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San Diego Community News Network

# San Diego Uptown News



## SAVING LIVES

Urban Street Angels reach out to homeless youth found on the streets of San Diego, offering food and shelter on Tuesday nights at a church in North Park.  
(Photos and logo courtesy of Urban Street Angels)

## Urban Street Angels offer lifelines to homeless youth

Ken Williams | Editor

Steven still has nightmares about the time, when he was only 3 or 4 years old, that his drug-addicted mother got really angry with him, grabbed him by the ankles, then held him upside down over the toilet bowl — his head inches from the water — as

she flushed and flushed and flushed.

The little boy's physical, mental and verbal abuse continued for many years. With no dad involved in his life, nor any adults who cared much about his health and welfare, Steven lived in a hellish world where "normal" meant constantly seeing a pile of drugs and needles

on the coffee table and his mother strung out and violent.

When he turned 12, Steven left home, begging friends to let him temporarily stay with them. He dropped out of school. By age 17, he was on his own, living on the streets. But the cold, brutal Michigan winters took its toll, and Steven decided he wanted to live

somewhere warm — and that's how he ended up in San Diego around the time he turned 21.

With Steven's luck what it was, he arrived in America's Finest City during last year's worst weather event. That's when he made the call that would change his life.

see Shelter, pg 12

## South Park's secret dinner table

By Frank Sabatini Jr.

He was looking for a venue. She was looking for a chef. When they eventually found each other, a supper club distinguished by alluring Zen-like trappings and sophisticated cuisine was born.

Since September, South Park resident Audrey Jacobs has opened the terraced backyard of her 75-year-old Craftsman home a couple times a month to food aficionados seeking an atmospheric and culinary alternative to the restaurant scene.

An avid entertainer and venture capitalist, Jacobs took to Google and Yelp earlier this year to find a chef "who could turn eating into an art" for community gatherings at her house.

The search led her to Chef Peter Calley, an Oregon transplant who taught cooking classes for Hipcooks in North Park before conducting private classes through his own company, Culinary Hedonism.



Hostess Audrey Jacobs, right, engages guests in conversation at a recent supper-club dinner at a home in South Park. (Courtesy of Culinary Hedonism Supper Club)

"I made a list of five chefs starting with Peter. But I didn't even interview the four others because I saw within minutes Peter's artistic passion and devotion to food. He had the vision

for a supper club and I had the space," Jacobs said.

Calley then wowed Jacobs with a test dinner that

see Table, pg 14

## Bike valet service is available

By Margie M. Palmer

Biking to work just got easier for residents of Uptown and Mid-City.

On Dec. 2, the El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association launched a free bike valet parking program for residents in the vicinity of "The Boulevard" and Interstate 15.

The pilot program takes place every Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at PopUp15, adjacent to the El Cajon Boulevard Transit Plaza at the northeast corner of El Cajon Boulevard and I-15. The experiment will continue for the next couple of months, although the site will be closed for the holidays from Dec. 18 to Jan. 3.

see Bike, pg 3

## San Diego Uptown News

is going to take short vacation so our staff can enjoy an extended holiday. Our next edition will be published on Friday, Jan. 13, 2017. Happy holidays to everyone, and may you have a prosperous new year.

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**Uptown News**

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**BIG BLOCK REALTY**



FROM PAGE 1

BIKE

The association obtained a lease from the city of San Diego this year with the goal of transforming the lot into a space that engages the community, said Beryl Forman, the group’s marketing and mobility coordinator.

“The idea [for the bike valet] has been in the works since we got the lease in May. I had remembered this cool project in Long Beach, where there is a bike station and a building that supports bike storage,” she said. “I was realizing the success of other cities that have bike storage next to the transit facilities and we realized that PopUp15 was a great place to test this model.”

The bike valet program includes the participation of Bikes del Pueblo, a nonprofit, educational bike collective that provides tools and knowledge for basic bike repairs and maintenance. The organization doesn’t charge for its services but accepts donations to stay operational. No one is ever turned away for lack of money, Forman said.

“Bikes del Pueblo was setting up once a week at the City Heights Farmers Market and when we got the lease, we knew they could grow to PopUp15. Now they have a container there; they have bike parts and a service station,” Forman said. “They’re there three days a week and with that, they are providing the bike valet service.



Val, with Bikes del Pueblo, repairs a customer’s bike. (Courtesy of El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association)

“They’re a notable group of young people who have a vision for the biking community. It feels like a friendly environment. There’s even a coffee cart there that’s on the back of a bicycle. It’s creating a culture where you can drop your bike off, grab coffee, and get your bike serviced while you’re at your job.”

Although some may question the need for a bike valet service, those who bike and bus throughout the city understand how difficult it is to do so during peak travel times.

“I personally used to commute by bike and bus to San Diego State University and there have been many times when I was waiting on a transit deck with my bike, and when the bus comes there are already two bikes on it, which is frustrating,” Forman said. “MTS doesn’t have the capacity to accommodate more than two

bikes at a time. In other cities, people are able to ride their bikes to the transit, leave them there and get onto the transit. This provides that alternative.”

If the pilot program is successful, it could be extended. The association will also evaluate whether to expand the bike valet to other days.

“Extending to other days could definitely be an option,” she said. “We started with Friday because Bike to Work Day is on Friday. We don’t expect that people will be on board with stopping driving, but that they might consider a multi-modal model of transportation. A lot of people in the Mid-City live close to the Boulevard Bridge Deck and [the bike valet] can help people make that connection.”

—Margie M. Palmer can be reached at [margiep@alumni.pitt.edu](mailto:margiep@alumni.pitt.edu).

# How to Sell Your San Diego Home Without An Agent And Save the Commission

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

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# Fruit wine comes to Hillcrest



California Fruit Wine Co. has replaced Vinavanti tasting room in Hillcrest. (Courtesy of Brian Haghighi)

By John Gregory

The California Fruit Wine Co. has opened a tasting room at the corner of University Avenue and Herbert Street in Hillcrest.

Started by the Haghighi brothers in 2009, California Fruit Wine Co. had lacked a tasting room since co-founders Alan and Brian had moved their production facility from Vista to Carlsbad two years ago. Since their headquarters was in a mostly industrial area, the brothers began looking for a tasting room space in a location more to their liking, with a focus on an urban environment.

The search was not easy as the brothers found potential landlords a bit difficult to deal with and other businesses were chosen for a location the wine company had sought.

At last, the California Fruit Wine Co. worked out a deal with their friends at Vinavanti Urban Winery to take over its tasting room in Hillcrest.

Now that they have found a more urban location, they hope customers will stop in to sample their wines made from a variety of fruits. Pineapple, mango, pomegranate, cranberry and pumpkin spice are among the wines currently featured in the tasting room.

“We invite beverage enthusiasts of all types to come out and taste the fruit wines and experience a world beyond just red and white,” Brian said.

Customers can sip wine on the premises and purchase bottles of their favorites to take home. Beyond a selection of fruit wines and sangrias, the tasting room also carries guest wines from other wineries, as well as a selection of beers for those who are not wine drinkers.

Guests may also order from the menu of flatbreads, tapas and appetizer-style food available from the kitchen. A basic brunch is offered each Sunday featuring waffles, fruit and homemade syrup.

The room’s seating includes several bar-height communal tables with seating for up to 10

customers. More private tables are available with seating for one or two.

“We’ve added color and warmth to the space,” Brian said. “The focal point for us is our novel and changing list of fruit wines.”

The company rotates fruit used in its wine production throughout the year. These include blackberry, blueberry, strawberry and raspberry, for example.

The company finds itself in a never-ending effort to establish fruit wine as a top wine to be taken seriously and respected.

One of the company’s goals is “to convey the high quality of the category,” Alan explained.

“Fruit wine is an awesome category because you can make it all year long,” he said. “These are the highest quality of products on the planet. This category should be perceived as what it is.”

The tasting room is capable of producing 300 gallons of wine on-site. Wine produced through the small batch system is then placed in kegs so it can be served on tap at the University Avenue location or sold to bars and restaurants.

Each of the flavors is prepared in four iterations to suit most tastes, Alan said. Blueberry wine, for example, will be available in dry blueberry, sweet blueberry, dry sparkling blueberry and sweet sparkling blueberry.

The effort to promote the quality and increase the popularity of fruit wines is gaining momentum and The California Fruit Wine Co. has some sizeable retail customers. Whole Foods Market is the biggest retail customer so far, purchasing about 40,000 bottles during the past year. HEB Grocery Company, LP, with 350 stores in Texas and northeast Mexico, is another retail customer.

Tasting hours are from 3-10 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays; 3-11 p.m. Fridays; noon-11 p.m. Saturdays; and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sundays. The tasting room is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

The California Fruit Wine Co. is located at 1477 University Ave. in Hillcrest. For more information, visit [californiafruitwine.com](http://californiafruitwine.com).

—John Gregory is an assistant editor at SDCNN. Reach him at [john@sdenn.com](mailto:john@sdenn.com).



Various flavors of fruit — available in dry, sweet, dry sparkling and sweet sparkling — will be rotated throughout the year. (Courtesy of California Fruit Wine Co.)



# The lady contractor

Louise Mary Severin finally getting the respect she deserves

HouseCalls  
Michael Good

There's little in Louise Mary Severin's background that would suggest she'd someday become one of San Diego's more prolific pre-war builders. Her father was a barber. Her mother was a homemaker. No one in her family had a background as a builder, architect or carpenter. And she married a car salesman — from a family of car salesmen.

Yet by 1926, she was buying lots, pulling permits and building houses throughout Kensington, Normal Heights, North Park and Mission Hills. She wasn't just a builder, she

was a designer as well, and the houses she created were distinctive, carefully constructed and highly livable — and much in demand, both during her lifetime and today. Her husband followed her into the building business, and his four brothers followed him. Louise's mother even got in on the act, financing her early projects. All told, the Severin family built hundreds if not thousands of houses in San Diego. In 1951 alone, the Severin Company built 125 houses in Grossmont. Their output ranged from the hand-crafted hacienda-style bungalows built one-at-a-time in the 1920s in San Diego's swankier streetcar suburbs to the mass-produced tract homes of the 1960s that line Southern California's freeways.

Louise's husband, Hilmer T. Severin, got the whole ball (or tire) rolling in 1919, when he and his brother Earl designed, built and marketed an automobile, the Severin Roadster. Louise was the secretary-treasurer of the company. By 1922, however, it had all gone bust. But if only the brothers had come up with a slightly better business plan (like one that didn't involve defrauding their stockholders) it might be possible today to drive to Severin Manor in Grossmont by way of Severin Drive in La Mesa, in your Severin automobile. Instead, you'll just have to settle for two out of three.

In 2003, historian Ron May was doing research for a Mills Act application for a property

in Kensington. The house on Rochester Drive was a simple, little hacienda-style Spanish bungalow. To his surprise, the builder was a woman. The house had a few unique characteristics: a U-shaped plan with a front patio enclosed by a wall, deeply textured rustic stucco walls and a tapered chimney with a rectangular inset. It only took a quick drive around the neighborhood for May to see that there were others like it. Of the 19 similar-looking houses on Lymer, Rochester and Norfolk Terrace in Kensington Manor Unit 1, he found, by checking water permits filed when the houses were completed, nine were by Louise M. Severin.

May's late wife (and research partner) Dale Ballou May was particularly intrigued. How could this rare female builder have been overlooked? Dale convinced Ron to pull

was the supervising architect, and his general disdain for applied ornament, fussiness and phoniness is apparent in her work. She also worked with Roy Lichty, whose son-in-law Cliff May was instrumental in the development of the ranch house. But Ron May was unable to establish any link between either of these men and Louise Severin, although Cliff May's widow, Jean, did remember her as a high-energy woman who always wore a big, floppy hat.

Early-20th-century women designers and builders were able to succeed in a male-dominated profession because they had large female support groups. They belonged to women's clubs and associations and alumni groups. We don't know how Louise Severin dealt with the challenges. Maybe she and Hilmer had a particularly tight bond. Maybe she was just tough.

William "Erik" DeCamp describes Louise and Hilmer as leading a sort of bohemian existence: living out of boxes, surviving on take-out food, moving from one recently completed house to the next whenever their present home got sold out from under them. For someone who built homes, and who gave a lot of thought to how women would live in them — it's that comfort and grace that women homeowners often praise — Louise never quite had one herself, at least not for long. Over the years, she and Hilmer rarely stayed anywhere for more than a year. And she had a lot of temporary homes to choose from. A San Diego Union article on March 19, 1933 reported she had built 91 so far, "mostly in Talmadge Park, Kensington Manor and Marston Hills."

In 1935, a house Louise built at 4720 Norma Drive became the first in San Diego to qualify for Federal Housing Administration (FHA) financing. FHA financing transformed the building industry. It made it possible for more people to buy houses, and gave builders confidence they could recoup their investment. The FHA also specified how they wanted houses built and favored developers that built many houses, not just a few.

Guy Lichty, developer of Talmadge Park, understood the FHA. He constructed Talmadge Park to its specifications, and he recruited Louise to build there. By the late 1930s, Talmadge Park was the hottest development in San Diego.

Louise and Hilmer moved to Los Angeles at the end of the decade. By 1940, they were living in a sort of professional equilibrium. They described their respective jobs with the exact same words in that year's census: home builder and contractor. During the war years, Ron May said, they built FHA houses for "defense contractors and returning veterans." They moved to Santa Monica. Louise built houses in Beverly Hills and Brentwood. In May 1949, one of those houses was listed for sale for \$48,900, a huge



The beginning of a housing revolution: San Diego's first FHA loan paid for this. (Photos by Michael Good)

sum in a day when tract houses sold for \$5,000. (That colonial ranch is currently valued at \$9 million.) The 1949 ad in the L.A. Times calls it a "Louise Mary Severin design." You've reached a sort of immortality when real estate agents use your name as a selling point.

A few months later, on Sept. 22, 1949, Louise was supervising a tree trimmer as he was clearing a lot she was about to build on. The branch he was cutting fell on her, striking her head. She died that day in the hospital. She was 58. A local newspaper account, in which the tree-trimmer tries to deflect blame, was picked up by the wire services, rewritten and published around the country. From the St. Louis Star and Times:

"Woman Spurns Advice; Falling Limb Kills Her." Los Angeles, Sept. 23. — (UP) — Mrs. Hilmer Severin 58, stopped under a tree and watched John

Neri sawing a limb high above her. He warned her, "That's not a very good place to stand, lady." She walked away, then came back and stood directly under the limb just as it fell. She was hit on the head and died soon after yesterday at Santa Monica Hospital.

Louise Mary Severin didn't get much respect in death (or a decent obituary). And she didn't get remembered very well by posterity, either, until a couple of historians came along and pressed the issue. But she did get respect in life — after all, she got to build some marvelous houses, and a great number of them still stand, and are still providing comfort, utility and beauty to those who dwell in them. That's more than most builders can say today — no matter their gender.

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



Louise Mary Severin lived here circa 1929.

## REMODEL V. REDECORATE

Is it Time to Remodel or Just Freshen Up?  
Good question! If you're asking yourself the question, clearly it's time for something.  
I recommend taking a self quiz to help you figure it out. Here are 10 questions to ask:



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. How long have the walls been this color     | 6. Are the sinks starting to chip          |
| 2. How long ago was the furniture purchased    | 7. Is the sofa losing its firmness         |
| 3. How long has the color scheme been in place | 8. Is it light or dark in here             |
| 4. Is the tile grout no longer cleanable       | 9. Am I bored with my home                 |
| 5. Do the carpet stains keep coming back       | 10. How do I feel when I walk in the house |

### ANSWERS:

1. Paint at least every 5 years
2. Replace an item or two every 2 years
3. Accessories such as throw pillows, bedspreads, even some artwork should be changed every 2 years
4. If you have grout, you have tile: time to remodel those areas
5. Time for new flooring
6. Time for new sinks
7. The lifetime of a good sofa will surpass its style life. In other words, it should go out of style before it fails.
8. Feng Shui design principles have lots to say about living in darkness. If it's dark, it's time for remodel
9. If you're bored, you need to make at least a few changes
10. If your home doesn't make you smile anymore, it's time for more drastic measures

Of course it's always better to employ a pro to help you determine what you need to do. Your home should be your sanctuary, your feel good place, the reflection of who you are. Achieving these goals are sometimes very simple, sometimes a little more intrusive if you need a new kitchen but well worth it. Nothing helps understand the value of updating better than pictures:



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**AWARD-WINNING JOURNALISM:** San Diego Uptown News won third place for general excellence at the 2016 ACP Annual Publication Award. This category is the top award in the annual competition, which received more than 1,400 entries from free community newspapers across the U.S. and Canada. Parent company San Diego Community News Network won a total of six awards.

**OPINIONS/LETTERS:** San Diego Uptown News encourages letters to the editor and guest editorials. Please email submissions to ken@sdenn.com and include your phone number and address for verification. We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity and accuracy. Letters and guest editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher or staff.

#### SUBMISSIONS/NEWS TIPS:

Send press releases, tips, photos or story ideas to ken@sdenn.com.

For breaking news and investigative story ideas contact the editor by phone or email.

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

# Inspiring greater understanding

Veterans and those they fought for find common ground at town hall

By Rep. Susan A. Davis

“I woke up inspired to listen today.”  
“Thank you so much for this event. My heart is larger from listening to our brave and dedicated veterans.”

These are quotes from two members of the community who had not served in combat and recently attended a special Veterans Town Hall in Balboa Park, sharing their forum experience.

Military veterans who served in combat from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan and a spouse whose husband was killed in Vietnam each had the opportunity to freely address San Diegans and describe their or their loved one's combat service and what it meant to them. It was non-judgmental and solemn.

It was also powerfully moving, especially as we recently commemorated the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

This is where the power of these forums exists. The town hall brought these communities together in profound respect. They took a “deep dive” together to diminish the sense of separation. The community was present to witness the stories and validate our warriors. It also brought a gift for the town: an opportunity to listen, with an open mind, to learn and drop preconceptions. We heard how the desire for people to assign labels must be rejected — that these men and women veterans aren't present to be pitied, feared or provided a diagnosis. They simply wish to return to the community and to live full, happy lives — much like all of us.

The warrior throughout history and in certain communities is a highly respected figure. Here at home, we have 1 percent of our population making up a dedicated all-volunteer Armed Service. However desirable it is that these service members volunteer, we are seeing the consequences of extended exposure to combat. With this minimal representation of the population serving multiple deployments, people back here at home do not know of the sacrifice freely given in the defense of our ideals and our nation. We have been a military at war but not a nation at war. This creates separation between these two groups in our community — the warrior and those they serve and protect.

At the town hall, combat veterans shared the interconnectedness that

existed in their fighting units. One veteran shared the story of a Marine who said that if an enemy ever tossed a grenade at them that he would throw his helmet on the explosive weapon and smother it with his body. As the random and definitive hand of combat would have it, an enemy grenade was released in hand-to-hand combat with an enemy fighter and Corporal Jason Dunham did just as he said he would. He covered the grenade as it exploded, saving several Marines lives and that of the enemy combatant, while giving his own life. For this act of valor and devotion he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

During the veteran's transition out of active duty military service, he or she goes from a warrior culture — or “us” culture — to our “me” culture here at home. With the fracturing of that communal sense of oneness and the primary care of each other, a combat veteran may become understandably disoriented and may choose isolation upon returning home.

Combat veterans have so much that they can bring to the community. Part of the contract that we entered into with them is that of those of us who do not serve will be there for them, as they were and are for us; to facilitate the same manifestation of love and that we are indeed all in this together. The forum allows this exchange. Hiring combat veterans and providing opportunities for them accomplishes this as well. Employers will see that they are the ones who are the beneficiaries of these motivated, loyal, responsible and accountable combat veteran employees.

We need to show veterans that they are not separated, but merely “away.” The promise in carrying on with these forums here in San Diego and throughout the nation is to bring people together to sit and listen; and in so doing, to heal. I am pleased to be a part of this new movement to encourage this kind of listening forum inspired by Sebastian Junger of “Restrepo” fame and my colleague Rep. Seth Mouton (D-Massachusetts). I will share the value of this event with my colleagues in Congress.

—Rep. Susan A. Davis represents Congressional District 53, which includes the San Diego communities of Old Town, Kensington, Mission Hills, University Heights, Hillcrest Bankers Hill, North Park, South Park, Talmadge and Normal Heights, as well as La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Spring Valley and parts of El Cajon and Chula Vista.✧



## Readers Poll



### Poll results

Where will you celebrate the holidays?

50% Staying home

12% Getting out of town

38% Going to work

### Editor's Note

San Diego Uptown News is retiring our online poll, effective with this issue. We thank you for participating in this non-scientific poll since its inception. It's been a lot of fun gauging your opinions on topics of interest.

Also, the Uptown News scheduled to be printed on Dec. 30 will not be published to allow our staff additional time off during this holiday season. Our printing schedule for Uptown News will resume on Jan. 13, 2017.

We wish you and your family the best during the holiday season and a very happy and prosperous new year.



## Letters

### Excellent coverage of CPUs

Thanks for providing timely and factual news on the Community Plan Updates for Uptown, North Park and Greater Golden Hill.

Thanks, too, for publishing so many opinions and letters. They provided a diverse range of ideas on the plans.

I would love to see you interview a rational participant in each community plan and have them compare and contrast the process and outcomes.

I've been involved in Uptown issues since moving here in 1984. Nothing much has changed, but fewer people can afford to live here and Hillcrest has gone straight downhill. The 1988 plan update included a downzone but protected canyons and open space. The proposed 2016 update was a downzone but gave us a greater possibility of mixed uses.

We wasted seven years and more than \$2 million arguing.

The endless arguments rarely produced a millimeter of movement one way or the other between the no-growth/historic preservation crowd and those who want sustainable growth. Every meeting I attended was split 50/50 — if there were 12 people there or 200. Zero consensus. That's what Todd Gloria saw and he acted on it to get something done. He has more political and citywide experience than anybody else involved (aide, council member, interim mayor, council member, now elected to the Assembly). He was the right person to break the logjam.

San Diego needs architectural review. We cannot write plans that produce good design or keep up with change.

The community planning groups should be reconstituted as the review boards.

This process works incredibly well in Santa Barbara, California. We laugh about Santa Barbara and the time it takes to get approvals and the cost of construction. But it's faster and cheaper than San Diego! And they actually create a community fabric of which most people are proud — and agree that infrastructure

(transit, parks, open space, fire/police, schools) is pretty good.

I'd love to see architectural review in San Diego. I think it would address most of the concerns people have about density and height.

It drives architects nuts.

But there would be so much more work for architects I think they might handle the criticisms.

—Peter H. St. Clair of Mission Hills via email

### More on Uptown CPU

Re: *Uptown Community Plan Update coverage at bit.ly/2h3NgGg.*

Experience teaches us what to expect from developers in the Hillcrest core:

- Buildings aimed at the well-above-median buyer.
- Promised great public amenities, which turn out to be dog water dishes and flower pots.
- Lip service to use of public transit, but upscale occupants who would be mortified to ride a bus.
- More vehicles on our already-choked through streets.

The Hillcrest Business Association aims at an urban Mission Beach with bars and pizza slices everywhere. Maybe it is time to shop North Park or East Village.

—David Cohen of Hillcrest via email

### Bicycles vs. parking spots

Re: *"Letters," Vol. 8, Issue 25 or at bit.ly/2gkZI6c.*

Kudos to Todd Gloria for vowing to fill the dangerous bike network gap on University Avenue created by the Hillcrest Business Association. This gap wasn't the result of a "very delicate compromise," as Bob Martynec's letter states, but rather the tens of thousands of dollars the HBA paid lobbyist California Strategies to kill the Uptown Bikeway, behind closed doors at SANDAG.

Martynec also describes unpaid, volunteer bike advocates as "extremist biking lobbyists" for daring to want a single safe bike route through Hillcrest.

Meanwhile, Martynec shares a Hillcrest residence with Uptown Parking District director and extremist parking lobbyist Tim Gahagan. Gahagan, along with HBA Uptown Parking directors, strongly opposes any safety improvements in Hillcrest that would even minimally impact parking. Could this be because the tenants of Gahagan's Hillcrest rental property enjoy free (city-subsidized) on-street parking?

As San Diego aims to implement Vision Zero and Climate Action Plan projects, Gahagan and the HBA are leading a rogue, city-funded parking district against these programs. Most recently, the Hillcrest directors voted to demand SANDAG kill the Fourth/Fifth Avenue Bikeway in Hillcrest. Uptown Parking's mission statement says it will "consider biking" — not actively oppose it.

Nearly every foot of curb space, on nearly every Hillcrest street, is devoted exclusively to on-street parking. This totals thousands of on- and off-street spaces. Yet when asked how many could be re-allocated to safe bike lanes, director Gahagan responded, "10." I'm grateful that the actions of these self-interested residents and business owners will be corrected by the city. Our lives are worth more than a parking space.

—Paul Jameson via our website, [sduptownnews.com](http://sduptownnews.com)

### 'So frightening'

Re: *"Remembering the 1985 Normal Heights Fire," Vol. 8, Issue 7 or at bit.ly/2gV6sbG.*

I lived in the house from which this photo was taken; the photographer was my roommate! I'll never forget this day; it was so frightening. One house would be fine and the next house gone in flames. I stood on the roof with a hose most of the day despite warnings to evacuate. Everything in our house had smoke damage.

—Amy via our website

—Send letters to the editor to [ken@sdcdn.com](mailto:ken@sdcdn.com) or make comments on our website or Facebook page. ✪

## Holiday drives

### Feeding San Diego Holiday Campaign

The Feeding San Diego (FSD) Holiday Campaign is underway to bring meals to the less fortunate. FSD asks the public to help in one of three ways:

- Make a monetary donation online at [bit.ly/2gD74TI](http://bit.ly/2gD74TI). FSD states that each dollar donated will provide four meals.
- Companies are encouraged to organize a food drive and ask employees to collect a variety of nutritional foods to donate to FSD. For more information call 858-452-3663 or visit [bit.ly/2gtPQOF](http://bit.ly/2gtPQOF).

FSD is a nonprofit hunger relief organization dedicated to

distributing healthy food with dignity to those in poverty, while helping to inform the public about the issues of food insecurity, nutrition and poverty. Learn more at [feedingsandiego.org](http://feedingsandiego.org).

### Food Bank Holiday Food Drive

The San Diego Food Bank's Holiday Food drive is underway throughout San Diego County. Vons shoppers can purchase a prefilled bag of groceries for \$7 and place the bag in the Food Bank's big red food drive donation barrels at the front of the store.

There are also other ways to help with the annual Holiday Food Drive. Anyone may also make a monetary donation online at [bit.ly/2fIAZ8x](http://bit.ly/2fIAZ8x). Clubs, businesses or other organizations may host a virtual food drive online as well. For more information and for online links to help organize a virtual

food drive for the Food bank, visit [bit.ly/20g8rX0](http://bit.ly/20g8rX0).

The San Diego Food Bank sorts donated food at its warehouse, then distributes the items to low-income families and individuals at 183 distribution sites throughout the county each month. The Food Bank also gives food to 350 other nonprofit organizations that operate feeding programs.

For more information visit [sandiegofoodbank.org](http://sandiegofoodbank.org).

### St. Paul's Senior Services Events

St. Paul's Senior Services is holding a holiday drives and events this month.

- St. Paul's Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) centers are holding a Sundries for Seniors program

see Drives, pg 11

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# Beer and brats in the house

## Come On Get Happy! Dr. Ink

The last time I set foot into this quaint house-turned-restaurant, located comfortably off Old Town's main drag, was when it operated as 25 Forty Bistro. I remember fondly a wine-friendly menu of progressive-American cuisine served within tight, but charming quarters.

Much has changed since then. The property's latest incarnation is Old Town Public, which focuses largely on local and international beer, plus an assortment of hearty grub ranging from specialty tacos and quality burgers to zesty pizzas and meaty sandwiches.

Its large front porch remains intact, now under the canopy of big umbrellas. Inside, however, the space has been



Grilled bratwurst over peppers and onions

Kiwi Fields sour ale

awkwardly reconfigured with only a couple of raised, communal banquettes, a few small tables, and an intimate bar with a flat screen TV perched over it. Hence, I took a spot on the lovely patio.

Draft beers are \$2 off. They range normally from \$6 to \$8. Better yet, foods from the "starters" menu are half-price. And based on the grilled "bier bratwurst" I ordered, the

kitchen doesn't skimp on the portions.

The draft list included 12 beers on my visit, some Belgians, others IPAs and lagers. Although after the personable bartender allowed me to sample the Kiwi Fields sour ale by Acoustic Ales Brewing Experiment, I was sold.

Compared to Acoustic's Strawberry Fields Sour Blonde I tried elsewhere in the past,

this tasted a little fruitier, yet with a sourness that was more pleasantly biting. At times, it reminded me of kombucha, though with a desirably impairing after effect from the 6 percent alcohol content.

The bargain food choices range from Belgian-style mussels and Maryland crab cakes to various mac n' cheese preparations and steak or veggie bruschetta. But the bratwurst called — two links split lengthwise with their flame-grilled finish and bedding of excellent, sautéed peppers, onions and tomatoes. Though sadly missing from the dish was a hunk of bread needed for mopping up the saucy medley afterwards.

Old Town Public offers an escape from the crowded establishments dotting nearby San Diego Avenue. In addition, free parking is a breeze before peak times in a public lot located a half-block away at the corner of Congress and Twigg streets.❖



A quiet refuge for beer and food in the heart of Old Town (Photos by Dr. Ink)

**Launch Party**  
Dec 17<sup>th</sup>

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## RATINGS

### Drinks: ⭐⭐⭐⭐

The price breaks apply to about a dozen rotating draft beers, a few of which featured various styles by Acoustic Ales Brewing Experiment. Others included a lemon grass lager by Drake's Brewing Company, and some Belgians by Brewery Ommegang and Van Steenberg Brewery.

### Food: ⭐⭐⭐⭐

The ale-braised bratwurst sausages are winners. Served over sautéed peppers and onions, they're lean and charry and sport a discernible beer flavor.

### Value: ⭐⭐⭐⭐

All draft beers are \$2 off. They normally run between \$6 and \$8, are \$2. But the bigger price break is on appetizers, which are half-price during happy hour.

### Service: ⭐⭐⭐⭐

The bartender, who doubled as a waiter, enthusiastically offered me a couple of beer tastings before I decided on a favorite. And in the absence of a menu listing the happy-hour specials, he was quick to recite them when I first sat down.

### Atmosphere: ⭐⭐⭐

Limited indoor seating includes a small bar near the rear of the restaurant. The patio, however, offers roomier options and includes a fire pit.



# A nod to New Zealand

## Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.



In one of the most remarkable property transformations North Park has seen in a while, local designer Michael Soriano performed cosmetic surgery on what used to be Eddie's Philadelphia Steaks, Hoagies and Burgers, and left it beautifully unrecognizable as Dunedin North Park.

Dunedin (pronounced dun-EE-din) is part of a portfolio of San Diego restaurants containing names of New Zealand cities, such as Queenstown Public House in Little Italy and Ragland Public House in Ocean Beach. They're run by the same set of owners who operate Bare Back Grill in Pacific Beach.

Soriano bestowed his whimsically earthy touches on those establishments as well, not to mention places like Pearl Hotel in Point Loma, Vin de Syrah in the Gaslamp Quarter, and others around town.

For Dunedin, which was long ago a Craftsman-style home, he partially surrounded the structure with lumber poles, expanded the front and side porches, and accented the windows with solid wood framing.

Inside, an inviting central bar was added; faux red corral hangs from an angled ceiling insulated with Levi fabric; and a wall of sculpted wood resembling a sand barrier ties together the Maori-inspired theme. The layout feels double the size compared to when it was Eddie's.

Dunedin and its related restaurants is where you partake in lamb or grass-fed beef burgers — the latter crowned in New Zealand tradition with creamy Edam cheese. Most of the menu items take their cues from that country, but reveal enough Southern California spins to make them ours.

From the starters list, my companion gravitated to the anchovy toast, which offered a refreshing break from



A naturist design pervades at Dunedin North Park. (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Grilled shrimp and pineapple salad



The "hogs & heffers" burger

Anchovy toast

Turkey chili with tortilla chips

ubiquitous avocado toast. The crostini were topped with roasted tomatoes, red bell peppers, burrata (young mozzarella) and thin slivers of anchovies that tasted fresh rather than salt-cured.

Turkey chili fortified with small white beans, cheese, jalapenos and onions was especially warming as we swiped the accompanying tortilla chips through it.

Our meal took a tropical turn with a salad of grilled shrimp and pineapple that unleashed a stunning interplay of sweet, grassy and spicy flavors from the additions of arugula, sautéed red peppers, and peri peri sauce used for cooking the butter-fried shrimp. It's the best salad I've eaten in months.

The burger choices extend to New Zealand elk, grilled swordfish, flank steak, bratwurst and a few others.

We ordered two: the grass-fed beef with bacon, avocado and Edam cheese (named "hogs & heffers") and the wild boar burger mantled with mozzarella, roasted peppers, pesto aioli and fresh basil.

In both cases, the flavors of patties were dependant on their

garnishes, as we felt the meats were under-seasoned. When isolated from their fixings, the wild boar actually offered a bit more verve in terms of natural gaminess. The beef, however, cried for salt and pepper.

Conversely, the lamb burger I tried at Queenstown Public House earlier this year, garnished the same as here with mint jelly, blue cheese and beets, was stellar because the meat steered the overall flavor profile. I suspect the elk burger would perform similarly.

A la carte fries are listed as "skinny," "sweet," "fatty" and "portabella." We chose the fatty steak-cut version dusted pleasantly in Old Bay Seasoning. They were generously portioned and came with creamy wasabi and red pepper dipping sauces that vanished quickly.

Dunedin's booze list consists of beer and wine, plus beer and Champagne cocktails. There's also an ambitious selection of sangrias, such as the cabernet-based clericot distinguished by a lively bouquet of cantaloupe, watermelon, apples, grapes and pomegranate. It tasted like I always wish sangria would taste, but rarely

does when I've ordered it in other places.

Adding to Dunedin's super-comfortable vibe is an upbeat staff and a crisp sound system that was playing modern indie-pop during our visit. The establishment is a cozy boon to the neighborhood, and one that prompts you to eat, drink and linger.

—Frank Sabatini Jr. is the author of "Secret San Diego" (ECW Press), and began his local writing career more than two decades ago as a staffer for the former San Diego Tribune. Reach him at [fsabatini@san.rr.com](mailto:fsabatini@san.rr.com).

## Dunedin North Park

3501 30th St. (North Park)

619-255-8566  
dnp-sd.com

Prices: Appetizers and salads, \$8 to \$17; burgers, \$12 to \$14; plates, \$16 to \$18



Mixologist Erick Castro will take imbibers through the history and basic steps of making certain cocktails in a "holiday spirits" class to be held from 6–8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19, at **Polite Provisions** in Normal Heights. The class is limited to 14 attendees, who will each be afforded their own workstation stocked with the essential ingredients. The cost is \$60 per person. 4696 30th St., 619-677-3784, [politeprovisions.com](http://politeprovisions.com).



Hone your cocktail-making skills at Polite Provisions. (Photo by Let's Frolic Together)



Lety Gonzalez, Uptown Tavern's executive chef, with her award-winning chili (Photo by Gary Hussey)

Lety Gonzalez of **Uptown Tavern** grabbed top honors at the seventh annual **SoNo Fest Chili Cook-Off**, held Dec. 4 at 32nd and Thorn streets. The event featured 40 other chefs competing from local restaurants. Gonzalez and her team won for Best Overall Chili and the People's Choice Award, with a recipe using smoked and ground pork, black beans, corn, chicken chicharro and cilantro crema. Gonzalez said the hearty chili will make "special appearances" on Uptown's menu over the winter season. 1236 University Ave., 619-241-2710, [uptowntavernsd.com](http://uptowntavernsd.com).

An events space featuring stadium-style seating and "dealing with food" is in the works at **Specialty Produce** in Middletown, said Bob Harrington, who owns the respected produce outlet with his brothers, Richard and Roger. Due for completion in early March, it will be available for cooking classes and other culinary demonstrations conducted by local chefs and instructors, some of whom worked at the former **Great News** in Pacific Beach before it closed.

Still under construction, it has already been named **Studio Kitchen** and will seat 50 to 100 people.

"We'll be creating unique events in addition to doing some cooking school stuff," Harrington added, noting the venue will incorporate a new, fully equipped kitchen. 1929 Hancock St., 619-295-3172, [specialtyproduce.com](http://specialtyproduce.com).

Weekend brunch was recently introduced at **Soda & Swine** in Normal Heights. The six-dish menu, crafted by Chef Jason McLeod, captures the restaurant's famous hand-rolled meatballs, which appear in a slider with egg, cheddar and chipotle mayo. Other choices include french fries with sausage gravy, bacon and egg; huevos rancheros; a breakfast sandwich on jalapeno-cheddar biscuits; and chorizo-wrapped Scotch eggs. Mimosas and Champagne slushies are also available. All of the food and drink items are priced at \$8 or less. They're available from 10:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. 2943 Adams Ave., 619-269-7632, [sodaandswine.com](http://sodaandswine.com).

—Frank Sabatini Jr. can be reached at [fsabatini@san.rr.com](mailto:fsabatini@san.rr.com).



Dozens lined up for the preview of Nomad Donuts' future expansion site (Photo by Ken Williams)

On Dec. 13, the public got a sneak peek of the second location of **Nomad Donuts** in North Park. The open house coincided with a fundraiser for David Harp's Foundation, which empowers at-risk and homeless youth achieve academic success through music and multimedia education.

The 3,100-square-foot space is due to open in spring at 3102 University Ave., less than a mile from its original location at 4504 30th St. 619-431-5000, [nomaddonuts.com](http://nomaddonuts.com).



## IT'S A 'MIRACLE'



Jim Chovick as Kris Kringle and cast members in "Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Radio Play" staged by San Diego Musical Theatre. (Photos by Ken Jacques)

## Theater Review

Charlene Baldridge



In anticipation of yet another Christmas musical in radio-show format, the spirit flagged. Nonetheless, the critic dutifully attended San Diego Musical Theatre's (SDMT) first outing at the Horton Grand Theatre in the Gaslamp District, to see "Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Radio Play." What a splendid surprise!

Delight begins preshow while contemplating Michael McKeon's meticulously detailed scenic design, a kinder, gentler, homier atmosphere than any radio studio recreated thus far. We are at KSDMT circa 1947 to witness the Lux Radio Hour broadcast of "Miracle on 34th Street."

The well-appointed studio has a multilevel playing area with oriental rugs, easy chairs, five microphones, and a keyboard/Foley mini-studio for the announcer, portrayed by Foley artist and pianist Cris O'Bryon.

The New York City skyline is visible beyond, the adapter is Lance Arthur Smith, and the piece, directed by SDMT Executive Director Colleen Kollar Smith, has original music and dynamite arrangements of traditional holiday songs written by Music Director Jon Lorenz.

Musically the show is in excellent hands, blessed with excellent original songs/lyrics and snappy arrangements of traditional music. It is filled with a company of fine singer/actors plus the redoubtable Jim Chovick as Kris Kringle, the elderly gentleman who appears from nowhere at Macy's and



Duet by Janaya Jones and Jim Chovick

after being hired insists he is really Santa Claus. Kris is billeted with an attorney named Fred (Matthew Malecki) who lives in the same building as Macy's employee Doris (dynamite vocalist Janaya Jones) and is sweet on her. Doris considers herself a realist

and thus has raised her pre-pubescent daughter, Susan (six-grader Julia Van Skike), not to believe in fairy tales like the existence of Santa Claus. Kris proceeds to set the record straight,

Others in the company, who play multiple roles, are Eric Hellmers and San Diego newcomer Lise Hafso. Both are excellent comedians with Hellmers at one point turning in a fabulous duet with himself. The miracle of "Miracle" is that it touches and inspires and

uplifts without turning into so much treacle. Kudos to director Smith.

Beth Connelly's costumes are subtle, with Chovick attired in a period suit with red accessories. (His whispered "It's Christmas Eve" sent chills up my spine.) Connelly's double-collared white jacket with perky peplum for Jones sent this woman of the times into orbit. Nate Parde is lighting designer, and Kevin Anthenill, the all-important sound designer.

With 250 seats, the Horton Grand seems a perfect venue for SDMT's presentation of more intimate musicals. SDMT and Intrepid Theatre share the space, each company devising separate programming.

During the coming season, SDMT will present two musicals at the Horton Grand and three at the Spreckels: the regional premiere of the Broadway musical "First Date," and the world premiere of "Pump Up the Volume: a '90s Palooza," by Lorenz and Colleen Kollar Smith, at the Horton; and "9 to 5," "Damn Yankees" and "Billy Elliot the Musical" at the Spreckels.

—Charlene Baldridge has been writing about the arts since 1979. Follow her blog at [charlenecriticism.blogspot.com](http://charlenecriticism.blogspot.com) or reach her at [charb81@gmail.com](mailto:charb81@gmail.com).

## "Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play"

Based on 1947 Lux Radio Hour broadcast  
Adapted by Lance Arthur Smith  
Original music and arrangements by Jon Lorenz  
Directed by Colleen Kollar Smith

Thursdays-Sundays through Dec. 23  
Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 20-21  
Horton Grand Theatre  
444 Fourth Ave. (Gaslamp District)

858-560-5740  
[sdmt.org](http://sdmt.org)

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Photos: Amy Guip

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Broadway San Diego will present these shows at San Diego Civic Theatre between Dec. 28 and Jan. 15, 2017. For more information and tickets, visit [broadwaysd.com](http://broadwaysd.com).

**“Mannheim Steamroller Christmas”**  
**Dec. 28**

Grammy Award-winner Chip Davis directs and co-produces tour performances with MagicSpace Entertainment. The show features classic Christmas hits from “Mannheim Steamroller,” all with dazzling multimedia effects in an intimate setting. The spirit of the season comes alive with the signature sound of “Mannheim Steamroller Christmas.”

**“Rent”**  
**Jan. 10-15, 2017**

“Rent” is a rock musical with music, lyrics and book by Jonathan Larson, loosely based on Giacomo Puccini’s opera “La Bohème.” Winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical, it tells the story of a group of impoverished young artists struggling to survive and create a life in New York City’s East Village in the thriving days of Bohemian Alphabet City, under the shadow of HIV/AIDS.



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The Old Globe Theatre has been home to the most acclaimed national artists, designers, directors and playwrights in the theater industry. More than 20 productions produced at The Old Globe have

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**“Dr. Seuss’ ‘How the Grinch Stole Christmas!’”**  
**Through Dec. 26**

The Old Globe is presenting its annual family musical, “Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas!”

The show is described as a wonderful, whimsical musical based upon the classic Dr. Seuss book.

Back for its 19th incredible year, the family favorite features the songs “This Time of Year,” “Santa for a Day” and “Fah Who Doraze,” the delightful carol from the popular animated TV version of “How the Grinch Stole Christmas!”

Celebrate the holidays as the Old Globe Theatre is once again transformed into the snow-covered Whoville, right down to the last can of Who-hash. For tickets or more information, visit [tinyurl.com/z89fsrz](http://tinyurl.com/z89fsrz).



**San Diego Repertory Theatre**  
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San Diego Repertory Theatre is San Diego’s resident professional theater —celebrating year-round on three stages and in art galleries the diversity and creativity of the community.

They are presenting these two holiday productions. For more information or tickets, visit [sdrep.org](http://sdrep.org).

**“The Dybbuk for Hannah and Sam’s Wedding”**  
**Through Dec. 18**

“The Dybbuk for Hannah and Sam’s Wedding,” showing through Dec. 18, features nationally renowned master actor and clown Ron Campbell playing all 21 characters in this mystical story centering on a broken vow that results in a wandering spirit taking possession of a bride on her wedding day. Boundaries between the natural and supernatural worlds dissolve in this tale of powerful young love and spiritual possession. You will find yourself in the spell of a Yiddish classic that is a humorous and horrific folk tale of wondrous meaning.

**“A Snow White Christmas”**  
**Through Dec. 24**

In collaboration with San Diego Theatres and Lythgoe Family Panto, San Diego Repertory Theatre also is presenting “A Snow White Christmas!” with performances through Dec. 24.

“A Snow White Christmas” is the American Panto version based on the “Snow White” fairytale, which includes singing, dancing and interactive fun and magic. Whether young or old, a Panto will be enjoyed by all members of the family during the holiday season.❖

FROM PAGE 7

**DRIVES**

until Dec. 20. There are 500 senior citizens in the program and this year’s goal is to have a gift bag for each of them.

Donations of sundries or small gifts for seniors may be dropped off at two PACE locations between 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The two locations are St. Paul’s PACE Day Center, 111 Elm St. in Downtown San Diego and St. Paul’s PACE Day Center, 630 L St. in Chula Vista.

Those wishing to donate online may view a special PACE wish list on Amazon at [amzn.to/2fzifx6](http://amzn.to/2fzifx6) and the items will be delivered directly to St. Paul’s Reasner Center in San Diego. For more information visit [bit.ly/2gtUKCd](http://bit.ly/2gtUKCd).

• St. Paul’s Senior Services also cares about pets waiting for a home as it hosts Santa Paws Blanket and Towel Drive for the Chula Vista Animal Center. St. Paul’s is asking for donations of clean used blankets and towels to be placed in drop off baskets at the Chula Vista Animal Shelter, 1420 E. Palomar St., Chula Vista. For more information call 619-591-0600.

St. Paul’s Senior Services is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the needs of San Diego’s senior community. For more information visit [stpaulseniors.org](http://stpaulseniors.org).❖

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FROM PAGE 1  
**SHELTER**

**Sheltering in North Park**  
“We rescued Steven in Ocean Beach during the three-day El Nino storm, along with his companion, his dog,” said Eric Lovett, founder and executive director of Urban Street Angels, a 5-year-old nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to help end youth homelessness in San Diego. Lovett shared the story of Steven, whose real name is being withheld to protect his privacy.  
“We brought Steven to our shelter and we helped him out,” said Lovett, who has 25 years of experience working with the homeless.

Urban Street Angels operate an emergency overnight shelter on Tuesdays in space rented from Missiongathering Christian Church, located on Polk Street in North Park. Jerry Troyer, a longtime La Mesa resident who is one of the founding members of the Angels, is the shelter coordinator who has just been promoted to assistant director.  
Troyer said the shelter takes in “transitional age youth” typically between the ages of 17 and 25, people like Steven who they find on the streets of San Diego or who desperately call them for help. The shelter can accommodate up to 24 youth at a time.  
“We feed them dinner, let them shower and clean up, offer them haircuts, provide medical services, give them clothing and hygiene supplies, and they have a warm and safe place to sleep for the night,” Troyer

Jerry Troyer sorts clothes at the Tuesday night shelter for homeless youth. (Photo by Ken Williams)

said. “We serve them breakfast Wednesday morning before they go back out in the world.”  
Troyer emphasized that the Angels have no religious affiliation, unlike most local organizations that serve the homeless.  
“We are not religious or spiritual,” he said. “We are not about saving souls or proselytizing. If you want to turn somebody off, hit them over the head with a Bible!”  
Mind you that this message is delivered by a man whose background is the ministry.  
“We are not a faith-based organization,” Lovett agreed, “but all of us come from that background.”

**A home and a job**  
The Angels also operate a transitional housing and

see Shelter, pg 16

Eric Lovett chats with a homeless youth during an encounter in 2015. (Courtesy of Urban Street Angels)



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

9/6

**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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Puzzle answers on page 14

## Uptown Crossword

**Double Talk**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	
12					13				14		15		
16					17					18			
19				20						21			
		22	23					24					
		25					26	27			28	29	30
31						32				33			
34						35				36			
37				38	39					40			
41					42				43				
			44					45					
46	47	48				49	50			51	52	53	
54					55					56			
57					58					59			
60						61				62			

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

- ACROSS**

1 Nymph who loved Narcissus

5 Church council

9 Nice friend

12 Avoid

13 Make corrections

15 Jack Horner's find

16 Form of address for a sovereign

17 Piebald

18 Speech defect

19 Finish

20 Confection favor

22 Irish literary great

24 Mist

25 Type size

26 Versifier

28 Harridan

31 Entertain

32 Pine

34 Trim

35 Natural resource

36 Entertainer Adams

37 Incessantly

40 Licit

41 Word with break, dream or light

42 Westernmost of the Aleutians
- 43 Animate

44 \_\_\_ rule

45 Starchy foodstuff from orchids

46 Basic

51 Choose

54 At the top: prefix

55 Ghostly

56 Scent

57 Ode

58 Closes securely

59 Chills and fever

60 Indefinite amount

61 Units of measure

62 Gala party
- DOWN**

1 Being: L.

2 Place for a Van Dyke

3 Barrel organ

4 Unit

5 Public opinion

6 Leaves out

7 Portable shelter

8 Against

9 Came to earth

10 Essential

11 Kaffir warriors

14 Took off, as a hat

15 Stopper

20 London gallery
- 21 Method of learning

23 Artist's tripod

25 Iowa town noted for cooperatives

26 French soldier

27 Merely

28 Olio

29 Kind of flu

30 Celt

31 Mimicked

32 Put up a sign

33 Female ruff

38 Uncomplicated

39 Raised platforms

40 Aloe

43 Most recent

44 Unit in physics

45 Fence crossing

46 California city

47 Religious painting

48 Playing card

49 Navigation hazard

50 \_\_\_ caelestes: divine wrath

52 Sulk

53 Arboretum specimen

56 Dolt

Puzzle answers on page 14

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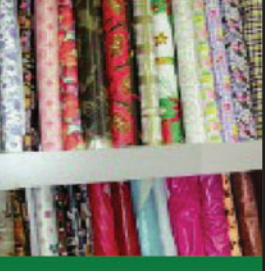
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FROM PAGE 1  
**TABLE**

included grilled rib eye with chimichurri and polenta.

“It was a truly transformative meal,” Jacobs recalled. “The flavors in everything blended together like a beautiful song, and he talked about the history of every course.”

Culinary Hedonism Supper Club quickly gained momentum, with each dinner soon selling out to 12 guests requesting a seat at the table via the website, [culinaryhedonism.com](http://culinaryhedonism.com). The upcoming schedule currently extends through March, and includes a special New Year’s Eve dinner and a New Year’s Day brunch. Jacobs’ address isn’t disclosed until reservations are confirmed.

“Audrey’s house is gorgeous, and she has a history of entertaining,” Calley said. “But what really did it for me was that she gave me complete control of the menus. It was a perfect storm.”

Although if you’re looking for commonplace dishes such as seared ahi, braised short ribs, trendy burgers, or vegetarian meals for that matter, you won’t find them here.

With the assistance of his sous chef, Stephanie Corneil, and after scouring local farms and farmers markets for ingredients, Calley’s dinners are typically eight courses and geared for adventurous omnivores. He doesn’t reveal the menus until guests arrive.

On a recent afternoon leading up to a dinner, he was trimming lamb hearts in Jacobs’ modest-size kitchen, preparing to marinate them in homemade Massaman curry. For another, he transformed wild boar meat into croquettes that were accented with Gruyere and Harissa aioli. Or for a course of roasted heirloom carrots, he graced them with rosemary-honey butter and smoked grapes. No one dish ever repeats.

“Whenever each course is served, there’s a hush that comes over the group and a sense of reverence at what’s being presented to them,” said Jacobs, who sets her custom-made wood table for the dinners amid flowering birds of paradise, tall bamboo, Talavera pottery, and a fire pit where guests converge afterwards over s’mores.

Jacobs is the social icebreaker at the dinner groupings, which are as diverse as Calley’s menus. At the start of each meal, she asks attendees to share a favorite joke, poem, song or anecdote that reflects their personalities.

Doriot Lair, a nearby resident and retired musician who started San Diego’s first all-female punk band in the late 1970s called The Dinettes, has attended the supper club three times. She initially learned about it on the social network app, Nextdoor.

“I was immediately smitten with the whole idea because I’m a foodie and all about meeting new people in the ‘hood. And Peter’s food is fabulous,” she said, recalling in particular a meal he presented celebrating the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which featured “lots of Middle Eastern-type dishes with seasonal vegetables and beautiful sauces.”

Jennifer Leigh, a law enforcement officer and two-time guest, most recently attended Calley’s Asian-themed dinner in December. Among the standouts was an open-face banh mi sandwich of hors d’oeuvre size on homemade French bread with pate, five-spice crispy duck breast and pickled black radish.

“I could have happily eaten a full serving of it. I’ve loved everything across the board at both dinners. They overwhelmed my senses in a good way.”

David Barach concurs. As a turnaround CEO for startup companies, he also has attended two of the dinners, noting that they don’t compare to dining out in restaurants.

“The setting and the company were lovely, but more so the chef was very creative in mixing pungent, spicy, sweet and salty flavors into his cooking.”

Calley firmly believes that keeping the number of dinner guests to 12 attributes to smooth-flowing conversations. “People feel they’re part of a group, while at the same time, when one person speaks, everyone can listen.”

To his relief and surprise, the dinner gatherings have so far been void of political discussions, with the exception of a guest visiting from Italy who raised the subject at a dinner held the day after last month’s presidential election.

“The other guests shut down the discussion pretty quickly. Other than that, everyone has been courteous and respectful,” he said.

Alcohol isn’t served at the dinners, although attendees are permitted to bring beer, wine and spirits, which are oftentimes shared among the group. In addition, Calley doesn’t accommodate those with dietary restrictions, but makes exceptions for guests with food allergies.

“The name ‘Culinary Hedonism’ refers to indulging in all food without any sort of restriction and without holding back on the quality,” he stressed.

In keeping with supper-club tradition, set prices are not attached to the dinners, although guests are expected to make donations at the end of each meal, which typically range between \$85 and \$150 per person.

For upcoming supper-club dates and reservations, visit [culinaryhedonism.com](http://culinaryhedonism.com) or email Calley directly at [peter@culinaryhedonism.com](mailto:peter@culinaryhedonism.com).

—Frank Sabatini Jr. can be reached at [fsabatini@san.rr.com](mailto:fsabatini@san.rr.com).

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**PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**

## Sudoku

Puzzle from page 14

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

## Double Talk

Crossword from page 14

ECHO	ROTA	AMI						
SHUN	EMEND	PLUM						
SIRE	PINTO	LISP						
END	TUTTI	FRUTTI						
	YEATS	FOG						
	AGATE	POET	HAG					
AMUSE	PONDEROSA							
PARE	OIL	EDIE						
ENDLESSLY	LEGAL							
DAY	ATTU	LIVEN						
	ASA	SALEP						
NITTY	GRITTY	OPT						
ACRO	EERIE	ODOR						
POEM	SEALS	AGUE						
ANY	FEET	FETE						

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# UPTOWN CALENDAR

## FEATURED EVENTS

### ‘Holiday Rhapsody’ Saturday, Dec. 17

The Hillcrest Wind Ensemble will present this concert with the music of Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year’s Eve. Homemade goodies and refreshments will be available during intermission. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. The event starts at 7 p.m. at San Diego Woman’s Club (2557 Third Ave., Bankers Hill). Visit [hillcrestwindensemble.com](http://hillcrestwindensemble.com) for tickets.

### Talmadge Art Show Pop-Up Saturday, Dec. 17

This art show will feature 15 artists selling handmade craft including jewelry, clothing, mixed media and pottery. Plus there will be a food truck on hand. The event is from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. in Talmadge (4514 Norma Drive). Visit [talmadgeartshow.com](http://talmadgeartshow.com).

### Mission Hills Branch Library book sale Saturday, Dec. 17

Find some good reading at a reasonable price during the book sale held by the Friends of the Mission Hills Branch Library (925 W. Washington St.) from 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Visit [facebook.com/mhlibrary](https://facebook.com/mhlibrary).

### Live music: The Lulls, Gary Wilson and Well Well Well Monday, Dec. 19

Local band The Lulls have been garnering lots of attention with the release of their album “Island of Daughters.” The band’s eclectic sound reveals shades of surf-pop and shoegaze with funky guitar interludes. They’ll be joined for this show at the Casbah (2501 Kettner Blvd., Little Italy/Middletown) by experimental artist/musician Gary Wilson and alternative rockers Well Well Well. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6. Visit [casbahmusic.com](http://casbahmusic.com).



The Lulls hanging out in Big Sur (Photo by Brennen Cunningham)

### Free holiday concert Wednesday, Dec. 21

The Bayou Brothers will perform holiday songs with a zydeco/Cajun twist during a free holiday concert at the Mission Hills Library (925 W. Washington St.) at 6:30 p.m. Visit [facebook.com/mhlibrary](https://facebook.com/mhlibrary).

### ‘On With The Show: Psychedelic Masquerade’ Saturday, Dec. 31

This New Year’s Eve extravaganza was inspired by the “Psychedelic ‘60s” and features a huge lineup of local bands in three different “venues” within the hotel. Highlights of the bands and acts performing include the “California soul” stylings of Birdy Bardot, the final performance of garage rockers The New Kinetics, and the sultry and psychedelic sounds of The Verigolds. Also on the bill is a San Diego standout: Oh, Spirit. The group’s music has tight-knit structure, dance-worthy rhythms and dreamy harmonies— they are not to be missed. Ticket packages for this event range from general admission to dinner and drink inclusive options and cost from \$60-\$205. Visit [LafayetteHotelSD.com](http://LafayetteHotelSD.com) for tickets.

### ‘In the Va Va Voom Room’ Thursday, Jan. 5– Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017

Leave your inhibitions at home and try not to blush while viewing “In the Va Va Voom Room,” a contemporary all-male burlesque presented by Diversionsary Theatre (4545 Park Blvd., # 101, University Heights). This eclectic one-hour dance concert features a variety of scintillating and dynamic dance styles. Contains adult content. Five performances only. Tickets at [diversionsary.org](http://diversionsary.org) or by calling 619-220-0097.❖

## DIGITAL GYM GEMS



Friday, Dec. 16–Thursday, Dec. 22: “**Denial**” is a film based on a true story about Deborah E. Lipstadt’s legal battle for historical truth against David Irving, who accused her of libel when she declared him a Holocaust denier. PG-13. 110 minutes.



Friday, Dec. 16–Thursday, Dec. 22: The French sci-fi mystery “**Evolution**” is about a boy who lives on an island inhabited by only women and young boys. He begins questioning what is happening around him in this strange environment. Unrated. 81 minutes.



Friday, Dec. 16–Thursday, Dec. 22: Horrible Imaginings presents a screening of “**Beyond the Gates**,” the tale of two brothers who use an old VCR board to enter a nightmarish dimension where their father’s soul is trapped. Unrated. 84 minutes. ❖

Visit [DigitalGym.org](http://DigitalGym.org) for show times and tickets and information on additional films.

## RECURRING EVENTS

### Select dates:

**Cinema Under the Stars:** Films presented at an outdoor viewing space on various nights of the week. Upcoming films:

- “Love Actually” Friday, Dec. 16, and Saturday, Dec. 17
- Films start at 8 p.m. \$15. 4040 Goldfinch St., Mission Hills. Visit [topspresents.com](http://topspresents.com) or call 619-295-4221.

### Mondays:

**North Park Toastmasters meeting:** 6:30–8 p.m., weekly meeting at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 3725 30th St., North Park. 619-694-9148. [toastmastersclubs.org](http://toastmastersclubs.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](http://Lestats.com).

**Unsung Genius:** 6:30 p.m., bi-weekly trivia hosted by Rafael Gaitan starting at 7 p.m.; \$2 to play; cash, bar tab and other prizes. Karaoke to follow at 9 p.m. on the big stage at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest. [Themorrow.com](http://Themorrow.com).

### Tuesdays:

**Curbside Bites:** 5:30–8:30 p.m., gathering of gourmet food trucks at 3030 Grape St., South Park. [Curbsidebites.com](http://Curbsidebites.com).

**Tasty Truck Tuesdays:** 6–9 p.m., Smitty’s Service Station hosts several food trucks under their well-lit shade structure, 3442 Adams Ave., Normal Heights. [Sdfoodtrucks.com](http://Sdfoodtrucks.com).

**Uptown Democratic Club:** 6:30 p.m., Joyce Beers Community Center hosts these meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except November and December). 3900 Vermont Ave., Hillcrest. [Uptowndemocrats.org](http://Uptowndemocrats.org).

### Wednesdays:

**Ikebana International meeting:** 10 a.m. in the Casa Del Prado, Room #101. The San Diego chapter of this Japanese floral arrangement organization meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Email Yuko Burkett with questions at [yukosan@san.rr.com](mailto:yukosan@san.rr.com).

**Storytellers of San Diego:** 7–8:45 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, storytelling without notes for ages 12 and up at Rebecca’s Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park. [Rebeccascoffeehouse.com](http://Rebeccascoffeehouse.com).

**Wednesday Night Experience:** 7–8 p.m., uplifting and spiritually inspiring experiences for all, weekly at Universal Spirit Center, 3858 Front St., Hillcrest, love offering requested. [Universalspiritcenter.org](http://Universalspiritcenter.org)

### Thursdays:

**Uptown Sunrise Rotary Club meetings:** 7 a.m., weekly meeting at Panera Bread, 1270 Cleveland Ave., Hillcrest. [Sdurotary.org](http://Sdurotary.org).

**Gentle yoga for seniors:** 2:30–4 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](http://Thecentersd.org).

**North Park Thursday Market:** 3–7 p.m., at 3000 North Park Way, between 30th Street and Granada Avenue, North Park, free. [Northparkfarmersmarket.com](http://Northparkfarmersmarket.com).

**Kornflower’s Open Mic:** Signups at 6:30 p.m., open mic (no poetry or comedy) 7–10 p.m. Family-friendly event at Rebecca’s Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, free. [Rebeccascoffeehouse.com](http://Rebeccascoffeehouse.com).

**Liberty Toastmasters Club:** 7 p.m., at Saint Paul’s Community Care Center, 328 Maple St., Bankers Hill. [Libertytoastmasters.org](http://Libertytoastmasters.org).

**Courage to Change – Al-Anon meetings:** 7:15–8:15 p.m., a weekly meeting for friends and relatives of alcoholics at Christ United Presbyterian Church (in the chapel), 3025 Fir St., South Park.

**2016 San Diego Film Series:** 7:30 p.m., every third Thursday view a film representative of Italian cinema at the Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park. [Sandiegoitaliafilmfestival.com](http://Sandiegoitaliafilmfestival.com).

**Kirtan Musical Meditation:** 8:30 p.m., chant and sing ancient and contemporary mantras celebrating love and life at Pilgrimage of the Heart Yoga, 3301 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, free – donations welcome. [Pilgrimageyoga.com](http://Pilgrimageyoga.com).

### Fridays:

**Memory Café:** 10–11 a.m., second and fourth Fridays. Gathering place for those with memory loss, caretakers and those worried about memory problems in the Common Room at First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front St., Hillcrest. At-will donation. [Memoryguides.org](http://Memoryguides.org) and [Firstuussandiego.org](http://Firstuussandiego.org).

**Square Dancing Classes:** 6:30–8:30 p.m., every Friday. No previous dance experience needed. Recital Hall, 2130 Pan American Plaza. \$50 for 13 classes. 858-277-7499 or [circulators.sdsda.org](mailto:circulators.sdsda.org).

### Saturdays

**Old Town Saturday Market:** 9 a.m.–4 p.m., on Harney Street and San Diego Avenue, Old Town, free. Also held on Sundays. [Oldtownsaturdaymarket.com](http://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](http://Sdmarketmanager.com).

**Comedy Heights:** 8–10 p.m., local comedians take the stage next to Twiggs Coffeehouse at 4590 Park Blvd., University Heights, free. [Comedyheights.com](http://Comedyheights.com).

To view local community organization meeting information online, visit: [bit.ly/2esLpLR](http://bit.ly/2esLpLR).

—Email calendar items to [ken@sdcdn.com](mailto:ken@sdcdn.com).❖



FROM PAGE 12  
**SHELTER**

employment program for homeless youth called “8 West” — think Interstate 8 West to get to Ocean Beach, where a lot of homeless youth congregate.

At an undisclosed location in San Diego, they have a group home housing 10 young men and behind the main house is a “granny flat” housing six young women. Three house managers supervise the residents.

“These 16 young people are working toward preparing themselves for a productive life,” Troyer said, his voice cracking with emotion.

“About 80 percent of our homeless youth come from our shelter,” he said about the 8 West program.

More than 3,000 young people are living and sleeping on the streets of San Diego, out of an estimated 9,000 homeless people.

San Diego has the third-largest homeless population in the U.S., and the problem seems to be getting worse.

Lovett figures that about half of the homeless youth served by the Angels are from the San Diego area, while the other half come from out of town or another state. The Angels regularly find homeless youth sleeping in parks in Ocean Beach, North Park and Mission Hills.

Additionally, Lovett calculates that about 75 percent of the 8 West residents have come out of foster care, where youths are unceremoniously dumped out of the system when they turn 18. Most have no job skills or prospects and no money for housing and living expenses. Most end up living on the streets to survive.

“Many of the kids don’t know about California’s AB 12 law,” he said, adding that the 2010 measure extended state benefits to foster children to age 21.

Although LGBT Americans comprise about 10 percent of the population, an overwhelming number of homeless youths identify as a sexual minority. Lovett said the national average of LGBT homeless youth is around 43 percent, but in San Diego

that number is more than 50 percent.

“And that is just the ones who identify as being LGBT,” Lovett said, noting that millennials tend to be gender fluid and reluctant to check off identity boxes. “At least 20 percent of our homeless youth chose not to tell us how they identify. If I had to guess, the figure might be 60 percent to 65 percent LGBT.”

LGBT teenagers who come out to their parents and friends don’t always get a warm and loving reaction. Instead of acceptance they get rejection. Lovett and Troyer hear all the time from LGBT teens who were kicked out of their homes after coming out to their families.

“We are the only [county-funded] homeless housing program in San Diego that welcomes transgender people in the gender with which they identify,” Troyer said. The

**HOW TO HELP**

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Contact jerry@8west.org

San Diego LGBT Community Center also takes in transgender people in its youth housing program.

It’s difficult enough to be homeless, but adding the extra layer of being LGBT makes their lives even more challenging. Some faith-based agencies, for example, refuse to serve LGBT clients.

Because almost all of the homeless youth are suffering



Homeless youth gather Tuesday nights at a shelter in North Park. (Courtesy of Urban Street Angels)

from some form of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), the Angels provide outpatient therapy.

“They need a safe place to talk about their feelings,” Lovett said. “Most have PTSD, are depressed and have a lot of anxiety. Most have never been taught how to deal with these issues. That’s why therapy is so important.”

**Why they do it**

Troyer and Lovett get emotional talking about their lifesaving work. Troyer had to pause twice during the interview to compose himself as he brushed away tears in his eyes.

“The point I want to make,” Troyer said, “is that we are in the business of providing unconditional love, which is something that some of these kids have never experienced. That’s our business.”

But that’s not all. “The reason we do this for this particular age group,” Troyer said, “is because they are incredibly underserved by programs that deal with the homeless. Most of the other programs in San Diego deal with either homeless veterans or chronically homeless people who have addiction problems.

“We believe that if we get homeless youth off the streets before they reach the age of 25,” he continued, “we can break the cycle and help reduce the number of chronically homeless people.”

Lovett added that it is a difficult challenge to get older homeless people off the streets.

“When somebody has been on the streets for 20 years,” he said, “it is hard to get them to change their ways.”

As for homeless youth, Lovett said the key is building trust.

“I cannot help someone who cannot help himself,” he said. “If you are willing to change, we can help you. If you are willing to move forward, we can help you. We can show you: This is what your worth is. You may fall, and most of us will, but we will be there to pick you up.”

The youths who are accepted into the 8 West program must make a number of important commitments, including remaining clean and sober, but the most important of which is to agree to earn a GED if they dropped out of school and/or attend community college classes. They also must agree to find a job or work in the program’s “high-end soap-making business,” Troyer said. The handmade soap is sold online at 8west.org and raises money to help sustain the program.

Success stories like Steven’s are mounting, Lovett and Troyer said. But neither man is resting on his laurels.

“Our goal, within three years, is to house 50 young men and 50 young women,” Lovett said. “And in five years, we want to house 100 young men and 100 young women.”

The immediate objective, they said, is to persuade six other churches to join their cause and sponsor a nightly emergency shelter for homeless youth.

“We would like to have a shelter every night a week at seven different churches,” Lovett said, noting that the Angels are in talks with a church in Pacific Beach and another church in North Park about joining their cause.

**A happy ending**

“Steven joined our housing program in March,” Lovett said. “Since then, he has gotten a full-time job and is now the manager of a high-end carwash. He has also earned his GED.”

Lovett said he is so pleased to see Steven thriving. He knows how hard it is for homeless youth, who have difficulty trusting adults after living in abusive situations in their childhood, to express their emotions. Just the other day, Lovett said he pulled into the carwash to get his vehicle cleaned and got a chance to speak with Steven. He learned that Steven is doing so well at his job that he might get to run his own carwash franchise.

“For the first time, Steven said thank you for helping me,” Lovett recalled, his voice choking with emotion. “And he said, ‘I love you.’”

“I must say, his pathway forward is very inspiring.”

—Ken Williams is editor of Uptown News and can be reached at ken@sdcnn.com or at 619-961-1952. Follow him on Twitter at @KenSanDiego, Instagram at @KenSD or Facebook at KenWilliamsSanDiego.❖

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