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Local author gets published
Page 12

>> COMMUNITY P. 8



'Mother' of North Park saluted

>> MOVIES P. 9



A preview of FilmOut's festival

>> DINING P. 10



Breakfast off the beaten path

>> THEATER P. 13



Another win for Lamb's Players

Index

Opinion	6
Classifieds	16
Puzzles	16
Business & Services	17
Calendar	18

Contact us

Editorial/Letters
619-961-1952
ken@sdcnn.com

Advertising
619-961-1958
mike@sdcnn.com

www.sdcnn.com
San Diego Community News Network

San Diego Uptown News



Olive Street Park plan draws scrutiny

This aerial view of a vacant lot and driveway is the site of the proposed Olive Street Park, located along Third Avenue at Olive Street at the edge of Maple Canyon. (Google)

Ken Williams | Editor

More than a century behind schedule, the Olive Street Park long sought on a small lot overlooking Maple Canyon in Bankers Hill has finally made it to the drawing board — but not without attracting controversy then and now.

The lot, measuring 80 feet by 120 feet, was donated to the city in 1909 by the Ford, McKee and Woods families with the deed stipulating: “for-ever for use as a public park.” Except the proposed pocket park has yet to be built, much to the dismay of descendants

of the three families as well as Bankers Hill residents.

In the 10 decades that have passed since the lot's donation, the property has been mostly used by a neighboring business as a parking lot — apparently

see Park, pg 14

Bringing the joy of reading to children

By Cynthia Robertson

If it's the first Tuesday of the month, it's time for Traveling Stories at Waypoint Public in North Park.

From 5 to 7 p.m., children have their own happy hours with a volunteer reading to the kids. In a back corner of the popular restaurant, located on the southwest corner of 30th Street and North Park Way, the kids have their own fenced-in play area with lots of books and volunteers to read with them.

Each time a child finishes a book, he or she receives a “book buck,” which is turned in later for a prize. The real prize for Emily Moberly, founder of the Mission Valley-based Traveling Stories, is that these kids are reading because they want to. That has been the goal all along for Moberly, a Bankers Hill resident.

At Waypoint Public on April 4, Michelle Suzuki sipped on a cola and watched Moberly read to her 3-year-old daughter Luna.



The play area for children at Waypoint Public in North Park is a busy corner when Traveling Stories volunteers come to read with the kids. (Photo by Cynthia Robertson)

“Luna got excited when she saw all the books, especially the ‘Disney Princess’ story books,” Suzuki said.

When Moberly finished reading “Merida Is Our Babysitter” with Luna, she asked her some questions about the story, pointing out words and pictures. After Luna had answered the questions, Moberly gave her a “book buck,” which

she turned in later to get a little prize doll.

In another corner, a 6-year-old boy named Sena sat with volunteer Theresa Nguyen. Together they read four books.

“He’s a very good reader. Today, Sena is reading books mostly about food,” Nguyen said.

see Reading, pg 17

Homeless problems get worse

Ken Williams | Editor

The annual figures on homelessness are in, and the numbers are shocking:

- 5 percent increase in homelessness in San Diego County since 2016 — meaning that 9,116 people are living on the streets or in shelters.

- 14 percent increase in the unsheltered homeless population.

- 10 percent increase in the city of San Diego's homeless population.

- 54 percent increase in homeless youth without shelter — meaning that 883 people younger than age 25 are living without a roof over their heads.

The 2017 Point-in-Time Count of the region's homeless population, conducted by the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, is a somber reminder that despite all the earnest efforts to solve the problem, things are not getting any better.

District 3 Councilmember Chris Ward, who serves as vice chair of the task force, has made homelessness one of the key issues he wants to work on. Ward participated April 26 in a Quality of Life Forum sponsored by the North Park Community Association at the Lafayette Hotel.

Other panelists included San Diego Police Sgt. Brandie Sorbie, a member of the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT); Lara Easton, chief deputy city attorney; Amy Gonyeau, chief operating officer for the Alpha Project San Diego; and Angela Landsberg, executive director of North Park Main Street.

Several dozen people attended the forum, which was moderated by Joseph Balestrieri. Audience members were not allowed to ask questions of the panelists.

Not surprisingly, Ward dominated the conversation due to his involvement in the task force. He represents

see Homeless, pg 15

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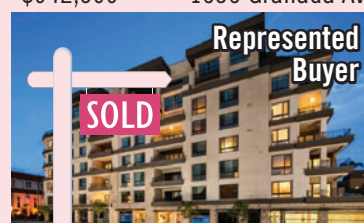
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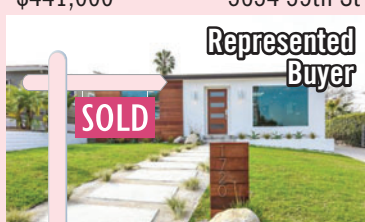
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BIG BLOCK REALTY

SDCNN editors to be honored for historic preservation coverage

By Sara Butler

Two San Diego Community News Network (SDCNN) editors will be honored at Save Our Heritage Organisation's (SOHO) 35th annual People In Preservation Awards on May 18.

Morgan M. Hurley, editor of both San Diego Downtown News and Gay San Diego, and Ken Williams, editor of San Diego Uptown News, will receive "The Town Crier" award from SOHO.

SOHO is a nonprofit dedicated to maintaining San Diego's history through advocacy and education.

After serving in the Navy and working in the IT industry for nearly 30 years, Hurley followed her father's footsteps and became a community newspaper editor. She began her focus on a journalism career at San Diego Gay and Lesbian News (SDGLN) in 2009, before joining the SDCNN family five years ago.

Williams has been the editor of San Diego Uptown News for a little over two years. Since moving to San Diego in 2005, he has held roles as senior copy editor at the San Diego Union-Tribune and editor-in-chief of SDGLN.

SOHO's annual People In Preservation Awards commend and thank community members who are upholding the nonprofit's mission of preservation and service. This year they will recognize 10 projects, including Horton Plaza Park's restoration, renovations and rehabilitations of private homes, and SDCNN's media coverage on preservation.

"The Town Crier" honor is reserved for voices in the media who have contributed a significant body of work to promote preservation and raise awareness to their readers.

"What stands out is how Morgan [Hurley] and Ken [Williams] have included, along with all the other news and business content, a focus on

community," said Alana Coons, education and communications director of SOHO. "They take this further by embracing each community's uniqueness and individual stories and history by gathering historians, community leaders, museum professionals, artisans and preservationists from each area to contribute preservation and history news stories."

Williams, a resident of North Park, noted that the patchwork of unique communities is one of the reasons he loves living in San Diego.

"People who live in each neighborhood are extremely proud of their neighborhood, evidenced by all the street signs [such as in University Heights, Mission Hills, Hillcrest and the Boulevard]," Williams said. "So each neighborhood takes on a different personality because they are built in different eras."

Williams had not experienced this phenomenon in other cities he previously called home, such as Dallas, Fort Lauderdale or his 450-person hometown in Ohio.

"Everybody [in San Diego] has a little bit of different history that they can boast as part of their neighborhood and I think pride comes forth from that," he continued. "You don't see [that in] a lot of places I've lived over the years."

Williams holds a great appreciation for San Diego's older buildings and the character they carry, citing the Craftsman, Victorian homes and Spanish Bungalows as examples. He currently lives in a 1932 historical house, which includes many of its original design elements, such as a stone fireplace, high ceilings, built-in bookshelves, and a Jack-and-Jill bathroom.

In addition to architecture, Hurley pointed out that the experiences locals share — including the struggles and strides of the LGBT community — comprise San Diego's history.

"Our LGBT community has a big history here and it has gone

from being where the people had to march in the street with bags over their heads [to hide their faces] to our current Pride celebration, which is the largest civic event of the city," Hurley said.

In Gay San Diego, Hurley runs "Out of the Archives," a column from Lambda Archives of San Diego that focuses on the history of the local LGBT community. A recent piece — "The history of our [LGBT] bars" — was extremely popular with readers.

"We have had more response to that column than any of their columns for a year and a half," she said. "So clearly that's what people want to know and talk about, sharing things that connect with their own personal relationship with the history of our community."

Hurley, who lives in the Loma Portal area, uses her role in the media to share her views on community history, preservation and progress.

"As an editor, I can often speak out on how I feel," she said. "I think the community has to move forward, but I really want them to preserve the things that can and should be preserved," she said. "It is our job to be objective when it comes to reporting the news but we are also a voice for our community to take a stand occasionally on certain things. And preservation can be an area where we could all make a stand."

SOHO is recognizing the two editors for the content they

oversee in their respective newspapers, including a number of regular columns. Uptown News has "House Calls," which runs every other issue and is authored by Michael Good, a restorative expert on Craftsman homes; and "Past Matters," written by Katherine Hon, secretary of the North Park Historical Society.

San Diego Downtown News currently runs two regular columns that deal with history, "Gaslamp Landmarks" by Sandee Wilhoit, historian of the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation; and "Growing Balboa Park," compiled and written by both Reema Makani Boccia and Ann Wilson, of the Friends of Balboa Park organization. Ann Jarmusch, a SOHO member and former architecture critic for the San Diego Union-Tribune, wrote six issues of a "Preservation Matters" column in 2016.

Gay San Diego runs a monthly column called "Out of the Archives," written by Lambda Archives staff, that focuses on the history of the local LGBT community and shares information about various collections within the vaults of the organization.

Hurley and Williams have both also published or penned various other editorials and articles related to history and preservation themselves, such as Williams' extensive news coverage of the Uptown Planners and the North Park Community Planning Committee.

"The outstanding articles from numerous columnists and paper-wide content help inform their readers with a larger understanding of San Diego's development," said Bruce Coons, executive director of SOHO. "The myriad of voices and topics illustrates that preservation and history are relevant to all and important in today's world."

Also being honored with People in Preservation Awards at the event are: City of San Diego/Civic San Diego Westfield, LLC; Richard Gentry of the San Diego Housing Commission; Richard and Kim Schwab; Jim Hughes of Friends of Balboa Park; Charles Tiano; Elizabeth Maland; Nicole Purvis; and Bandy Blacksmith Guild.

Save Our Heritage Organisation's People In Preservation ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 18, from 4–6:30 p.m. at the Marston House Museum and Gardens. Champagne reception starts at 4 p.m., followed by the awards ceremony. Tickets are \$45 for members, \$55 for nonmembers and available online or by phone. Call 619-297-9327 or visit SOHOSandiego.org.

—To find links of the San Diego Community News Network newspapers, visit sdCNN.com. Reach Morgan M. Hurley at morgan@sdCNN.com and Ken Williams at ken@sdCNN.com. Sara Butler is the web and social media manager at SDCNN. Reach her at web@sdCNN.com.

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A force for good

Ken Williams | Editor

Downtown residents Arlene and Richard Esgate understand the importance of giving back and strive to make a difference in San Diego and beyond.

Whether advocating for Balboa Park or serving on the board of the Mainly Mozart Festival, the Esgates put their wallets where their hearts lie. They are major donors to Childhelp, a national child-abuse prevention and treatment organization. In 2012, Childhelp gave the couple the “Founders for the Love of a Child” award for their dedication and support. Giving is what the Esgates do.

Arlene is a former high school teacher who also held city-government jobs in Elmore County, Idaho. Richard is a former engineer and chief financial officer of San Diego’s EsGil Corp., which provides building department services for cities nationwide. They met in 2002, discovered that they shared the love of art, music, nonprofits and charitable causes, and bonded immediately.

Richard was already active in Mainly Mozart, and Arlene had spent many years working with P.E.O., a philanthropic organization dedicated to educating women. So after they married in 2006, the Esgates helped start the Mainly Mozart Youth Orchestra.

In 2006, Arlene joined the Patrons of the Prado, which has raised more than \$2 million for Balboa Park institutions since being formed in 1997.

This month, the Esgates are turning their attention as co-chairs of USO San Diego’s 76th Stars & Stripes Gala on May 20 at the San Diego Marriott Marquis and Marina.

Here are five questions with Arlene Esgate:

1. What is the Stars and Stripes Gala, and who does it benefit?

USO San Diego’s 76th annual “Stars and Stripes Gala: Land of the Free ... Because of the Brave,” May 20 at the San Diego Marriott Marquis and Marina (usosandiego.org), is an evening of celebrating, thanking and giving tribute to the men and women serving in our military.

The USO Gala benefits ALL service members by keeping them connected to family and country throughout their service. The USO is there to guide, comfort, rehabilitate and re-educate the brave military individuals that have suffered untold losses and injuries. The USO is a financial link for the injured soldiers and a guiding light for families now dealing with new challenges.

I am inspired by these brave people who serve in our military, and the families and community that support them. As one of the leading military cities in the world, San Diego and our USO San Diego team served more than 260,000 military members and their families last year alone at our award-winning Neil Ash USO Airport Center and our Downtown San Diego facility.

2. What other charities are you involved in and why?

Other charities Richard and I are involved in are:

Patrons of the Prado — Their mission is to raise funds to benefit 10 arts and science institutions in Balboa Park. They also provide transportation to thousands of school-age children through their Bucks for Buses outreach program. POP provides access for the youth of our community to the high-quality educational programming made available by the 10 beneficiaries.

Childhelp — Their hotline is 1-800-4-A-Child. Close to five children a day die from child abuse in the United States. Childhelp has rescued, educated, counseled and nurtured over 10 million children since its inception in 1959. The two lovely founders have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. And 93 cents of every dollar goes directly to care for the kids.

The Salvation Army — This organization reaches out to anyone at anytime in the moment of most need. The Salvation Army is a group of dedicated Christians who answer the plea for help all over the world. “Doing the Most Good” is their mission — to feed, comfort, clothe and care is their duty. They provide food distribution, disaster relief, rehabilitation centers, anti-human trafficking efforts along with many senior and children programs.

The Epilepsy Foundation — I support the Epilepsy Foundation because my grandmother had epilepsy. She lived with us and as a small child I witnessed many of her seizures. The science and medical fields have made great strides in detecting and controlling epileptic

seizures, but there is still more to learn and more support needed for further research.

Mainly Mozart — This is one of San Diego’s leading music organizations focusing on the works of Mozart and the masters. Mainly Mozart’s youth orchestra and educational outreach programs are enjoyed by over 40,000 students in the U.S. and Mexico. During the Mainly Mozart festival in June, top musicians from all over the nation perform and participate in interactive musical events with both the children and adults in our community.

I also support **Las Patronas, Vista Hill, The Arc of San Diego, Rady Children’s Hospital, San Diego Film Festival** and some medical institutions in our city.

3. Why are you so passionate about Balboa Park?

Balboa Park is the largest urban cultural park in the nation. And that is saying something! It is a 1,200-acre destination right in the heart of San Diego and is usually referred to as “The Jewel of San Diego.” The world-famous San Diego Zoo is at one end and the Cultural Park is at the other end with over 20 museums and theaters and Fleet Science Center. The delicious eateries, the gorgeous flora, the beautiful architecture, the free concerts at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion, the lovely Japanese Garden, the interactive and creative Spanish Village Art Center are just some choices you have for outings regardless of age or physical abilities.

4. How did you two meet, and what are the challenges

of blending two families?

Richard and I met at the Pageant of the Masters in Laguna Beach, California on Aug. 31, 2002. We each had three grown children, and I had five grandchildren and Richard had three grandchildren. We now have 13 grandchildren together and have another grandson due to arrive this August. We literally have had no challenges blending our families. I suppose the only challenge we have had is providing enough food for the whole gang when we celebrate together!

5. What do you like about living Downtown in the Marina District?

We love living in Downtown San Diego because of the many choices we have each day. We can walk to over 100 restaurants, we have Horton Plaza and Petco Park down the street, we have theater, art and cultural venues close by, we have the trolley or the ferry to jump on to reach other areas, both the north and south Embarcaderos are beautiful to walk around and filled with many activities, and Little Italy is just a nice walk away to enjoy dinner or shopping or the amazing Saturday farmers market. We love San Diego and all it has to offer!

For more information about USO San Diego and the upcoming gala, visit usosandiego.org or call 619-235-6503.

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

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North Park author makes debut

By Kit-Bacon Gressitt

Behind the hazel eyes and engaging laugh of adult-fiction author Danielle Mages Amato bubbles a bright and imaginative mind. And from that internal kettle, the debut author and North Park resident has percolated a fascinating mystery with a dash of the paranormal, “The Hidden Memory of Objects.”

Set in and around contemporary Washington, D.C. — and in flashbacks to the past, including the 1865 assassination of President Abraham Lincoln — Amato’s story reveals her gift for creating a scene and giving life to her characters, some of them endearing, some quite deserving of the role of antagonist.

This might be talent she has developed as a dramaturg, the role in which she currently serves at The Old Globe Theatre. But however she came

‘The Hidden Memory of Objects’

By Danielle Mages Amato

336 pages hardcover

Publisher: HarperCollins / Balzer + Bray

by it, Amato’s ability to blend a suspenseful story with very real teen challenges and the grief of loss makes “The Hidden Memory of Objects” a success. So successful, that it was optioned for a possible television series months before the book was released this March by HarperCollins.

The story’s protagonist, 15-year-old Megan Brown, has lost her older brother, Tyler, in reported circumstances she doesn’t want to believe. Her quest for the truth leads her to discoveries about life, her peers and herself, including her sudden and mystifying ability to observe memories inherent in significant objects she touches.

Amato weaves an array of current social issues into Megan’s pursuit, making the book both relatable for her intended audience and entertaining for adults, with its complex and fast-paced story. There’s barely an “ism” Amato doesn’t address, and her love of young-adult books is clear.

“There can be a sense of ennui, despair, boredom,” Amato said in an interview with San Diego Uptown News, “but young-adult books deal with huge questions — identity, how does the world work? ...



Danielle Mages Amato
(Photo by Eric Louie)

You can dismiss the [teen experience] — who cares what happens in high school — but the stakes are really high. Young-adult books are the books I read most often. Those are the books that made me who I am as a person, in a way that adult books never did.”

One of Amato’s childhood favorites is “Miss Frisby and the Rats of NIMH,” a classic fantasy-sci-fi. Amato also admitted to being “madly in love with ‘Harriet the Spy.’ I had a spy notebook. I lurked in people’s bushes. But I also have notebooks of just observations of the world. I always have a little bit of Harriet the spy — watching people around me, overhearing people’s conversations in coffee shops.”

Coffee shop-dotted North Park has been home to Amato since 2011. She describes her neighborhood as “incredible and supportive,” and she sounds quite settled, in contrast to her transient childhood.

“My family moved around a lot,” she said. “We lived in four states by the time I was 4 years old. It made me aware at a really young age that people in different parts of the country live differently, have different cultures. Now I’m raising kids who are Californians, two kids,

6 and 9. They go to McKinley — North Park all the way!”

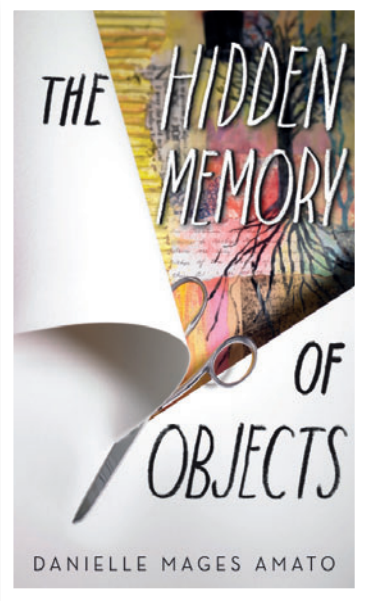
Despite Amato’s mobile youth — or perhaps because of it — her sense of place is strong, and it shines in her novel, particularly in the scenes set in D.C.

“I lived in Washington for five years. I absolutely loved living there. In ways the book is a love letter to the city. Its problems become emblematic of national problems. I found the residents were incredibly politically aware. ... These days, young people are incredibly aware. It’s in the air. There are things teenagers know about how their city works that adults don’t know.”

While Amato said one goal of writing her book “was to have fun ... to have an adventure, a place to be,” “The Hidden Memory of Objects” also feels like a love letter to young-adult readers, a letter of empathy for the joys and sorrows they experience, and a celebration of their sense of fun and hope and enthusiasm for the future.

“To be able to write for readers who are still figuring themselves out,” Amato said, “is a challenge and a privilege.”

—Kit-Bacon Gressitt writes commentary and essays on her blog *Excuse Me, I’m Writing*, is a founding editor of *WritersResist.com*, and has been published by *Missing Slate*, *Ms. Magazine* blog and *Trivia: Voices of Feminism*, among others. She formerly wrote for the *North County Times*. She also hosts *Fallbrook Library’s* monthly *Writers Read* authors series and open mic, and can be reached at kbgressitt@gmail.com.



“The Hidden Memory of Objects” cover art

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Uptown News Briefs

Thousands walk in People’s Climate March

Thousand of San Diegans participated in the People’s Climate March on April 29, calling on local leaders to “support a just and rapid transition to 100 percent clean energy and to oppose the Trump administration’s rollback of climate policies the protect the planet,” according to a news release by climate change action group San Diego 350.

The local event began with a rally at Waterfront Park in front of the historic County Administration Building. Marchers walked through Downtown to gather outside City Hall.

The local march was organized by a coalition of environmental, social justice, labor and faith organizations, and took place in solidarity with the People’s Climate Mobilization on the same day in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of other sister marches were held around the U.S. and the world.

Organizers said the administration’s failure to take climate change seriously denies San Diegans — and their children and grandchildren — the nation’s enshrined freedom to pursue the American dream. Coming on the 100th day of the Trump administration, they said, this march was a rejection of the policies that threaten our freedom, future, health and communities: policies that reject

climate science and strip protections based on gender, race, immigration status, religion, sexual orientation and disabilities.

“The federal government is out of step with the needs of our families, our communities and the planet,” said Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher, one of the rally speakers.

“The progress we’ve made in California on workers rights, immigration rights, and reducing carbon pollution is too important to let them stop us. Californians are resisting rollbacks and are fighting for 100 percent clean energy, access to transit, protection for immigrants and healthy communities — and by demanding a more democratic and accountable structure for San Diego’s transportation agency.”

Follow 350.org to support the climate change and climate injustice movement.

Culinary fundraiser benefits literacy

At the San Diego Council on Literacy’s eighth annual “Eat. Drink.Read. A Culinary Event for Literacy,” foodies will savor imaginative bites and brews prepared by the region’s finest chefs on Thursday, May 18 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the San Diego Air & Space Museum in Balboa Park.

Beware of Home Inspection Pitfalls Before You Put Your Uptown Home For Sale

Uptown San Diego-

According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homeseller's deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved. To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-866-220-9502 and enter 1003. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

This report is courtesy of Moore & Sons Realty BRE #01990368. Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract. Copy right © 2016

10 Myths Surrounding Reverse Mortgage Loans.

Confused by reverse mortgage loans? Who can you trust? It is very important to get the facts to make a truly informed decision about this financial product. There is so much misinformation and outdated facts surrounding reverse mortgages that it makes it feel difficult to navigate. “There is in general, a lot of confusion about reverse mortgages,” says Stacy Canan, assistant director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Office for Older Americans.

The benefits can be wonderful, so it is critical to truly discover what is “urban myth” and what is fact. So, we did the research for you and have found 10 Reverse Mortgage Myths that persist, along with a few other critical things you need to know if you are considering a reverse mortgage loan now or in the future.

Before you make any mortgage decisions call and get a copy of this FREE report entitled “10 Myths many surrounding Reverse Mortgage Loans” To order your FREE copy of this report call toll free 1-866-220-9502 and enter 2001. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to find out what myths you need to know!

San Diego Uptown News

123 Camino de la Reina, Suite 202 East
San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 519-7775
Twitter: @SD_UptownNews



EDITOR

Ken Williams
(619) 961-1952
ken@sdcnn.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Jeff Clemetson, x119
Morgan M. Hurley, x110

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

Sara Butler, x118
web@sdcnn.com

COPY EDITOR

Dustin Lothspeich

CONTRIBUTORS

Charlene Baldrige
Sara Butler
Kit-Bacon Gressitt
Katherine Hon
Dr. Ink
Cynthia Robertson
Frank Sabatini Jr.

SALES & MARKETING

DIRECTOR

Mike Rosensteel
(619) 961-1958
mike@sdcnn.com

ADVERTISING

CONSULTANTS

Andrew Bagley, x106
Annie Burchard, x105
Heather Fine, x107
Sloan Gomez, x104
John Watson, x113

ACCOUNTING

Priscilla Umel-Martinez
(619) 961-1962
accounting@sdcnn.com

WEB DESIGNER

Kim Espinoza
kim@kespinoza.com

SENIOR INTERN

Jennifer Gottschalk

INTERNS

Alex Ehrie
Yessenia Luna

PUBLISHER

David Mannis
(619) 961-1951
david@sdcnn.com

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@sdcnn.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.

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

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GUEST EDITORIAL

How immigration status affects children

Dr. Trish Hatch

Studies show there are more than 11 million people currently residing in the United States that do not have legal status or authorization from the government to be here. Of that 11 million, about 3.9 of them are children. Children, at no fault of their own, are at great risk regarding the impacts of deportation, with the total numbers of “undocumented” parents — one or both — rising for children K-12.

In a guide they wrote for schools regarding the stress that immigration status has on children, Marquette University educators Lisa M. Edwards, PhD, department of counselor education and counseling psychology, and Jacki Black, MA Ed, associate director for Hispanic initiatives, focused on a number of specific areas of concern when it comes to these children. They drilled down on subjects, including the context of immigration stress; how detention and deportation affects children; toxic stress: how the threat of detention and deportation affects children; behavioral/emotional signs of immigration status-related stress in the classroom; and they offered a list of ways school personnel can support students in the classroom and their families.

While Edwards and Black agree that every child is different, they state that every child that suffers the loss of one or both parents to deportation, or are hindered by the threat of losing them, can show various negative symptoms or behaviors at school.

Many of these are akin to PTSD-like symptoms and can include withdrawal; anger and aggression; hyper-arousal or hyper-vigilance; difficulties focusing at school; somatic complaints; crying and sadness; poor appetite; poor or disrupted sleep; anxiety and academic decline.

The Center for Excellence in School Counseling and Leadership (CESCaL) is a nonprofit Center within San Diego State University's College of Education.



Trish Hatch, Ph.D.

CESCaL's mission, in addition of promoting excellence in the field of school counseling, is to assist school counselors, their schools and their central office administrators as they design, implement and evaluate their school counseling programs.

Over the years to supplement our regular services, we have held various conferences to further assist school counselors who support ESL students, special needs students, and LGBTQ students, where we bring myriad resources together in one place that may not be otherwise be as readily available.

In April 2016, CESCaL hosted the first annual conference to ensure access and equity to higher education for immigrant and undocumented youth by ensuring those who work with them received expert training on how to mentor, counsel, and advise future college candidates.

CESCaL chose to address this specific student population due to CESCaL's commitment to advocate for marginalized student groups, improve effective practices among educators, provide a forum for collaboration and networking, problem solve critical training issues, and provide ongoing professional development.

On April 23–25, CESCaL presented the second annual conference of this type, called: “Supporting Access to Higher Education for Immigrant and Undocumented Students.”

Currently, millions of undocumented immigrant students and

families are eager to pursue post-secondary education but they face significant barriers to educational attainment. Most are unaware of the financial opportunities available to them and are subject to institutional gatekeeping that impacts access to post-secondary opportunities.

Undocumented immigrant students also graduate at drastically lower rates than U.S. born citizens and only 5–10 percent of undocumented high school graduates go on to enroll in college, according to the College Board, 2009.

There is much work to be done.

A pre-survey of conference attendees revealed that more than 40 percent of the school counselors and college access partners who responded reported lacked the knowledge of the laws and rights and undocumented and/or immigrant students.

Similarly, more than 40 percent reported lacking the knowledge of the college application process for undocumented and/or immigrant students, and only 47.68 percent felt confident advising undocumented and/or immigrant students regarding the college application process.

Average school counselors know far less.

The goal of the April 23 conference was to teach and empower school counselors and college access partners with this information as well as the attitudes necessary to take personal responsibility as advocates for immigrant and undocumented students.

We provided them with the skills to navigate the college application process, locate funding options, access post-secondary opportunities, and utilize culturally competent techniques to mentor, counsel, and advice future college candidates.

—Trish Hatch, PhD, is a professor at SDSU and former director of the school counseling program (2004-2015). For more information about this conference, contact Dr. Diana Camilo, coordinator of special projects, at events@cescal.org or visit tinyurl.com/l499s26.

Missing this old ficus tree

By Jon Standefer

One of the signature trees in South Park — a magnificent, massive, maybe-century-old ficus tree — has bit the dust.

I’ve lived in South Park for 37 years, and I never got tired of looking at that monstrous tree that shaded much of the east side of 29th Street between Ivy and Juniper streets. It was at least 60 feet tall, and measured 15 feet, 6 inches in circumference at its base.

Although there are several types of ficus trees, this was mostly likely a ficus benjamina, also known as the weeping fig, Benjamin Fig or ficus tree. It has a serious downside: The U.S. Forest Service says the “roots grow rapidly, invading gardens, growing under and lifting sidewalks, patios and driveways.”

This particular tree also wreaked havoc on plumbing in neighboring houses and city water and sewer lines. And it clogged sidewalks and gutters annually when the sticky berrylike figs dropped.

For the last 20 years or so, the heavy branches — which start almost at ground level — have been supported by half-inch steel cables attached to the main trunk. But when a windstorm in December caused one of the cables to snap, the great tree went from the category of troublesome to dangerous. That convinced the owners of the property, Elizabeth and Jonathan Glasier, to make the unwanted decision to take it down.

It took eight men two days to reduce it to a four-foot stump, and another day for a stump-chipping firm to grind it down to ground level. Almost everyone was sad to see it go, but most realized the inevitability of the removal.

Fletcher Sigler, the woman who rents the house, was so devastated that she left her home while the demolishing was done. She mentioned the loss of wildlife — the squirrels, the birds, the butterflies — but even she recognized the problems caused by that mighty tree.



The tree before it was cut down (Courtesy of Fletcher Sigler)

The next-door neighbor, Jeff Gunn, who had to replace his plumbing because of the tree’s invasive roots, had urged the owners over the years to remove the tree.

It was, at a minimum, more than 60 years old. It was already full grown in 1957, according to a photo in the archives of the San Diego Historical Society in Balboa Park. Since the house on that property was built in 1911, it could easily be much older.

“I’m sad to see it go, in a way,” Gunn said. “But it belonged in a park.”

— Jon Standefer lives in South Park and asked to write an ode to the old ficus.*

Letters

Hillcrest residents deserve some respect

Lately, we Hillcrest residents have been getting a pretty raw deal from the city, and in general.

Our rents climb ever higher as our neighborhood deteriorates into a filthy playground for ill-behaved street people. A simple walk to the store (which many will no longer do after dark) often involves dodging human feces and walking over the bodies of passed out homeless as we navigate through their fields of garbage. Often, we neighbors are subjected to angry and abusive rants.

We endure all this and yet, the good things planned for Hillcrest never materialize.

The site of our “mythical” library remains just another spot for the homeless to trash. We remain without a local park or dog park.

Our fancier western neighbor [Mission Hills] has two city parks within blocks of the main business district.

Residents in this “hospitals” area shouldn’t have to drive to Balboa Park to see some greenery or have a quiet walk with their kids or dogs. Many here are older (or their dogs are) and don’t drive, or don’t want to have to “drive to walk.”

Give us a park/dog park! Give us a pretty spot to decompress.

Two possibilities come to mind. The first is the large canyon side green space area on the north end of Third Avenue as you go toward the Scripps facility. Although it might be a narrow park, there is space beyond the last apartment building for benches, meandering, and observing the pretty view. An improved path could lead to the official green space trail.

Another spot (in my fantasy) is the gorgeous property across from the UCSD emergency room. The

property was the former residence of an amazing artist whose beautiful stone work graces the property in the form of stone arches, fireplaces, walls, walkways, etc. It probably is not a very buildable property but would make a heck of a park, even if the park was more of a walkway above it.

Hillcrest needs some love! It is not the positive, happy place it used to be. Give us SOMETHING so that we feel, once more, glad to be living here.

—Marilyn Mangion of Hillcrest, via email to ken@sdcdn.com

[Editor’s note: Your comment about the library prompted me to check out the progress of the construction project for the Mission Hills-Hillcrest library, which will be built on the southwest corner of Washington and Front streets. District 3 Councilmember Chris Ward told me last week that construction crews are removing salvageable items from the old IBEW building and that demolition is likely to occur this month, followed by a ceremonial ground-breaking ceremony. The 14,350-square-foot library will be formally named the Mission Hills-Hillcrest Harley and Bessie Knox Branch Library.]

Glad about MAD (Re: “MAD expansion proposed for east side of Hillcrest,” Volume 9, Issue 8 or online at bit.ly/2pyiMkB.)

Another well-written article, thank you Ken Williams.

I would welcome the East Hillcrest MAD with open arms. One does not need to peek too far in to the future to see the changes coming. We need to be prepared and this is a very big step in the right direction. Thank you HBA.

—Luke Terpstra of Hillcrest, via our website, sduptown-news.com

[SANDAG, the regional transportation authority, proposes to modify the medians to create enough space for the protected bike lanes] “but will not maintain the lanes or medians.”

The city of San Diego will maintain the lanes but not any landscape or associated improvements. [That means SANDAG and the HBA will have to sign an agreement to maintain the improvements.] Beware of the HBA spin.

—Jeff K. via our website

Was it libel? (Re: Letters to the editor, Volume 9, Issue 8 or online at bit.ly/2p1wj2W.)

I’m more than a bit disappointed that SDUN decided to print the web posting by “Calvin Van Winkle.” His comment was nothing more than personal attacks badly disguised with illogical arguments.

First off, difference of opinion (against developer depredation of our community or any other topic) isn’t “infighting,” it’s democracy. Which I guess is why “Calvin” then goes on to argue that because community planning groups are “advisory” and irrelevant, young people should get involved to join in the author’s age discrimination.

But even this could be forgiven as an honest viewpoint, if SDUN hadn’t allowed the real author to hide behind a clearly fake name and snipe at those he has a grudge against anonymously. Some might say that’s not just bad journalism; it’s an invitation to libel.

—Mat Wahlstrom, member of Uptown Planners and a Hillcrest resident

—Send letters to the editor to ken@sdcdn.com.*

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Her story

Mary Jane Hartley's contributions to North Park

PastMatters
Katherine Hon

Happy National Preservation Month! As we celebrate history, let's remember that "her-story" is important, too. And no individual woman contributed more to North Park's early development than Mary Jane Hartley.

Mary Jane was the wife of James Monroe Hartley, who bought 40 acres within the Park Villas tract in 1893 and named it Hartley's North Park. The empty land, bordered by

University Avenue and Dwight Street on the north and south, and Ray and 32nd streets on the west and east, was planted with lemon trees. The Hartley family had come to San Diego from Kansas in 1882 and homesteaded a ranch in Dehesa in East County before James bought the land that would eventually become the heart of North Park.

While James travelled selling insurance, Mary Jane and their children worked both the Dehesa ranch and the North Park lemon orchard. In 1896, the family of eight moved to a six-room house located at what is now University Avenue and 31st Street, and soon afterwards sold their ranch. A severe drought and the death of James Hartley in 1904 caused the family to give up the orchard business. They cleared the North Park land of buildings and trees and waited for the right time to sell the property.

In 1932, in the middle of the Great Depression, Mary Jane would remember those



North Park's founding Hartley family circa 1900, from left to right (first row) James Monroe, youngest son Paul, and wife Mary Jane; (second row) children Delia, George, Maud, John ("Jack"), and Mary. (Courtesy of the Hartley family)



Mary Jane Hartley, circa early 1900. (Courtesy of the Hartley family)

early years and tell a reporter, "People may think they are having hard times now, but they should have been here back in [18]98. We really did have a desperate struggle trying to make a livelihood. But we got along all right, just kept smiling and did the best we could."

She was well-prepared for difficult living conditions by her pioneer upbringing. She was raised on farms in Iowa and Kansas, where she learned how to card wool, spin and weave, knit, make tallow candles and maple sugar, and hew and haul logs. Her obituary in 1940 said she had three hobbies: flowers, her grandchildren and piecing quilts. But beyond those activities, she made many civic contributions to the North Park community as it grew from fallow ranches and sagebrush to a bustling urban area. The year before her death, she had been honored as the "Mother of the North Park District" at a special Mother's Day meeting of the North Park Lion's Club.

One of Mary Jane's contributions was land for Fire Station No. 14. In 1910, property owners in the growing area petitioned the city for

fire protection and in response got a simple fire alarm box mounted at 30th Street and University Avenue. Mary Jane then donated to the city a prime parcel facing University Avenue near Ray Street in the Hartley's North Park tract. The land was given with the condition that the city would establish an official fire department station there. The resulting building, with its distinctive campanile tower used for drying hoses, gave North Park increased security from fire and an important civic landmark. Fire Station No. 14 served the community well on its donated plot for decades before it was rebuilt at 32nd Street and Lincoln Avenue in 1943.

In 1926, Mary Jane commissioned the imposing Nordberg building at 3043 University Ave. — currently the home of North Park Fitness. The building constructed by Sigurd G. Nordberg & Company held the contractor's offices, retail spaces and other professional offices. Even more importantly, an expansive ballroom on the second floor became an ideal space for community events, including civic celebrations, community dances

and banquets. The ballroom became known as "The Tent" because its ceiling was draped with gossamer fabric inspired by Hollywood "sheik" movies of the Rudolph Valentino era.

In addition to these contributions, Mary Jane was known for her welcoming hospitality. The matriarch of North Park's founding family was described by her daughter Maud Hartley MacDougall as a person who "made the most of the good that came her way, and the best of the other. ... She was interested in things in general, and therefore interesting, to all her friends."

In that spirit, as announced in this column last month, the North Park Historical Society welcomes everyone to enjoy a free lecture by Elsa Sevilla, host of the KPBS TV show "San Diego's Historic Places," on Thursday, May 18, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the second floor Fellowship Room of Grace Lutheran Church, 3967 Park Blvd. Sevilla will tell some of San Diego's story, and her story too.

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

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Del Shores' "A Very Sordid Wedding" chosen as the Opening Night movie at FilmOut's annual festival (Courtesy of FilmOut)

From Del Shores to Armistead Maupin

FilmOut sets lineup for 19th annual festival in June

Ken Williams | Editor

"A Very Sordid Wedding," Del Shores' sequel to his "Sordid Lives" cult classic film and TV prequel series, will get its San Diego premiere at FilmOut San Diego's 19th annual San Diego LGBT Film Festival in June.

The socially relevant sequel, which explores what happens when marriage equality comes to a small town in conservative Texas, will get the coveted spot as the Opening Night film.

The three-day festival runs June 9-11 at the historic Observatory North Park theater, located at 2891 University Ave.

Opening Night festivities will kick off at 7 p.m. Friday, June 9, with red-carpet treatment for writer/director Del Shores and many of his cast members who are scheduled to attend the local premiere. They will also participate in a Q&A session after the screening and make appearances at the Opening Night Gala from 10 p.m. to midnight at the Sunset Temple, directly across the street from the theater at 3911 Kansas St. Tickets are \$45 with admission to both the film and the party.

The festival closes with the West Coast premiere of Jennifer M. Kroot's documentary, "The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin." The film begins at 7 p.m. Sunday, June 11, with a Closing Night Party afterward at the theater. Tickets are only \$10 for the both the film and the party.

The acclaimed author of the immensely popular "Tales of the City" series — which began in the San Francisco Chronicle and spawned many books, a PBS mini-series and two subsequent series produced by Showtime — will be unable to attend due to his hectic schedule, according to Michael McQuiggan, FilmOut's long-time programming director.

McQuiggan said the buzz is already building for Opening Night.

"This will be the only San Diego screening of [A Very Sordid Wedding] and Del Shores and most of the cast will

be attending," he said. "Tickets are already going gangbusters since we teased our audience online with the news."

The Friday night gala party, McQuiggan said, will be catered by a dozen Uptown restaurants, with accompanying alcohol, wine and soft drinks provided by Smirnoff and Anheuser Busch.

"All for only \$45," he added.

McQuiggan called the Closing Night film "an outstanding documentary based on the life of the incomparable Armistead Maupin."

Picked for the Boys Centerpiece this year is the West Coast premiere of David Berry's "Something Like Summer," based on the best-selling novel of the same title. It's about the only guy in his Texas high school with the courage to come out of the closet, but having to endure bullying and shunning by classmates. It's also epic storytelling, taking place over a dozen years as the boy becomes a man and pursues his dream relationship. The Boys Centerpiece will start at 7:45 p.m. Saturday, June 10. Tickets are \$10.

"Something Like Summer" is the most buzzed about film on the LGBT film festival circuit," McQuiggan said. "We're excited to show it to our audience."

Chosen for the Girls Centerpiece is the West Coast

premiere of Jennifer Reeder's "Signature Move," a comedic and heartfelt look at modern families and the complexities of love in its many forms. The Girls Centerpiece will start at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 11. Tickets are \$10.

"Signature Move" has been getting raves around the nation," McQuiggan said. "The Lavender Scare" is about a mostly forgotten chapter in American history and is powerful, insightful and relevant today."

A total of 37 full-length and short films will be shown during the festival, including world, U.S., West Coast, California and San Diego premieres. Some of the selections have been shown at prestigious festivals, such as Sundance and Berlin.

"Our audiences love our short-film tracts and this year we will have Best of LGBT, Best of Local Filmmakers, and FrightOut LGBT Horror," McQuiggan said.

McQuiggan and senior programmer Jeff Howell have reviewed hundreds of films and shorts that were submitted for consideration over the last year, to be included in the festival. They whittled the choices down to the final selections.

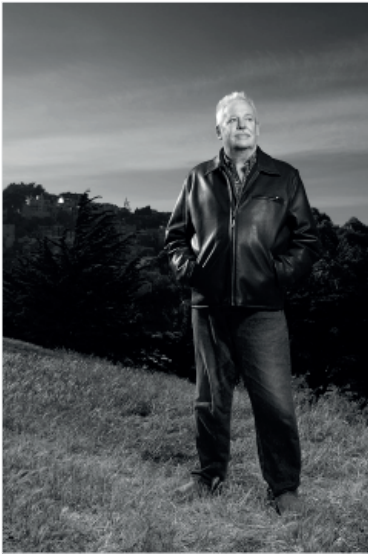
Filmmakers and talent representing more than half of the films plan to attend the festival and will participate in audience Q&As after their respective screenings.

McQuiggan said film fans might want to purchase the All-Access Pass for \$125, which is good for entrance to all the movies, parties and events scheduled throughout the festival.

"It's a real bargain," he said.

For the complete festival lineup and to purchase tickets, visit FilmOutSanDiego.com.

—Ken Williams is editor of Uptown News and can be reached at ken@sdcdn.com or at 619-961-1952. Follow him on Twitter at @KenSanDiego, Instagram at @KenSD or Facebook at KenWilliamsSanDiego. He is a volunteer board member of FilmOut San Diego, serving as Film & Media Relations Director.❖



Acclaimed author featured in "The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin." (Courtesy of FilmOut)



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ASK KATHY: A COLUMN ABOUT REAL ESTATE ISSUES



Kathy McSherry

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

What Goes Into A Mortgage Payment?

Hi Kathy:
I have been renting in Hillcrest for approximately three years. My fiancé and I have been saving for a 20% down payment this whole time and think we can afford a home of about \$600k. We are DINKS (double income no kids) and gross about \$170k combined income.
Our FICO scores are in the low 700's for both. Typically, how are mortgage payments broken down in comparison to paying a monthly rent?

Bruce T.

Hi Bruce:
What a great question. When couples start looking to make the plunge into home ownership you must first ask yourselves what you are comfortable paying each month. A lender can tell you what you qualify for but only you can tell what you are comfortable paying each month. There are other costs of homeownership that you should prepare yourself for like appliances, repairs, and/or maintenance. Think about what an affordable home looks like to you with these considerations. Here's an easy calculation. Estimate how much your home mortgage payment will be. Look at how much of your income or what percentage goes towards this payment. Then, how much do you have left over for other monthly expenses.
Your total monthly home payment will include principal and interest. (often referred to as PITI) The principal is the amount you pay every month that goes towards reducing the loan while the interest goes towards paying what it costs you to borrow the money. If you are putting less than 20% down on the loan for your down payment, then you are looking at paying mortgage insurance an additional cost as you are now more of a risk to the lender. Next you would want to figure your property taxes. Taxes here in Hillcrest are 1.1%. Take roughly 1.1% of the purchase price of the home you are buying and divide this by 12 to get the approximate monthly payment for your property taxes. Next you can call a local insurance agent for approximate homeowner's insurance. Rates will differ for a detached home vs. a condominium.
On a condominium about \$600k a basic rate may be \$45/month. Are there any HOA fees? If so, you would add those in as well. This will give you your total monthly home payment. A mortgage lender rule of thumb is that your total monthly home payment should be about 28% or below of your total income. A lender may approve you for more or less depending on your financial picture. Next estimate what is left after you minus all debt. Total monthly income AFTER taxes, minus total monthly home payment = what's left to pay all other monthly debt. (student loan payments, car payment, credit cards, child support/alimony, child care, utilities, health care, gas, repairs, etc.) If you don't have enough to pay the rest of your monthly debt, then you would want to consider paying down debt or buying a less expensive home.
Good luck on your home search Bruce.

Best,
Kathy

Sponsored content

Kathy McSherry is a veteran Realtor in Mission Valley with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. Email questions to her at kathymcsherry@outlook.com

Breakfast revelation

Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.



Just when I put the kibosh on waiting in long lines to score a solid breakfast on weekend mornings, Ortega's Bistro in Hillcrest came to the rescue.

Famous for its Puerto Nuevo cuisine, especially grilled spiny lobsters, I recently spotted through profuse bougainvillea a banner out front stating breakfast is served from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. It has actually been happening for years and I regrettably never noticed.

Apparently other breakfast-goers also assume the tastefully appointed restaurant serves only lunch and dinner given that my father and I were seated immediately on a Sunday morning, sans the commotion inherent to other Uptown breakfast joints.

Visiting from back East, his go-to breakfast dish in San Diego is huevos rancheros. He has eaten it at establishments all over town in the years I've lived here. Yet halfway through our meal he rated the version at Ortega's as his favorite.

Part of the appeal stemmed from the roasted tomato arbol sauce accented with sautéed poblano peppers, a stimulating departure from traditional rancheros sauce typically flooding the eggs. Though like son, like father, he requested the sauce

on the side and dribbled it judiciously over the deftly scrambled huevos. I taught him years ago it's the best way to eat the dish.

The grilled corn tortilla underneath was fresh and buttery; the accompanying refried beans were flavorful and velvety; and the fluffy rice seemed cooked in either vegetable or chicken stock. Nothing on the plate tasted boring. Nor was it constructed in slapdash fashion.

I started with a Bloody Maria spiked generously with tequila but lacking in peppery zip. The house-made mix had a mild tomato flavor similar to the base of the hearty chicken-tortilla soup I also ordered. In that it paired well with cubed avocado, tender chicken pieces and pleasing bursts of cilantro. The cocktail, however, needed more heat to match the boozy bang.

Ortega's French toast is wildly toothsome. Made with challah bread from nearby Bread & Cie, it dazzles the palate with a buttery, crispy veneer that leads into helium-light centers. The bread pieces are pre-dressed in butter, syrup and cinnamon, and served with a dollop of cinnamon-infused whipped cream. The menu lists it as "amazing French toast." And it truly is.

Carnitas hash and eggs

French toast with cinnamon whipped cream



Carnitas hash was my entrée choice. It yielded a perfect ratio of cubed, succulent pork to the sautéed potatoes, poblano chilies and onions. Topped with zingy tomatillo sauce, the plate makes room for three scrambled eggs and a cup of stewed charro beans that I folded into fresh flour tortillas that are kept warm in a rustic metal pot.

Other options include chilaquiles con huevos, a shrimp omelet and a loaded breakfast burrito filled with eggs, bacon, chilies and rosemary potatoes. In addition, all items on the regular menu are also available, should you want to kick-start your day with steak tacos or a grilled lobster.

Based on a couple of past dinner visits as well, the food and atmosphere at Ortega's



Bloody Maria with tequila

Chicken-tortilla soup

are exquisite without relying on trendy fads or PR gimmicks. Perhaps it was an anomaly we were able to walk right in and choose a table in either the main dining room or colorful cantina in the back of the restaurant. But even if faced with a line, I'll take this breakfast experience any weekend over one that is all show and no substance.

—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.

Ortega's Bistro

141 University Ave.
(Hillcrest)

619-692-4200
ortegas.com

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Ortega's is a low-hype, high-quality place for breakfast in Hillcrest. (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)



Falafel on the menu at Blue Forno Grill in Hillcrest (Facebook)

Hillcrest has seen the arrival of two new restaurants specializing in Middle Eastern fare: **Blue Forno Grill** located at 406 University Ave. and **Crave Grill House** at 3825 Fifth Ave. Each offers Mediterranean favorites such as tabouli, falafel, kabobs and wraps. Blue is distinguished, however, by its inclusions of beef, lamb and chicken shawarma, while Crave features several Persian stews that include fesenjoon made with chicken, pomegranates and walnuts. 619-795-1197 and 619-501-1313, respectively.

The **Hillcrest Farmers Market** is adding to its Sunday vendor lineup (starting May 21) **Bread & Cheese Catering**, which offers four types of grilled cheese sandwiches as well as coconut-curry tomato soup. The company was launched in January by Justin Frank, who served as director of operations at the former **S&M Sausage and Meat**. His business partner, Devin Gneiting, was a local event planner. They've since secured a spot at the North Park Thursday Market and sporadically appear at several breweries

The much-anticipated reopening of **Olympic Café** at its new North Park location will become a reality by mid-May, said Donna Kotselas, who founded the Greek restaurant with her husband, John, more than 30 years ago. The couple closed the business last year at its original location, at 2340 University Ave., due to landlord issues. In deciding to relocate, they acquired the lease to a structure one door west, where **Jersey Joe's** previously resided. But a series of delays blamed on city bureaucracy and the creation of a large covered patio forestalled their plans to reopen sooner. "The project ended up being more involved than we imagined," Koteselas said. "We're now finally ready to come back to everyone." At the new location, customers can expect a wider selection of house-made desserts and daily specials that will include pork souvlakia skewers, chicken or beef Greek stifado stew, and additional dips and spreads. 2310 University Ave.



Shakespeare's traditional fish and chips (Shakespeare Pub & Grille)

Looking for the best plate of fish and chips in the country? The celebrated British dish served at **Shakespeare Pub & Grille** in Mission Hills recently earned the title in a national contest held by the makers of Old Speckled Hen, the U.K.'s long-established ale. More than 160 pubs across the U.S. initially entered the competition in an effort to gain the most public votes. After the top five contenders were determined, brewery reps from the U.K. made the trek across the pond to personally judge their plates. "They were looking at the actual establishments and the authenticity of the dish," Shakespeare general manager Ruth Thomas said. "We've been in business for nearly 27 years and we were just elated to get this award. So much credit goes to our staff and customers." 3701 India St., 619-299-0230, shakespearepub.com.

Clem's Tap House in Kensington has expanded into an adjoining space that will add 400 square feet to its existing blueprint by late May. Owner Paul Kasawdish said the roomier digs will make way for a second bar and 20 more beer taps devoted exclusively to Belgian and sour beers. With additional seating inside and outside, he welcomes families and kids, adding that he might incorporate a play area on the patio. The food menu currently includes assorted appetizers, flat bread pizzas, sausages and paninis. 4108 Adams Ave., 619-255-4526, clemsbottlehouse.com.



Justin Frank of Bread & Cheese Catering (Photo by Hoplight Social)

around town — **Modern Times**, **Bay City Brewing**, **Duck Foot** and others. In addition, the company caters

weddings, corporate lunches and other private events. "We started out with one mobile tent and now have three," said Frank, who posts the company's weekly schedule on Instagram and Facebook — @breadandcheesecatering. The menu includes sandwiches such as the Burn-a-Nator with pepper jack, capicola and enchilada aioli on jalapeno-cheddar sourdough, and the meatless Cali Gold with Swiss, pepper jack, arugula, red peppers and pesto on plain sourdough. 619-709-6016, breadandcheesecatering.com.



Assorted gelato debuts at Napizza in Hillcrest (Citrus Public Relations)

Napizza in Hillcrest has introduced gelato in six flavors that include strawberry-basil, coffee, lemon-rosemary, and chocolate. The creamy Italian dessert is hand-mixed and sourced from **Bottega Italiana** in University City. The price is \$4 for two scoops and \$5 for three. 1040 University Ave., 619-546-8300, na-pizza.com.

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

A baked goods sale driven by 13 pastry chefs from popular, local establishments will be held from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Sunday, May 7 at **Herb & Eatery** in Little Italy. General admission is \$11.49. Early VIP entry (at 10:30 a.m.) is \$37.74, which includes three free baked goods. All proceeds from the event will be donated to Monarch School San Diego in Barrio Logan, which educates students impacted by homelessness. Participating chefs include Gan Suebsarakham of **Pop Pie Co.**, Jeremy Harville from **Trust**, Jessica Scott from **Puesto**, Rocio Siso-Gurriaran of **Nine-Ten**, and Adrian Mendoza of **Herb & Wood/Herb & Eatery**. Tickets can be purchased through eventbrite.com under "chef-driven bake sale." 2210 Kettner Blvd., 619-794-2790, herbandeatery.com.

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Devine Pastabilities makes no apologies for the high levels of carbohydrates it slings in the form of "torpasta" sandwiches, which are hollowed-out submarine rolls filled with various pastas and sauces — and meat if you're hankering for a dose of protein. "Tappy hour," as they call it here, is no exception when taking into account the varying measures of carbs you ingest when drinking craft beer and noshing on the free "bread holes" that accompany each draft order. Even the staff attire tells you this is no place for disciples of the Atkins diet. Their T-shirts read: "I love carbs." The signature torpasta sandwiches aren't discount-



Beer and bread holes



A strip-plaza eatery with an affordable "tappy hour" (Photos by Dr. Ink)

ed during happy hour, but all draft beers, mostly local crafts dispensed from nearly 20 taps, are \$1 off their regular prices. In addition, a select brew is offered for \$3.50. It changes daily, eventually hitting every label in the tap lineup. I ducked in for a couple of torpastas to go, but lingered first to enjoy the suds. The beer of the day was Two-Hearted Ale by Bell's Brewery in Michigan. Hazy orange in

color and served ice-cold, it's a single-hop IPA that finished with the flavors of orange rind and caramel — just enough complexity to quell the hops. While munching on the crust-less, lightly buttered bread holes, which are gouged from the sesame-seeded rolls used for making torpastas and feel as light in the mouth as cotton candy, I proceeded to a glass of Blazing World by Modern Times Beer in San Diego.

Loaded with hops, it tasted harsher in comparison and matched the mild sting of the jalapeno poppers I ordered. The poppers were also \$1 off and came to \$5.79 for six pieces of deep-fried goodness that pair essentially to any type of beer. Parmesan-garlic french fries and regular seasoned fries are also discounted during happy hour. The torpastas, however, are what put Devine Pastabilities on the map and allowed it to expand in space and beer selection. They start at \$6.79 for salad-only fillings and range from \$7.29 to \$13.49 for those filled with pasta and meat additions. By all accounts these clever sandwiches don't exist anywhere else and you'd be remiss to leave without indulging in one.❖

Devine Pastabilities

2545 Midway Drive,
Suite E (Loma Portal)

619-523-5441
torpasta.com

Happy Hour: 4 to 6 p.m.
Monday through Saturday

RATINGS

Drinks: 

With nearly 20 taps, the eatery offers a sturdy selection of craft beers that are mostly local and with plenty of styles to choose from. The wine list is sparser in comparison, with varietals by Barefoot and a few from less-commercial wineries such as J-Lohr and Old Soul.

Food: 

The jalapeno poppers were hot and crispy, as were the complimentary buttered "bread holes" served with each order of beer. But the signature dish here is the "torpasta," a hollowed-out submarine roll stuffed with various pastas, sauces and meats. They aren't discounted during happy hour, but worth checking out.

Value: 

Beer and wines by the glass are \$1 off regular price during happy hour, although you'll save a few dollars when choosing the draft beer of day, which is always from a craft brewery and priced at \$3.50.

Service: 

The staff is young, cheerful and well-trained.

Atmosphere: 

Booths and tables run through two casual dining rooms that are clean, bright and strewn with flat screens and miscellaneous décor.

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Another hit at Lamb's Players

Theater Review

Charlene Baldridge



On the heels of its magnificent "Shadowlands," Lamb's Players Theatre in Coronado continues its string of extraordinary productions with the San Diego premiere of Lauren Gunderson's "Silent Sky," an absolutely delectable, mind-expanding examination of the early days of women in astronomy.

The most-produced living American playwright in 2016, Gunderson has several works seen or about to be seen in San Diego theaters, among them "Emilie: La Marquise du Chatelet ..." at New Village Arts last season, and "The Revolutionists" to be seen at Moxie Theatre in May.

Director Robert Smyth (Lamb's producing artistic director) was shown "Silent Sky" by a colleague and immediately applied for the rights to produce it locally, which he does in gorgeous fashion with scenic design by Sean Fanning and a cast of five (four women).

Rachel VanWormer's endearing performance as pioneering woman astronomer Henrietta Leavitt (1868-1921) is stunning, and her character's unconsummated love affair with a socially gauche astronomer named Peter Shaw, played by her real-life husband Brian Mackey, is delicious fun.

Add to this the two other women "computers" (that's what they were called) in the astronomy lab — Annie Canon (Cynthia Gerber) and Williamina Fleming (Deborah Gilmour Smyth) — a host of unseen but fully imagined additional characters, and Henrietta's musical, married sister Margaret (Catie Grady), and the audience member finds herself royally entertained,



Brian Mackey and Rachael VonWormer in "Silent Sky"

"Silent Sky"

by Lauren Gunderson
Tuesdays-Sundays
through May 28

Lamb's Player's Theatre
1142 Orange Ave.,
Coronado

\$24-\$72 with discounts
for Under 35 club,
military, youth and
seniors

lambplayers.org
619-437-6000



(l to r) Deborah Gilmour Smyth, Cynthia Gerber, and Rachael VanWormer
(Photos by Ken Jacques)

entranced, and wanting more — more of this play, its characters and more of Gunderson.

When the historical Henrietta went to work at Harvard (in 1893 at age 25) scientists believed the Milky Way was the extent of the universe with earth most importantly its center. In her job, which she spent her dowry to effect, Henrietta, a stargazer from childhood, began cataloguing the stars from photographic plates given her and the other computers by male astronomers, who were the only ones allowed to use Harvard's Great Refractor Telescope, which was the largest in the United States for more than 20 years. Leavitt's discoveries gave scientists the means to measure the distance between stars and thus the size of the expanding universe. Don't worry about the science: Lamb's provides a helpful glossary.

Robert Smyth illuminates Gunderson's text with keen direction of his assemblage. Jemima Dutra's period costumes, which include suffragette "bloomers," are wondrous, and Nathan Peirson's lighting provides exactly what's needed expansively. Deborah Gilmour Smyth provides sound design and original music. Gunderson, who is based in the Bay Area, has a talent for mingling metaphors and revelations about scientific, poetic, human and even religious matters, sending shivers of recognition up one's spine. Her language is glorious, her insight keen, and the play's culmination, touching and inspired. It makes one glad to be alive in the cosmos.

—Charlene Baldridge has been writing about the arts since 1979. Follow her blog at charlenecriticism.blogspot.com or reach her at charb81@gmail.com.

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The cast of *The Old Man and The Old Moon*. Photo by T Charles Erickson.



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FROM PAGE 1 **PARK**

with the city's blessing — and has a driveway with a small roundabout next to the canyon. Today, the site is fenced off and the driveway is barricaded. Back in 2004, the Uptown Planners noticed that the city had listed the lot as surplus property and set off warning flares to prevent the sale of a lot designated for parkland, which is scarce in Uptown outside of Balboa Park. Last year, Todd Gloria — in his final year as the District 3 Councilmember before his election to the state Assembly — spearheaded an effort to get the park built by suggesting that a proposed AIDS memorial — which would be a place for reflection and remembrance of the 8,000 San Diegans who have died from the disease — could be located on the site so that enough funding could be rounded up and the project could move forward.

Where we are now

A public meeting on the proposed Olive Street Park was held by the Public Facilities Subcommittee of the Uptown Planners on April 20 in the Guild Room at St. Paul's Cathedral. About 70 people showed up to watch and participate in a presentation by KTU+A, a landscape architecture firm in Hillcrest that is taking public input on what the pocket park should look like. The planning is now in the fourth of six stages, and KTU+A is taking public comments on several concepts.

Existing problems

The lot is at the corner of Olive Street and Third Avenue, three blocks west of the West Mesa of Balboa Park. Third Avenue dead-ends just north of Olive Street, at Maple Canyon, which catches some motorists by surprise and requires a turnaround. This could pose safety concerns for park visitors. Then there is the Rheumatology Center of San Diego, located on the north side of the lot, which has access problems to the street. The structure was built on the edge of Maple Canyon on two sides. As a result, the project managers said, the building requires emergency access via the existing driveway. This would impact what could be constructed on the lot's north side. Other than the Rheumatology Center, the rest of the surrounding buildings are residential. Some of the nearby residents said they are wary of building a pocket park that could become overrun by the homeless population. The flat side of the lot, along the west side of Third Avenue, is currently empty except for dirt and weeds. The back side, which includes land that extends into the top of the canyon, has two mature trees among six smaller ones around the driveway.

What neighbors want

KTU+A officials and the city's project officer Kevin

FROM PAGE 1

HOMELESS

a district that includes both Uptown and Downtown, two areas where the homeless population is very visible.

“This is a regional problem, not just a Downtown problem,” Ward said. He noted that the homeless population grew 20 percent Downtown, particularly in East Village where a number of homeless shelters and services are located.

Ward said there has been an uptick in homelessness in the Uptown area as well as in Mission Valley, especially along the San Diego River.

The count results showed that 77 percent of the unsheltered people became homeless while living in San Diego County. This helps dispel the popular notion that other California cities and counties and other states are giving homeless people a one-way bus ticket to San Diego.

Ward is particularly dismayed by the 58 percent increase in homeless youth. Of the 1,150 homeless youth who are sheltered or unsheltered, the count showed their sleep history:

- 19 percent slept on the street or sidewalk.
- 17 percent “couch surfed.”
- 16 percent had transitional housing.
- 15 percent slept in a vehicle.
- 11 percent slept in a tent or hand-built structure.
- 3 percent were in emergency shelter.
- 1 percent were in motel/hotel.
- 1 percent were in jail or a treatment program.
- 1 percent in a safe haven.
- 1 percent in unstable situations.
- 15 percent were unsheltered in other circumstances.

“If we don’t help them early, then they will become chronically homeless,” Ward warned.

Despite all the negative news, Ward suggested that things likely will get better. The task force is a recent merger of various service providers and organizations devoted to solving the homeless problem, so Ward seems this as a positive development.

The task force’s vision is simple: “An end to

homelessness in the San Diego region.” And its mission is clear: “To provide comprehensive data and trusted analysis that empowers the entire community to identify, implement, and support efforts to prevent and alleviate homelessness.”

One of the big problems is that the San Diego region does not get its fair share of federal dollars devoted to the homeless — even though the region ranks among the top three cities for the number of unsheltered people. About \$18 million in federal homelessness funding comes back to the San Diego region.

The federal government has also demanded that more of its dollars be focused on providing housing opportunities for the homeless, so local officials have tried to comply. That has resulted in the loss of almost 700 beds in temporary housing in shelters.

Despite the grim figures, there is one bright spot. “One area we’re seeing significant decline is in homeless veterans,” Ward said, citing the city’s efforts to care for those who served our country.

Mayor Kevin Faulconer announced the “Housing Our Heroes” program during his State of the City address in 2016 with the goal of placing 1,000 homeless veterans into

housing. Ward said the city is close to meeting that goal.

Ward also lauded the family reunification program, which tries to reunite homeless individuals with their long-lost families.

The task force is expected to release a comprehensive plan on combatting homelessness in June, Ward said. It is also in the recruiting stage, searching the nation to find an executive director who has a proven track record in reducing homelessness.

Landsberg talked about how the homeless problem has a negative impact on small businesses on Main Street as well as on local residents and visitors to North Park. She talked about the legal challenges of removing homeless people and their belongings from near businesses and homes.

Sgt. Sorbie explained the difference between encroachment, such as tents or structures, and illegal lodging.

HOT, she said, consisted of six officers, working on two shifts, who deal exclusively to homeless issues citywide.

“We don’t typically do enforcement,” Sorbie said, “but we can if we need to. We go out on a daily basis and contact anyone who is homeless and let them know that we are there to help them ... if

they want our help. It’s not a crime to be homeless.

“We can tell folks that they can’t have tents or structures and that they cannot block sidewalks or entrances,” she added.

Gonyeau said Alpha Project has noticed that “tent city” is up 104 percent Downtown.

Other statistics show that 69 percent of the homeless are men, 29 percent are women, and 2 percent identify as transgender. Veterans total 8 percent of the homeless population. Also, 39 percent self-reported that they had mental health issues and 20 percent said they had substance abuse problems.

Task force, HOT and Alpha Project officials all work together to connect people with mental health and/or substance abuse issues with services that are available.

Ward said he expected the homeless situation would improve in the years ahead.

“We might be a little late getting into the game,” he said, “but we are getting there.”

“I think real changes are coming as a result of the [task force] merger,” Landsberg added.

Representing 700 businesses in “downtown” North Park, Landsberg urged business and property owners who feel hassled by the homeless to issue a

“letter of authorization” to the Police Department to allow officers to remove the homeless from alcoves, porches or their property. “They cannot block doors and sidewalks,” she said.

As far as whether to call 911 or the Police Department’s non-emergency number, Ward said “use your own judgment. You know when a situation is dangerous.”

Sobie said HOT has a phone number for non-emergencies: 619-446-1010. “We only check our messages once a day,” she said, adding that their email address is homelessoutreachteam@pd.sd.gov.

Landsberg advised people not to feed the homeless, despite all good intentions. “Giving food or money to the homeless is not going to solve the problem,” she said. “Give money to the folks who are providing the services.”

Learn more about the Regional Task Force on the Homeless at rtfhsd.org. Learn more about the North Park Community Association at northparksd.org.

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

Survey Shows “Made in America” Resonates with Small Business Shoppers

Seventy one percent of respondents would spend more money if small businesses only sold U.S.-manufactured items

An overwhelming number of Californians visit a local small business at least once a week, with slightly more than a quarter (27%) patronizing small businesses twice a week. According to the 2017 Cox Business Consumer Pulse on Small Businesses, only seven percent of California survey respondents don’t visit any type of small business in an average week.

Consumers may have a stronger sense of familiarity with the small business owners and employees who work in those businesses, according to the findings. However, survey respondents selected convenience and local support as the top reasons they go the “Main Street” route. When selecting their top three reasons for shopping and supporting small, the run-down ranked as follows:

- Convenience – 69%
- Local support – 65%
- Greater customer service (than a large business) – 52%

Other key findings from California respondents included:

- When it comes to shopping small, the price apparently doesn’t have to be right as only 14% of respondents said “more competitive pricing” was a top reason for supporting small business.
- Californians showed that technology can play a role in enhancing the customer experience at small businesses. Forty four percent picked free and reliable WiFi as the preferred technology to enhance the customer experience at small businesses.
- Eighty-one percent of surveyed consumers responded that shopping/dining at small businesses makes them feel like they’re supporting the American workforce and economy.
- More than 70% of California consumers would also spend more money at a small business if that small business supported a positive social or environmental cause and 59% think small businesses should openly promote the causes they support.



Be sure to visit one of the many small businesses in your neighborhood during National Small Business Week and beyond.

- Small businesses don’t need to stay open on the holidays to compete with their big business competitors. Only 25% of consumers think small businesses should stay open on the holidays, with the other 75% giving this a frosty ‘no’ vote.
- Consumers would overwhelmingly continue to support a small business owner if he or she voted differently than them. Only 18% of respondents would stop supporting a small business if they knew the owner voted differently from them. At the same time, 35% of consumers would stop supporting a small business if they knew the owner was vocal on social media about his/her political leanings or preferred candidate.

More details on the 2017 Cox Consumer Pulse on Small Businesses are at <http://www.coxblue.com/cox-business-consumer-pulse-survey-2017/>. Follow Cox at @CoxCalifornia or @CoxBusiness on Twitter and join the conversation using #GoSmall to share the results with your network.

About the 2017 Cox Business Consumer Sentiment Survey on Small Business
The 2017 Cox Business Consumer Sentiment Survey on Small Business was a blind survey conducted in March 2017 among nearly 1,900 consumers across the following 14 states: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island and Virginia. The margin of error for the survey is plus or minus three percent.

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

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.

©2009 CNS/websudoku.com

Puzzle answers on page 17

Uptown Crossword

Down to Earth

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			

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

1 Drop heavily
5 Pesky tots
10 Cinematic dog
14 Tibetan monk
15 Shakespearean character
16 Iowa town
17 The terrible one
18 Reeds
19 Sicilian spouter
20 Garden denizen
22 Battens down
23 Emcee
24 Rain cats and dogs
25 Pillar
27 Result of 24 Across
31 Western lake
32 Turning point
33 The Altar
34 Yemeni seaport
35 Niçoise, for one
36 Beat it
37 ___ Mahal
38 Moonshiner's device
39 Semblance
40 Has a speech impediment
42 Certain moths
43 Kind of school

44 Goriot, e.g.
45 Hector's father
47 Flighty
52 Culinary style
53 "___ pass Go"
54 Parisian pronoun
55 Prayer word
56 Dispatch boat
57 Verdi opus
58 Fourth planet from the sun
59 Passover ceremonial
60 Asian country

DOWN

1 Ballet movement
2 Output from 19 Across
3 Gen. Bradley
4 Roman temple
5 Look at leisure
6 Player in a Capek drama
7 Cupid
8 Swarm
9 Distress signal
10 Fifth, for one
11 Unrestrained revelry
12 High, clear sound
13 What a shame!
21 ___ in one

22 Ilk
24 Goad
25 Egyptian bigwig
26 Mozart's 41st symphony
27 Money boxes
28 Ellipse
29 Lock
30 Vic's mate
31 Uses a shuttle
32 Poker holding
35 One of Buchan's 39
36 Lugubrious
38 Check
39 Preceptor
41 Dressy dress features
42 University speaker
44 Some writing
45 Baby buggy
46 City in Italia
47 Relocation
48 Geraint's beloved
49 Mother of Romulus and Remus
50 Moro
51 Meadows
53 ___ Rheingold

Puzzle answers on page 21

FROM PAGE 5

BRIEFS

The popular event features original dishes created by celebrated local chefs — with each bite inspired by the chefs' favorite books. This year's theme will include cuisine created in homage to "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs," "Babbling Beth, the Story Chef" and "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?"

Beer and spirits from local breweries and distilleries will accompany the cuisine,

allowing samplings from a wide variety of craftsmen.

New this year: Celebrity judges, including food writer and Food Network host Troy Johnson, will dole out awards to chefs in the following categories: Best Dish (non-dessert), Best Dessert, Best Table Display and Best Pairing of Book with Dish Concept.

"Eat.Drink.Read." raises money needed to support the organization's 29 affiliated programs that provide free literacy assistance annually to more than 170,000 children, families and adults throughout San Diego County.

"One in five adults in San Diego possess below-basic literacy skills," council CEO Jose Cruz said in a news release. "Many of these adults are also parents, and their children become adversely affected by low-level reading skills at home. We work to address this problem through our literacy programs which are funded, in part, through Eat.Drink.Read."

Tickets are \$75 at bit.ly/2nPftx.

see Briefs, pg 20

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San Diego Community
News Network



Traveling Stories founder Emily Moberly reads to 3-year-old Luna Suzuki at Waypoint Public. (Photo by Cynthia Robertson)

FROM PAGE 1
READING

Hezhi Naseem, field manager for Traveling Stories, was busy in another corner reading books with 8-year-old McKenna. When she gave McKenna her book bucks, Naseem got up and organized some of the books that were spread out all over the floor of the play area.

"It looks like a library exploded in here, which isn't a bad thing," Naseem said, laughing. It's a good arrangement for everyone at Waypoint Public. General Manager Justin Sins said the owner has children and got the idea to build a little play area.

"A lot of people in their 30s with children want to be able to go and enjoy happy hour, but not at Olive Garden or Chili's. And now with Traveling Stories, they can come to here to an authentic neighborhood place, knowing that their kids are doing something fun and rewarding at the same time," Sins said.

"We see a lot of the same people come in each month with their kids. It's a fun energy," he said.

Veronica Grajeda, mother of children 20 months old and 6 years old, came to Waypoint Public at the invitation of some friends.

"Kids just naturally want to be paid attention to, and they tend to make noise, and now here is a place where nobody will complain that they do. It's a great idea," Grajeda said.

Moberly considers the partnership a success story, too. "I love watching a reluctant reader get excited about reading for the first time," she said.

Reading has always been important to Moberly, who considered books her best friends as

she grew up. "Especially Nancy Drew!" Moberly said.

Her journey with Traveling Stories began after college when she took a job teaching English and writing for a newspaper in Honduras.

"It was the first time in my life that I lived somewhere where I didn't have access to books. All I had to read were the three books I brought with me to Honduras," Moberly said.

"I noticed how this impacted me, but even more than that, I noticed how it impacted my students. They had never experienced bedtime stories, or reading for fun."

So when she went home for Christmas that first year, Moberly filled one of her suitcases with books. She brought them back to her students in Honduras and introduced them as "Ms. Moberly's Library." She made them read every day in class.

"At first they were reluctant, but as students found a book they connected with they began to fall in love with reading," Moberly said.

That inspired Moberly to start Traveling Stories.

Naseem said one of the goals is to make reading fun by creating a space that caters to different types of readers.

"Traveling Stories is helping to lower illiteracy rates by working to turn reading into an indulgence rather than a chore," Naseem said.

The organization also sponsors a StoryTent program to encourage reading at four locations in San Diego County. The top challenge for Moberly and the volunteers is having enough people to read at the StoryTent locations. Volunteers are recruited in several ways, including presentations at groups and schools, online through volunteermatch.com, and by word of mouth.

Traveling Stories is also looking for new partners, such as companies that want a volunteer day, schools that have students needing volunteer hours or churches wanting to get involved in their community.

To learn more about Traveling Stories, go to travelingstories.org.

— Cynthia Robertson is a local freelance writer.✻

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Sudoku

Puzzle from page 16

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

Down to Earth

Crossword from page 16

S	O	V	E	R	E	D	E	S	S	H	A	V
A	D	I	V	E	O	S	I	A	V	N	E	W
E	T	E	R	I	O	N	O	D	I	O	R	
L	A	I	R	O	R	E	M	W	A	I	R	P
E	R	E	P	E	R	P	E	R	P	E	R	P
S	V	N	U	T	S	R	E	I	S	T	I	S
E	S	I	N	G	T	I	T	I	S	T	I	S
D	E	T	F	O	V	A	S	N	E	D	V	
V	R	V	I	O	A	I	P	E	O	H	V	T
S	I	N	E	B	O	I	E	T	O	H	V	T
B	H	O	P	L	S	O	H					
S	O	N	S	W	H	O	M	I	L	H	V	E
N	A	N	T	E	S	O	O	B	A	N	V	I
T	I	V	A	O	E	M	O	R	A	V	A	I
A	I	S	A	S	T	A	R	B	O	L	P	

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UPTOWN CALENDAR

Uncorking the Mysteries of Wine

Saturday, May 6

Join Fleet Science Center for an evening of food and wine pairings. The fundraiser will benefit the Fleet's education programs and exhibits. 6-10 p.m. 1875 El Prado in Balboa Park. Tickets online at bit.ly/2pChcOn.

Campaign Finance Reform for San Diego

Saturday, May 6

Join Neighborhood Empowerment Alliance and Neighborhoods for Fair Elections to work on campaign finance reform and discuss local issues. 1 p.m. 4190 Front St., First Unitarian Universalist Church in Hillcrest. Contact hartley2k@aol.com.

San Diego Women's Chorus 30th Anniversary Concert

Saturday, May 6-Sunday, May 7

Reflect on three decades of song with SDWC. The "Reflections: Looking Back on Our First 30 Years" will highlight the best songs and performances of the chorus' past three decades. Tickets \$20 online at bit.ly/2qc80PM and \$25 at the door. 3 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 6; 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 7. Visit bit.ly/2pwPG82.

Gator by the Bay

Thursday, May 11-Sunday, May 14

Get your Gator on! The annual Louisiana-themed festival features live music, food, dancing and more. Over 100 musical acts will perform including nine Uptown bands: Crown Point Academy, Fuzzy Rankins, Gypsy Swing Cats, San Diego Cajun Playboys, Quel Bordel, Theo & Zydeco Patrol, Jason Weiss, Kimba Light and Three Chord Justice. Tickets \$20-\$200 online at bit.ly/2pCd0OL. Times vary each day. Spanish Landing Park, 4300 N. Harbor Drive. Visit bit.ly/2qm7UZE.

Handsome Ghost with Frances Cone at Space

Friday, May 12

Handsome Ghost and Frances Cone will perform from 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. at Space, 3519 El Cajon Blvd. This is a 21-and-older show. Tickets \$15 at ticketf.ly/2pCgqkL.

The Art of Dance

Saturday, May 13

Malashock Dance's first-ever fundraising dance features performances from company and junior dancers. Tickets \$125-\$200. A cocktail hour with appetizers will be offered before the show. 5-7:30 p.m. at The Abbey, Fifth Ave. in Bankers Hill. Visit bit.ly/2pCsodO.



House of Blessing Community Party Fundraiser

Saturday, May 13

Join Community PARTY for their fundraiser! Family-friendly event with jumpers for children, face painting and games. Also features food, a raffle and live music/DJ. 3366 Adams Ave.

Art Glass Guild Annual Spring Show and Sale

Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14

Art Glass Guild presents a showcase with work from local glass artists. Also features live music, demonstrations and art stations. Free and pet friendly. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 1770 Village Place, Spanish Village Art Center in Balboa Park. Visit artglassguild.com.

Balboa Park Pow Wow

Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14

San Diego Indian Health Center celebrates the history and tradition of American Indians. The annual event features speeches, dancing and live music. Free. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Park Boulevard and Presidents Way in Balboa Park. Visit bit.ly/2pCxWFs.

Communications Skills for Leaders Session

Thursday, May 18

Voyagers Toastmasters' session will help improve your communication and leadership skills. Free. 7-8:30 a.m. Friendship Hall at University Christian Church, 3900 Cleveland Ave. Contact jerryamarino@hotmail.com.

SOHO 35th Annual People In Preservation Awards

Thursday, May 18

Save Our Heritage Organisation's People In Preservation ceremony commends and thanks community members who are upholding the nonprofit's mission of preservation and service. Tickets \$45 for SOHO members and \$55 for non-members. 4-6:30 p.m. Marston House Formal Gardens, 3525 Seventh Ave. Visit bit.ly/2pCqt9f.

DIGITAL GYM GEMS



'The Auteurs: David Lynch: The Art Life' — This segment of the ongoing film series looks at David Lynch's art, music and films through 20 recorded conversations with the artist. Unrated. Friday, May 5 to Thursday, May 11.



'Tomorrow' — This documentary offers an innovative perspective on world issues, including agriculture, environmental, ecological and social concerns. Unrated. Friday, May 4 to Thursday, May 11.



'Risk' — Director Laura Poitras unveils her six-year project focusing on the complex story of WikiLeaks co-founder Julian Assange. Unrated. Friday, May 12 to Thursday, May 18. ♦

Visit DigitalGym.org for show times and tickets and information on additional films.

RECURRING EVENTS

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

- "To Catch a Thief" Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6
- "Forrest Gump" Thursday, May 11; Friday, May 12; and Saturday, May 13
- "Top Gun" Thursday, May 18 and Friday, May 19

Films start at 8 p.m. \$15. 4040 Goldfinch St., Mission Hills. Visit topspresents.com or call 619-295-4221.

Aja Project / REFLECT + UNFOLD

Thursday, May 4-Sunday, July 23

This Japanese Friendship Garden photography exhibition focuses on identity and features work from Momentum Learning students. Exhibit open 10:45 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Monday-Sunday. 2215 Pan American Road East. Visit niwa.org.

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.

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

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

Thursdays:

Uptown Sunrise Rotary Club meetings: 7 a.m., weekly meeting at Panera Bread, 1270 Cleveland Ave., Hillcrest. bit.ly/2pezpnR.

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.

North Park Thursday Market: 3-7 p.m., at 3000 North Park Way, between 30th Street and Granada Avenue, North Park, free. 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.

May: Music + Makers, featuring Nathan Olesen Music and a Meditation Bracelet workshop. 6:30-9:30 p.m. bit.ly/2qprnJd.

Liberty Toastmasters Club: 7 p.m., at Saint Paul's Community Care Center, 328 Maple St., Bankers Hill. Liberty.toastmasters.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.

2017 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. Sandiegoitalianfilmfestival.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 and Firstuusandiego.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.

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.

Ray At Night: 6-10 p.m., second Saturday. Free monthly art walk in North Park. Visit bit.ly/2qpDcyY.

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

Sundays:

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

West African dance class: 5:30-7 p.m., Master dancer Djibril Camara from Guinea teaches these classes that are also a great workout for all ages and skill levels at La Vie Dance Studio, 325 W. Washington, Hillcrest. Lavie.dance.

To view local community organization meeting information online, visit bit.ly/2esLpLR.

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

FROM PAGE 14

PARK

Oliver and associate engineer Yovanna Lewis discussed the concepts via a PowerPoint presentation, then took audience questions.

They shared the results of a previous survey of about a dozen nearby neighbors showing that the residents:

- **Liked:** recreation areas, playgrounds, relaxation areas, native plantings, runoff basins, a tree grove, walking paths, and sculptures and public art.
- **Disliked:** gathering spaces, a green wall, shade features, tables and a barbecue area.

In 2016, the Bankers Hill Community Group (BHCG) submitted its priorities for the park: low-level landscape and pedestrian lighting instead of intrusive bright lights, walking paths, seating and picnic areas for the area's older population, possibly some playground equipment if a need is shown, shade structure, shade trees, and attractive landscape plantings.

The group opposed restroom and parking facilities since it would be a walk-to neighbor-

location with a picnic area, plus an AIDS memorial placed on the southeast corner. There would be a circular path and a large open space between the two main attractions.

- Concept 3 would locate the AIDS memorial on the northeast corner, a picnic area, benches, open space and a circular pathway.

The AIDS memorial

Some of the concept images for the AIDS memorial included a memorial wall, paving stones with names and messages, and a series of small monuments.

The AIDS memorial proves to be a controversial element in the design, according to comments from participants at the April 20 meeting.

Susan Jester, a member of the San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force, said the committee is adamantly opposed to the concept of a memorial wall.

"What we don't have in mind is a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall," Jester said, referring to the large wall in Washington D.C. that is etched with the names of service members who died in the Vietnam War. She said the task force envisions a memorial that would fit in bet-

home for \$2.5 million to the highest bidder: local developer Nakhshab Design & Development. The principal, Soheil Nakhshab, is a member of the Uptown Planners. According to District 3 Councilmember Chris Ward's office, the property remains in escrow but the sale has yet to be completed. Nakhshab has promised to preserve and restore Truax House, and create a community meeting room in the building.

Jester and Leo Wilson, chair of the Uptown Planners who helmed the discussion, explained the myriad hurdles necessary to get any monument placed in Balboa Park. They also pointed out the agreement to move the Olive Street Park proposal forward by pairing it with the AIDS memorial, and that convinced the city to push up construction of the park by years.

Complicating matters is that the money from the sale of the Truax House property is legally required to be returned to the city's gas tax fund and cannot be spent directly on the AIDS memorial. Mayor Kevin Faulconer — whose wife Katherine Stewart co-chairs the task force with LGBT activist Nicole Murray-Ramirez — vowed that his staff will find a way to redirect funding from other sources to match the \$2.5 million expected to be made from the sale of the property.

Audience members were divided over whether the AIDS memorial should be included in the park, much less sharing space with a large tot lot with a playground. The contrast between a place for "repose and reflection" and a place for energetic children to play bothered some people.

A millennial woman stressed the need for a playground, although several people doubted the neighborhood's demographics would show a need for a tot lot.

Another woman pointed out another problem with building a playground: The park would have no restrooms, so where would the children relieve themselves?

Some questioned whether an AIDS memorial would bring noise, traffic and parking problems for public events associated with the project.

A number of people worried that the homeless population would overwhelm the park and create a security risk for the neighborhood.

Most people supported the creation of an overlook onto Maple Canyon as well as a trail link.

A man named Roy, who identified himself as gay, said he was OK with the AIDS memorial being at the park and as a member of the Friends of Maple Canyon he urged creating access to the canyon's trails. "This is our last chance to get a trail into the canyon from this location," he said.

The concepts do not include access to the trail system, only suggesting to designate an area for a future link.

"This is a wasted opportunity," Roy said. "And the park is overdesigned!"

One man said he has been living with AIDS for many years and that he is in favor of locating the memorial in Olive Street Park.

And Peter Raymond, who said he knew the late Dr. Truax, urged including a link to the trail, which would lead back to the Truax House on the other end of the canyon.

Without a link to the trail, another man said, there is no connection whatsoever to Truax House.

What's next?

By the end of spring or early summer, KTU+A expects to come up with a final schematic design for the park and plans

to return this summer to the Uptown Planners for a third and final meeting on the matter. Soon after that, the project will then go to the city's Park and Recreation Board for review.

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



This aerial view shows the location of the historic Truax House, located at the western end of Maple Canyon, and the proposed Olive Street Park where an AIDS memorial may be built. Truax House was home to the city's first AIDS hospice. (Google)

hood park. Also, the group liked the idea of limited hours for off-leash dogs.

BHCG wrote: "A neighborhood park does not provide a suitable venue and would do the [AIDS] memorial a disservice. The West Mesa of Balboa Park, for example, with extensive parking along Sixth Avenue and Balboa Drive, would be a much better location."

Additionally, the group urged creating access to the canyon and an observation deck or overlook area. "The opportunity to provide these should not be squandered," BHCG wrote in a letter to city officials. "Also, the park should be part of an inviting, pedestrian connection between Maple Canyon and Balboa Park."

Lastly, BHCG urged the city for help in providing park maintenance and enforcement of regulations regarding loitering, littering, noise and encampments.

The working concepts

- Concept 1 would feature a large tot lot on the northeast corner, away from residential areas. It would have a picnic area, benches and a circular walkway.
- Concept 2 would have a smaller tot lot in the same

ter within the community.

"We see it more like 'The Grove' in San Francisco," Jester said, referring to the National AIDS Memorial Grove in eastern Golden Gate Park. Go to aidsmemorial.org for images and more information.

Task force members want the memorial to be near the edge of Maple Canyon, so it provides a natural place of "repose and reflection," Jester said.

"The memorial needs to integrate with the neighborhood, not interfere with it," she said. "It doesn't have to be in one location in the park; it can be on stones, on plaques, among the trees."

Some audience members oppose placing the AIDS memorial in the proposed park, saying it has no connection to the neighborhood. They said the logical choice would be in Balboa Park or at the historic Truax House — the city's first AIDS hospice run by Dr. Brad Truax, a prominent gay physician and early AIDS pioneer — which is almost a mile away on the other end of Maple Canyon, located at 2513/2515 Union St. in Bankers Hill.

Last year, the city sold the Truax House and an adjoining

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