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San Diego

# Uptown News // DOWNTOWN NEWS

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"Birdcage" run extended

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North Park ice cream unmatched



Promotional photos of "One in Two," Diversionary's first play since its renovation. The play focuses on HIV/AIDS among queer Black men. (Photos by Simpatica)

# Theaters grapple with pandemic, social issues in return to stage

By Kendra Sitton

With COVID-19 restrictions eased, theaters are returning to full (and often fully-vaccinated)

audiences. Some theaters tentatively began opening over the summer and the rest of the local theaters are now joining with full 2021-2022 seasons planned.

Some of the recent plays were originally planned for the 2020 season while other theaters made

SEE **THEATERS RETURN**, Page 9

# Rock star wine director dazzles Downtown

By Vince Meehan

Downtown has become a culinary Mecca in recent years, and as such, has attracted a legion of five-star executive chefs, hospitality experts and mixologists to our fair city. This thriving scene has given San Diegans a wide spectrum of eats to choose from, including everything from classic Italian and Pan-Pacific

Asian fusion, to steakhouses and Korean BBQ. Along with providing a cutting-edge menu, these restaurants must consciously create a wine list which compliments the food as well as the taste of the customer. For several restaurants, Taylor Berk is behind their curated wine list.

SEE **WINE DIRECTOR**, Page 19



Taylor Berk with two bottles of her favorite sparkling wines at Animae (Photo by Vince Meehan)

# Librarian honored for advocacy on behalf of Japanese Americans during WWII

By Kendra Sitton

In September, San Diego Public Library unveiled a series of programs honoring former head librarian Clara E. Breed who is known for advocating for Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II. "The

Rebellious Miss Breed: San Diego Public Library & the Japanese American Incarceration" includes exhibits, films, performances, book discussions and author talks.

As a children's librarian during the war, Breed exchanged postcards with Japanese American youth, sent library books to them and urged other librarians in trade publications to do whatever they could to help Japanese Americans.

After the war, she advocated against the San Diego City Council's and Chamber of Commerce's efforts to prevent Japanese Americans from returning to San Diego and owning land, according to San Diego City College history professor Susan



Clara Breed (Photo courtesy San Diego Public Library)

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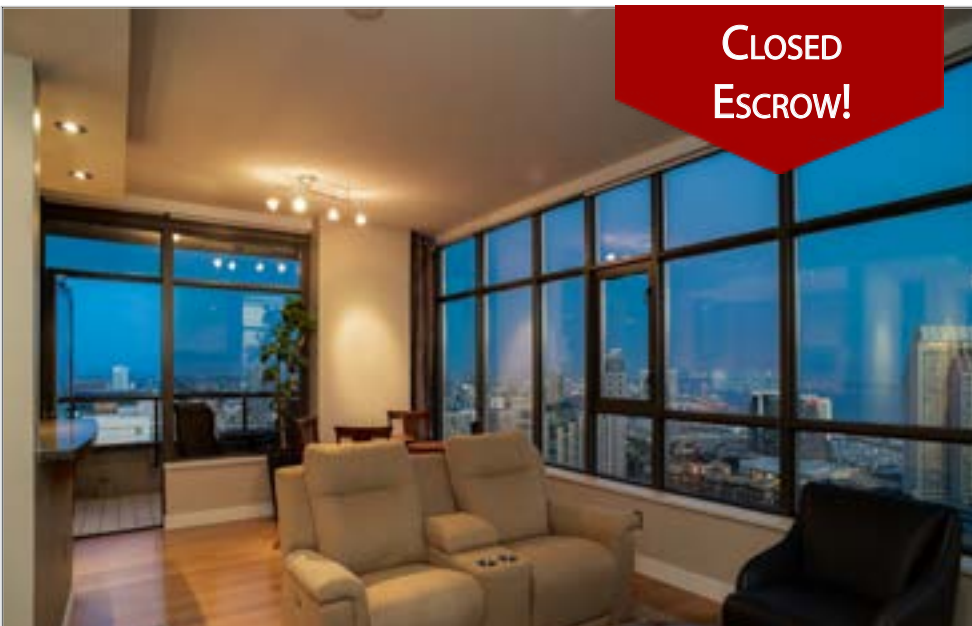
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# Pershing driver faces murder charge for allegedly driving under the influence

A Pacific Beach man faces a second-degree murder charge in the traffic death of architect Laura Shinn. She was riding a bicycle on Pershing Drive in North Park while the driver was allegedly driving under the influence of methamphetamine.

A Nov. 24 preliminary hearing has been set for Adam David Milavetz, 38, who is also charged

with gross vehicular manslaughter while under the influence of drugs in the July 20 incident.

Shinn, 57, was the director of facilities planning at San Diego State University and was killed at 7:30 a.m. while on her commute to work. She had a long resume of work in the city and was married to Steve Shinn, who is also an architect, for 34 years.

A prosecutor said Milavetz was arrested a month before the incident on a charge of suspicion of driving under the influence of meth. If Milavetz is ordered to stand trial for murder, a jury will have to decide if he is guilty of murder or vehicular manslaughter while under the influence.

On his Facebook page, Milavetz wrote he was a

"420 mobilization tech" for a cannabis dispensary. He also wrote he was a delivery driver for another marijuana dispensary and sometimes worked from his PB home.

Milavetz has pleaded not guilty. He remains in the George Bailey Detention Facility without bail. San Diego Police arrested Milavetz at the scene.

Shinn was an avid bicyclist and was riding to work as she often did, according to the American Institute of Architects San Diego. She was in a bicycle lane when Milavetz's 2011 Prius struck her from behind. A celebration of her life was held Sept. 18.

Her death was closely followed by 34-year-old Johnathan Sepulveda, who was riding an electric scooter on Pershing Drive when a teenage driver killed him. In response to the two deaths, the city installed plastic bollards

to separate the bikeways on both sides of the road. The bollards are a temporary measure until SANDAG permanently separates cyclists and scooter drivers from cars.

The AIA said Shinn was "committed to cycling as an environmentally responsible means of transportation, and she had been training for a fun cycling adventure with family and friends this summer."

Her legacy includes the Laura Shinn Diversity in Architecture Scholarship that is granted to students in high school, community college, graduate and post-graduate students who are pursuing degree programs at accredited schools of architecture.

She was board president for the American Institute of Architects San Diego this year. The AIA issued this statement on their web page:



Steve Shinn and his deceased wife Laura at the 2019 AIA Fellowship Ceremony. (Photo courtesy Mitra Kanaani)

"The loss that Laura Shinn leaves is immeasurable. She was bright, energetic, ambitious, tenacious, personable, and utterly kind-hearted, through and through... She approached life—and every endeavor—with enthusiasm, passion, and vigor."

—Neal Putnam is a local court reporter. Reach him at [nealputnam@gmail.com](mailto:nealputnam@gmail.com).



Laura Shinn traveling. (Photo courtesy Steve and Laura Shinn)

## Passenger pleads not guilty to assaulting flight attendant

By Neal Putnam

An airplane passenger who is charged with slugging a female flight attendant in May as the plane was about to land in San Diego pleaded not guilty Friday, Sept. 17 to two counts of felony assault in a dispute over wearing a mask.

Vyvianna M. Quinonez, 28, of Antelope, Ca., appeared before U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Mitchell Dembin, who allowed her to remain free on \$20,000 bond.

As a condition of bond, Dembin ordered Quinonez "not to board a commercial flight during the pendency of this case," according to a court document. She will return to court on Sept. 28 and she has waived having a preliminary hearing.

The incident took place May 23 on Southwest Airline flight 700 from Sacramento when a flight attendant told Quinonez to put her face mask over her nose, fasten her seat belt and stow her tray table as they were about to land in San Diego.

Another passenger videotaped Quinonez that showed her punching the victim twice and pulling her hair, leaving her face bloody. The flight attendant was taken to Scripps Memorial Hospital where she received four stitches to her face and two dental crowns for damaged teeth.

The video shows a tall male passenger who stood up and got between the two women. "Stand down! Don't you dare touch her!" said the man to Quinonez.

The 44-second video of the incident has been posted online by media websites and other groups.

After the plane landed at the San Diego International Airport, Harbor Police officers took Quinonez into custody.

Quinonez struck the flight attendant, who was identified only as S.L., with a closed fist, according to a probable cause statement written by a federal agent.

Three of the flight attendant's teeth were chipped and two had to be replaced by crowns, according

to court records. She had a cut under her left eye requiring four stitches and "a bruise in the shape of fingers on her right forearm," the statement said.

The assault was described as interfering with a flight attendant's ability to perform her duties.

Southwest Airlines announced they would ban Quinonez permanently from flying on the airline.

"We do not condone or tolerate verbal or physical abuse of our flight crews, and we will continue to work with both the FAA and the Union to preserve and protect

the safety and well being of our flight crews and customers," said a statement by the airline afterwards.

—Neal Putnam is a local court reporter. Reach him at [nealputnam@gmail.com](mailto:nealputnam@gmail.com).



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# The show must go on – so strut

## Fashion Files

By DIANA CAVAGNARO



Cruella scene with fashions from Macy's Fashion Valley



Segment with fashions by Be Boutique & Macy's



Finale (Photos by Diana Cavagnaro)



Cruella scene with fashions from Macy's Fashion Valley



Cruella scene with Dalmatians

A New PATH (Parents for Addiction, Treatment and Healing) presented "The Show Must go On... So Strut!" on September 25. The 17th annual event at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina began with boutique shopping and a silent auction. Stacy Pecore provided music for the crowd while they shopped until they dropped. The crowd adjourned to the ballroom for the luncheon. Each table was decorated with a beautiful shoe filled with succulents.

The Co-chairs were Liz Crocker and Colleen Ruis Ince and Honorary Chair was Barbie Spinazzola. NBC SD Rory Devine and TV Personality Geni Cavitt were Mistresses of Ceremonies. They recognized the

PATH to recovery 2021 Awardee, Tom Hill Senior Policy Advisor at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Aaron Burns, CCAPP was the guest speaker for the afternoon talking about his drug addiction and long-term recovery. He expressed the importance of A New PATH and how much it helps – especially training people to use over 8,000 NARCAN kits. These kits save lives during opioid overdoses. Next, was a live auction and the emcees got a fun battle going when the crowd tried to be the last bidder to win a night's stay

at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina.

The fashion show began with all the models dressed in leopard fashions from Macy's Fashion Valley. Gretchen Bergman choreographed and coordinated the show. She always makes an appearance singing and dancing in the opening number. One of the segments had guest models in recovery strutting down the runway. My favorite scene of the show was Cruella with fashions from Macy's and Grazia Bella. The models wore black & white wigs imitating the

Disney feature film. There weren't a Hundred and One Dalmatians but two spectacular Dalmatians, Bella and Bentley, walked the catwalk with the models.

Evening Grace was the finale with evening fashions from Macy's. This segment began with a ballet dance leading the way down the runway. The show was brilliantly choreographed by Gretchen Burns and intertwined an entertaining mix of singers, dancers and models. At the end of the show all recovering addicts were asked to light a candle and walk the runway to the music "Go Light Your World".

Proceeds will benefit recovery programs. A New PATH works

to reduce the stigma associated with addictive illness through education and compassionate support. They advocate for therapeutic rather than punitive drug policies. This event coincides with National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month and every effort is made throughout the country to end discrimination against individuals who struggle with substance use disorders. For more information visit anew-path.org.

—Diana Cavagnaro is an internationally renowned Couture Milliner based in San Diego. Learn more about our Hat Designer, Teacher & Blogger at [DianaCavagnaro.com](http://DianaCavagnaro.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Grace Loves Laces

Grace Loves Lace launches the new 2022 collection 'Coco Loco' on Thursday, Oct. 7 from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. located at 1620 Sixth Ave. RSVP at [pippa@bikpr.com](mailto:pippa@bikpr.com)

### Miss Bikini & Mister FIT

Thursday, October 21 from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. at Scripps Seaside Forum at 8610 Kennel Way. There will be a beauty contest, talent show and fashion collections. Tickets at [bit.ly/3EYyCeo](http://bit.ly/3EYyCeo).



Segment with fashions by Be Boutique & Macy's



Macy's eveningwear



Ballet dancer begins the last segment with eveningwear from Macy's



Macy's eveningwear

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### What Cash Bail Reform Means For Families In California



On September 22, 2018, California Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill abolishing the state's cash bail system. The bill was intended to completely eliminate cash bail for defendants, replacing it with a system of risk assessment and recommendations for release or incarceration prior to trial. This article discusses the impact of the bill on families and the legal system.

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## ESTATE PLANNING CHECKLIST

By: Dick McEntyre and Chris von der Lieth, Attorneys at Law

Selecting a good successor trustee (or co-trustees) to manage your trust after you die—or, if you're married, on the last to die of you and your spouse—is one of the most important things you will ever do in connection with your estate planning.

Typically, unless you have a very large estate, you will select one or more of your children, or if you do not have any children, a relative. For a very large estate, you may wish to appoint an institutional trustee, such as a bank.

Being a trustee is a thankless and burdensome task, and the compensation an individual receives is often not worth the on-going headaches arising from such things as bickering among, and dealing with requests from, beneficiaries, and preparing accountings. So, the individual really needs to view it as a service—a labor of love—he or she is, or they are, providing to your beneficiaries and to the deceased loved one.

It is best that you ask the person(s) you desire to serve as your successor trustee before you die, if he or she is willing to so serve.

Select as your successor trustee a person (or persons) you trust, who is level-headed, who is able to make decisions of a business nature, and



who has the ability to get along well with (that is, can handle) your beneficiaries. In fact, your selected successor trustee may himself or herself be a beneficiary. This makes it a little easier to justify the tough work ahead.

Sometimes selecting successor co-trustees (to act jointly) is a good idea—especially among siblings—since a brother or sister who was not asked to serve might have hurt feelings from being "left-out." However, financial institutions may require that in the case you have appointed successor co-trustees, each co-trustee must have so-called "independent authority." That is, each co-trustee must have power over the account without requiring the approval of the other co-trustee.

Since virtually every situation is different, consider all factors before making your selection.

The above statements are not to be taken as legal advice for the reader's particular situation. Richard F. McEntyre practices law in the area of estate planning and administration, having served the San Diego community as a lawyer for over 40 years. Chris von der Lieth is an attorney who has worked with Dick for over 7 years. Affordable rates. Highest quality services. House calls available.

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# Atkins: Biden admin is partner in climate solutions

## Notes from Toni

By TONI G. ATKINS



Sen. Toni Atkins in front of Air Force One (Photo courtesy Office of Toni Atkins)

A couple of weeks ago I was waiting on the tarmac at the former Mather Air Force Base in Sacramento to welcome President Biden, who was on his way to tour some of the areas affected by our state's latest series of devastating wildfires.

While I was waiting, I couldn't help also thinking of other fires and other Presidential visits, including when President Bush came to San Diego County, back when we experienced some of the earliest of what have now become alarmingly commonplace disasters.

What made this visit different for me was the full sense of partnership I felt coming from the Biden Administration—not just in terms of disaster

SEE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS, Page 15

# Homes for all of us

By Todd Gloria

Homeownership is the essence of the American Dream for many. It is the reward for years of hard work and responsible financial decisions. It means that you have made it. But what happens when you have worked hard, done everything right and yet still cannot afford to buy a home? The enormous demand for an extraordinarily scarce supply of homes, unfortunately,



Mayor Todd Gloria (Courtesy photo)

SEE HOMES FOR US, Page 15

# Standing up against patient dumping

By Mara W. Elliott

We rely on hospitals to care for us in our times of greatest need. We entrust them with our lives when we're at our most vulnerable and we expect that they will put the health and safety of patients first. Hospitals break that trust when they illegally discharge gravely disabled patients in need of care.

Patient dumping is unethical and it is illegal. That's why my Office sued Scripps Health for releasing from their hospital a 68-year-old man whom a court had determined was so gravely disabled that he could not care for his own basic personal needs.

He was hospitalized after being found naked, disheveled and delusional during a welfare check by the City Attorney's Office on residents of a substandard and unsafe College Area independent living facility where tenants are

supposed to live independently.

Based on the victim's condition, a judge ordered that he be placed in a secured facility, and that no lesser level of care would suffice. Contrary to the court's order, Scripps Health discharged the victim to a group home to fend for himself. The victim, who suffers from mental illness and hallucinations, was expected to manage his own prescriptions, keep medical and psychiatric appointments, and arrange for his own transportation.

After his discharge, our investigators found him sick and isolated with no way to get to his doctors' appointments or understand which medications to take.

Our investigator and victim services coordinator quickly stepped in to provide him clothing and hygiene items, help him dress and arrange transportation to medical

SEE PATIENT DUMPING, Page 16

# Warranties: Understand your consumer rights before you buy

## District Attorney News

By SUMMER STEPHAN



You never know when life – or a manufacturer – might throw you a lemon. That's why consumers should understand what warranties will and will not cover. A product may be defective upon delivery or become defective over time. Product warranties acknowledge this possibility and generally allow consumers to seek product repair, replacement, or refund within a designated time after purchase.

However, warranty terms vary from product to product regarding duration and amount of coverage. Consumers should be careful not to assume a warranty will always cover the repair or replacement of defective items. Consumers may shop wiser by reviewing the terms of a warranty and knowing their warranty rights before purchase. Consumer warranty rights differ under federal and state laws.

The following questions and answers highlight important aspects of California warranty law and different types of warranties consumers should know about before buying.

## How do you know if a product is covered by a warranty?

- In California, most expensive purchases including electronics, appliances and cars come with some form of express warranty detailing the product's performance coverage.
- Express warranties or guarantees are typically written but can be verbal.
- Consumers should confirm any verbal guarantees in writing. Goods advertised "as is" or "with all faults" may be exempted from warranties.

## What is the difference between a general warranty and an extended warranty?

- General or manufacturer warranties attach to the product at the time of purchase.
- The duration and terms of the coverage vary with expiration occurring after a predetermined time.
- For example, many warranty claims require proof of purchase, and the failure to produce a receipt can prevent even a qualifying warranty claim from being honored.
- Consumers should always keep proof of purchase information to ensure that a valid warranty will be honored.
- Extended warranties or service contracts either cover maintenance not included in the general warranty or extend the general warranty coverage.

• Extended warranties are generally sold separately from the product, and the terms and types of coverage may be different from the general warranty and exclude refunds.

• Buyers should review all new service contract terms to ensure they understand any changes in coverage.

• Keep in mind that service contracts are administered by third-party providers.

• Providers must have a valid license with the Bureau of Household Goods and Services (BHGS) to do business. Consumers may check a provider's license status on the BHGS webpage or call (916) 999-2041.

## What is the Bureau of Household Goods and Services?

• The BHGS regulates all licensed contract service providers, while working to protect consumers and educate businesses.

• The BHGS also acts as an enforcement agency and has jurisdiction over the following industries:

- Household Movers
- Appliance Service Dealers
- Furniture and Bedding Wholesalers
- Furniture and Bedding Retailers
- Bedding Sanitizers
- Thermal Insulation Manufacturers
- Service Contract Administrators
- Electronic Service Dealers
- Furniture and Bedding Manufacturers
- Furniture and Bedding Importers
- Custom Upholsterers
- Supply Dealers
- Service Contract Sellers
- Service Contract Obligor

For more information about service contracts or to file a complaint contact the BHGS on their website ([bhgs.dca.gov](http://bhgs.dca.gov)) or by phone (916) 999-2041.

As your District Attorney, I'm committed to increasing communication and accessibility between the DA's Office and the public. I hope these consumer and public safety tips have been helpful.

The Consumer Protection Unit is comprised of Deputy District Attorneys, Investigators and Paralegals dedicated to protecting consumers and law-abiding businesses from fraudulent or unfair business practices. To report a consumer complaint, you can call (619) 531-3507 or email [consumer@sdcca.org](mailto:consumer@sdcca.org).

—District Attorney Summer Stephan has dedicated more than 29 years to serving justice and victims of crime as prosecutor. Visit [sdcca.org/office/contact/](http://sdcca.org/office/contact/) to contact her.

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# Happy Italian American Heritage Month

**Little Italy Culture & Heritage**  
By **TOM CESARINI**

Now that fall has arrived, it's time to get ready for all the upcoming holiday festivities. Before we start talking about candy corn, stuffing, and egg nog, however, let's talk about this month's celebratory theme: October is a time when we collectively honor Italian American culture in our nation and the many contributions of Italians to the fabric of our society. Our calendar this month is chock full of cool events, so check us out at the Little Italy Dog Park. And you can help to support our efforts in the community by visiting our espresso bar at Amici House. Come for a cup of amazing coffee, stay for lunch, get some work done, or just relax under the trees in the idyllic park setting. Your support helps to fund our arts, culture, and education programs and helps unsheltered and at-risk youth at Washington Elementary, our charitable partner in the neighborhood. We will see you at Amici House!

**OCTOBER EVENTS**  
**October 9 | Little Italy Walking Tours**  
Our cultural excursions of the Italian neighborhood are back in

action! Join us for a wonderful walking tour of Little Italy and learn about the history of this colorful quarter. We start with a Sicilian breakfast at Cafe Zucche-ro, take a tour exploring the sites and sounds of Little Italy and focusing on the heritage aspects of the community that culminates at Amici House for some further history and even some shopping.  
Get your tickets at [conviviosociety.org](http://conviviosociety.org).

**October 16 | il Club Chiacchiere (Chat Club)**  
Our newest program is growing! Chat Club offers a winning combination of conversation (in Italian, of course), vino and appetizers. Join us for lively talk among old friends or make some new ones while you're at it and indulge in the beauty of the Italian language. Register at [conviviosociety.org](http://conviviosociety.org).

**October 22 | Musicarramba! International Music Series**  
Our monthly music series features a variety of talented local



Convivio walking tours are back in Little Italy. Join us for an enlightening, informative, and just-plain-fun excursion. (Photo courtesy of Convivio)

performers spanning multiple music genres. This month we are proud to feature the Carlos Velasco Quartet, taking us on a magical musical journey of Italian and Latin favorites. Get your tickets at [convivio.yapsody.com](http://convivio.yapsody.com).

—Tom Cesarini is the chief leadership officer and founder of Convivio and also serves as the Italian Honorary Consul in San Diego. Convivio provides advocates, donors, and volunteers the organizational capacity to advance Italian cultural identity, preserve Italian cultural-heritage assets, cultivate community and fellowship, and foster multicultural awareness through the humanities. Visit: [conviviosociety.org](http://conviviosociety.org) | Follow: [@conviviosociety](https://www.instagram.com/conviviosociety)

# An October to remember in San Diego's Little Italy

**Little Italy News**  
By **CHRISTOPHER GOMEZ**

Benvenuto, October! It's officially Italian Heritage Month in the United States. Italian culture's rich history and traditions are standouts in the United States, resulting in Congress designating October Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month in 1989, honoring the achievements and contributions of Italian immigrants and their descendants.  
More than 26 million Italians have established roots in the United States, officially deeming Italian-Americans as the seventh largest ethnic group in the country. There are many ways this can be celebrated: from food and ancestral relations, or indulging in Italian-American films, literature and art, the opportunities to pay homage Italian lineage are endless!  
San Diego's Little Italy is just the place to visit to indulge in Italian-American history and culture, with its history going back nearly a century. The waterfront neighborhood is San Diego's oldest continually active district. In the 1920s, this waterfront neighborhood became

Little Italy as Italian fisherman and their families began settling in the area to be close to San Diego's bustling tuna industry. At one point, San Diego was known as, "The Tuna Capital of the West Coast," due to the 6,000 immigrant families populating Little Italy and the successful canneries that called our Embarcadero home. From dining to arts and culture, Little Italy San Diego thrives as the hub of the Italian-American culture in San Diego.  
Here are our must-see historical favorites in the neighborhood in honor of Italian Heritage Month:  
**The Oldest Restaurant in Little Italy**  
Vincent DePhilippis was born in New York, NY and raised in Naples, Italy before he returning to New York City at the age of 18. He married Madeleine Manfredi in 1925 and they moved to San Diego in 1947, where they opened the Italian market Cash & Carry Italian Foods on India Street. 1950 was the start of their successful line of family



The bust of Amadeo Giannini at Piazza Giannini (Photo courtesy Little Italy Association)

restaurants we know today as Filippi's Pizza Grotto, originally named D'Filippi's. Little Italy's Filippi's Pizza Grotto is the first of the family line of eateries and the oldest restaurant in Little Italy – a perfect place to celebrate Italian Heritage Month with a bite to eat!  
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# Classic “La Cage Aux Folles” returns to Cygnet

## Theater Review

By JEAN LOWERISON



“La Cage Aux Folles” has a venerable history. Based on the

1973 French play by Jean Poiret, it hit Broadway (in English) in 1984, where it won six of the nine Tonys it was nominated for. Two succeeding productions each won a Tony for best revival of a musical. It also

broke barriers as the first hit Broadway musical to be centered on a gay relationship. It has since played with great success around the world and even been made into a movie starring Robin Williams.

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David McBean as drag queen Albin (Photos courtesy Cygnet Theatre)

Cygnet Theatre has also had success with the show and has brought it back. It opened a few days ago and has already been extended through Nov. 7.

La Cage Aux Folles is a drag club in the tony French town of St. Tropez, run by longtime lovers Georges (Lance Arthur Smith) and Albin (David McBean). Georges handles the business end of the club. Albin is the star of the show, playing Zaza, with outrageous costumes, tons of mascara and attitude. But, as one of the main songs puts it, “We Are What We Are,” and this show argues for acceptance from a society that was not willing to grant it.

The plot centers around young Jean-Michel (Jake Bradford), Georges’ son by a previous short liaison with a woman. Jean-Michel has been brought up by Georges and Albin. One day, Jean-Michel comes to tell his dads that he’s found a girl named Anne (Megan McCarty) he wants to marry and that her parents want to meet them.

The problem? Anne’s dad is a rightwing conservative nut who will never understand Georges and Albin or approve of La Cage. Jean-Michel begs Georges to pretend normality for one night – and to get Albin out of the house for the meeting.

Of course, Albin won’t stand for this and even Georges’ request that he come but look “more like John Wayne and less like Brigitte Bardot” is insulting. However, it does set up an amusing inter-family meeting replete with hurt

feelings, hilarity and eventual reconciliation.

Director Sean Murray knows how to make this show work. He also knows how to find the right cast and some really good songs by Jerry Herman don’t hurt.

McBean’s Albin is a gas and his swishy Zaza is absolutely hilarious. Kudos also to Jennifer Brawn Gittings for his and all the other funny costumes.

Smith is excellent as Georges, just trying to keep things humming. He has a couple of lovely songs, too. My favorites are “Song on the Sand,” which he sings to placate Albin, and “Look Over There,” in which he suggests to Jean-Michel that he has another “dad” on his side.

Megan McCarthy is charming as Anne, Jean-Michel’s fiancé, and the six Cagelles are a kick. And they can kick.

To me, this show seems outdated, probably because I’ve seen it too many times. I’d like to say we’ve outgrown our fear of this particular “other,” but that’s demonstrably not true.

If you’ve never seen it, or haven’t seen it for a while, get down to Cygnet.

“La Cage Aux Folles” plays through November 7, 2021 at Cygnet Theatre, 4040 Twigg St. in Old Town.

For tickets: (619) 337-1525 or [boxoffice@cygnettheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@cygnettheatre.com).

—Jean Lowerison is a long-standing member of the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle and can be reached at [infodame@gmail.com](mailto:infodame@gmail.com).



The play is full of energetic song renditions.



Theaters return

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

the choice to showcase plays that addressed the current moment.

“Those shows are not lost on us. We might circle back to those in the future but we also had commitments with other shows and we wanted to also make sure that we’re responding to the moment that we’re in – not the moment that we were in two years ago,” said Matt Morrow, artistic director at Diversionary Theatre which re-opened in September after a major renovation.

Safety was another concern factoring into the choice of plays this year. OnStage Playhouse chose plays with small casts to limit the risk of a COVID-19 outbreak. Over the summer, the South Bay-based theater staged “Sheepdog” about an African-American female police officer and a white male police officer in a relationship. The play examines how their relationship changes after the man shot an unarmed Black adolescent.

With only 25% of the 70-seat theater allowed to be filled, executive artistic director James Darvas described the play as an artistic success but a financial

failure. The playhouse opened to a full audience in September with “Drowning Girls” with a similarly small cast. One tech was needed to operate the water for the ghost story about three women who were killed by a man for their doweries at the turn of the century. The tech was able to add water to the three bathtubs the wedding-dress clad cast stayed in for the duration of the play. In total, five staff members were needed at each showing.

Meanwhile, the audience could wear a mask or prove their vaccinated status.

“I love that a lot of them are showing their vaccination card with pride when they walk in the door. It makes us feel good that we’re doing something for them and that they feel safe,” Darvas said.

Diversionary has an even stricter policy of only allowing people who are vaccinated inside. Unvaccinated people can engage with its work in several live-streamed performances throughout the year.

“We were founded as a safe space and COVID-19 has caused us to reevaluate what that means. Many of our community members who come to Diversionary are immunocompromised due to HIV/



Choreographer Emily Shackelford running a number.



Choreographer Emily Shackelford observing “Frog and Toad” scene.

AIDS. Making sure that we have a safe space for them and everyone is paramount,” Morrow said.

San Diego Junior Theatre (SDJT) has additional challenges in keeping the cast safe because the kids they work with are too young to be vaccinated. During rehearsals, the children wear masks at all times. Once stage rehearsals begin, the nonprofit is instituting testing.

SDJT’s season begins with “A Year with Frog and Toad,” a warm show about friendship despite differences. Along with a new adaptation of “The Jungle Book,” these musicals were originally scheduled for last year. The group’s newly-selected plays, such as “The Snowy Day and Other Stories” and “Head over Heels” reflect a decision to focus on issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.

In honor of the renovation and the theater’s 36th anniversary,

Diversionary’s season is focused on queer history as one of the oldest queer theaters in the nation. Since it was founded in response to HIV/AIDS, two of this season’s plays will focus on that ongoing epidemic including “One in Two” centering three queer Black men which is showing now.

“The title is a reference to a staggering CDC statistic that is still current that says one in two queer African-American men will contract HIV/AIDS in their lifetime. So this is an epidemic that has been ongoing since the ‘80s and Diversionary was founded in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in 1986, so it’s only fitting that we revisit that issue for our reopening,” Morrow said.

Morrow described “One in Two” as a particularly special return to the stage since the audience is its own character and influences the performance.

“Every performance can be different. That is reflecting the beauty and the truth of theater in that every performance is alive and in the moment, it’s a little bit different and there’s a kinetic energy that is just palpable between the audience and the actors on the stage,” she said.

Darvas said that during live-streamed performances, everything felt beige with no audience interaction.

Actor Anthony Zelig said, “The first time I stepped in front of the audience over the summer with a live show, it was an incredible feeling having that live reaction.”

San Diego theaters showcasing diverse stories while keeping audiences and cast members safe is a triumph for the local arts scene.

—Kendra Sitton can be reached at [kendra@sdnews.com](mailto:kendra@sdnews.com).



Children rehearsing while wearing masks. (Photos courtesy of San Diego Junior Theatre)

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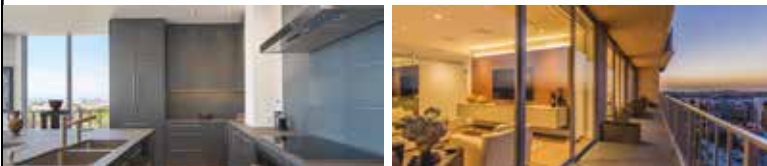
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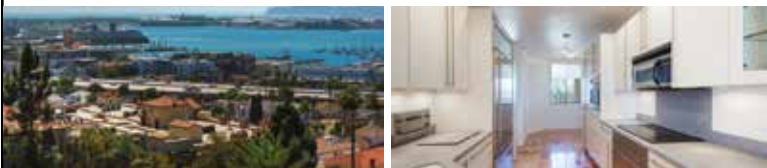
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Puttin' on the Fritz!

Gaslamp Landmarks

By SANDEE WILHOIT



During San Diego's boom days in the 1880s, numerous people were arriving in our fair city. The unbeatable weather and boundless tourism provided many opportunities for enterprising businessmen to pursue their fortunes. Consequently, the influx of entrepreneurs put a premium on real estate. Venues were needed to house all the new commercial pursuits being put forth. As a result, many modern styled commercial structures were built. Since the main purpose of such a facility was to display merchandise or advertise services, most of the structures were relatively plain by Victorian standards, with large display windows and fairly spacious interiors. However, some were designed to provide not only utilitarian purposes but also to reflect the elegance of the era and of the owner.

One such building was the Fritz. The owner of the structure was Louis Fritz, a German immigrant who was, additionally, one of the founders of the Golden Lion Cafe, a very popular restaurant and saloon on 4th Avenue. The new building, which cost \$30,000, was to be used as a store and offices. Fritz selected Edmond Blachman as the architect, who designed the structure with architectural lines to coincide with the building to the north, the Loring and Company building. This provided an imposing facade of fifty continuous feet, which greatly enhanced the appearance on the street.

The building was a three-story plus basement, brick and steel structure, making it slightly taller than many of the surrounding buildings. The floors were supported on steel beams and columns, which, if exposed, were encased in concrete. This not only provided durability and strength, but was also more economical than brick. Concrete steps, with an attractive brass railing, lead from the sidewalk to the basement entrance. The building was capped by a flat roof with



The Fritz building (Photo by Tim Trevaskis)

a parapet and decorative dentil molding running across the entire length of the structure. There was also a decorative finial detail on the raised points of the parapet. An extra touch of elegance was the ornate medallion with the monogram "LF" in the center adorning the second level to the left of the street entrance. The "LF" refers, of course, to the original owner, Mr. Fritz.

Four double-hung sash style windows were placed evenly across the front of the upper floors. Transom windows were additionally placed above each of the windows on the second floor. Narrow decorative bands of painted molding added interest to the simple architectural lines of the structure.

The facade of the building featured a recessed entrance flanked by large plate glass windows, which opened into a spacious vestibule. Although the outside of the building was relatively simple, the Italian Renaissance Revival elements are clearly visible in the interior of the structure. The main floor, designed to be a restaurant, featured a vestibule wainscoted with onyx and a dark Tennessee marble base. The dining area, with its coved ceiling and dentilled cornice was supported by pilasters, which formed panels decorated with hunting scenes. North of the main entrance was a handsome stairway that lead to the second and third floors.

Equally as artistically designed, the upper floors featured doors, stairways and window moldings of Oregon pine. The 14 large apartments on these floors were equipped with clothes closets, washbowls, bathrooms and linen closets. Lavatories, the best on the market, were fitted with instantaneous heaters. The amenities and furnishings were elegant and comfortable. The building was both piped for gas and wired for electricity.

When the Fritz Building opened in 1909, one of the first tenants was the Denver Bachelor Apartments under the management of Mrs. Alice S. Poole. These new apartments were a departure from the usual way of providing accommodations for gentlemen. Firstly, the rooms were rented

The Fritz Building

(1908)

756 - 760 Fifth Avenue

Architect - Edmond Blachman

Architectural Style - Modern  
Commercial/Elements of Italian  
Renaissance

to gentlemen only. Secondly, no women or children were allowed ever, under any circumstances. It was stated that the rooms were kept in a spotlessly clean manner.

Poole was a reporter for the San Diego Bee in 1886, and wrote under the pseudonym Helen E. Middleton. She reported on special features and also penned a society column. Poole also built the first house in San Diego, at 1435 9th Street, that was equipped with modern plumbing! Always active, she swam the San Diego Bay at the ferry crossing until she was past 60 years of age.

Poole remained in command of the Denver until 1915, when it became the Minneapolis Hotel and Restaurant. The restaurant, located on the first floor, was known to cater to the sex workers of the Stingaree area. As these women were not welcome above Market St. (then H St.), at meal times messenger boys on bicycles could be seen carrying trays of gourmet food to these ladies and their patrons. When city officials shut down the "red-light district," the restaurant's food delivery business suffered greatly! One might consider them the original GrubHub. Both restaurant and hotel continued well into the 1930s. While many things change, many remain the same!

Throughout the years, the downstairs location remained a series of restaurants. It has been altered extensively, and is currently the home of the Myst Lounge, a bar, eatery and hookah lounge. The second and third floors remain close to their original state, and are being converted to an AirBnB.

—Sandee Wilhoit is the Historian and Lead Tour Guide for the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation. She can be reached at swilhoit@gaslampfoundation.org.

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# Librarian honored

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Hasegawa who gave a lecture on Japanese Americans in San Diego as part of the “Rebellious Miss Breed” programming. During the traumatic re-entry process, Breed also maintained relationships with many of the children she had communicated with while they were incarcerated.

When she later became head librarian for 25 years, Breed expanded the library systems, promoted youth services and encouraged librarians to acquire multi-cultural collections.

“Clara Breed was dedicated to the library and the San Diego community during her lifetime,” said San Diego Public Library Director Misty Jones. “The ‘Rebellious Miss Breed’ brings Clara’s devotion of public service to life and reflects on how her advocacy for an equitable and inclusionary future still informs the mission of the San Diego Public Library today.”

Librarian March Chery, the co-director of the Clara Breed programming, finds Breed’s story to be inspiring because she demonstrated the same passion for the community that librarians have to this day.

“In the library world, we continue to make people’s lives better in the community, to open doors for people,” Chery said. “Whether it’s helping somebody find the right book but also uncovering issues that are a part of the nation.”

Chery said Breed refused to compromise on the humanity of other people.

From Sept. 18, 2021 to Jan. 30, 2022, the San Diego Central Library Gallery will host the exhibit “Call to Serve: Clara Breed & the Japanese American Incarceration.” It is a collection



Letters and postcards are an important part of the exhibit.



The lectures and events at San Diego Central Library have been more popular than the librarians expected.



The exhibit about Breed will be up until January. (Photos courtesy San Diego Public Library)



An historic photo of former head librarian Clara Breed

of photos and artifacts that examine Breed’s advocacy and the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II. The exhibit includes a replica of a World War II barrack to show living conditions at detention sites.

The program was meant to be held last year but was delayed due to COVID-19’s library closures. The delay did allow for the program to be much bigger than what was originally planned. Instead of just a month, the exhibit and events lasts from September to January 2022. Despite the ongoing pandemic, the librarians running the programs have been blown away by the response from the community. At recent lectures and events, double the audience they have expected attended. While many of the attendees have been elderly Japanese Americans, people of all ages and ethnicities attended as well, according to Chery.

Chery has been at the library for 20 years and at first did not know about Breed’s advocacy.

“I found out and felt that something should be done in the library,” Chery said.

Alongside another librarian who made a similar discovery,

it still took years for the idea to come to fruition. The funding for the program came from California Humanities.

There were others interested in the story as well. Author Cynthia Grady published her picture book “Write to Me: Letters from Japanese American Children to the Librarian They Left Behind.” On Oct. 23, she will read the book aloud in a virtual event aimed at San Diego families. The book was already a 2020 “One Book, One San Diego” selection and includes excerpts from the correspondence between Breed and the Japanese American children.

In another upcoming event, local theater students will perform a dramatic reading of the letters. The date is to be determined. Other events include a lecture from independent filmmaker and UCLA distinguished professor Renee Tajima-Peña on Nov. 17 and an interview with Jack Kobuta about his internment on Oct. 2.

For a full list of events and programs, visit the library’s “Rebellious Miss Breed” web page.

—Kendra Sitton can be reached at [kendra@sdnews.com](mailto:kendra@sdnews.com).



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# Taste of North Park returns to in-person celebration

By Vince Meehan

The Taste of North Park returns to Uptown on Saturday, October 9th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. as a benefit event for North Park Main Street. The popular self-guided restaurant tour is back for foodies and culinary lovers from all over San Diego. As well as offering food tastes from over 30 of North Park's iconic eateries, the event will feature street musicians and live art along the walking route.

"This event is all about supporting our local businesses and the community," Angela Landsberg, Executive Director of North Park Main Street (NPMS), said. "The funds raised from ticket sales go directly back in to community



Live music, tacos and waffles will be a part of the event. (Photos courtesy of NPMS)

improvements like graffiti abatement, sidewalk pressure washing and other beautification projects."

The Taste of North Park is consistently one of Uptown's more popular events, bringing in people from all over San Diego. Foodies can stroll from place to place,

sampling bites from eateries like a culinary Trick-or-Treat event. This year, participating restaurants include Encontro, One Door North and new places like Verbena and Tabu Shabu.

Ronnie Schwandt is the Executive Chef at Verbena and is

looking forward to participating in his first Taste of North Park event.

"I am excited to be a first-time participant in the Taste of North Park and to give North Park a little bite of what Verbena is all about," Schwandt said. "As a brand new restaurant, we are excited to meet

everyone in community. I am also equally excited to be a part of an event that will get people out and about and support the local businesses and restaurants. We need all the support we can get!"

SEE **TASTE OF NORTH PARK**, Page 13



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# Taste of North Park

CONTINUED FROM Page 12

Of course, North Park is also famous for its battery of local craft breweries and many will be represented at the Taste of North Park, serving four-ounce tasters as well as distinctive nonalcoholic beverages. Virginia Morrison is a co-founder and CEO of North Park's Second Chance Beer Company, and is excited to help support the community.



Ronnie Schwandt, Executive Chef at Verbena (Photo courtesy of Verbena)

"Taste of North Park is an example of what makes the North Park community such a vibrant and compelling place to have a small business. The North Park Main Street Association does an amazing job of connecting residents to our business community," Morrison said.

Mike Hess, Original 40 Brewing Company, North Park Beer Co., and Second Chance will all be on hand to refresh the thirsty participants of the tasting. Many local musicians and street artists will perform for the guests along the route, and parking will be available at North Park Parking for a \$5 all day parking rate.

Landsberg says that many of the non-food boutique shops in the neighborhood will also feature specials in conjunction with the event. "The purchases made by participants while sipping and shopping at the event are a great way to support local businesses. If each of us spent \$100 a year more on local businesses instead of chain stores, it would put an extra three million dollars a year into our economy. And not only that, but it would create thousands more jobs as well."

As with past years, NPMS is reliant on an army of proud volunteers who help promote their local businesses. Anyone interested in helping out as beer pour beverage servers are encouraged to go to northparkmainstreet.org to sign up as a volunteer. All helpers must be 21 or older, and will receive a Taste of North Park souvenir t-shirt and an invite to a special volunteer appreciation party. Tickets for the event are available online or the morning of the event at St Luke's Episcopal Church at 3725 30th Street

For more information, go to bit.ly/3ibQfOc.

—Vince Meehan can be reached at vinniemeehan@gmail.com.

# North Park scoops the frozen dessert market

By Wayne Gray

Gelato, soft-serve, frozen yogurt, premium ice cream and even "boozy" Ice cream: you can find it all along University Avenue in the six short blocks between Utah St and 31st!

First, there's Hammonds Gourmet Ice Cream, winner of numerous "Best" awards. This quaint shop at 3077 University Ave offers 32 flavors of Tropical Dreams super-premium Hawaiian ice cream and sorbet, including flavors such as Apple Carmel Pie, Black Sesame, Banana Mac Nut Fudge and Guava jelly. If you can't decide, sample several flavors when you order a Hammond flight!

Soon joining the premium ice cream category will be Jeni's Splendid Ice Cream. Jeni Britton Bauer is a pioneer of the artisan ice cream movement and best-selling ice cream cookbook author. Her first shop was opened in 1955 and she founded Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams in 2002. Jeni's expansion to Southern California includes a recently announced location at 2871 University Ave, a site

formally occupied by Hunt and Gather (now on Ray Street). Said to be President Biden's favorite, Jeni's Splendid Ice Cream touts a 'uniquely smooth' buttercream base. Jeni's California expansion also includes a location in Carlsbad.

For those looking for soft serve, you can't miss North Park Creamery's brightly colored shop in the heart of North Park. A North Park resident's passion for soft-serve inspired a decision to open a shop with



a classic soft serve menu, a family-friendly vibe and affordable prices. Their Strass Organic soft serve can be dipped in home-made 'magic shell' dipping sauces or served-up in creamy shakes and sundaes.



Photos from the North Park Ice Cream Festival in the past. (Photo courtesy Scoop San Diego)

Need a pick-me-up? Add a Café Moto fair-trade organic espresso. Look for their latest rotating flavors and daily specials.

Frozen yogurt is also in the 3000 block across the ally from Flap Your Jacks. One of the pioneers in North Park's revitalization, Yog-art offers frozen yogurt with a variety of available toppings

as well as fruit smoothies, bubble tea and chamango drinks.



For the Gelato crowd, two restaurants each offer a variety of premium gelato flavors. First is Figaro Dessert Cafe, where your entry is greeted by a colorful display of artisan gelato. They also offer Gourmet desserts, wedding cakes, crepes, coffee and custom and all-occasions cakes. Within a block on the opposite side of the street you'll find the narrow façade of Gelati & Peccati, a small Roman-style pizza eatery inspired by the beloved pizza stands and corner gelato shops found throughout Italy. They feature 18 flavors of gelato along with unique pizza toppings on "crispy yet airy" crust.



While not in North Park, An's Dry Cleaning is another popular ice cream shop in Uptown. (Photos courtesy An's Dry Cleaning)

The most unusual offering comes from Melt Bar Creamery & Café at University Avenue and Utah Street. Melt serves southern-style food for breakfast, lunch and supper and a rotating menu of adult milkshakes, sundaes and deserts. The treats riff on popular drinks and include offerings such as a Pecan Old Fashioned with Makers Mark Bourbon, Woodford Bitters and buttered pecans. Each frozen treat includes about two ounces of booze (not enough to get you drunk!). The homemade ice cream is based on an eggy custard which mellows the alcohol. The kids and the less adventurous have their own separate non-alcoholic menu.

—Wayne Gray is a North Park resident and the founder of Harmony Blinds and Shutters.



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**UPTOWN COMMUNITY PARKING DISTRICT ELECTIONS**

The Uptown Community Parking District's mission is to improve availability and supply of parking for residents and businesses, by re-investing its portion of parking meter funds with fiscal responsibility. The district will also consider traffic circulation, transit effectiveness, biking, and pedestrian mobility in its neighborhoods and develop creative collaborations to support a vibrant local economy.

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Elections are hosted by the Bankers Hill Community Group. Due to Covid-19, the BHCG is holding virtual meetings.

Currently elected Board members will retain their seats until in-person publicly held meetings resume.

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Election hosted by:  
Hillcrest Business Association  
Nomination Deadline: Fri, October 8th at 6-7pm

HBA's annual meeting will be held on Oct. 12th from 5pm-6pm at 3955 5th Ave. Village Hillcrest Atrium.

Those interested in running for the Hillcrest parking board business seats should contact Hillcrest Business Association before the 8th of October, or by nominating themselves at the event.

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# Little Italy

CONTINUED FROM Page 7

guided fisherman safely to shore and is the spiritual home to many families who helped build the Church almost 100-years ago. Our Lady of the Rosary Church became the center of spiritual, social and cultural life in Little Italy. Today, it's still a pillar of the Italian community and is a cornerstone for historical preservation of our neighborhood. Completing the \$2.5M historical renovation earlier this year, the jewel of Little Italy recently won the 2021 Preservation Design Award for Craftsmanship/Preservation Technology. Hosting Mass daily at 7 a.m., you can visit the church in-person or virtually on their livestream!

### Little Italy Landmark Sign

Lit for the first time in October 2000 at the 7th Annual Little Italy FESTA!, the Little Italy Landmark Sign commemorates the neighborhood's history as the hub of the world's tuna fishing and canning industry until the 1960s. The sign's nautical theme represents the neighborhood's original immigrant community with portholes at the top of the pillars, blue neon lettering and cables that hold the sign up. The mosaic tile work on each side of the street shares the story of the historical community's tie to the bay, the Church, Washington

Elementary School, and the Italian homeland. The sign is a testament to the preservation of Little Italy's cultural heritage and the ongoing innovation of this urban ethnic community.

### Amici Park

Amici Park is a triple-threat when it comes to public spaces. The Little Italy Dog Park is a safe, enclosed space for the neighborhood pets to run around and play together, including an internally fenced off area for smaller dogs and Café Caritàzza – a quaint coffee bar for tired dog parents. The Amici Park Amphitheater is the perfect place to sit and relax during the day. At night, the space transforms, especially during the summer months, where the Little Italy Association and the Cinema Little Italy screen Italian films every Saturday evening for The Little Italy Summer Film Festival. The Little Italy Bocce Courts gives everyone a chance to get in on the traditional game of bocce. If you've never played, Little Italy is the best place to learn. You'll find the Little Italy Bocce Ball club team out playing every weekday – just ask to join in!

### Amici House

The Amici (Friend) House is a historic house in Little Italy. Antonio Giacalone and his wife, Josephine, arrived in 1916 and were part of the Italian fishing community in the neighborhood. Mr. Giacalone was considered

one of the best fishermen with the community dubbing him as "Cadorna," which translates to, "the general." Originally from Sicily, the Giacalone were active in the local community and the Church and generous with their hospitality. The Giacalone Family home was originally located on W. Date Street between Columbia and India Streets, where the Piazza della Famiglia stands today. In 2014, when the Piazza della Famiglia broke ground, the Little Italy Association partnered with HG Fenton to move the house to Amici Park on W. Date and Union Streets and preserve the historic home. Now known as Amici House, it's home to Convivio.

### Piazza della Famiglia

Piazza della Famiglia opened in March of 2018 and instantly became a staple in Little Italy. This 10,000-square-foot European-style piazza on W. Date Street, connecting India and Columbia Streets, includes a beautiful tiled fountain sitting at the East side of the Piazza and tables and chairs with umbrellas line the cobblestone street—inviting the public to take in the beautiful scene and San Diego Bay views over lunch, coffee or a gathering with friends and family. Piazza della Famiglia is located in the "heart" of Little Italy and is dedicated to the past, present and future families of the Little Italy neighborhood. It has become a central community gathering place to host farmers'

markets, concerts, cultural events and more.

### Piazza Basilone

Piazza Basilone was created in November of 2003 to honor GySgt John Basilone and the "Boys That Never Came Home" from the wars in the 20th century. Piazza Basilone stands as a permanent mark in time, celebrating the lives of the fallen and GySgt Basilone's heroism and the accolades that he received while serving this county. This piazza is used as a gathering space for families and veterans, as well as a space for special events and more.

### Piazza Pescatore

Piazza Pescatore was created in 2013, located in Broadstone Little Italy. This Piazza honors the rich history of San Diego's Little Italy by memorializing the tuna industry, which brought national recognition to our neighborhood in the 1970s and 1980s. To immortalize the history of Little Italy, bronze and classic mosaic tile work adorn this beautiful space.

### Piazza Giannini

Piazza Giannini was created in 2018 in honor of Amadeo Giannini, a distinguished Italian-American and Californian, who founded the Bank of Italy, which he later transformed into one of the largest banks in the world, Bank of America. This 500-square-foot public space

includes a bust and pedestal, a plaque telling Giannini's story, concrete planters and barriers, street furniture, and tables and chairs with umbrellas. It resides on the corner of India and W. Cedar Streets.

### Piazza Constanza

Piazza Constanza was created in 2020 in honor of Margaret "Midge" Costanza, a social and political activist who served as a top advisor to President Jimmy Carter. She always fought for the rights and dignity of all people, particularly women, the LGBTQ community, and other marginalized groups. The daughter of Sicilian immigrants, Midge Costanza became the first City councilwoman in Rochester, New York in 1973. She later rose to become the first female Assistant to a U.S. President. Midge moved to San Diego in the 1980s where she was active in numerous organizations and issues. This Piazza sits on the corner of Columbia St. and W. Ash, directly outside of the Luma apartments.

We'd love to see you taking in our community and Italian heritage this month to pay tribute to Italian Heritage Month. Come stroll the neighborhood, learn about our culture and don't forget to make a reservation at one of our many restaurants!

—Christopher Gomez has been Little Italy's District Manager since 2000. Reach him at [chris@littleitalysd.com](mailto:chris@littleitalysd.com).



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# Homes for us

CONTINUED FROM Page 6

means that this is the reality for too many San Diegans.

The lack of homes built for middle- and working-class San Diegans is particularly acute. In the last decade our city has produced just 37 new homes for families earning between 80% and 150% of the area median income. This is why so many find that they do not earn enough to afford the market rate homes and earn too much to qualify for existing housing assistance programs.

A clean and safe place to live is foundational. Studies have shown that stable housing is helpful to students' academic success. It boosts physical and mental health. When reasonably priced, it allows families to save for emergencies and for the future. A home is often an individual's most valuable asset and the basis for generational wealth. In short, housing is everything. This is why we must take every reasonable step to build more homes for all of us. I have launched three initiatives to do just that.

My "Homes for All of Us" housing package seeks to place a roof over every head at a price you can afford. The 10 proposals in this package include various incentives to build more entry-level housing, housing for families, seniors and disabled people. It concentrates new homes in transit

priority areas, on underutilized commercial sites and on City-owned lands. It prioritizes equity, limits displacement and expects all neighborhoods to provide affordable housing solutions.

I have also proposed Blueprint San Diego to help tackle our housing crisis. This planning tool is intended to marry our housing efforts with our climate action and sustainability efforts. It would speed up community planning efforts and include the public spaces and infrastructure needed to ensure new homes integrate well into existing neighborhoods.

Finally, I have created the Middle-Income Housing Working Group to tackle the extreme lack of housing that is affordable and available to our local middle and working class. This group of 23 San Diegans from a variety of backgrounds and professions will work for the next two months to prepare policy and financing recommendations for the City's consideration and swift action.

I hope you will visit the City of San Diego's website to learn more about these initiatives. I welcome your feedback and my team is hosting multiple public workshops to collect public input. Together I believe we can make space for everyone who wants to work hard and contribute to building a vibrant future for San Diego.

—Todd Gloria is the mayor of the City of San Diego.

# Climate solutions

CONTINUED FROM Page 6

declarations and relief we need for recovery, but also in terms of leadership on climate change, which we know is causing wildfires to burn more often and longer in a drier California.

The \$1.5 billion in new funding for wildfire prevention and \$5 billion for drought relief we just invested were two of the high points from the historic 2021 legislative session my colleagues and I adjourned on September 10.

I am also pleased that we made the largest investment in the state's history— some \$3.7 billion dollars—to combat sea level rise, reduce pollution in our urban areas, and make our communities across the state more resilient. My legislation, SB 1, a historic bill to tackle sea level rise, was recently signed into law by the governor.

When you look at the challenges facing California, it's clear that with our approach to wildfires and climate change, partnership has to be part of any solution. For instance, now that Governor Newsom has signed the bulk of the Senate's Housing Package, including my own SB 9 to allow additional housing units, I'm looking forward to a partnership that ensures these bills are implemented as intended—with all protections and safeguards in place—along with all the opportunities the bills provide for more California families. I have to say it was very gracious

during his visit for President Biden to congratulate California on enacting SB 9, and, by sharing his planning and zoning experiences as a young public servant, it's clear he knows the struggle!

When I look back at how this year started, and the obstacles to be overcome, I am enormously proud of what my Senate colleagues, the Assembly and Governor did in helping small businesses, tenants and landlords, providing record funding for schools, homes and health care, and creating new work opportunities through child care and hiring credits.

At the end of my first legislative session in 2011, during the Great Recession, I am reminded of so many of the difficult cuts and hard choices we had to make then.

Thanks to 10 years of responsible budgeting by Democratic legislators and governors, and with the recovery funds our federal partners have allocated so far, California had a once in a generation chance to make transformational change, and we seized that chance.

There's so much going on. We have to get this pandemic behind us. Community safety and police accountability are still challenges in our communities. And there are others. The October sky is still smoky. But if we can pull it together and work together, our future is bright.

—Toni G. Atkins is President pro Tempore of the California Senate. Visit [sd39.senate.ca.gov/contact](https://sd39.senate.ca.gov/contact) to contact her.



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## TIPS TO STAY CONNECTED DURING NATURAL DISASTERS, WILDFIRE SEASON



It's always important to prepare your loved ones, home and business in the event of a natural disaster, which can strike without warning. For San Diego residents, that also means preparing and protecting your home or business in the event of a wildfire.

A top priority for Cox during a wildfire or other natural disaster is to keep customers connected so they can stay informed, check in with family and friends, and even access their shows and movies if they're evacuated.

Cox also works hard to keep business customers, including hospitals and offices of Emergency Services, connected so they can continue to serve their customers and the public.

Wildfire season typically occurs from May through October. However, wildfires can occur at any time. Some of the most destructive and deadliest wildfires in California have occurred in November

(Camp Fire in Northern California in 2018) and December (Thomas Fire in Santa Barbara in 2017).

Cox prepares all year long for natural disasters, including wildfires, by reviewing its business continuity plan and running through simulated events such as a wildfire or earthquake so that employees in all facets of its operations will be prepared and know their role and responsibilities during a natural disaster.

When weather conditions increase the risk for wildfires, the local power company may notify you and Cox that they're implementing a PSPS. If you're in a neighborhood where power is shut off, your Cox services may be interrupted. You need power to run your devices and we need commercial power for our network.

We'll work closely with the power company and public safety agencies to monitor the situation and ensure the safety of our network and facilities to continue to serve our customers.

Here are some tips to help better prepare for an unexpected event or Public Safety Power Shutoff.

**Have a charged backup battery for your landline phone**

Cox Voice customers should keep corded landline phones and a fully charged backup battery for phone modems in case of an emergency. Purchase a backup battery by calling 855-324-7700 or visiting your local Cox store.

**Follow Cox on Twitter for updates and info**

During a Public Safety Power Shutoff or natural disaster, Cox posts service outage updates and

other important information on Twitter. Follow Cox at @coxcalifornia.

**Download Cox apps before a wildfire or PSPS occurs**

- Cox app – Check on outages, stay up to date with text alerts and manage your account.
- Cox Contour app – Cox TV customers can access the latest news and weather, and stream favorites to their mobile devices.

**Generators may help keep you connected**

If your power goes out, a generator may prolong your services if your Cox service location still has power. Check your generator owner's manual for details on power capacity and safe operation.

**Homelife Security Functionality**

Cox Homelife Security will continue to work with limited function. Go to [cox.com/residential/support/cellular-backup-capabilities](https://cox.com/residential/support/cellular-backup-capabilities) for more information.

**Consumer Disaster Protections**

Customers whose residential telephone service is impacted during a state of emergency declared by the California Governor's Office or the President of the United States may be eligible to receive disaster relief protections Visit [cox.com](https://cox.com).

For more helpful information and tips, visit [cox.com/CaliforniaAssist](https://cox.com/CaliforniaAssist).





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The Marston Building is an historic office building on C Street.  
(Photo courtesy CBRE)

## Marston Building in Downtown sold for \$7 Million

CBRE announced the sale of The Marston Building, an office property in the Gaslamp Quarter of Downtown San Diego, to a local private investor for \$7 million.

CBRE's Matt Pourcho, Hunter Rowe and Anthony DeLorenzo and DMJ's Josh Buchholz represented the seller, HFLP II/Marston LLC, in the transaction.

Located at 427 C Street, the 41,262 square-foot property was constructed in 1894 and was originally home to the Marston

Family Department Store until 1912. The four-story building is walking distance from dozens of Downtown San Diego's most popular dining, retail and entertainment destinations. The property was developed by George W. Marston, one of San Diego's most prominent investors and philanthropists.

"This asset provides the new owner with an incredible opportunity to own one of Downtown San Diego's most historic office buildings," said Pourcho.

## Patient dumping

CONTINUED FROM Page 6

care. They worked with his case manager to secure his placement in a skilled nursing facility where his medical needs are being met in a safe and clean setting.

Scripps Health did not have an effective discharge plan for this victim and did not transfer or refer him to an appropriate facility for follow-up care. Our office is seeking an injunction prohibiting Scripps Health from continuing these practices and civil penalties of at least \$1 million, which will be used to prevent other such cases from occurring. Our ultimate goal is to get Scripps Health to follow the law.

In bringing this action, we want to ensure that all San Diego hospitals understand their duties under the law. That's why my Office wrote a letter to remind each hospital that patient dumping is illegal and will not be tolerated. My office will investigate and hold accountable facilities that:

- fail to provide a written after-care plan for mental health patients prior to discharge

- fail to have a patient or representative make informed decisions regarding care

- fail to have an effective discharge planning process

- fail to transport patients to proper outpatient facilities

- fail to have social services staff participate in discharge and after-care planning

- fail to have a process for reevaluating the patient's condition to identify necessary changes to the discharge plan

I am determined to stop this disgraceful practice in San Diego. Our most vulnerable residents are the most deserving of our compassion and care.

Community members are encouraged to report instances of patient dumping to the City Attorney's Office by emailing CityAttorney@sandiego.gov.

—Mara W. Elliott is the San Diego City Attorney.



# COVID-19 vaccine booster shots available in San Diego County

By José A. Álvarez

Following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the California Department of Public Health’s recommendation, the County is now encouraging eligible San Diegans to get a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine booster shot six months after being fully vaccinated.

The following groups should receive a third dose of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine:

- People age 65 and older
- Residents age 18 and older in long-term care settings
- People 50–64 years old with underlying medical conditions, such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease and compromised immune systems

“While the COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective, research has shown the protection they offer may decrease over time, and that’s why a booster is recommended for people in these groups,” said Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County public health officer. “These San Diegans are at higher risk of developing complications from COVID-19 even after getting vaccinated and should get their booster shot as soon as they qualify.”

The CDC says that the following groups may receive a Pfizer

booster shot based on their personal benefits and risks:

- People age 18–49 with underlying medical conditions
- People age 18–64 who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting, such as first responders, grocery store workers, etc.

San Diegans in the above categories should talk to their health care provider about whether getting a Pfizer booster shot is appropriate for them. However, a physician’s referral is not required to get the booster shot.

## WHERE TO GET THE PFIZER BOOSTER SHOT

Currently, only the Pfizer vaccine booster shots have received full approval from the Food and Drug Administration. However, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are likely to be approved in the coming months.

Pfizer vaccine shots for children between 5 and 11 years of age are



Receiving a vaccine (Courtesy photo)

also expected to be approved soon.

There are over 400 locations where San Diegans can get vaccinated against COVID-19. They include doctor’s offices, retail pharmacies (Rite Aid, Walgreens, CVS, etc.), community clinics and County public health centers.

Nearly 80% of eligible San Diegans are now fully vaccinated. There is plenty of COVID-19 vaccine available in the region for booster shots and for San Diegans who have not yet been vaccinated.

San Diegans are encouraged to visit MyTurn to make an appointment or find a walk-in clinic that is offering the Pfizer vaccine booster shot or other COVID-19 vaccines. You can also find a complete list of locations at coronavirus-sd.com.

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## SUDOKU PUZZLE

Fill in the blank cells using number 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process elimination to solve the puzzle.

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

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10					
11					12						13	14	15		
16					17				18						
19				20	21			22	23				24		
25							26					27			
28						29				30					
				31	32					33					
34	35	36	37						38						
39						40	41	42							
43					44						45	46	47	48	
49				50					51	52					
53			54						55						
56		57					58					59			
60						61	62					63			
												64			
														65	

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Leg shank

5. A way to recognize

11. “VeggieTales” character

12. Getting out of by cunning

16. Mythological mountain

17. Atomic #18

18. Viscous liquid

19. 2010 Denzel film

24. 12th star in a constellation

25. Made better

26. Pouches

27. Nervous twitch
28. This (Spanish)

29. Tennis legend Bjorn

30. Hand (Spanish)

31. Afrikaans

33. Int’l interpreters organization (abbr.)

34. Treated with kid gloves

38. Leaseholder

39. Frogs, toads, tree toads

40. Popular dance

43. Sailing maneuver: tack & \_

44. Indicates speed of rotation (abbr.)

45. Mark
49. Health insurance

50. Custom clothing brand

51. One who makes suits

53. Execute or perform

54. Degree of pleasantness when tasting

56. Equal to roughly 5.6 bushels

58. Blood group

59. Imaginary line

60. Hopeless

63. Darken

64. Spoke

65. Work units

### CLUES DOWN

1. A way to fit out

2. Football carries

3. Force out

4. Maintaining equilibrium

5. Sealed with a kiss

6. Type of container

7. Hollywood

8. We

9. Small freshwater ducks

10. Norse personification of old age

13. Says who you are

14. Candidate

15. Sugar found in honey & fruits

20. Defunct language (abbr.)

21. Take too much
22. Iranian province

23. Records electric currents

27. \_ and feathers

29. Beloved Mr. T character

30. More (Spanish)

31. Beverage

32. Promotional material

33. Green vegetable

34. National capital

35. To any further extent

36. Swollen, inflamed lymph node

37. Anger

38. Pound

40. Popular Yugo

41. Salt of acetic acid

42. Millihenry
44. Israeli city \_ Aviv

45. Make wider

46. Drink containing medicine

47. Acknowledging

48. Private, romantic rendezvous

50. Calvary sword

51. Disease of the lungs

52. 2001 Spielberg film

54. Fleshy, watery fruit

55. In one’s chambers

57. Set of information (abbr.)

61. Dorm employee

62. Indicates position

S	O	H	E		D	E	L	V	H	O					
L	N	I	X												
S	I	X	V												
A	L	I	T		I	B	V	L	V	V					
H	O	T	I		V	L	E	N	O	S					
L	N	E	D		H	O	V	L							
					V	B	W	V	S						
E	E	S	S												
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E	8	9	1	2	4	9	6	7
9	2	7	3	6	9	4	8	1
6	1	4	9	8	7	2	3	9
7	9	6	4	1	2	3	9	8
8	4	3	7	9	9	6	1	2
1	9	2	8	3	6	7	9	4
9	3	9	2	4	8	1	7	6
2	6	1	9	7	3	8	4	9
4	7	8	6	9	1	9	2	3

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Wine director

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Berk is the wine director of Puffer Malarkey Collective, a restaurant group founded by culinary legend Brian Malarkey and his longtime business partner Christopher Puffer. The Florida native landed the coveted spot shortly after relocating to San Diego in 2014.

“I got in immediately with Puffer Malarkey Collective – I think I was only here for a couple of months – and I’ve been with them ever since,” Berk said from a plush booth of Downtown’s Animae restaurant.

Brian Malarkey is one of the country’s most successful and sought-after restaurateurs and has enjoyed a high-profile success story in San Diego by opening iconic restaurants such as Searsucker, Herringbone, Gabardine and Burlap. Berk is in charge of creating and nurturing the wine lists of the Puffer Malarkey Collective including Animae, Herb & Wood in Little Italy, and Herb & Sea in Encinitas. Additionally, she hits the road to monitor their Orange County satellite called Herb & Ranch in Irvine.

Berk’s current position at Puffer Malarkey began with culinary roots along America’s South Coast. “I’m from Florida... I’m from North Florida – St. Augustine beach. I grew up on the ocean so San Diego was like a natural transition. I lived in Charleston, South Carolina after Florida and that’s where I really got into the culinary scene,” Berk reflected. “I was working as a private chef, I went to culinary school at Cordon Bleu and started my own business as a private chef shortly after working at a couple of restaurants. I was doing a lot of work with wine dinners while also studying wine, and that was fun for a while. I got to travel a lot – New York, Los Angeles – and made my way around until I finally settled in San Diego”

Berk credits her culinary background as key to creating the innovative food and wine pairings that she now showcases with Puffer Malarkey. She also credits her grandfather as being instrumental in her career choice.

“I collect vintage cookbooks and vintage food books – my grandpa was actually in the spirit and wine business – and he is a huge inspiration to me,” said Berk while cradling a pair of her favorite

Champagne bottles. “I have all these books he’s given me. Every time I go to his house he gives me a new book – even now. And I think for him, he has so many that he just wants to get some out of his house. But for me, it means a lot.” She puts those books to use. Her grandfather has helped her collect a mini library of publications which she uses as inspiration.

“I have the first edition, signed copy of Kevin Zraly’s Windows on the World, which is like the first book you get when you start studying wine. On any given Sunday if I ever have any free time – which is rare these days – I’ll sit down with a stack of my old books and just read, read, read, read,” she said.

Berk considers this downtime to be very important for her position and she feels that she learns more in these moments than anywhere else. And this especially helps her when she is at Animae due to the restaurant’s unique menu.

Animae is located in a unique looking building on Pacific Highway within sight of the U.S.S. Midway museum and the Broadway Pier. Upon entering Animae, one can tell that it is clearly a steakhouse by its cushy circular booths, plush designer carpeting and the wine glasses strategically placed on every table. The décor pays homage to the classy Vegas look of the ‘60s where the space race merged with old school Hollywood elegance. Numerous swatches of green, ranging from ‘70s avocado, to ‘40s olive drab, dominate the color palette – a bold and stellar design choice. But the steakhouse also showcases a collection of Japanese kitsch art in homage to the menu’s Asian influence.

Berk has great affection for sparkling wines and Animae is the perfect arena to pair those bubbly bottles with the international

items on the menu. Also, she encourages diners to order several different dishes and share them with the table family style. That way they can enjoy several different tastes at the same meal. This includes many items that are not the featured showcase steaks.

“So, we do have the A5 Wagyu, and we are absolutely a Japanese steak house, but we have so many other incredible dishes,” Berk noted. “Our Shanghai crab noodles are amazing; we have touches of Vietnamese/Filipino dishes – very Southeast Asian – infused with a Japanese Steakhouse. We’ll get spot prawns in, and our chef Tara Monsod also does Kare Kare short rib, which is like a peanut/spring onion short rib that you can eat with a spoon! It just blows your mind.”

Berk’s love of sparkling wine is reflected in the wine list and she is always ready to recommend a bottle.

“I feel like sparkling wine is a little bit niche, but I’m saying like... why is it niche? I mean if you like beer, why aren’t you drinking sparkling wine too? The carbonation is nice, and helps you digest, and it goes with so many foods.”

Berk’s wine list is heavily represented with the traditional and well-known French producers, but she thrives on introducing her guests to lesser known or trending vintners. Currently, her attention is piqued with an acidic and bone-dry sparkling wine from Spain.

“I love the Sparkling Txakolina [sounds like choco-lina] which is super high acid, and very zippy. It’s lemony and bright and just cuts through the fattiness of foods and goes really well with salt,” Berk said. “And there is also the Moussé Fils Pinot Meunier – Its 100% Pinot Meunier! So, usually with Champagne, you have either Pinot Noir, or Chardonnay with



A large print above the bar combines traditional art with sci-fi. (Photos by Vince Meehan)

Meunier, or some blend of the three. Usually Pinot Meunier is treated somewhat like the ‘throw-away grape.’ But this Champagne maker basically changed the game on that. And I think that’s really fun and cool to showcase too because you have this delicious wine which has all of the regular notes of Champagne, but also these very juicy bright berry and apple notes and you just say, ‘What is going on here!’? And I think that’s really fun.”

Berk also peppers her wine list with fun bottles like Spanish Temprillos, Grecian Xinomavro, and Paship from Croatia. She loves it when guests order them. She uses her vast wine knowledge to help her guests choose a bottle but she prefers to have them experience it themselves.

“My philosophy is – when I pour wine for guests, or when I talk about wine, I’m very apprehensive to tell people what they are tasting. I stray away from leading them to any conclusions because I really want it to be their experience.”

—Vince Meehan can be reached at [vinniemeehan@gmail.com](mailto:vinniemeehan@gmail.com).



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