses provided in ticket materials. Must show Historic Home Tour ticket to board this shuttle or enter any of the homes.

- Free shuttle service between Old House Fair and Golden Hill Park. Board at Ash Street and 30th.
- Centennial Trolley Tours. Tickets \$10 (\$5 for children 16 and younger) must be purchased at ticket booth. Board at 30th Street and Cedar.
- From I-94, exit on 30th Street and go north to South Park. Old House Fair festivities are on 30th Street between Ash and Cedar, and on Beech Street between Dale and Fern. Street parking available.

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FROM PAGE 1 ALZHEIMER'S

love our San Diego HOG family for reasons just like what we are talking about today: We are a family who rides Harleys and when we hear about something [like The Longest Day], we want to help anyway that we can," she said.

The fundraiser is also about connecting people to the cause. "A wonderful gal named Trish White from the Redwood Bridge Club reached out to us at San Diego HOG and challenged us to raise funds and awareness on The Longest Day," Parker said. "In talking to Trish, I learned that the Alzheimer's Association does fundraising on the longest day of the year by having individuals or teams do something they like from sunrise to sunset. The Redwood Bridge Club plays bridge and we ride Harleys, so on The Longest Day we will ride the bridges of San Diego and meet up with our friends, the bridge players at the Redwood Bridge Club in the afternoon."

The connection has inspired the HOG group to do more to help.

"We started a team page with the Alzheimer's Association for San Diego HOG. We have been collecting funds at our general meetings and will be collecting donations the day of our 'Ride the Bridges' ride. This is our first year so we are hoping to raise a lot of money," Parker said.

For Trish White, co-captain of the Redwood Bridge Club's The Longest Day team and one of the club's directors, the cause is deeply personal. About five years ago, White was diagnosed with plaque on her brain, and the news was delivered to her rather bluntly.

"It was absolutely devastating," White said. "It floored me. But I decided to go to battle against Alzheimer's — to go down fighting!"



Trish White (left) and members of her bridge club will play bridge all day on The Longest Day while Robin Parker (right) and members of San Diego HOG ride Harleys around area bridges to raise money for Alzheimer's research. (Photo by Mike Lewis)

And to play bridge more."

There is growing anecdotal and scientific evidence that playing bridge is good for stimulating the brain, especially with older folks who are challenged by health issues involving memory, dementia, Alzheimer's and more. When White heard about that, she vowed to play more often.

"I found bridge really works for me," she said. "I play on average three times a week."

White calls bridge "acrobatics for the mind." She says her club, which has 157 members, includes some people with Alzheimer's and a gentleman who has turned 100 years old.

"Some members have Alzheimer's and can barely get out of the house," she said. "But they can play bridge."

Playing bridge requires a keen mind to memorize the cards that have been played in a hand and the cards that are still in play. "Perhaps playing bridge slows down Alzheimer's and sharpens the mind," White wonders.

The Hillcrest resident, who lives in a high-rise dedicated to

seniors, said she heard about a HOG event in Louisiana that was a successful fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association. Why not here? she wondered.

"We've worked on it for the past year," White said, noting that she has never ridden on a motorcycle before. That all changed last month when the local HOG group took her for a ride on a Harley.

"I rode a hog! The music was blasting! I had so much fun!"

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



First HOG event for The Longest Day occurred in Louisiana. (Photo by Mike Lewis)



(l to r) Robert Hartman, CEO of ACBL; unidentified volunteer, Trish White, co-director of the Redwood Bridge Club; Robin Parker, San Diego HOG assistant director; Coffee Kaufman, San Diego HOG director; and Mary Ball, Alzheimer's Association San Diego chapter president. (Photo by Mike Lewis)

Alzheimer's Association facts sheet

Alzheimer's is a skyrocketing epidemic. In San Diego, there are more than 60,000 San Diegans living with the disease and that number is expected to double in the next 15 years.

Alzheimer's is the third leading cause of death in San Diego and the only disease in the top 10 killers that has no treatment or cure.

In addition to the human toll, Alzheimer's is the most expensive condition in the nation, costing the country \$214 billion a year.

Nearly one in every five dollars spent by Medicare is on people with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

Because age is the greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's disease, these costs will grow exponentially as baby boomers age.

Eighty percent of individuals living with Alzheimer's are cared for at home by a family member

The Alzheimer's Association is committed to

providing families battling Alzheimer's and related dementias with free programs and services, including:

- 24/7 Helpline
- Education classes
- +30 Family & Friend Support Groups
- Social activities & programs
- Personal family care and support planning meetings with an Alzheimer's Association expert
- Alz Companion Respite Program

The Alzheimer's Association relies solely on the support and generosity from individuals, corporations and foundations to provide comfort, support and resources to families in our community as well as advance research for a cure.

Mission: To eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

Source: Alzheimer's Association



Happy-hour cocktails are fortified with two shots each. (Photo by Dr. Ink)

Downing doubles

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Get Happy!
Dr. Ink

The days when bars often dished out free noshes during happy hour are not completely gone. Why so many of them don't anymore is beyond me, considering that by all accounts customers shell out more bucks on extra drinks when complimentary peanuts, pretzels, potato chips or any salty morsel sits beneath their chins.

Albie's Beef Inn
1201 Hotel Circle South
(Mission Valley)
619-291-1103
Happy hour: 3 to 7 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Leave it to the fiercely retro and dimly lit Albie's Beef Inn on Hotel Circle to get it right. Aside from free chips and salsa, happy-hour customers are also afforded ham sandwiches on white bread, which is kind of strange but acceptable, as well as some type of hot nourishment from a chafing dish — all at no extra cost. Add to the equation double shots of liquor poured into basic well drinks at the regular price of \$5.75, and it begins to feel like you're tumbling back in time to when Albie's was established in 1962. The bar lounge, which sits between two spacious dining rooms, features dark wood-paneled walls

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festooned with old, faded paintings of topless women. Arched portals lead from one room to another amid black leather booths and antiquated light globes. From the street you'd never guess such a marvelous, quirky time capsule awaits inside. Despite its location on Travel Lodge property, Albie's is family-owned. And according to our attentive short-skirted waitress, the place attracts more locals than hotel guests, a mix of young, old and in between. In the evenings, on Wednesdays through Saturdays, musicians take to the electric keyboard stationed a few feet away from the bar to engage drinkers in rousing sing-alongs, some of them already primed from the heavy-duty drinks of happy hour. While grazing on the free ham sandwiches as well as soy-sauced chicken strips from the chafing dish, our cocktails served in rocks glasses quickly took effect. My cohort's vodka and ice tea was high-octane, with the tea barely revealing its flavor — an observation rather than a complaint, he noted. The gin and tonic I ordered was also strong, reminding me of how they used to be made before bars implemented shot-measure devices on their liquor bottles. Back

RATINGS

DRINKS:

Choose any standard well drink and the world becomes a warmer and fuzzier place, thanks to the extra shot of liquor it contains.

FOOD:

The grilled strips of chicken breast in the chafing dish were tender and flavored nicely with some type of teriyaki-soy sauce. Parked alongside were tortilla chips, zesty salsa and salty ham sandwiches sans any condiments.

VALUE:

The double-shot drinks for the regular price of \$5.75 are a steal. And the noshes on a small buffet table are all free.

SERVICE:

A touch of old-school service pervades, with men dressed in white shirts and black ties and folksy waitresses donning short black skirts. Also, when ordering food off the regular menu, it arrives to your table on metal push carts.

ATMOSPHERE:

The interior is old and preserved enough to become a museum to 1960s-style fine dining.

then, a loose shot often equated to two. Walking out of Albie's is no less shocking than walking in. After imbibing a while within its Old World, low-lit environment, the sunshine washing over the parking lot was painfully blinding. But much like the free food, it was also the sobering jolt we needed for getting home. ♦

At 58 years old, little has changed at Albie's Beef Inn at 1201 Hotel Circle South in Mission Valley. (Photo by Dr. Ink)

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UPTOWN FOOD BRIEFS

BY FRANK SABATINI JR.



El Agave in Old Town has introduced gourmet tacos.
(Courtesy of El Agave Restaurant & Tequileria)

With the recent arrival of **El Charko Grill & Bar's** progressive street tacos to Old Town, the long-established **El Agave Restaurant & Tequileria** located a block away is matching the competition with its own gourmet creations. New to the menu are duck tacos with cactus and fig jelly; crispy ahi tuna tacos served over Mexican rice; and salmon burritos wrapped in tomato tortillas. 2304 San Diego Ave., 619-220-0692.

Restaurateur Johan Engman purchased **Western Steakburger** in North Park nearly a year ago to eventually bring an "Instagram-worthy" eatery to the neighborhood. His vision for **Breakfast Republic** will finally materialize in late June, now that the original owner of Western has ceased operations and entered into retirement. "We're doing a thorough remodel," Engman said, revealing that the restaurant will serve both classic and uncommon breakfast fare from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. The redesign will feature front and back patios, an entrance wrapped in galvanized metal, and restrooms rigged with recordings of jokes and quotes that break randomly into songs. He's also installing a 20-tap chrome beer tower, assuring that the suds will pair swimmingly to dishes such as s'mores french toast, Vietnamese chicken wing breakfast bowls and standard egg dishes. "I want a restaurant that stands out for photo ops on Instagram and other social media," Engman said, referring also to an exterior painting that will depict roosters escaping from a henhouse. Engman's portfolio consists of **Fig Tree Cafes** in three locations, including Hillcrest, plus **Café Cantata** in Del Mar. He said a lease has already been secured for a second **Breakfast Republic** in metro San Diego, but can't reveal the details just yet. 2730 University Ave.

Construction is underway to the space that formerly gave reign to **R Gang Eatery** in Hillcrest. Its new tenants, beer consultant Beau Schmitt of **The Brew Project** and Mike Sill, who previously managed **Quality Social**, will open **The Brew Project House** in July. "We're pushing to be open before Pride, which is July 18," said Schmitt, adding that he's aiming for the style of "an old Victorian country house." The establishment will feature 28 handles devoted exclusively to San Diego craft beers. A cocktail program is also in the works along with a food menu flaunting salads, tortas and shareable plates. 3683 Fifth Ave., thebrewproject.com.



(l to r) Mike Sill and Beau Schmitt begin work on their new brewery venture in Hillcrest. (Courtesy of The Brew Project House)

Forget wine and beer. The folks at **S&M Sausage and Meat** in University Heights are going for the harder stuff at a four-course Journeyman Whiskey dinner to be held at the restaurant at 7 p.m., June 10. Reps from the lauded Michigan-based distillery will offer educational pours of several signature whiskeys that include Ravenswood Rye, Silver Cross and Featherbone Bourbon. The meal will feature smoked venison sausage, chipotle pork belly sliders, duck confit and more. Tickets are \$100 per person, which includes tax and tip. 4130 Park Blvd., 619-344-2177.

The new **Burnside** in Normal Heights is a quaint sandwich shop with a big imagination. Launched recently by the owners of **Sycamore Den** two doors away, the menu takes on cosmopolitan flair with sandwiches such as Korean rib eye with kimchi; a Cubano made with pork belly; and the French-inspired "stinky grilled cheese" accented with braised leeks. Of the American-style offerings, there is buttermilk chicken or braised pot roast tucked into bread as well. The sandwiches can be consumed inside the eatery or while imbibing at **Sycamore**. 3373 Adams Ave.

Where other than San Diego for holding the **National Homebrewers Conference**? The event takes place June 11-13 at **The Town & Country Resort** in Mission Valley, although a few pre-events spotlighting our prolific beer scene are planned for locals and incoming brewers alike. The self-guided **Taste of North Park**, which occurs largely along the neighborhood's 30th Street beer and food corridor, will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. June 9. On the following evening, June 10, **Waypoint Public** will host a three-course dinner paired to beers from Ballast Point Brewery. Seatings are at 7 and 8 p.m., and the cost is \$65. The activities extend to a North Park mobile beer hop, also to be held on June 10. The service welcomes all beer lovers to hop aboard free shuttles running every half hour (between noon and midnight) from the Town & Country. The route includes stops at **Toronado**, **Belching Beaver**, **Ritual Tavern**, **Hess Brewery** and other popular beer bars in the neighborhood. For more information visit ahaconference.org or northparkmainstreet.com.

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

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Home-spun ambrosia



(l to r) Half Greek chicken, chicken and beef skewers, and hummus with pita. (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr)

The litmus test for judging Greek restaurants is simple. If you can't taste oregano, olive oil and lemon in the food, then they're no good. And if the feta cheese used in salads and pita wraps is scarce or overly salty, then may the gods of Olympus send in their doves to carry it away.

At 30 years old, Olympic Café hits all the high notes in everyday Greek cuisine, starting with lemon-kissed avgolemono soup thickened properly with egg, rice and chicken. Big shout-outs also go to the chary, marinated beef and chicken skewers as well as herby, roasted half chickens complimented by lemon gravy. Those plates, along with many others, include salads topped with a plank of medium-brined feta sporting rich dairy notes.

At the finishing line are "Donna's desserts," which is half the reason to come here. Donna is the American-born wife of founder and Greek native, John Kotselas, whose dishes hail largely from his family heritage. Though after the couple met and married, Donna began weaving into the menu some American fare, including house-made chocolate cake with fudge frosting and well-endowed chocolate-chip cookies.

"My philosophy was that there wasn't nearly enough chocolate in Greek desserts," she recalls, noting that she also introduced breakfast to the café 22 years ago.

Amid her other menu contributions, such as burgers, grilled tilapia, tuna melts, roast beef sandwiches, and fish and chips using big, chunky pieces of hand-battered cod, are the dishes that pop with sturdy Greek flavors.

The hummus, for example, is made in-house. It's thick and perfectly seasoned. Too often in other

Olympic Cafe

2340 University Ave. (North Park)

619-692-9082

Prices: Salads, starters and sandwiches, \$3.25 to \$10.25; plates and platters, \$7.75 to \$13.75

Greek restaurants, the accompanying pita tastes blandly utilitarian. Here, the bread is dusted lightly in cornmeal and carries an oven-baked flavor. We assumed at first it was homemade until learning it comes from a Chicago purveyor that also supplies the gyros and feta cheese.

Tempted initially by the Greek-style pork chops, we gravitated instead to the kabob platter, choosing one skewer loaded with beef and the other with chicken thigh meat. We had difficulty deciding on a favorite because both tasted as though they flew straight off a backyard charcoal grill. The meat on each was well-marinated; caramelized on the outside and juicy inside, and with peppers and onions strewn between the pieces.

Even the accompanying tzatziki sauce was outstanding. The kitchen makes it with fresh, tangy yogurt and omits the sour cream. Combined with lots of freshly grated cucumber, it's thinner and decidedly more refreshing than most.

The half-chicken dinners come with or without the lemon gravy. To our utter satisfaction, we chose the latter. If there is a close alternative to an American Thanksgiving meal, this is it.

The plate included Greek salad, pita bread and a generous scoop of real mashed potatoes. We loved the crispy herb-dusted

skin on the bird and the teasing, citrus element of the gravy.

I'm normally not a fan of gyros because they're either overloaded with McCormick-type seasonings or completely under-spiced. The beef-lamb strips sliced from the meat cone at Olympic, however, offered whispers of oregano, marjoram and cumin with just the right amount of salt balancing the profile. We ordered it ala carte, folding the moist ribbons of meat into puffy pita with daubs of tzatziki. I've been craving the stuff ever since.

Other Greek options include stuffed grape leaves, spanakopita and lasagna-like mousaka layered with eggplant and potatoes and topped with meat sauce. There's also pastitsio, a casserole of macaroni and seasoned ground beef topped with béchamel sauce.

Finishing with a bevy of Donna's desserts, most of which we toted home, her chocolate cake ranks right up there with D Bar's dreamy sour cream version. Be sure to eat it at room temperature to fully experience the cake's moist texture and robust fudge flavor.

The carrot cake was also blue-ribbon with its nutty crumb and not-too-sweet cream cheese frosting. And if you're a fan of Hello Dolly bars, Donna's scratch-made take on them features graham cracker crusts beneath loads of chocolate chips and walnuts.

All said and eaten, the food at Olympic Café is stamped with the kind of heart and soul that explains the establishment's longevity and its ability to continually attract repeat customers.

The café opens at 7 a.m., daily, for those preferring eggs with their souvlaki and gyros.

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



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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

Paper or Plastic?



CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

1 Fast dances
5 Top quality
9 Indian prince
13 Use a blue pencil
14 Jacob's wife
15 Common contraction
17 Trifle
19 Really neat
20 Profit's counterpart
21 More concise
23 Odors
26 Ms. West
27 Counterpart of 50 Down
28 Declined
29 Card game
31 Like the Sahara
32 Lettuce variety
33 Bauble
36 Free
37 Mideast capital
39 Very small
40 Old work horse
42 1991 Masters champ Woosnam
43 Sea swallow
44 Hinted
46 Firm
47 Letters for 42 Across

DOWN

1 C.S.A. Gen. Stuart
2 Muckraker Tarbell
3 Two-wheeled carriage
4 Caused a traffic jam
5 Make holy
6 Long fish
7 Gal of song
8 Ancient Greek or Egyptian
9 Wife of 9 Across
10 Short melody
11 1994 NL MVP
12 Poker stakes
16 Son of Odin

48 "___ the season . . ."
49 Italian city
50 Guesses
52 Corn servings
53 Word after stone or flat
54 Scottish musicians
59 One who leers
60 Wings
61 Singer Burl
62 Poet Millay
63 1990 World Series champs
64 Following

18 Snitched
22 Carter's successor
23 Turf
24 Penguins' Lemieux
25 The Chalk Garden playwright
26 Clubs for 42 Across
29 Gear tooth
30 But: L.
32 Danish king of England
34 Eagle's nest
35 Goes, to a poet
37 Puppeteer Baird
38 Parent
41 Defame
43 Rotation on a fastball
45 Expel a lawyer
46 Garment for 9 Down
47 Political housecleaning
49 Neck parts
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52 Mild oath
55 Pub pint
56 Ms. Arden
57 Critic Reed
58 Concorde

Answer key, page 19

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Palm Canyon Hotel and Big Horn Bar & Grill
221 Palm Canyon Dr.
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
800-242-0044 | palmcanyonrvresort.com

Palm Canyon Hotel & RV Resort along with Big Horn Bar & Grill is an all-service vacation destination in Borrego Springs, California, the best-kept secret in the San Diego desert.
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After a long day of outdoor adventuring, enjoy a dip in one of two resort-style pools, grab a drink or a hearty meal at our on-site bar and grill, or take in the unparalleled stargazing the area has to offer as one of the nation's only Dark Sky communities. Whether you are looking to relax amongst the Wild West backdrop of our hotel, rest in a vintage trailer rental, or traverse through the diverse terrain of the San Diego desert, Palm Canyon is an ideal place to hang your hat as you travel the highway west.



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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Sudoku
Puzzle from page 18

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

Plus
Crossword from page 18

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | I | G | S | | B | E | S | T | | R | A | J | A | | | | |
| E | D | I | T | | L | E | A | H | | A | R | E | N | T | | | |
| B | A | G | A | T | E | L | L | E | | N | I | F | T | Y | | | |
| | | | | | L | O | S | S | | B | R | I | E | F | E | R | |
| S | M | E | L | L | S | | M | A | E | | T | B | S | | | | |
| W | A | N | E | D | | C | A | N | A | S | T | A | | | | | |
| A | R | I | D | | C | O | S | | G | E | E | G | A | W | | | |
| R | I | D | | B | A | G | H | D | A | D | | W | E | E | | | |
| D | O | B | B | I | N | | I | A | N | | T | E | R | N | | | |
| | | | | | A | L | L | U | D | E | D | | S | O | L | I | D |
| | | | P | G | A | | T | I | S | | N | A | P | L | E | S | |
| H | U | N | C | H | E | S | | E | A | R | S | | | | | | |
| B | R | O | K | E | | B | A | G | P | I | P | E | R | S | | | |
| O | G | L | E | R | | A | L | A | E | | I | V | E | S | | | |
| E | D | N | A | | R | E | D | S | | N | E | X | T | | | | |

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Ficks
Hash House
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1421 University Ave.
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1010 University Ave.
350 University Ave.
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4180 Park Blvd.
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412 Washington St.
640 University Ave.
3702 Fifth Ave.
3960 Normal St.
110 W. Washington St.
805 W. Washington St.
734 University Ave.
4019 Goldfinch St.
1017 University Ave.
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4033 Third Ave.
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1010 University Ave.
1270 University Ave.
1051 University Ave.
3737 Fifth Ave.
4077 Fifth Ave.
302 Washington St.
3940 Fifth Ave.
4021 Goldfinch St.
3801 Fifth Ave.
1240 University Ave.
1080 University Ave.
3909 Centre St.
3610 Fifth Ave.
1271 University Ave.
1010 University Ave.
301 W. Washington St.
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Tourists gawk at the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad train during a stop. (All photos by Ron Stern)

The beauty and history of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad

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Ron Stern



mines in the San Juan Mountains. The line continued to operate even after the mining boom had ended, but by the late 1960s traffic on the line had slowed to a trickle, and it was shut down and scheduled to be demolished.

Fortunately, forward thinkers in the state legislatures of Colorado and New Mexico knew that to lose this railway would be to lose a gold mine in tourist and train-lover dollars. The states purchased a 64-mile stretch of track (as well nine pieces of vintage rolling stock — i.e. locomotives and passenger cars) renamed it the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, and it began operations as a scenic railway in 1971.

Today, the Cumbres & Toltec

The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad is a narrow-gauge railway that stretches from Antonito, Colorado to Chama, New Mexico, across some gorgeous and at times heart-stopping scenery.

Part of the San Juan Extension of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railway, the track was laid in 1880 from Alamoso to Durango, Colorado (and later extended to Silverton, Colorado) to provide service to the silver



An American Indian riding a horse greets tourists on the steam train.

runs seasonally, with a summer schedule from late May to mid-September, and a fall schedule from mid-September to mid-October.



Canos Castle is one of the stops for the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad train.

You will board the train in Antonito, Colorado, and if you have an advance reservation, enjoy your trip in one of their Parlor Cars (\$179 during summer, \$189 during fall). The Parlor Cars are restful because they are for adults only (21 or older). On either side of the corridor are comfortable chairs that face the windows, so no matter which side you are sitting, you have a spectacular view of nature at its finest.

At some point you will want to stroll back to the gondola car — an open-to-the-elements, standing-room-only car for the

use of anyone on the train. This affords the best unobstructed views of the terrain and is ideal for taking photos.

The Tourist Cars are ideal for families, as members can pull their free-standing wooden chairs around one of many tables in the car. The windows are so large that it's easy to watch the action as it moves on by. And where there are tables there are snacks — but don't let the kids eat too much before the lunch stop at Osier. (In summer, \$139 for adults, one child free, any more \$69 each. In fall, add \$10 to the adult ticket.)

The Coach Cars are the least expensive option aboard the Cumbres & Toltec. Rows of comfortable bench seats flank the aisle, and there's easy access to the gondola car. Snacks are served in this car as well. (In summer, \$95 for an adult ticket, one child can travel free, the rest are \$49. In fall, \$99 for adults.)

The ride begins in the foothills, with nothing but scrub brush and sage, but once you get up into the San Juan Mountains the scenery changes with pine trees stretching toward the sky, canyon walls, bridges over gorges, and then through tunnels.

About halfway to our destination, the train came to a smooth halt in the town of Osier and everyone debarked into a large dining hall for lunch. It's an efficiently run operation — ev-

see Train, page 21

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FROM PAGE 20

TRAIN

everyone gets into a line depending on the type of food they wanted – turkey, meat loaf or lasagna. And at the end of each line were a fine selection of desserts.

After lunch, you may need a light jacket as the higher up into the mountains you go, the cooler it gets, and brave the elements in the gondola car. Standing for a couple of hours while soot and steam from the coal-fired, steam-powered locomotives drift over you is an incredible experience.

Both Antonito and Chama offer three train excursions a day. Depending on which one you choose, you'll return to your terminus once again by train, or you'll be taken back by coach — and see lots of different scenery. These trips take a full day — depending on your schedule you can also take half-day trips.

Whatever your choice, you'll find that the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railway offers a fantastic journey back into the past, and you'll remember it as you steam ahead into the future. ♦

Where to stay:
Antonito, Colorado
The Steam Train Hotel
antonitocoloradosteam-trainscenicrailroad.com

This historic hotel is just a couple of minutes from the train depot. It has individually decorated rooms, free Wi-Fi, home-made breakfast and a wonderful manager who knows a lot about the history of the area.

You can also choose to stay in the Indiana Jones House that was featured in “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade” and also operated by the Steam Train Hotel.

Chama, New Mexico
The Parlor Car B&B
parlorcar.com

Located right across the street from the Chama depot, this charming inn features lavish furnishings and period antiques. They have three rooms and a homemade breakfast with recipes that the owner has created over many years in the business. Attention to detail and great service are the standard at this bed and breakfast.

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



Tourist aboard the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad train can enjoy heart-stopping scenery in an open car (above) and later chow down on some grub (below) during a stop. (Photos by Ron Stern)



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iNails & Spa
3975 Fifth Ave., #120 San Diego, CA 92103
619-299-6789 | inailsnspa.com

iNails & Spa is dedicated to providing quality services to its customers. We are new to San Diego, but have been in the nail business for 20 years. Our staff is highly trained and educated in the most advanced techniques and services. A strong approach to cleanliness and professionalism creates an environment that keeps customers coming back. Company mission statement: To provide a relaxing environment that is clean and serene for customers to escape; our beautiful salon does just that. iNails & Spa provides an array of services and strives for the satisfaction of all of our customers. We want everyone to walk out feeling happy and relaxed. Services include but are not limited to: manicures, pedicures, gel nails, acrylics, silk wraps, waxing, and eyebrow threading. Call to find out more about all the services available and to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome. Visit us online.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Furniture Divano
7340 Miramar Rd., #108 San Diego, CA 92126
858-549-7999 | furnituredivano.com

Furniture Divano has been serving greater San Diego County since 1993. A local company that believes in helping its customers create beautiful and comfortable homes that stand above the crowd, by providing better quality and more options. From the beginning they have offered custom reclining, home theaters and sofa sleepers. They have since expanded their services and products to ensure that the customer gets what they want. Their goal is to bring function and comfort — as well as style — into your home. Staffed with experienced design consultants, no project is too big or too small. All aspects are taken into consideration to make sure your new space is unique and fits your lifestyle. Offering top quality products and superior service, Furniture Divano is looking to help you make your house a home and your space one of a kind.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

The Change Fitness
1630 W. Lewis St.
San Diego, CA 92103
858-382-4517 | TheChangeFitness.com

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TESTIMONIALS:

There are many powerful testimonials on TheChangeFitness.com website from clients who have achieved great results in appearance and dramatic improvements in their health. Here is one of them:

“This is the first workout program I eagerly look forward to. I love the intensity, total body workout, safety, and efficiency. The strengthening has been obvious and has helped my other sports and exercises. I recommend The Change Fitness to everyone.”

—Dr. Dan Einhorn, M.D., president of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, medical director of the Scripps Whittier Diabetes Institute, and clinical professor of medicine at UC San Diego

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The training methods used at The Change Fitness have been shown to achieve 55 percent better results when compared to traditional weight-training methods.

Studies have shown that strength training decreases bad cholesterol, stabilizes blood sugar levels for diabetes and increases bone density to prevent osteoporosis. It also helps achieve better overall health, increases strength, decreases size, reduces your fat percentage and improves mobility and function.

Call us today to find out how The Change Fitness can help you succeed. For more information, visit our website.

Calendar of Events

FEATURED EVENTS

2015 Philippine American Celebration

Friday, June 5 – Sunday, June 7

Ten local Filipino-American organizations collaborated to become the 2015 Balboa Park Centennial Philippine American Celebration Committee and organize a free three-day cultural celebration. The event will showcase Philippine arts: both traditional and contemporary, culture, history and entertainment. Vendors will have Filipino food, games and activities, a beer and spirits garden, and more. Opening ceremonies are at 6:30 p.m. Friday with the event closing at 5 p.m. Sunday. For a full schedule of performances and more information visit BPC2015PAC.com.

‘Wizard of Oz’

Friday, June 5 – Sunday, June 7

This youth production of the classic story is the fourth show produced by new arts company San Diego Creative Arts Project (SDCAP). The performers have trained for three months in acting, voice and dance. Shows will be held Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. at Academy of Our Lady of Peace Theatre, 4860 Oregon St., University Heights. Tickets are \$10. Visit SDCreativeArtsProject.org for tickets and details.

Art Around Adams

Saturday, June 6

This two-mile art and music walk will be held from noon to 8 p.m. along Adams Avenue. The free event will include art exhibits, performances and more throughout Normal Heights and Kensington. Live music acts will include genres from rock to jazz to folk. A free “Comedy Trolley” will be available with stops up and down Adams. Visit ArtAroundAdams.org for this year’s event program, map and more.

Bingo with Barry

Saturday, June 6

This special fundraiser will work to raise money to repaint the San Diego Indoor Sports Club (soon to be renamed Bankers Hill Clubhouse). The event will feature the fun of bingo with comedy entertainment from host Barry Shingle. The night starts at 6 p.m. with a social hour and bingo begins at 7 p.m. \$10 admission includes one bingo card; additional cards will be \$5 each. Prizes for winners will include gift cards from local businesses. Snacks and dinner items will be available for donation. All festivities will take place at the San Diego Indoor Sports Club, 3030 Front St., Bankers Hill. Visit BankersHillCommunity.org or call 619-298-0779 for more information.

Movie night: ‘Big Hero 6’

Saturday, June 6

Normal Heights United Methodist Church and Normal Heights Community Association have teamed up to present two movies a month throughout the summer. The movies will alternate venues between Ward Canyon Park and Adams Park with the events starting at sunset. These family movie nights are free and everyone is invited to bring blankets, food and friends. There’s even a dance party at intermission! The first event will feature Disney’s “Big Hero 6” at Adams Park (3491 Adams Ave., Normal Heights). For more information visit nhunited.org/family-movie-nights for the full summer schedule.

Evocative Literary Art Night

Sunday, June 7

This event at Trinitea Tea Hillcrest (3865 Fifth Ave.) will showcase author Josh Rutherford with a theatrical book

reading from his “Sons of Chenia.” Guests can get a signed copy of the book and learn more about the author. There will also be artwork curated by Dolphin and Hawk Fine Art Gallery featuring post-modern artist J. Hinos live painting during the exhibit. Special guest: Jennifer Love. The event will be from 7 to 10 p.m. Find the event on Facebook for more information.

Live music: Levi Dean and the Americats

Saturday, June 13

The recently opened Park & Rec in University Heights (4612 Park Blvd.) will host this free performance by locally based Americana band Levi Dean and the Americats at 8:30 p.m. Dean comes from a long line of musicians, blending traditional styles with his band’s contemporary sound. Check out the band’s tune “Feather” on Facebook at facebook.com/pages/Levi-Dean-the-Americats for a taste of the band’s string-filled sound. Visit ParkAndRecSD.com for more on the venue.

China Tour Bon Voyage Concert

Thursday, June 18

This special free concert will mark the beginning of the San Diego Youth Symphony’s 70th season. It will also serve as a send-off for the SDYS China Tour orchestra who will visit China from June 23 to July 5. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Plaza de Panama in Balboa Park. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket or chair and picnic dinner. Visit SDYS.org.

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. Rhfleet.org.

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. Lestats.com.

Tuesdays:

Curbside Bites: 5 – 8:30 p.m., gathering of gourmet food trucks at 3030 Grape St., South Park. Curb-sidebites.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. Sdfoodtrucks.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. Rebec-cascoffeehouse.com.

North Park Brewer’s Club: 8:30 p.m., monthly meeting of the club every second Tuesday of the month on the back patio at Thorn Street Brewery, 3176 Thorn St., North Park. Thornstreetbrew.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. Universalspiritcenter.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. Sevengrandbars.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. Northparkfarmers-market.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. Rebec-cascoffeehouse.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. Sandieghistory.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@sdcnn.com. ♦

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(l to r) From the spacious lobby at the new Holiday Inn Express, guests can see the swimming pool and Jacuzzi through a covered outdoor lounging area. A room with a king-size bed features soft and hard pillows, recessed lighting, and free Wi-Fi. (Photos by Ken Williams)



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HOTEL

the lobby area, hidden behind a colorful “barn door” covered in a mosaic. Breakfast items include cinnamon rolls, pancakes, biscuits, bacon, sausage, turkey sausage, scrambled eggs, breads, fresh fruit, hard-boiled eggs, yogurt, juices and water. The coffee station is just outside the breakfast nook, available around the clock.

The lobby dominates the hotel’s first floor, designed as an open-air bistro complete with high-tops containing USB ports and charging stations for electronic gear. Even the couches offer the same connections for that iPhone or iPad. And the same amenities are offered in each room. Wi-Fi is free and available throughout the hotel.

“It’s extremely important to have these features in this day and age,” said Pooja Patel, director of asset development with the Hotel Investment Group, who provided San Diego Uptown News with a private tour of the hotel. The firm is owned and operated by her father, Bhavesh “Bobby” Patel, a seasoned hotelier in California who was born in London.

Pooja Patel described the hotel as “modern and minimalist,” as the designers eliminated unnecessary items found in a traditional motel. Vanity mirrors are back-lit to enhance the ambience, recessed lighting under the beds provide a comfortable environment for watching television or reading email on your smartphone or tablet. USB plugs near the bed let you charge your electronics or connect to the Internet.

The rooms are spacious, and so are the bathrooms. A large vanity can contain lots of items, and the glass-enclosed showers can easily accommodate more than one guest at a time.

The paint scheme is clean and modern, with the carpeting showing flashes of grays and blues.

“We were going for the beachy feel of San Diego,” Patel said. “We were going for the look of cleanliness and comfortability.”

Each bed has both soft and firm pillows to appeal to the most finicky guests. Each room has a 48-inch HDTV, a mini fridge, a microwave, a one-cup coffeepot and an ironing board with an iron.

Prices start at \$109 for a standard room with a king-size bed. There are standard rooms with two queen-size beds, double queen suites with a sleeper sofa, king suites with a Jacuzzi tub, and rooms for the hearing impaired. Some rooms on each floor have a connecting door that are designed for families needing to

share multiple rooms.

“We believe our hotel captures the perfect balance between franchise recognition and boutique hotel experience,” she said.

“There is nothing along Hotel Circle that caters to the millennials — except us,” she added. “We’re definitely the top dog on Hotel Circle.”

For her father, the opening of the hotel is a dream come true, despite long odds.

“It’s been a challenge,” Bobby Patel said, citing issues with the city over site planning and the hotel community’s initial negativity. But in the end, it is he who is jubilant for persevering over the past 6.5 years.

“The site was difficult, working behind an existing hotel (the Vagabond),” he said. “My dream was to give Hotel Circle a modern, tech-friendly hotel, a hotel they could be proud of. After all, Hotel Circle is the ‘window to San Diego.’”

He says his creed is “hard work, integrity and delivering the goods. ... Profits will find a way to follow.”

He credits his business philosophy to his parents for his upbringing, the merging of his Eastern and Western cultures, and to being a parent who wants to pass his family values to his children.

Bobby Patel operates franchise hotels in some of the most competitive markets in the country, including San Diego and the Bay Area. Some are affiliated with InterContinental and Wyndham Hotel Groups. More recently, he formed Hotel Investment Group with the idea of creating a “lifestyle brand” — which the company describes as a unique concept aimed to provide a more personal experience inspired by the natural beauty and eclectic living of the property’s location. In addition to the Holiday Inn Express catering to millennials, his newly opened Hotel Aqua Mar in Point

Loma and soon to be opened Hotel Iris on Hotel Circle are among the first boutique hotels opened under this concept. Hotel Iris is expected to open the first of July.

According to the Patels, Holiday Inn Express and Hotel Iris are in the perfect location. It’s easy to go shopping at the nearby malls, cruise up the hill to Hillcrest and North Park, enjoy quick trips to the beach or the Gaslamp, or do the touristy thing.

Bobby Patel, 46, says he has been working in the hotel industry for 28 years. He beams as he talks about his new projects, a huge smile crossing his face.

“It means a lot to me to hear from my peers, like the officials at the Marriott, that they like what we have achieved with the Holiday Inn Express,” he said, standing between the new hotel and the nearly gutted Vagabond. Construction workers are in the process of doing a major facelift to transform the outdated Vagabond into a modern Hotel Iris.

As a veteran hotelier, Patel knows what he wants and is a hands-on boss who came up with the design scheme at the Holiday Inn Express. He wanted to take advantage of San Diego’s famous weather by creating a hotel that “embraces the indoors and outdoors.” That’s why the glass garage doors in the lobby will often be raised, creating an enormous gathering space that’s both indoors and outdoors.

“Why was the hotel turned this way?” he asked rhetorically. “We wanted to take advantage of the hillside and the quietness away from the freeway (Interstate 8).”

The pool is 5 feet deep and heated to 80 degrees for year-round use. Nearby is a Jacuzzi. During our visit, the hillside behind the hotel was still awaiting drought-resistant landscaping to brighten

up the view and to complete the eco-friendly environment.

Between the pool area and the lobby is a covered patio with a 90-inch HDTV and four smaller monitors to show five sporting events at the same time. A large, “see-through” gas fireplace acts as a dividing wall between the patio and the pool.

Pooja Patel envisions this space as yet another gathering place for guests, where dad can watch his favorite team and mom can keep an eye on the kids in the pool while utilizing the Wi-Fi to check her email. The kids also command a corner of the lobby, where a Nintendo Wii interactive game station is set up.

The hotel has a gym in the basement, featuring a treadmill, stationary bike, elliptical bike, bench press, free weights and more.

“Our focus on public areas is to create a sense of community, and

millennials like that,” Pooja Patel said. “We want people hanging out in the lobby and at the pool, enjoying the public spaces.”

She called out other hotels in Hotel Circle as old and outdated, and emphasized that Holiday Inn Express will be blazing new trails.

“We want our guests to have an experience when they stay with us,” she said. “We want them to have a good time.”

It’s clear the acorn has fallen from the same tree, as her father echoes the same themes.

“This hotel gives us an advantage” over the competition, Bobby Patel said. “We have a great name, a brand that people know and trust. But we are giving people an experience.”

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

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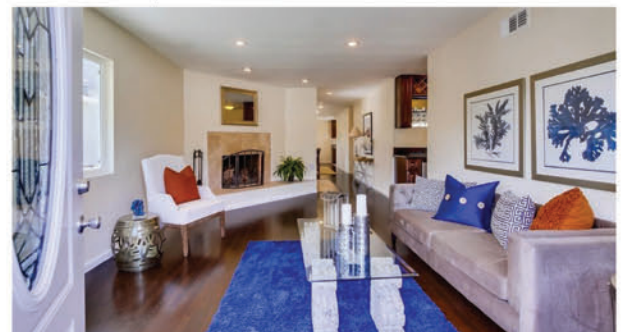
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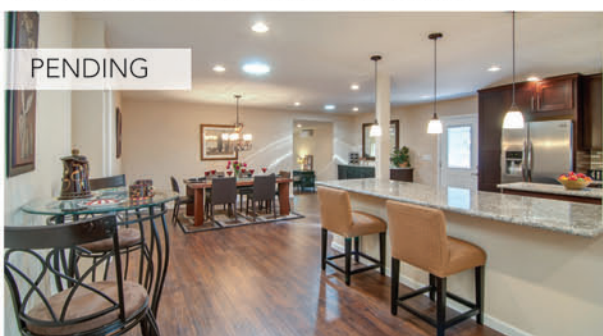
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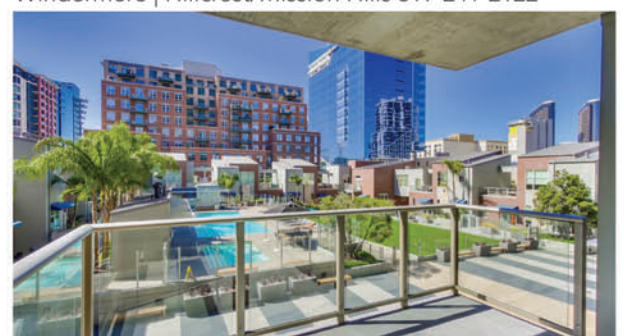
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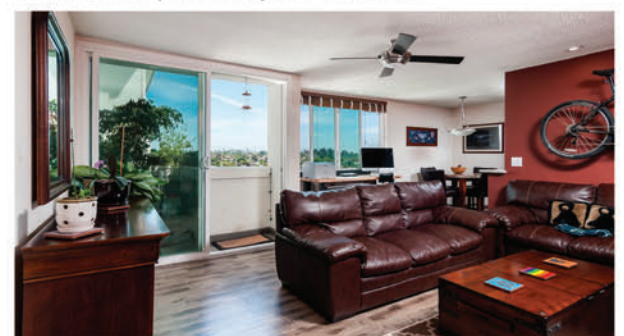
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