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ISSUE 6

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San Diego Community Newspaper Group

Documentary honors local folk hero Lou Curtiss

Lou Curtiss was highly knowledgeable about rare American and world folk music. (Photo courtesy Yale Strom)

By DREW SITTON

Local film trio producer Elizabeth Schwartz, director Yale Strom, and editor Luke Jungers turned their lens on a new subject: the man behind dozens of local music festivals and the long-time owner of Folks Arts Rare Records.

“[Lou Curtiss] was such an interesting kind of laconic, quiet genius, for lack of a better term, and we just really wanted to honor him in making this film,” Schwartz said.

Their film “Recordially Yours, Lou Curtiss” debuts at Digital Gym

Cinema the weekend of June 23. Its run will be extended if there is local interest. On Saturday, June 24, local musicians and community members will celebrate ahead of the 8 p.m. showing. The current owner of Folk Arts Rare Records, Brendan Boyle, will spin antique discs at the event with some of the rarest records at the store.

Folk Arts is currently the largest record store in San Diego with a location on University Ave. Curtiss first opened it on India Street. For Boyle, Strom and many other local musicians, the store was a “mecca” they returned to over and over to learn from Curtiss.

“[He] seemed like a very intriguing guy who had created this space that I really felt was very whimsical,” Boyle said of the first

Matt Morrow is leaving after eight years leading Diversionary Theatre. (Photo courtesy Simpatika)

Diversionary Theatre expands staff as Matt Morrow departs

By DREW SITTON

Matt Morrow has been the key figure in bringing Diversionary Theatre to the next level. Since they were hired as Executive Artistic Director eight years ago, the theater's budget increased by 150%, permanent staff nearly tripled in size, and the University Heights facility underwent a \$2.7 million renovation all while its productions were nominated for 35 Craig Noel Awards. Unlike many artistic types, Morrow was a uniquely excellent fundraiser and manager for the theater

SEE LOU CURTISS, Page 12

SEE DIVERSIONARY, Page 15

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A Western Honeybee drinks nectar from a flower on the trail at Presidio Park.



Matilija Poppy, often nicknamed Fried Egg Flower, is one of the many flowers found on the trails at Presidio Park.



The California Towhee uses his toes and heels to look for grubs beneath leaves and twigs on the trail.

## Presidio Park offers the perfect trails to explore during June Gloom

By CYNTHIA G. ROBERTSON

It's probably my favorite place in all of San Diego: Presidio Park. You can see the white castle-like structure overlooking I-8 as you drive towards the coast. Situated on a slope where on July 16, 1769, Father Junipero Serra raised the cross and blessed the hillside site he chose as the site of a new mission known as San Diego. It would be the establishment of the first western settlement in Upper California. On this knoll with a knock-down view, the mission and presidio of San Diego were set up.

Since that day in 1769, the presidio played an important part in the history of a district which ran for 125 miles to the north. A tiny fortified city in which more than 400 people lived, married and passed away within the walls of the settlement, this was the birthplace of San Diego, receiving official status in 1834.

When visiting the park today, it is natural to feel as though you are in an outdoor chapel. The astounding views from the Serra Museum move you to stop and take a moment to watch the sun set into the horizon. On bright clear days, you might be able to see the "green flash," that brief moment when a ring or sphere of green will appear on or around the sun. If you blink or look away, you'll miss it.

Thanks to a young man in 1870, the Presidio has retained its prominent spot and importance in the city's history. One of the city's great civic leaders, George W. Marston established Presidio



The Junipero Serra Museum at Presidio Park is a landmark signifying the importance of the site. (Photos by Cynthia G. Robertson)

Park and present-day Junipero Serra Museum, envisioning the park as a shrine to the spot's historical significance.

The forty acres of shrubs, trees, emerald green lawns and natural beauty are unequaled for beauty and view. What's more, the park is a treasure of interlacing trails that wind through deep, lush forests, with the hum of the I-8's traffic in the distance. You are in the middle of the country in the middle of the city here.

The most intriguing trails of the park are found on either side of the restrooms directly behind the parking circle of Cosoy Way. On a recent afternoon when May Gray

was clouding the skies, my husband and I started on the trail to the right. We immediately found ourselves transported into a fantasy land of nasturtiums growing up and down hillsides, even crawling up tree trunks. The muted colors of the century-old trees gave the landscape a soft, dreamy feel. The temptation to look up all of the time had to be tempered with caution to look down. Tree roots and other toe-stubbers on the trails can make it easy to trip.

But do go, do explore this treasure, maybe especially in the otherwise dreary days of June Gloom. The trails are cooler then, and the colors and forms of trees, bushes,

and flowers make perfect subjects for photography because there are no harsh shadows from strong sunlight.

On some parts of the trail, the trees grow closely together. Their branches overhang tightly with each other, making a delightful tunnel. As we walked through the tree tunnel, I felt as though I were entering a forest harboring many secrets of old souls.

The lacy-looking California Sage perfumes the air. Rub your fingers along the stalk and you will smell the minty fresh scent of sage. Purple sage, loved by Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds, are a must for breathing in its scent.

The whimsical Matilija Poppies wave in the breezes. Because of their very large white petals and a solid yellow round center, they are often nicknamed "Fried Egg Flowers."

Birds abound on the trails and in the trees of the Presidio Park. The California Towhee, in particular, are in large numbers scrounging on the ground looking for insects underneath the piles of leaves and twigs. Their name Towhee is derived from "toe," and "heel." This average-sized brown bird, with its telltale "snip snip" call, uses its toe and heel to jump up, scrape back with the toe and land on its heel. Then they probe around with their beaks to find yummys in the leaves.

Squirrels and rabbits scurried along in front of us as we walked up and down and around the trails. This treasure of a park, a gift that should always be cherished regardless of up-and-coming plans for redevelopment, is a legacy for generations to come, thanks to George W. Marston and the other luminaries of the late 1800s.

—Cynthia G. Robertson is an award-winning freelance writer and photographer, putting together interesting and informative articles for more than 30 years. Her stories, essays and poems have also been published in "Acorn Review" and several anthologies, including "Six Feet Apart...in the Time of Corona." She blogs about her observations of nature and spirituality, and in 2019, she penned her first novel, "Where You See Forever." Find out more at [www.cynthiarobertson.com](http://www.cynthiarobertson.com).



On the Presidio Park trails, tunnels of interlocking tree branches invite the hiker into a storyland.



View of the sunset over Mission Bay from Presidio Park.



Vines of nasturtiums even crawl up the trunks of trees on Presidio Park's trails.



# Rue the blue!

## Gaslamp Landmarks

By SANDEE WILHOIT



Many travelers arrive at their destination only to discover that they have forgotten to pack one of their essentials. A toothbrush? A comb? Talcum powder? Perhaps U.S. Grant, Jr. considered this common dilemma when he set about building the structure that was to become the Owl Drugstore, located across the street from his signature project, the U.S. Grant Hotel.

The imposing four-story building was designed by the Quayle Brothers and their new partner, Charles Cressey, but actually constructed by an Oakland firm — Oliver Duval and Company. When the edifice was completed in 1913, it featured an open courtyard facing Broadway, which was later filled in.

The rectangular structure, modeled after the U.S. Grant Hotel, is marked with strong vertical features by alternating rows of square windows and Ionic pilasters covering three floors. A deep, plain frieze across the top imparts a strong horizontal balance. The exterior, which was finished with cement and artificial stone, features decorative columns extending from the second story to just below the roof cornice. The roof is flat with an unadorned parapet. The Fourth Avenue side featured multiple rows of prismatic tiles to add additional light towards the recesses of the structure. This is one of the few characteristics of the original store fronts that have remained.

The interior first floor featured four businesses, while the upstairs contained offices, all including a lavatory and a clothes closet.

When opened, the Owl Drug Store occupied the corner store, while other businesses occupied the three other ground floor spaces. These enterprises included Hart, Schaffner & Marx Clothes, Farley Outfitting and Brooks Clothing Company. The longest lasting was the Owl Drug Store which remained until 1960 before it changed hands.

Owl Drug Company was a chain of apothecary retail stores that

sold drugs and patent medicines at a reduced cost. Additionally, they also sold candy, soda, Kodak film, stationary, cosmetics, perfumes and other toiletries. The first store opened in June of 1892 in San Francisco, and billed themselves as the “Drug Palace of the Pacific Coast.” The five partners/directors were Derwent Kirkland, Henry Trowbridge, P.J. Tormey, Richard Miller and Frederick Stratton. Before opening the Owl, Kirkland and Trowbridge had been leading pharmacists in Oakland, California, and also owned a hardware store.

Upon opening, the group was met with a major boycott by the San Francisco Retail Druggists Association because the Owl partners refused to join the association and because they set their prices below the established fee schedule of the association. The Owl Drug Store outlasted the boycott, and opened their second store in 1894 in Los Angeles. By 1918, there were 26 retail sores in California, Oregon and Washington, and by 1937 there were more than 125 stores in the chain. By 1909, Miller was in control of most of the stock in the company due to friction between himself and Trowbridge. Miller simply bought everyone out. He remained in control until his death in 1934.

Not only was the Owl Drug Company known for their low prices, they also excelled in variety. Their counter displays featured Varna Rouge, KCL toothpaste, Beech Nut Gum, Jonteel Powder (face powder), Vernice Preparations (laxatives), Owl Cold Cream, Mary Garden beauty products, Red Feather beauty products, Bay Rum, Owl Epsom Salts, Lord Baltimore Linen (playing cards with linen finish), Mirimbi Lily products (imported cosmetics) and talcum powder.

In the notions department, the Owl featured playing cards, razor blades, powders, wallets, fountain pens, toothbrushes, lipstick, pocket combs and manicure aids.

Their plate glass window contained artful displays featuring Kodak film and albums, Djer Kiss Talcum Powder, Keystone Shaving Cream, Creme Elcaya fragrance, Ezonall Shaving Cream, Bromo-Seltzer, Chlorox Tooth

**OWL DRUG STORE BUILDING**  
(1913)  
Northeast Corner of 4th and Broadway  
Architects: Quayle Brothers & Charles Cressey  
Architectural Style: Neo-Classical

Paste, Clemente Soaps, various Owl drugs and a Star Vibrator for headaches.

The druggist (or apothecary) also had a private lab where medicines not on the shelf could be compounded and botanicals, herbs and minerals could be pounded and processed for use. The late 19th and early 20th centuries were a time of extensive experimentation with new drugs that had been isolated to their active ingredient. Of course, most of the experimentation was done on animals. Popular drugs utilized were morphine, cocaine, opium, arsenic and mercury. The latter two were widely used to cure syphilis. On the apothecary’s shelf also were camphor, chamomile, willowbark, chlorine, carbolic acid, lime, charcoal, sulphur, caffeine, digitalis, ginger and parsley. There were also the standards — leeches and spermaceti used for any number of things.

If you preferred to mix your own poison or act as your own exterminator, clients could make their purchase from the separate poison shelf. Most of the poisons were distinguished by the



The Owl Drug Store building is located at the corner of 4th and Broadway.  
(Photos by Tim Trevaskis)

signature handblown, cobalt blue glass bottles. The larger ones were triangular, and featured a winged owl perched on a mortar and pestle on one side, “poison” embossed on another, and “The Owl Drug Company” on the third. They are now quite collectable with prices ranging upwards from \$479. If that is a bit too steep for your budget, one may purchase an antique Owl thermometer for \$60, a bottle of aspirins for \$199.99, a bar of Owl soap for \$45 or a “shot” glass to bolt down your medicine for \$150. Something for everyone!

After Miller died in 1934, the company went into bankruptcy and was purchased by the Rexall Drug Company. The Owl

continued to operate as a subsidiary until 1970, when the name was changed to Owl Rexall Drug Company.





Throughout the 1970s, the San Diego storefront housed a variety of businesses featuring everything from fast food to jewelry to shoeshines.

The entire first floor and the basement now house CVS Pharmacy (another drug chain!), while the upper stories are occupied by Viridian Lofts.

—Sandee Wilhoit is the Historian/Lead Tour Guide for the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation. She can be reached at [swilhoit@gaslampfoundation.org](mailto:swilhoit@gaslampfoundation.org).



The building was designed to look like the U.S. Grant Hotel.



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# Win prizes for summer reading at the library

By **ELAINE KALIN** AND **MARY ROSE MUELLER**  
FRIENDS OF THE MISSION HILLS-HILLCREST/KNOX LIBRARY

Sign up now for the Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Knox Library annual Summer Reading Program! This year's theme is Find Your Voice, highlighting how our voices have

power and influence, and can help us impact the world. The Summer Reading Program encourages people to keep reading during the summer and helps prevent summer learning loss among students. From June through August, children, teens and adults can all

complete a combination of reading and activities to earn prizes, including free books, restaurant vouchers, and more. All participants are entered into a raffle for a grand prize. Sign up for the Summer Reading Program either at the library or online at [sandiegolibrary.org](http://sandiegolibrary.org).

Carrie Sanabria, Youth Services Librarian for the Mission Hills-Hillcrest branch, told us San Diego Public Library has followed the national iRead Summer Reading Program since the 1980s. She gave us a preview of the upcoming programs for this summer, highlighting the children's program happening every Friday at 10 a.m., which will include animal interactions, a comedy magician,



A child reading a library book.  
(Courtesy photo)

super-hero themed dance party, and more. Check out Upcoming Events on the Library's website or stop by and say hi to Carrie when you visit the branch.

Carrie also filled us in on other great library programs for the community. Preschool story time happens every Wednesday at 10

a.m., a weekly dance party for kids is on Saturdays at 10 a.m., or you might want to check out the Tinker Tuesday program at 5 p.m. or the Lego power hour on Mondays at 3:30 p.m. Carrie is also excited about the new Youth Center located at 514 Pennsylvania Ave. in Hillcrest, where she facilitates a LGBTQ+ teen graphic novel book club on the fourth Monday of the month, at 4:30 p.m.

The Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Knox Library is located at 215 W Washington Street. The library hours are 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays. From Wednesday through Saturday, the library is open from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.



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## JUNE 2023 SUMMER READING PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

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<b>June 2nd</b> Zovargo — An animal interaction experience	<b>June 30th</b> Michael Rayner — Kids comedy juggler
<b>June 9th</b> Zany Zoe — Kids comedy magician	The Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Knox Library hosts a variety of activities and programs for children and adults. Monthly offerings can be found at <a href="http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/locations/mission-hills-library">www.sandiego.gov/public-library/locations/mission-hills-library</a> and the Friends of the Library website at <a href="http://library92103.org">library92103.org</a> .
<b>June 16th</b> Wild Wonders — An exotic animal interaction experience	
<b>June 23rd</b> Dance to Evolve — A dance performance party with a Superheroes theme	

## Uptown // Downtown Briefs



### MISSION HILLS MURAL GETS A REFRESH

The iconic wall of flowers on Goldfinch Street has come alive again, thanks to the efforts of a team of community members. Recognized landscape artist and Mission Hills resident Mark Fehlman conceived the rehab of the mural wall, spanning almost the full block between Sutter Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, as Goldfinch becomes Reynard Way. Following his direction, Girl Scouts from Troop 4875 of Francis Parker School, members of the Mission Hills Garden Club, and others who heard about the event from social media and walking by, pitched in to accomplish the work in just one day on Saturday, May 6. The Mission Hills Garden Club sponsored and organized the beautification as part of their community enhancement efforts.

### SDMA, MOPA TO MERGE

The San Diego Museum of Art and The Museum of Photographic Arts announced that they will merge to become one unified institution. This strategic merger will allow the combination of collections, resources, and expertise for the benefit of the San Diego community and beyond.

The San Diego Museum of Art (SDMA) is one of the city's oldest and most esteemed institutions, founded in 1926 with a collection that spans over 5,000 years of art history. The San Diego Museum of Art has more than 22,000 works of art, having added thousands of photographs to its collection over the last eight years, and has hosted over 20 photographic exhibitions in the last decade, all of which were curated in-house. SDMA also maintains a dedicated area for photography within its Visible Vaults as well as integrates video and photographic works within the Art of the Americas and Modern and Contemporary Art galleries.

With its move into a permanent home in Balboa Park in 1983, the main objective of The Museum of Photographic Art (MOPA) at the time was to assemble an outstanding collection of film, video, and still photography—a repository of its cultural heritage. A plan was put in place to create an active, participatory museum, alive with programs and collections that were an important part of this new institution.

Currently, the MOPA collection holds over 9,000 images by 850 artists and 22,000 books and related materials highlighting photographic processes and art objects relevant to the medium.

With MOPA becoming a part of SDMA, together, these two museums will unite a diverse range of art forms and resources, allowing visitors to experience the world of visual art through multiple lenses.

The San Diego Museum of Art will now house a new department called the Museum of Photographic Arts at the San Diego Museum of Art, focused

solely on photographic arts. MOPA's existing collection will join SDMA's collection, providing visitors with a more comprehensive view of the art form.

The San Diego Museum of Art and The Museum of Photographic Arts will officially merge on July 1, 2023.

### LGBT+ COMEDIAN FORTUNE FEIMSTER TO PERFORM AT BALBOA THEATRE

Comedian, writer and actor Fortune Feimster is bringing her "Live, Laugh, Love Tour" to Balboa Theatre on June 10. Fortune has a unique brand of comedy that delves into love, relationships, sexuality and shared experiences.

### SUNDAY FUNDAY IN HILLCREST

Fabulous Hillcrest is adding a new event to the Hillcrest scene on June 11 from noon to 6 p.m. Come out in Hillcrest for the Sunday afternoon wind-down with music, summer drinks, lawn chairs, and your neighborhood besties all under the Hillcrest Pride Flag. Swing by the Farmers Market and then bop over to Sunday Funday on Herbert St.

Sunday Funday is a relaxed afternoon party right next to the Hillcrest Farmers Market. This all-ages free event will feature entertainment, a DJ, craft cocktails and brews, lawn games, and a loungey vibe. Think of it as a backyard party in the City right next to your favorite Farmers Market.

### SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR ANNOUNCES DISCOUNTS, PROMOTIONS

The San Diego County Fair is offering major discounts and deals on admissions, parking, public transportation, rides, and games this summer.

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# Fashion shows benefit children’s behavioral health, education

**Fashion Files**  
By **DIANA CAVAGNARO**

Multiple fashion shows hosted on May 19 raised funds for important causes, including education and children’s behavioral health. The exemplary day included many runway styles from local boutiques and artists as well as national designers competing for a spot at Fashion Week San Diego.

### HATS OFF TO CHILDREN

Chapeau fashion was celebrated at the 20th annual HATS off to Children fundraiser hosted by the Del Mar Unit of Rady Children’s Hospital Auxiliary. This luncheon



Sisters and TRE-Boutique co-owners Rochelle Johnson and Sheree Bergthold with models wearing Diana Cavagnaro Millinery. (Photo by Diana Cavagnaro)

and fashion show was held at Dolce in Rancho Santa Fe on May 19 to benefit the Eating Disorders/Medical Behavioral Unit at Rady Children’s Hospital San Diego. Before the fashion show began, the unit chair, Susan Darnall, welcomed the group which included event chairs Leticia Smith and Marina Tsvyk. Andrea Naversen, who is editor-at-large at Ranch and Coast Magazine, received a special award. She was the recipient of this year’s Top Hat Award because she co-founded “Hats Off to Children” 20 years ago and has been a member of the Del Mar Unit since 1994. Dr.



Diana Cavagnaro with Andrea Naverson who was the recipient of this year’s “Top Hat Award.” (Photo courtesy Diana Cavagnaro)

Tammy Maginot, Ph.D., who is a Pediatric Psychologist and Director of the Medical Behavioral Unit in Psychology, discussed how important this fundraiser was for the behavioral health work done at Rady Children’s Hospital San Diego. The crowd eagerly awaited the Fashion Show which began after a delicious lunch. The theme was finding the perfect hat for Opening Day at the Races at Del Mar. Co-owners Rochelle Johnson and Sheree Bergthold of TRE Boutique brought fashions from



Jnissi Bogarin (center) with models won first prize at the Fashion 4 Passion & Purpose. (Photo courtesy of Jnissi Bogarin)



(l-r) Model wears Jnissi Bogarin; Model wears design by Agazly, who will have a collection at FWSD; Model wears designer Saki. (Photos courtesy of Howard Max)

## NO “ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL” APPROACH

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

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*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 a lawyer who has worked with Dick for over 9 years. Affordable rates. Highest quality services. House calls available. Our office is conveniently located at 2615 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 101 (in Mission Valley just east of Bully’s restaurant) (Telephone (619) 221-0279); www.richardfmcentyre.com.*

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# Food & Drink Blotter.

BY FRANK SABATINI JR.

### DISTILLING WITH A PURPOSE

Entrepreneur Basem Harb is on a roll with his recently launched spirits business, **Fierce & Kind**.

In January, the South Park resident introduced to the market two products: A smooth bourbon made with sustainably sourced grains; and a 100% corn vodka that is distilled six times and won the gold medal in the **2023 TAG Las Vegas Global Spirits Competition**. The vodka also earned double platinum at the prestigious **Fred Minnick ASCOT Awards**.

And not long ago, Harb unveiled a cask-strength whiskey (112.6 proof) that fetched gold honors at the ASCOT Awards.

Fierce & Kind's momentum has attracted a growing number of major retail accounts, thanks in part to the marketing efforts by his domestic-business partner, Cyndi Smith, and the company's strong commitment to social-justice issues.

The couple donates 25% of profits through its equity foundation to **Palestine Legal** and the City Heights organization, **Nile Sisters Development Initiative**. Their goal is to keep adding beneficiaries that are linked to

other humanitarian causes such as women's and LGBTQ rights.

"We hope to be the Ben & Jerry's of the spirits world," said Harb, a self-educated distiller who began mapping out the groundwork for Fierce & Kind during the George Floyd protests in the summer of 2020. As a Palestinian immigrant, he experienced firsthand verbal and physical abuse directed at him and his family while growing up in the Bay Area.

Fierce & Kind spirits have been picked up by Southern California locations of **Total Wine**, San Diego County locations of **BevMo**, plus many independent retail outlets and restaurants that include **Golden Hill Liquor**, **RoVino Restaurant + Bar** in Little Italy, **Mister A's** in Bankers Hill, the **University Club Atop Symphony Tower**, **The Bottle House** in South Park, and more.

The products can also be purchased from Fierce & Kind's website. For more information, visit [fiercenkind.com](http://fiercenkind.com).

### THE BEST BOWLS ARE MADE OF CHEESE

Those hefty 70-pound wheels of cheese you sometimes see in restaurants that use them for



Meals lightly coated with cheese (Courtesy photo)

tossing hot pasta tableside are now available on a smaller scale at **Venissimo Cheese** in Mission Hills.

Owner and cheese monger Gina Freize tested out eight-pound wheels of Pecorino Toscano for home use, and found them to be the perfect size for mixing one to two servings at a time of pasta or veggies. She now sells them for \$90 apiece.

The cheese wheels can be reused multiple times by scraping the "bowl" clean after each session, and then covering the interior surface with plastic wrap. 754 W. Washington St., 619-491-0708, [venissimo.com](http://venissimo.com).

### COFFEE AND DESSERT IN THE EAST VILLAGE

A modern, Middle Eastern-inspired dessert bar and coffee shop named **Hinar** has opened in downtown's East Village to the tune of fluffy layer cakes, airy croissants, orange blossom lattes and more.

The cafe is earning enthusiastic shout outs on TikTok for its minimalist aesthetics, intricately crafted desserts and tucked-away location. Hinar is still without a website, although it has begun making a presence on Instagram under **Hinar.Cafe** since opening a couple weeks ago. Hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., daily. 454 13th St.

### SCREAMING FOR ICE CREAM

North Park will see a June 5 arrival of **Jeni's Splendid Ice**

**Creams**, where flavors such as banana bread, whiskey-pecan, brown butter almond brittle, and brambleberry crisp rule the day.

Lots of free scoops will be handed out that evening, from 7 to 11 p.m. to celebrate the anticipated opening.

The Ohio-based company, founded 20 years ago by Jeni Britton, currently operates more than 65 scoop shops nationwide. It is known for its ultra-smooth ice creams made with milk from small, independent dairy farms.

The brand is no stranger to San Diego, as it has been available for some time by the pint at **Whole Foods**, **Baron's Market**, **Target** and select **Ralph's** locations. 2871 University Ave., [jenis.com](http://jenis.com).

### ROOFTOP LOLLING IN THE GASLAMP QUARTER

The recently opened **AC Hotel Gaslamp** has made way for a new rooftop bar and lounge on the eighth floor named **Techo Beso**. The fabrics and décor are inspired by some of the beach resorts in Tulum, Mexico.

A main bar, live DJs, and a pool and deck set the stage for such creature comforts as brisket tacos, shrimp ceviche, churro donut bites and Yucatan-style cocktails, which include the mezcal-based Maya Blue with blood orange syrup.

The venue opens starting at 5 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursday, and at noon Fridays through Sundays. 743 Fifth Ave., 619-544-1800, [techobeso.com](http://techobeso.com).



Jeni's ice cream (Courtesy photo)



Downtown's newest rooftop lounge (Techo Beso)



Basem Harb and Cyndi Smith of Fierce & Kind (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

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# Start your summer in East Village

East Village News  
By **ETHAN OLSEN**

Everyone's favorite time of year has arrived! As the sun begins to peek out again behind those overcast skies, come on down to East Village to enjoy all there is to offer. From delighting in specialty craft cocktails on restaurant patios to dancing to live musical performances at chic outdoor hubs, there is no better place to soak up the sweetness of summertime than in East Village. During the month of June, popular backyard hangout venue, Quartyard, will be hosting live

musical performances including the second annual East Village Blues Festival and a full DJ lineup for Afrodiaspora Celebration Day 2.1, in addition to their ever-popular Twisted Trivia every Wednesday night. This year's East Village Blues Festival will feature San Diego Music Award Winners Whitney Shay and The Taryn Donath Trio as well as other special guest performances. Attendees can move and groove to hearty blues while enjoying craft beer, cocktails and food in the craft beer garden and perusing local art in this vibrant outdoor community space. The festival will run from 3 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 10

and those interested can purchase their tickets online ahead of time. Other live entertainment fanatics and trivia aficionados can come down to Quartyard in East Village for their unique take on trivia. Unlike your usual trivia night, Twisted Trivia incorporates several fan-favorite bar games including trivia, family feud and the world-famous chugging competition. It's certainly a breath of fresh air from the cut and dry trivia available at most venues and will be sure to have you laughing, cheering and wishing the night wouldn't end. With the Padres making a name for themselves in the MLB, more and more people are planning to flock to the stadium to catch a game. For those heading over to Petco Park to cheer for the San Diego Padres, swing by some of the many breweries and distilleries for some light sips before and after the game. Half Door Brewing Co., a new San Diego Brewery and Pub that just popped up in East Village, offers freshly made brews with the Emerald Isle at top of mind. Anyone who didn't secure tickets in time, can swing by San Diego favorites Bay City Brewing Co. and The East Village Brewing Company to catch all of the Padres games while sipping some of their craft beer and other libations. Another great option for those who prefer something a little stronger than beer, is You & Yours Distilling Co which serves a wide variety of

hand-crafted cocktail and spirit flights perfect for the summertime. There is nothing quite like sitting outdoors enjoying a meal and drinks in the warmer weather. Looking for something to do in the daytime? Grab a bite to eat and drink at Bub's @ The Ballpark, Bootlegger or Knotty Barrel Gastropub in East Village for classic American small plates and apps. If you're the type of person who views the summertime as a time to dress up and go out to a nice dining establishment, why not dine at Cowboy Star, the first restaurant in East Village to serve up unique neighborhood fine dining with a Western flare. Sip on a delectable fine wine or champagne from their diverse wine menu while treating yourself to a hand cut Wagyu Skirt Steak or a 40 oz. Porterhouse for Two, perfect for date night. For those San Diegans who are always looking to scope out the cool new spot on the block, be sure to check out East Village's newest bakery, Blackmarket Bakery. Founded by Rachel Klemek, Blackmarket Bakery launched with a simple vision to create delight for its customers through both its classic baking techniques and its warm customer-centric



Quartyard will host several music events in June, including Blues Fest. (Photo courtesy East Village Association)

hospitality. Created with the freshest ingredients, the brand has attracted daily visitors who come back day after day for their craveable menu and dining experience. New to its East Village location, customers can already sign up for baking classes spanning the likes of baking cakes, bread-making, candy confectioners, and savory puff pastries. Whether you plan on spending your summer cheering on the Padres, looking for a new cool music venue, or hoping to delight in fresh seasonal fare, East Village is the spot to be! With everything from live music and entertainment to some of the most popular dining establishments in San Diego, grab your sunscreen and head down to San Diego's largest downtown business district and neighborhood. For the latest updates on East Village Association, please visit us at eastvillagesandiego.com and follow us on Instagram @EastVillageSD, TikTok @EastVillageSD and Twitter @EastVillageSD.



**Views Views Views!**

The Grande North at Santa Fe Place has become one of the most desired addresses Downtown San Diego located on the waterfront, this 2 bedroom and den residence on the 36th floor has luxury grade finishes including granite countertops, custom cabinetry and Ivish hardwood flooring. This spacious single story home offers wrap around views of the bay, city lights and dynamic waterfront activity. Full amenities include: pool, sauna, spa, steam room, community room, fitness center. 4 elevators, on-site HOA manager, 24 hr security and visitors suite. Walk to Little Italy, The Embarcadero, Seaport Village and Waterfront Park. Gated parking for two cars.



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## Cox Mobile now available in San Diego

Exclusive to Cox Internet customers, new wireless service offers iPhone, access to more than four million wifi hotspots



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# Family grieves ‘angel’ at murder sentencing for boyfriend

By NEAL PUTNAM

A man who killed his boyfriend in a Downtown motel room after predicting he would do so in a recorded phone call from jail has been sentenced to 40 years to life in state prison.

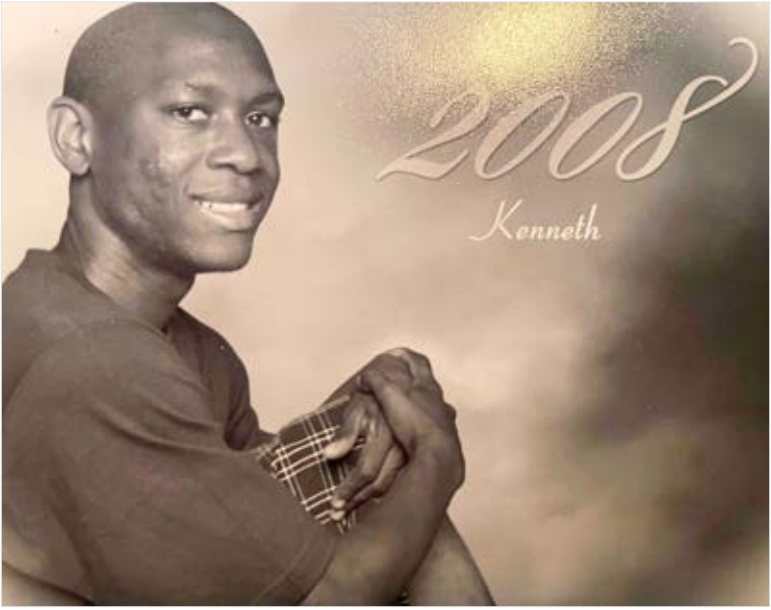
Kenneth Banks, 32, was found dead in a Downtown motel room on June 9, 2021 after he was beaten to death by his boyfriend, Ryan Edward Breeland, 43. Banks was described by his family as a wonderful person who was taken too soon.

"Ken was so naive, so innocent, we worried someone would take advantage of him and that's what Ryan Breeland did," said Kimberli Coons-Banks, a niece, said at the sentencing. "Kenneth was used to being picked on by others. The

man he loved would kill him six months later. Ryan Breeland was a monster." The family was able to address Breeland directly at the sentencing. "You know how loving Kenneth was. You continued to beat the life

out of him!" said Coons-Banks, staring at Breeland. "You're not deserving of love! He gave us a life sentence and he deserves that sentence."

SEE KENNETH BANKS, Page 13



A photo of victim Kenneth Banks in 2008. His family wrote “he was never the person to have one inch of negativity inside of him, just the sweetest, most loving person ever and for this to happen to him hurts more than anything.” (Photo courtesy GoFundMe)

# Bookkeeper sentenced for bilking Shapery

By NEAL PUTNAM

A former bookkeeper for a Downtown business and a Pacific Beach realty company will surrender to federal prison by July 20 to start her 29-month term after pleading guilty to bilking both businesses out of \$839,164.

Susan Ann Sears, 65, remains free on \$20,000 bond because she is working. U.S. District Court Judge Gonzalo Curiel permitted her to continue working up until she surrenders so she can continue to pay both companies back.

Curiel ordered her to pay \$674,673 to American Express—which was illegally used by Sears while working at Shapery Enterprises on Broadway, according to court records.

She was also ordered to pay \$165,000 to Hope Campbell Realty, Inc., on Garnet Avenue, in Pacific Beach, records say. Sears lives in Scripps Ranch and has declared personal bankruptcy.

Sears' attorney, Paul Barr, filed documents that said it all started in June, 2018 "in a frantic attempt to help her (adult) son" who was facing imminent eviction after struggling with substance abuse, anxiety, and depression.

Barr wrote she opened an American Express credit card account to pay her son's property management company \$4,620 so he wouldn't be homeless. She continued to help him and another adult child, according to documents.

"At that moment, Mrs. Sears didn't know how she was going

to pay off that bill," wrote her attorney. "Unfortunately for everyone involved in this case, the way that Mrs. Sears eventually paid that first charge to the American Express was to abuse her position with her employer."

"Mrs. Sears continued to use the card. Sometimes for her own daily expenses and sometimes in her continuing misguided efforts to help her adult children," wrote Barr. "She regrets it every day."

Barr asked for no more than a one-year term in prison while the prosecutor sought a 28-month sentence.

"Sears took advantage of her employers trust and treated their bank accounts as her personal piggy bank, stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars," said U.S. Attorney Randy Grossman in a statement.

"This defendant inflicted substantial damage to two San Diego businesses and has been held to account for her conduct," said Grossman, thanking the FBI and the prosecutors for their work.

"Embezzlement will always come to light—the short term benefits are never worth the repercussions," said Special Agent in Charge Stacey Moy of the FBI's San Diego Field Office.

Court records show Sears wrote checks to "S. Sharpery" which is one letter off from the CEO's last name and founder of Shapery. American Express reimbursed Shapery Enterprises \$674,673, so Sears is ordered to reimburse American Express directly its loss.

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# Crossroads Foundation shares what makes their recovery center unique

By MADISON BEVERIDGE

On a sunny and bright Sunday afternoon in Hillcrest, the doors of 3594 Fourth Ave. are wide open. Groups of women flow in and out, greeting one another with smiles and heartfelt ‘hellos’ as they step over the threshold into the two-story building.

The residence is home to The Crossroads Foundation, a local nonprofit dedicated to helping women overcome substance use disorder for more than 70 years.

Through the front door, several couches sit positioned in a U shape. Family members and friends of those seeking treatment at the foundation mingle in the living room and dining area, eating food and conversing.

The day marks the foundation’s open house, a time for residence and staff to share the organization’s goals and mission with the community.

Now more than ever, The Crossroads Foundation feels spreading awareness about addiction is critical, writing in a press release “According to recent statistics, San Diego County has seen a surge in SUD issues among women. In 2021, San Diego County saw an increase in overdose deaths, with 452 fatalities in the first quarter of the year alone. Of these, 103 were women, a 40% increase from the same period last year.”

Crossroads Foundation opened in 1957, and since its debut in the San Diego, it has created a net-

work of people determined to fight addiction, with graduates of the program often returning to work or volunteer.

Executive Director Roxy Walnum is a leading force for this network, with years of experience in the San Diego community working with individuals battling addiction.

“It is the oldest women’s residential in San Diego County, founded by a group of professional women and



Executive Director notes that substance use disorder can affect people of all backgrounds – which means the center must be equipped to help women with a variety of life experiences. (Photos by Madison Beveridge)



The recovery center is near Scripps Mercy Hospital and UCSD Hillcrest in case residents experience some of the extreme physical symptoms of withdrawal, such as seizures.



The open house allowed the community to gather and see inside the workings of the Crossroads Foundation.

attorneys, who needed treatment and could not find it,” Walnum explained. “With all the trends changing from primarily alcohol addiction to drugs and alcohol addiction, we have shifted too.”

Daily, residents follow a strict routine. In the kitchen in a back corner of the home, a large calendar hangs on the wall with prompts for all hours of the day. Breakfast, walks through the neighborhood and therapy are amongst some of the daily goals.

Following a routine is vital in reaching a successful recovery, Walnum explained. The women are expected to rise at an early hour, make their beds and engage with others. Isolation in the height of addiction is easy, Walnum expressed, and avoiding time spent sequestered by one’s self is critical.

“Addiction wants you to isolate,” Walnum said.

But with so much time spent as a group, Walnum was quick to explain that issues do arise, specifically in an environment that is solely female.

“Women bring a different dynamic into a group setting, it can be very healing if they get over the initial competition,” she explained.

The fact that many women seeking treatment will experience withdrawals which includes symptoms like tension and irritability adds to this.

Beyond the kitchen, several larger rooms sit in the upstairs area of the home. Light flows through the windows and bunk beds line the walls, all neatly made. Cork boards are hung on throughout each room, and the residents have adorned them with pictures, drawings and notes.

Images of children, family members, graduations and

weddings line the boards. The range of images and diversity among the women is a testament to addiction’s inability to be picky, Walnum said.

“The disease of addiction is not getting any easier, with the mental health problems becoming more complex,” Walnum said, sharing that women from all and any walks of life seek treatment at Crossroads Foundation.

The rehab is conveniently located near Scripps Mercy Hospital and UCSD’s Hillcrest medical center. Walnum explained staff are trained to handle the psychological aspects of addiction, but they do not have a medical staff who can handle the physical issues that come along with detoxing, such as seizures – making their location near other trained medical professionals important.

Currently, the foundation offers support for women in active recovery. This means women are allowed a bed and access to resources while achieving sobriety.

A hope of Walnum’s is that eventually the foundation will offer sober living, so individuals who graduate the program can live in a safe environment.

“I want to increase our treatment beds and create sober living,” shared Walnum. “Building common ground with people in recovery is vital in being successful in full recovery.”


With help from the community, staff and program graduates, Walnum is confident this goal will come to fruition.

More information on meetings, support, how to seek treatment and how to support the foundation can be found at <https://crossroads4recovery.org/>

“We do not discriminate here, just like the disease of addiction does not discriminate,” Walnum said.



As the oldest women’s rehab in San Diego, volunteers from the past decades show current residents there is a path to a better future.



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# Rock n Roll runner raises funds for kids with her tumor condition

By DREW SITTON

Between classes and extracurriculars at San Jose State, Carly McKay is preparing for the Rock n Roll Half Marathon on June 4 with a handful of classmates she recruited to join the race. This is the second year she is running on the NF Endurance Team in her hometown of San Diego— joining a family tradition since she was four years old.

NF (Neurofibromatosis) is a group of genetic conditions that

cause tumors to grow on nerves throughout the body. McKay was diagnosed at age three when tumors began growing on her optic nerves. She received chemotherapy at Rady Children’s Hospital for a few years until the tumors shrank and is still monitored to this day to ensure the tumors do not return.

Her mom, stepdad and brother ran for many years on the NF Endurance Team to raise funds for research to eliminate the condition – something that has resulted in advances in treatment since McKay went through chemotherapy.

“There’s been a lot more research and development since I was first diagnosed,” McKay said.

The NF Endurance team is a national effort that allows supporters to join endurance events and raise funds for the Children’s Tumor Foundation. The foundation played a significant role in McKay’s life growing up. It connected her to other people with the same condition which helped her find people facing similar issues and normalized her experience.

“Without them, I probably would have never met anyone



Carly McKay kisses a medal after completing the Rock n Roll half marathon in 2022. (Photos courtesy CTF)



McKay is running to raise awareness of NF, a condition in which tumors grow on nerves.



As a child, McKay went through chemotherapy weekly until tumors on her optic nerve shrank.

else with NF since it was so rare,” she said.

With the run, she is giving back to the community that shaped her. By raising awareness, she hopes other families who receive such a diagnosis will be less scared.

The run also comes at a significant time in her own life. McKay is

graduating with her teaching credential December. As a student, she struggled with a learning disability as the result of NF and now wants to help other children with disabilities.

“It’s part of who I am, but doesn’t define what I’m capable of,” McKay said of NF.

Through the Children’s Tumor Foundation, she connected with other NF patients and has been inspired by their stories. After overcoming her own struggles in school and giving back to the community through her fundraising runs, McKay has an inspiring story of her own.



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Director Yale Strom, a folk musician himself, speaks with Curtiss inside Folk Arts. (Photos courtesy Yale Strom)



Lou Curtiss sits in front of Folk Arts with singer Utah Phillips.

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## Lou Curtiss

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

time he met Curtiss. “I was kind of attracted to the fact that it felt like a random American roadside spot—and it was in the middle of San Diego.”

Strom explained that Curtiss would make mix tapes for young musicians introducing them to other artists. He helped national legends like Tom Waits and local musical icons like Sue Palmer hone their sound and influences.

The documentary includes archival footage from the music festivals Curtiss organized, his weekly radio show for 20 years on KSDS and recent interviews with the musicians he influenced. Strom asked each of the subjects to bring a musical instrument with them for the interview and their playing is woven into the documentary.

“That was what brought them to Lou— was their ability to play music. And seek out Lou for more knowledge about their particular genre. So I think the soundtrack is, I hope people agree, but I think it's damn good,” Strom said.

For Strom, this documentary was very personal. He knew Curtiss longer than he has known his wife Schwartz. His father let him skip high school classes to attend Curtiss’ folk festival, which was the second largest roots festival west of the Mississippi. Strom felt he made it as a musician when



Lou and his wife Virginia Curtiss play together.

he stumbled across his Jewish folk music being sold at Folk Arts.

“My father used to say... it's worth missing classes because it's a class in itself, hearing and meeting these great, wonderful nationally and internationally known artists,” he said.

One limitation the director faced was crunching decades of a man's life into a feature film. Schwartz said they could do a 10-part series on Curtiss without wanting for content.

“He had stories upon stories upon stories,” Boyle said of his predecessor.

Married couple Strom and Schwartz have worked together on several documentaries, including on the Jewish autonomous region in the Soviet Union and socialist American politician Eugene V. Debs. This is the first time the Mission Hills-based artists have turned their camera on a subject close to home.

“Our interests are always far flung. This is the closest to home I think we've ever been with a film project. But also, this one really was a complete labor of love,” Schwartz said. They hosted benefit concerts to fund the film. “Nobody took any money to work on this.”

Curtiss is being honored another way. In 2025, Smithsonian Folkways is releasing a Lou Curtiss CD boxset of recordings from his music festivals.

In addition to his folk record store remaining open today, he founded Adams Unplugged, the Normal Heights music festival which is still held annually.

“The story is such a great San Diego story. There was a treasure here in San Diego, and he just didn't toot his own horn,” Schwartz said. “So we just wanted to let people know about this amazing person who was part of the fabric of San Diego.”



Virginia and Lou Curtiss sit outside Folk Arts’ first location on India Street, which is now home to a gelatto shop.



A flyer for the 1974 San Diego Folk Festival held for decades at SDSU.

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# City rolls out new Organic Waste Recycling Program

By DAVE SCHWAB

California State Senate Bill 1383 requires the reduction of organic waste – food scraps and food-soiled paper, garden and landscape waste, organic textiles, carpets, and wood waste – disposed of in landfills. To comply with the bill making San Diego more sustainable for everyone, a new Organic Waste Recycling Program is being introduced for all city residents.

Representing the biggest change to trash and recycling in San Diego's history, the new organic waste recycling program supports the City's Zero Waste and Climate Action Plan goals.

Organic waste accounts for a significant portion of California's waste stream and releases heat-trapping methane gas which contributes to climate change. Organic waste in landfills also emits air pollutants such as fine

particulate matter, which contributes to health conditions like asthma.

To address these issues, SB 1383 was signed into law and targets the reduction of pollutants, including methane. Cities throughout California must meet the new reduction limits through organic waste reduction and recycling.

The City's web page, OrganicWasteRecycleSD, includes multi-language resources to help you get started, such as workshops, a list of what goes where and tips to keep your green bin clean.

Following is a Q&A between reporter Dave Schwab and Renee Robertson, director of the City's Environmental Services Department, discussing what the new Organic Waste Recycling Program is all about:

**Schwab:** When did this Organic Waste Recycling Program begin?

**Robertson:** The City started

rolling out new green bins to City-serviced residential and business customers in January of this year. City-serviced residents in the following beach areas are next to receive expanded organics service:

- June – La Jolla, Ocean Beach, Pacific Beach, University City, and Point Loma;
- July – Del Mar, Carmel Valley, Scripps Ranch, Mira Mesa, and Sorrento Valley;
- August – Rancho Peñasquitos, Rancho Bernardo, and Mission Beach.

A multi-language Curbside Organic Waste Recycling Guide is being sent to those homes, with information including what goes in the green bin and how to keep it clean. Organic waste recycling is a big shift in our habits, so we recommend starting with some easy wins, such as eggshells, coffee grounds, and fruit and vegetable peels. Then work your way up to some of the "ickier" items,



A city of San Diego resident cuts lettuce next to the kitchen bin for organic waste and composting. (Courtesy photos)

like meat and dairy products and leftover meal scraps.

**Schwab:** What is the purpose of organic waste recycling?

**Robertson:** Left to decompose in landfills, organic waste releases methane, a gas that traps the sun's heat and warms the atmosphere. Decomposing organics emit 20% of the state's methane, a climate super pollutant 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Organic waste recycling keeps food and yard waste out of landfill, which helps reduce the amount of methane released into the atmosphere.

Reducing what we throw in the trash also helps San Diego get closer to the City's Climate Action Plan and Zero Waste Plan goals of zero waste by the year 2040. Zero waste means diverting as much

material and resources from the landfill through reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting.

**Schwab:** What advantages does organic waste recycling present?

**Robertson:** The most significant advantage is the immediate and positive impact it has on the environment. In fact, it is the single fastest, easiest, and most convenient thing a person can do to fight climate change. Another advantage is the local conversion of food and yard waste into compost, closing the loop and making it available again. The City's award-winning Miramar Greenery turns organic materials into a nutrient-rich soil additive for local farmers and gardeners to grow food and plants. As a result

SEE ORGANIC WASTE, Page 16

## ROLLOUT OF CITY'S WEEKLY ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICES:

- Kitchen pails are being delivered to all City-serviced residences.
- Green bins are being delivered to City-serviced residences not previously provided with them.
- When the green bin and kitchen pail arrive, each household can make a big environmental difference by collecting organic waste, discarding the contents into the green bin,

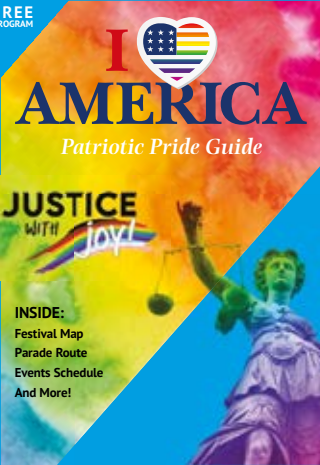
- and setting the green bin out for collection weekly at your normal trash collection location.
- Deliveries are scheduled based on your current trash collection day. Green bins will be placed on the street, next to the curb, in front of your residence.
- The distribution of new green bins for organic waste recycling will be

rolled out by route. If you received a new green bin, you will have the option to exchange the container for a smaller or larger container size or to request an additional bin (requests will be reviewed for eligibility). Available green bin options are 35-gallon, 65-gallon, and 95-gallon sizes. All bin requests can be made on the Get It Done app at [sandiego.gov/get-it-done](https://sandiego.gov/get-it-done) or by calling 858-694-7000.



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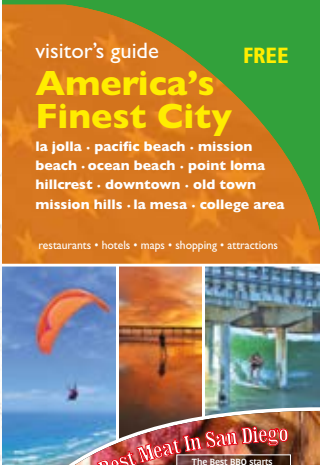
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### COMMUNITY MAP



The 2023-24 Uptown Community Map will feature a calendar of events, local attractions and a list of important phone numbers. Don't be left out - this popular piece will be handed out at all high traffic locations.

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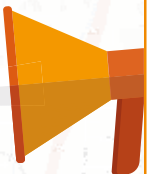
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# Diversiónary

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

while simultaneously improving the quality of productions.

“As a longtime subscriber to Diversiónary, it was very apparent when Matt came on board because we saw really an elevation of quality and then his selection of the shows was so inspiring,” said Diversiónary board president Russ Sperling.

With its mortgage paid off and new education programs established, Morrow’s departure to Bay Area theater Center Repertory Company comes as Diversiónary Theatre is both healthy and stable. His work to cement Diversiónary’s legacy as the nation’s third-oldest LGBTQ+ theater means the theater will likely continue to thrive even after his tenure at the helm ends.

“We have grown into a strong and very beloved theater,” said new Executive Director Jenny Case, Morrow’s longtime collaborator.

## RESTRUCTURING LEADERSHIP

Morrow hired Case from La Jolla Playhouse two years into his tenure, bringing the full-time staff up to five people.

“We always like to think that we operate as partners, sort of similar to the two-leadership model of artistic and administrative. We just have the benefit of him being a wonderful fundraiser on top of being an artistic leader,” Case said.

In acknowledgement of the difficulty filling Morrow’s role and the theater’s growth, the board

is splitting the role of Executive Artistic Director into Executive Director, in charge of the day-to-day running of the company, and an Artistic Director to bring forth the theater’s artistic vision. The pair will co-lead and report to the board. The two roles partnering is modeled in many other theaters, including La Jolla Playhouse and Cygnet Theatre.

“We want a fabulous theater artist with a strong vision for LGBTQIA theater that will continue to lead us in the trajectory that Matt Morrow has taken us,” said board president Sperling.

Managing Director Jenny Case has been promoted to Executive Director while the board has tapped a search committee to find a new Artistic Director, ideally by 2024. In the mean time, an interim artistic director is being considered who would report to Case.

“There has been a sense that we wanted to to really elevate [Case] anyway because of the outstanding work that she has done. This was a moment to put her in in one of the driver’s seats,” said Sperling. “Jenny is going to be so critical, not only for the future, but so critical in this transition and we really have strong belief in her ability.”

## UPCOMING SEASON

Morrow already chose the plays for the theater’s fall and spring season so the search process will not be rushed. The interim artistic director will be in charge of bringing the play selections to the stage.

“People can feel assured that we’re going to have just as strong



Jenny Case promoted to Executive Director under new co-leadership model.

an artistic vision moving forward,” Case said. “We have a wonderful, very engaged board and they are champions of this theater... Together with them and the search committee, we’re going to find a wonderful artistic leader.”

In the final season Morrow curated, the theme is “Liberation” with plays about the struggles for personal freedom, happy endings and revolution. As has been her past emphasis, the productions will bring a racially and gender diverse cast to the stage.

“Next season at Diversiónary is all about breaking free from what holds us back to find a brighter, more loving and inclusive future. I’m especially excited to welcome some new artists into the Diversiónary family and expand our growing, powerful network of queer artists working across the country today, while bringing back local favorites to continue to build on our pioneering legacy,” said Morrow in a statement.

Iconic gay playwright Tennessee William’s classic “Glass Menagerie”



Diversiónary Theatre is located in University Heights at 4545 Park Blvd.

is being revived by director Lisa Berger with award-winning local actor Shana Wride playing Amanda Wingfield for the November and December mainstage run. The two other mainstage productions are a San Diego premiere of “Dragon Mama” directed by Andrew Russell in September/October 2023 and the world premiere of musical “TL;DR: Thelma Louise; Dyke Remix” directed by Sherri Eden Barber in May/June 2024.

In addition, May and June of 2024 will bring the west coast premiere of Puerto Rican drag comedy “Notes on Killing Seven Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Board Members” – a co-production with Moxie Theatre.

## STAFF CHANGES

Morrow is married to Diversiónary’s Director of Education, Skyler Sullivan, so there

is a double loss for the institution as the couple moves north. Case is excited with incoming staff though, saying their skills and background will benefit the theater’s education and community outreach programs. Some of those titles are being retooled to reflect their skills, such as the new Director of Development adding an education emphasis as well as being named the Resident Dramaturge, although the names of the new staff members, which also includes an Artistic Producer and Director of Arts Education and Outreach, are yet to be released publicly.

“We have this moment to engage the breadth of their education and their knowledge and their expertise [to create] a theater that is... intersecting with the community and supportive of the community in a way that we strive to all of the time, but now we’ll have a lot of muscle behind that connection,” Case said.

The remodeled theater includes Clark Cabaret, which lets the community come to the facility five nights a week for a show instead of just during the handful of mainstage productions per year. Education programs bring in youth and seniors to the theater as well as sending staff to classrooms across the region for special arts education.

“We have the strongest staff coming on board that we’ve ever had. Together we will accomplish those visions and then we will look for the next leader,” Case said.



The renovation brought Clark Cabaret to the theater space, which added more community engagement to the facility.



The empty Diversiónary Theater stage. (Photos courtesy Diversiónary Theatre)



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# District 39

CONTINUED FROM Page 6

community feel less isolated, was approved by the Senate by a 31-8 vote

**SB 450** would make SB 9, the California Housing Opportunity and More Efficiency (HOME) Act, more accessible for homeowners who wish to use it, was approved by the Senate by a 30-7 vote

**SB 519**, which would promote safety in county detention facilities and ensure more transparent oversight of the Sheriff's Departments that oversees them, was approved by the Senate by a 32-0 vote.

## 2023-24 STATE BUDGET

This month of deadlines also includes California's Constitutional requirement to complete the annual state budget by the June 15. Last month, Gov. Newsom released his revised budget proposal, and while it signals that times are tough, California remains strong. My colleagues and I appreciate the Governor's revised proposal reflecting many of the Senate's "Protect Our Progress" key values, which include avoiding ongoing cuts to core programs, preserving our primary Rainy Day Fund, and expanding responsible borrowing – including a new Climate Bond – to avoid cuts to climate and infrastructure projects.

We will be updating our 'Protect Our Progress' budget

plan to take into account the latest economic data, and remain committed to preserving transit, broadband, and other infrastructure investments, and addressing our long-term child care and homelessness needs. We look forward to working with Governor Newsom and the Assembly to reach a final budget in the weeks ahead, and are confident that we will be able to deliver an on-time, responsible, equitable budget.

## JUNETEENTH

On June 19, a few days after the budget deadline, Californians will once again celebrate Juneteenth, commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. While some attempt to minimize the stain of slavery on our nation's history and conscience, Juneteenth is an excellent way to learn from the past as we continue to build a more equitable future. The observance of Juneteenth has grown in recent years, and I'm hoping that trend continues.

## PRIDE MONTH

Even though San Diego's LGBTQ+ Pride events are traditionally held in July, June is nationally recognized as LGBTQ+ Pride Month, commemorating the uprising at the Stonewall Inn in New York City in June 1969, which sparked the movement for LGBTQ+ equality.

Pride Month is both a time to celebrate the freedom to live our lives openly and authentically,

as well as a call to action to secure and preserve equal protection under the law. While there has been remarkable progress toward equality and acceptance, the LGBTQ+ community remains under attack, with increasing violence, especially against transgender women of color, and other states introducing hundreds of hateful anti-LGBTQ+ bills.

Each year, the California LGBTQ Legislative Caucus honors individuals who have worked to advance LGBTQ+ equality. This year, I nominated Janessa Goldbeck, a decorated LGBTQ+ Marine Corps veteran who, in addition to deploying overseas, fought a policy that banned women from top jobs in the military and stood up for victims of sexual assault as a Uniformed Victim Advocate. She is the CEO of Vet Voice Foundation, a national nonprofit organization with more than 1.5 million members that gives veterans and military families a bigger say on issues like lowering costs for families, fighting the climate crisis, and tackling homelessness.

Janessa is an invested leader in the community and serves on numerous boards and task forces. She and her wife live in Talmadge with their dogs and a small flock of hens.

## NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR: GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

I'm happy to announce that I have selected Goodwill Industries

of San Diego County as our 2023 Nonprofit of the Year for the 39th Senate District. The organization will be honored on June 7 at a special event in Sacramento to honor nonprofits selected by the California Legislature.

Since 1930, they have provided employment and training opportunities to people with disabilities and other barriers to employment, helping many members of our community who require additional training and services to aid them in their goal of self-sufficiency.

Specifically, Goodwill San Diego provides resources for people whose job options are limited due to lack of work experience, criminal past, lack of shelter, prior history of drug or alcohol abuse, mental illness and residents or community members with developmental, intellectual, emotional, and physical disabilities.

In 2022, Goodwill San Diego, which operates 28 retail stores throughout the county, employed nearly 1,600 individuals, over half of whom were people with disabilities or other barriers to employment, and assisted 5,330 San Diego County community members. Through the collection of donated items, Goodwill San Diego diverted over 65 million pounds of materials from landfills, and almost 6 million pounds of electronics were recycled.

For more information on Goodwill Industries of San Diego County visit their website at [sd-goodwill.org](http://sd-goodwill.org)

# Organic waste

CONTINUED FROM Page 14

of so much organic material being processed into compost, our soils are improved and erosion is reduced.

Bonus: City residents may self-load up to two cubic yards of compost or mulch for free with proof of residency.

**Schwab:** How will trash collection be handled differently under this program than it was previously?

**Robertson:** Green bins will be collected weekly, on the same day as black trash bin collection (and from the same location). Collection from blue recycling bins will continue as normal, which is every other week.

Tips to keep green bin clean:

- Always keep the lid closed.
- If possible, keep your bin in a shaded area.
- If possible, delay adding food scraps to the outdoor bin until collection day.
- Freeze or refrigerate items until pickup day.
- Wrap leftover food in a newspaper, paper bag, or other food-soiled paper products.
- Sprinkle a layer of baking soda on top of organic waste if you notice odors.
- Line the bottom of your outdoor bin with newspaper, a paper bag, or yard waste to absorb excess moisture and prevent food from sticking to the bottom.

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