



### Can We Rely on Government Officials to Be Taxpayer Advocates?

By Patty Ducey-Brooks



For any of us who subscribe to Nextdoor, which was initially a good site to seek information on neighborhood services and make connections, it's become hot with negative comments about City Hall, primarily with our elected officials who have elected to ignore the concerns of San Diegans.

One of the recent comments was about the Union Tribune's front-page article on the "funding gap" of \$5.17 billion for infrastructure repairs. Some of the comments referred to the "crater-like" holes in the street

that are also causing vehicular damages.

I personally have experienced the Morena Boulevard crevices that cause serious alignment and tire damage. What's ironic is that the major holes are located close to the City of San Diego's Street Division which houses the vehicles and equipment to facilitate these repairs.

"You mean you can't see the crater-like holes?"

Another recent attack on City Hall is about the 20 "stored trailers" that have been collecting dust instead of providing housing for the homeless. Instead of accepting responsibility for mishandling the situation, our mayor elects to blame previous elected officials for this problem. Pointing fingers instead of acting responsibly has become the norm, that's according to homeless advocates who are frustrated with City Hall's inability to act in a timely manner.

And it isn't bad enough that we're all feeling the impacts of inflation, including utility (gas, electricity, water) costs that have risen 100 percent over the past couple of months. Now SANDAG is pushing for a tax on Californians (residents and commercial) who drive (electric and gasoline), as well as mileage tracking devices that would calculate that distance.

"Is this Big Brother at work?"

If it's not obvious, many of us drive due to a need, and we can't rely on public transportation. Additionally, with the increase in crime, who feels safe taking public transportation?

Fortunately, joined by California families, homeless advocates, and small business owners who have been severely impacted by Sacramento's

misguided policies, Senate Minority Leader Brian W. Jones, (R-San Diego) and members of the California Senate Republican Caucus announced their legislative priorities which aim to cut costs, tackle crime, act on homelessness, invest in students first, build much-needed water storage, and reduce wildfires.

"Life hasn't been easy for the average Californian under oneparty rule," Leader Jones said. "Our caucus is prepared to fix the problems plaguing families up and down this state. Gavin Newsom's 'California way or the highway' has people literally fleeing because of the high cost of living, worsening homelessness crisis, and failing schools. California Senate Republicans have a plan that addresses these major issues along with others and we look forward to working with our legislative colleagues to get the job done. Government should work for you, not the other way around."

According to his colleagues who are focused on shaping a more affordable California, they will focus on local government efforts to build more economical housing, suspend the gas tax, pursue funding to protect the state from drought and floods by building more water storage, advocate to lower gas and utility prices, provide quality education for students, and create safer communities for children and families.

As many of us agree, we know we are spending billions on problems that keep getting worse. We need to concentrate on results, not just actions.

California is experiencing a crime rate that is 13 percent higher than the national average. One of the leading causes of death among the younger generation is fentanyl poisoning.

Leader Jones and his colleagues says it is time to act now to make public safety and tackling crime a priority. They plan to introduce common-sense policies that will be a key factor in holding criminals accountable, keeping drugs off the streets, and making our communities safe once again.

Many of you continue to be advocates for change, to improve the status quo. I think it's time to encourage this group led by Senator Jones to be our advocates for a major government overhaul.

# What a Year!

### **Updates from Your Mission Hills Garden Club**

By Ann Dahlkamp

It feels like we are all emerging from the worst of the Covid-19 fog, are seeing friends a bit more freely, and settling into a new normal. Our gardens have all appreciated the increased time and love, and the recent rains have greened up the neighborhood.

Ken Ralph and I began our term as co-presidents in July, taking over from past president Rebecca Long. We both live close to Presidio Park, in Old Town. (You don't have to live in Mission Hills to belong to the club!)

2022 was a busy year for the Mission Hills Garden Club, and 2023 is shaping up to be even better. If you are not yet a member, we can fix that. You can join at our website, missionhillsgardenclub.org.

Early in the year, our monthly meetings covered fruit trees, a Kokedama planning workshop, planting with succulents, and our friends the bees. Our 24th Annual Garden Walk on May 7 reaped \$20,000 in net income, allowing us to invest heavily in the community this past year. Just before the Garden Walk, we installed a new sign for Gecko Garden at Grant Elementary, after their former sign was destroyed. We also had social gatherings at members' homes in both May and June, bringing together lots of members and their guests. We returned in the fall with a Halloween Pumpkin Planting Party at Mission Hills Nursery, which was enjoyed by a number of children as well as adults. Our annual pre-Thanksgiving potluck and presentation on winter gardening by Chuck McClung was a chance to see long-time friends and make new ones while learning new tips.

A long-time goal was to enhance the walkway down Juan Street in front of the golf course to replace the yellow caution tape that served as



Ibis Street resident Bob Clark and his dad Peter Clark enjoy a respite between playing tennis. New benches were installed at the Pioneer Park tennis courts

a barrier. The fencing is a wonderful way to mark property lines keeping people and bicyclist from wandering on to the golf course. The rustic appeal creates not only an unmistakable barrier but also provides open sight lines. You can see the improvement from the photos. The new fence, an investment from Garden Walk proceeds, ties to an existing fence along Mason Street that had been installed as an Eagle Scout project.







Funds from the Garden Walk were used to enhance the walkway down Juan Street in front of the golf course.

Another community need we were able to fill was replacing the splintering benches at the Pioneer Park tennis courts. Working with Parks & Recreation staff, we are now able to offer tennis players a safer and more comfortable experience. Check them out!

We're currently working on the calendar for 2023. On February 25 we are partnering with several other local garden clubs for a Spring Seed Swap at Trolley Park. See our website for details. We started the year off with a Coffee in the Garden hosted by Scott Sandel and Jim Marich. Scott and David Kennedy gave a presentation on Bromeliads and their care. A great plant for our climate.

We are collaborating with artist and local resident Mark Fehlman and the Girl Scout troops from Francis Parker School to revitalize the Goldfinch Street mural on February 18 and 19. Originally painted about 12 years ago, the wall is a local landmark. We know it will be stunning again under Fehlman's tutelage! If you would like to volunteer to help paint, email community@missionhillsgardenclub.org, or come by either Saturday or Sunday, February 18 and 19, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

During 2023 we will also be creating a pollinator garden at the pocket park on Falcon Street, north of Ft. Stockton. This jewel is a wonderful spot to enjoy the birds and view of the canyon. By encouraging and feeding butterflies we are hoping to improve the cultivation of all our plant species in the community.

This year marks our 25th Annual Garden Walk, chaired by long-time Garden Club board member Martha Pehl. She tells us it wil be a "Walk to Remember," so mark your calendar for Saturday, May 13 – Mother's Day weekend, as always. Tickets will go on sale Wednesday, March 15, and will be sold by time slot again on our website.

We hope you will join us for the Garden Walk, one or more of our monthly programs, and as a member. Our website, MissionHillsGardenClub.org has all the details. Hope to see you soon!



Garden Walk funds were used to install a new sign for Gecko Garden at Grant Elementary.

# "The Animation Academy – from Pencils to Pixels"

San Diego Comic Convention's Comic-Con Museum, showcasing comics and popular arts, has announced its 2023 exhibits opening Saturday, February 4, featuring "The Animation Academy – from Pencils to Pixels" and "Cover Story: Five Decades of Comic-Con," as well as updates to the Comic-Con Masquerade display and featuring the PAC-MAN Arcade.

"Our second year at the Comic-Con Museum will bring more interactive features, historic art, guest artists and entertainment opportunities for all ages," said Comic-Con Museum Executive Director Rita Vandergaw. "We look forward to welcoming new and returning visitors from San Diego and beyond in February and throughout the year."

The Museum's new headline exhibit invites visitors to transport themselves behind the scenes of some of their favorite cartoons and animated characters. Animation Academy has over 20 interactive stations, which allow visitors to experiment and create their own stop-motion animated short, learn about the art of storyboarding, snap photos in the sets of their favorite animated TV shows and movies, and see the world's largest traveling 3D zoetrope, also referred to as a wheel of life.

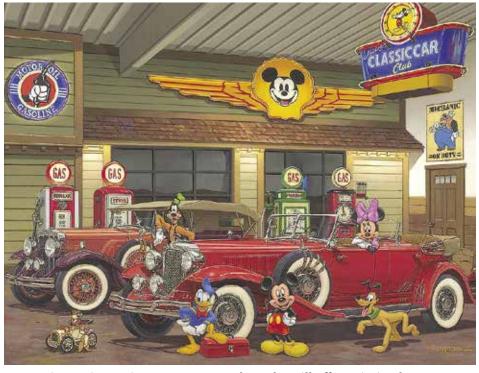
From traditional hand-drawn cels to cutting-edge breakthroughs in stop-motion and CGI, visitors can see how characters came to life. The Museum will also feature regular drawing classes with professional artists and animators, included with admission.

"The Animation Academy – from Pencils to Pixels" will debut on Saturday, February 4 with special guests Bill Farmer (the official voice of Disney's Goofy, Pluto and more) and Disney Fine Artist Manny Hernandez, who will offer painting lessons throughout the day. Advance tickets are on sale now at comic-con.org/museum.

Over the past five decades, Comic-Con has produced a series of souvenir



One of the settings at the museum shows the work environment of the artists who contribute to the comic industry.



Disney Fine Artist Manny Hernandez, who will offer painting lessons throughout the day, is responsible for lots of impressive works of art.

program books for each year's convention. The covers of these books are a veritable who's who of comic art. From Jack Kirby, Will Eisner, Milton Caniff, and Neal Adams to Frank Miller, Bill Sienkiwicz, Jim Lee, and Alex Ross – with talent as diverse as Dave McKean, Moebius, Steranko, Babs Tarr, Michael Cho, and many more in between – Comic-Con's five-decade history of celebrating comics is front and center on these covers.

Drawing from Comic-Con's archives, the exhibition, opening February 4, features art as an integral tool in promoting the organization's mission of creating awareness of, and appreciation for, comics and related popular artforms. There will also be a special exhibit on noted comic artist Rick Geary his creation of the famous Comic-Con Toucan.

Exhibit and program enhancements include: "Comic-Con Masquerade," eaturing new and former winners and entrants' costumes from the Comic-Con Masquerade; and Makerspace Workshops, offering handson crafts for visitors of all ages, including new animation art drawing classes. Workshops are free with museum admission and guests can drop in from 10-12 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The Cardboard Superheroes Workshops will also fly back into San Diego with new designs and activities on February 4. Participation is free with admission, as space allows.

The Comic-Con Museum reopens on Feb. 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, with the last entry at 4 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance at bit.ly/ComicConMuseumTickets.

### Just In Time Shares Another Success Story on Mentorship

For 20 years, Just in Time has been pairing youth with caring adults from the community to act as coaches and mentors. This investment of time and attention has helped many youths avoid the negative outcomes projected for them and flourish. More than most young people, current and former foster youth have the potential to benefit from meaningful relationships with mentors and role models.

The shock of the Columbine shootings in 1999 inspired Don Wells to take his first steps toward becoming a youth mentor. Working at a local San Diego news station at the time, Don Wells used his position overseeing Community Affairs to recruit male mentors for young men who might otherwise take the same destructive path as the Columbine shooters. Through this campaign, Wells became a mentor to nine-year-old Victor and his eight-year-old sister Belen. The siblings had already been in and out of foster care for many years. One day when Belen was 11-years old she turned from the movie she was watching and asked Don Wells, "Why are you still here?" The three-year connection with Wells was the longest continuous relationship to a caring adult she had ever had.

More than 20 years later, Don and Belen are still in each other's lives. In fact, in 2022, Wells officially adopted Belen. And he is no longer working at a local news station. In 2003, he began volunteering at the (then) newly formed non-profit Just in Time for Foster Youth - an organization dedicated to empowering former foster youth by connecting them to both resources and meaningful relationships with adult mentors. Today, Belen is thriving, and Don Wells is Just in Time's chief empowerment officer (CEO).

#### Sources and Stats provide an alarming reality of the challenges of at-risk youth:

- At-risk youth are less likely to have mentors and more likely to want one: 29% of all youth vs. 37 percent of "At Risk" youth The National Mentoring Partnership study by Civic Enterprises in association with Hart Research Associates.
- 76 percent of at-risk young adults who had a mentor aspired to enroll in



Belen (left) and Don Wells are examples of the success of Just In Time, which provides adult mentors for at-risk youth.

and graduate from college versus 56 percent of at-risk young adults with no mento - The National Mentoring Partnership - study by Civic Enterprises in association with Hart Research Associates.

- Approximately 36 percent of youth who leave the foster care system experience homelessness.
- 14 percent of prison inmates report having been in foster care at some point in their lives.

Dedicated volunteers and financial support is important to the future and success of Just In Time. To learn more about the program and to get involved, visit https://jitfosteryouth.org/wtt2023/.

### Secure Act 2.0 Made Some Big Changes to Retirement Planning



last minute of 2022, President Biden signed the Secure Act 2.0. It made a lot of big and small changes financial planning over the next few years. Here are some of

the highlights that go into effect in 2023 and 2024.

Changes to Required Minimum **Distributions** (RMDs). Probably the biggest, most immediate impact of the Secure Act 2.0 is that the start date for Required Minimum Distributions from retirement accounts in 2023 is now 73. If you were born between 1951 and 1959, your RMDs begin in the year you turn 73. If you were born in 1960 or later, your RMDs will begin the year you turn 75. Another important change is that the steep 50 percent penalty for failing to take your RMD has been reduced to 25 percent and can be further reduced to 10 percent if you take your distribution and file a corrected tax return in a timely manner. In addition, Roth accounts in employer plans will be exempt from RMDs starting in 2024.

**Changes to Employer Retirement** Plans. Beginning in 2023, if your employer has a SEP or SIMPLE IRA, you may now be able to contribute to a Roth version of those small business retirement plans instead. This would mean that you forgo the tax deduction for those IRA contributions, but the earnings

At almost the on that IRA will not be taxed in the future. Employers are now also allowed to make matching contributions to Roth accounts inside 401k plans. These matching contributions would be taxable income, so you'll want to think about how that would impact your tax return if you do this.

**Qualified Longevity Annuities** get a boost. A Qualified Longevity Annuity Contract (QLAC) is a special annuity contract that can be purchased with retirement funds. The QLAC doesn't start to pay out until as late as your 85th birthday, but also isn't included in your RMD calculation. They're designed to shift your income to help provide a safety net later in life. The maximum amount you can put into a QLAC was raised from \$145,000 to \$200,000 and the annual limit is now indexed for inflation.

**Changes to Qualified Charitable Distributions** (QCDs). charities eligible to receive QCDs now includes Charitable Remainder Trusts and Charitable Gift Annuities. If you are over 70½, you can gift up to \$50,000 from your IRA directly to these specialized philanthropic vehicles.

**529 Plan to Roth IRA.** Starting in 2024, you can shift up to \$6,500 per year (to a maximum of \$35,000) of unused funds from a 529 plan to a Roth IRA for the plan beneficiary. There are important restrictions, like the plan having to be in place for at least 15 years, but this does help ease the concern some parents may have about 'over-saving' for college.

**Emergency Savings Accounts.** Starting in 2024, employers will be able to offer a Roth-eligible emergency savings Contributions and withdrawals would be limited, and the account could only invest in very lowrisk investments.

Student Loan **Payment** "matching". Starting in 2024, employers will be able to "match" employee student loan payments by making matching payments to retirement accounts.

The biggest takeaway besides the changes to the Required Minimum Distribution rules is the multitude of changes to retirement plan options. Business owners will want to review these and other changes with their plan administrators to see which options are a good fit for their business and their employees.

Again, if you were born after 1951, the rules surrounding your retirement plan distributions have changed dramatically, so should review your financial plan with your advisor to see how these changes will impact your retirement income strategy.

This column is prepared by Rick Brooks, CFA®, CFP®. Rick is director/investment management with Blankinship & Foster, LLC, a wealth advisory firm specializing in financial planning and investment management for people preparing for retirement. Brooks can be reached at (858) 755-5166, or by email at rbrooks@bfadvisors. com. Brooks and his family live in Mission Hills.

# SENTINEL

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### Legislation to Ban Mileage Taxes, Mileage Trackers

Congressman Darrell Issa has introduced the No Track No Tax Act, to prevent the funding of both a tax on how far Americans can drive, as well as mileage tracking devices that would calculate that distance.

"The establishment of a mileage tax is more than an attack on the freedom to drive. It singles out for the harshest penalty against those who need to drive the most for work, school, and on behalf of their families," said Rep. Issa. "Even worse, the mileage tax is only enabled by a mileage tracker - a device that shadows drivers and captures everywhere they go. This is a dangerous government intrusion, and the potential for abuse and the exposure of personal data may be limitless."

The legislation states that "No travel behavior." federal funds may be obligated or expended, directly or indirectly, to study, propose, establish, implement, or enforce any State, local, or Federal mileage tax, including through the funding of a mileage tracking program."

Congressman Issa specifically noted that San Diego County's Regional Transportation Agency's (SANDAG) is proposing three new half-cent sales tax increases and a mileage tax for every mile driven to pay for an unprecedented \$165 billion expansion transit. Importantly, mass added, SANDAG's finance plan states, "Charging fees for the transportation infrastructure that people use - for example, charging users for each mile they drive on the highway - can change

"San Diego has been ground zero for government efforts to impose its agenda on an entire community. The No Track No Tax Act will put an end to these plans and prevent their spread to all communities," said Issa. "By prohibiting federal funds for any state, local or federal effort of this kind, we will stop the tracking and the taxing of your freedom

"I also introduced the GAS Act to prevent a proposed government ban on the use of gas stoves in people's homes. Mileage taxes, mileage trackers, and taking away your right to an appliance of your choice are hallmarks of government efforts not to tell you how to live better but to tell you how to live."

The Presidio Sentinel is a monthly publication that is distributed by the first of each month to households in Mission Hills, Bankers Hill points in Mission Hills, Bankers Hill, Point Loma, Old Town, Little Italy, Downtown, Hillcrest, Kensington, University Heights, Mission Valley and Linda Vista

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Subscription rate is \$25 per year. Send checks, all letters, editorial, press releases and calendar of events to the following.

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### San Diego Zoo Safari Park Announces the Birth of a Critically Endangered Przewalski's Horse Foal

Conservationists at the nonprofit San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance have announced the birth of a Przewalski's horse—a critically endangered species of wild horse that was categorized as Extinct in the Wild until 1996. The foal is the first Przewalski's horse born at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park since 2014, and is one of only four individuals born in North America over the past year

"Every birth is a tremendous moment, so we are elated by this new foal," said Kristi Burtis, wildlife care director at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. "We've had more than 157 Przewalski's horses born at the Zoo and the Safari Park. They are an important wild horse species, and this new foal, along with each individual that was born at our parks, bolsters their fragile population—and represents our deep commitment to conserving them for future generations."

The youngster was born as part of a breeding recommendation through AZA's Przewalski's horse Species Survival Plan®—a program that ensures genetic diversity is represented among Przewalski's horse populations, overseen by conservationists nationwide. Formerly extinct in the wild, the Przewalski's horse has survived for the past 40 years almost entirely in zoos around the world, and nearly all of the surviving horses are related to 12 Przewalski's horses born in native habitats. Ongoing reintroductions of Przewalski's horses into their native habitats have established several herds in grasslands in China and Mongolia to maintain genetic variation, however scientists believe more work needs to be done to ensure the species' future survival.

In the past few years, scientists have started using new tools, such as San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance's Biodiversity Bank, to expand the strength of the species' population. Through a collaborative effort, science teams from the nonprofit Revive & Restore, the animal cloning company ViaGen Pets & Equine, and San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance were able to achieve the world's first successfully cloned Przewalski's horse in 2020. Kurt was born to a surrogate mother—a domestic quarter horse—and is the clone of a male Przewalski's stallion whose DNA was cryopreserved 42 years ago in the Alliance's Wildlife Biodiversity Bank.

"Kurt is significant to his species because he offers the hope of bringing back lost genetic diversity to the population," said Nadine Lamberski, DVM, Dipl. ACZM, Dipl. ECZM (ZHM), chief conservation and wildlife health officer for San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. "It is imperative to do



Przewalski's horse foal (named Kurt) and his mother in their savanna habitat at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. Photo is courtesy of Ken Bohn, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

everything we can to save this genetic diversity before it disappears."

The colt was named "Kurt" in honor of Kurt Benirschke, M.D., who joined the Zoo's research committee in 1970, and worked as the Zoo's director of research from 1974 to 1986, when he became a member of the organization's Board of Trustees. He was instrumental in founding the conservation research program at San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, including the Frozen Zoo®, a critical component of San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance's Wildlife Biodiversity Banking efforts. Dr. Benirschke died in 2018 at the age of 94.

Safari Park guests can visit Kurt in the Central Asia savanna habitat; and see the rest of the herd, including the new foal, in the Przewalski's horse habitat next door.

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where she can hide, as the world is a bit of a scary place for this sensitive soul. But with time and patience she will show you what a wonderful companion she can be. Please consider

opening your heart and your home to this special senior.

Kayla is currently residing at the El Cajon Campus, located at 1373 N. Marshall Avenue in El Cajon. For more information, call (619) 299-7012 or email at info@sdhumane.org.

Meet eight-year-old Melanie, a Siberian Husky mix. This beautiful girl is ready to fill your life with tons of smiles. Melanie is definitely a people dog and enjoys making new people friends, but even at eight-years young, she could benefit from a gentle refresher course on her manners. Melanie is a big fan of yummy treats, so that paired with positive training methods will help her pick up the good habits quick. She has also shown that other dogs just aren't her jam, so she would do best as the only canine companion; she'd also like to skip the dog park and other dog-active areas.

Melanie is currently residing at the Oceanside Campus, located at 2905 San Luis Rey Road in Oceanside. For more information, call (619) 299-7012 or email at info@sdhumane.org.



SPCA

### **Lions Tigers & Bears** Offers "Bear-y" Special Valentine's Day Offers and Gifts

San Diego's Lions, Tigers & Bears, an accredited big cat and exotic animal sanctuary, is offering Valentine's Day activities for couples, friends and families - for the adventurous type, the romantic type - or both.

Impress your Valentine with an "un-fur-gettable" overnight stay at White Oak Wild Nights, the sanctuary's on-site luxury retreat overlooking the vast country meadow and big cat habitats. Featuring two bedrooms, one bathroom, a jacuzzi hot tub and outdoor kitchen and firepit, the White Oak Wild Nights is a romantic and enchanting Valentine's Day gift idea. For a limited time, all bookings made (or gift certificates purchased) through Tuesday, February 14 will include a complimentary bottle of champagne and box of chocolates upon check-in. All guests must be 21 or over.

Those looking for a daytime adventure can book a two-hour guided visit and spend time with their valentine(s) while encountering exotic animals that have been rescued and given forever homes in the wide-open habitats at the sanctuary. The 65-plus animals residing at Lions Tigers & Bears include retired circus animals, survivors of inhumane photo and cub petting opportunities, and abandoned or illegally owned big cats, bears



Exotic animals have been rescued and given forever homes in the sanctuary.

and ranch animals. Guided visits are offered Wednesdays through Saturdays and gift certificates are also available for purchase.

"Whether you visit us in February or purchase a certificate to come out another time, Lions Tigers & Bears is the perfect adventure for friends, family and loved ones to come out and experience the tranquility our sanctuary offers," said Bobbi

Lions Tigers & Bears. "Visitors veterinary care and more. love to see our rescued resident companions, including tigers Moka profit, led by Brink, has coordinated and Nola, splash in their pool, enjoy their mealtime and discover cats, bears, wolves, and other enrichment and toys."

White Oak Wild Nights can be reserved online or by calling 619rescued animals, providing food,

Brink, founder and director of enrichment, habitat maintenance,

The exotic animal rescue nonrescues for more than 1,100 big exotic animals across the U.S. Guided visits and stays at in need of permanent refuge and lifetime homes at reputable sanctuaries, including Lions Tigers 659-8078. All proceeds benefit the & Bears. Guests can book visits and become members.

For more information about donations, volunteering or booking a visit, go to lionstigersandbears.org.



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### The Death of a Community Asset

By Barb Strona



A magnificent asset to our neighborhood is gone. Tearful neighbors watched as trucks and other heavy machinery drove onto the street at the end of which a lofty, ancient eucalyptus tree held sway over one of Mission Hills' canyons. The tree, perhaps over a hundred years old, had been examined by an arborist hired by the city. The examination included wrapping the tree in several places with sensors that fed information into a computer placed next to it. This machine gives a printout of the health of a tree. Sadly, the arborist

showed us the printout, explaining that very little of the tree was healthy. After seeing the arborist's test results, the Urban Forestry Department of San Diego felt it best to remove it.

This tree had graced the city's property next to our lot. We moved into this home, an ugly pink Depression era duplex, March 1, 1971. Six months and a day later, we purchased the property. For the past fifty-two years we have enjoyed watching fledgling hawks take a break from first flight on the tree's limbs as they garnered the courage spread their sloppy adolescent wings to return to their parents. In early 1980 we remodeled our house, turning it from a duplex to a single-family home with a balcony beneath the ancient eucalyptus. Here, on summer nights, we could hear a great horned owl's mournful hoot. Then we would feel the rush of air from his wings as he silently flew off in search of his supper.

The eucalyptus is native to Australia. There are myriad varieties of them. Kate Sessions imported many hoping they could be windbreaks



A foreman shows mushrooms (funghi) that was pulled from inside the tree's trunk.

and provide lumber here in San Diego. She planted them throughout Balboa Park as well as throughout the city. To survive in the Out Back of Australia's harsh, dry climates, eucalyptus sink their roots deep into the soil in search of nutrients and water. The trees there are small enough with roots deep enough that severe storms do not disturb them. To conserve water, they periodically responded to a dry spell by dropping a limb. How they chose which limb to drop, only they know.

In San Diego, the soil is much richer. Eucalyptus roots did not need to dig deep for sustenance. Here, their roots spread, and the trees grow to enormous heights and breadths. Storms tend to topple them as one storm in January uprooted twenty trees in Balboa Park. The Park was evacuated; one woman was hospitalized as the result of a falling tree.

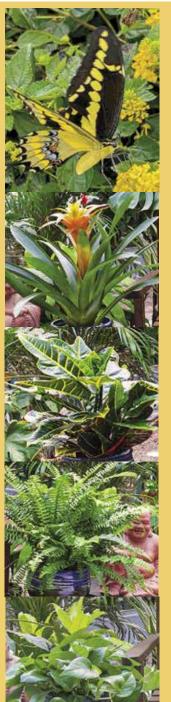
"Our" tree was truly a thing of beauty. It could be seen from miles away. Unfortunately, it did not fare as well as it appeared to. It dropped heavy limbs which caused major damage. However, the city came to clear the limbs and assess the damage done. After a fallen limb ripped a hole in our roof breaking the rafters beneath it, the city hired had an arborist come to check the tree. He came armed with a computer-type machine and fancy equipment with which he wrapped the tree in several places. It looked as if he was giving the tree an EKG or perhaps performing a CT scan. Eventually he showed us the printout



The tree that has graced Mission Hills is removed after much explanation of its poor health.

of his findings. According to him, a tiny segment of the tree was healthy. Much of the tree was filled with rot upon which giant mushrooms were feeding beside it. The rest of the tree, he said, was dead. His recommendation to the city's Urban Forestry Department was that the tree be removed as it was moribund and dangerous. It was a matter of

► Continued on page 8



### Relax & Enjoy Greenery that Generates Good Feelings Year Round

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- Plants freshen the air
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### **Expressions of Love**

By J. Daniel Geddis, President Realtor, Team D&B, One Mission Realty



the newly elected president of the Mission Hills **Business Improvement District** (BID), I want to begin by offering a hearty thank you to retiring president Dixie Hall for her service to the BID. During the last three plus years Hall served as a BID board member, vice president and president. When Hall

moved her DixiePops business to Mission Hills, I knew the BID and its board of directors would benefit greatly from her knowledge and expertise. And so, the wooing began.

What many DixiePops patrons never knew is Dixie Hall was also a senior vice president at Coldwell Banker Richard Ellis, the world's largest commercial real estate services and investment firm, where for decades she sold commercial real estate. DixiePops was her passion project. She trained high school students on business acumen and enjoyed the creative aspects of making popsicles and ice cream in irresistible flavors. We will miss DixiePops and we will miss Dixie Hall.

I think we can all agree that February is synonymous with Valentine's Day. This year Valentine's Day lands on a Tuesday so why not celebrate from one weekend through the next? A pleasant lunch or dinner in Mission Hills will delight your fanciest foodie Valentine. Nearly all of our Mission Hills restaurants will be offering Valentine's meal specials and reservations are highly recommended. If you want a beautiful Valentine bouquet, a single stem or a new plant, all are right around the corner. From West Lewis to Fort Stockton, along Goldfinch, West Washington, West University, Reynard Way, and India Street there are great gift buying options. Whether you want a gift for an infant or the person who seemingly has everything, gardening supplies for your green thumbed Valentine, specialty foods and cooking supplies for your aspirational chef Valentine, or a sleek Italian motorcycle for that extraordinary Valentine who needs to feel the wind on their face; in Mission Hills your gift choices are endless. For the week's evenings at home, perhaps a French Champagne or California sparkling will elevate the occasion, so look no further than your local purveyors where an expert can provide advice in every price range.

Washington and Lincoln, lest we forget, we have President's Day to celebrate too. This year favorite presidents? Whether you choose to host opportunity to win in a well-stocked raffle, as



DixiePops long awaited grand opening was Wednesday, January 15, 2019. Brittany Bailey from Councilmember Chris Ward's office stopped by to deliver a proclamation. Pictured (L to R) are Brittany Bailey; Dixie Hall, owner; Susan McNeil Schreyer, Mission Hills BID executive director; and Daniel Geddis, Mission Hills BID president.

an at-home event or are out and about, please make it a weekend to embrace with time spent at a Mission Hills business. Supporting a local business helps keep revenue in our community.

Another renewed opportunity for Mission Hills business owners is the San Diego County Fair community banner program in partnership with the BID. Plans are underway for a threehour photo session in Mission Hills during the first week of March and a seven-week banner installation on Mission Hills lamp posts from mid-May through the 4th of July. This year's theme is Get Out There, with sporting attire encouraged. The photo session will be \$125 per banner. This price includes your banner to keep after July 4th. Please look for more detail on social media

I am reflecting on the BID board's January Strategic Planning Workshop. This annual workshop provides four hours when the board of directors huddle together and plan for the coming year. On behalf of the entire BID board, Thanks to the combined birthdays of I would like to announce plans are already underway for the 11th Annual Taste of Mission Hills, fun quarterly mixers where business and on Monday, February 20, why not honor our community members can meet and have an happening in Mission Hills visit our website at

well as plans for Small Business Workshops. Another effort the BID will be launching is Utility Box Art beautification. We are working with SDG&E to identify all boxes in the business core and developing criteria for the artwork. Through efforts such as our ongoing Mission Hills Banners Program, and new projects like Utility Box Art beautification, we help to further establish a "sense of place" in Mission Hills. This in turn boosts pride in our community, while welcoming visitors to someplace special.

With the beginning of each new year comes the opportunity for fresh ideas. We at the Mission Hills BID are ready to partner with you in achieving the greater good through our business core. If you love the Mission Hills business neighborhood and have ideas and time to help promote it, the Mission Hills BID needs you. Do you have a utility box in mind that would look great with some fresh art? Do you have an idea for what tools and tips you might find useful at a Small Business Workshop? Let the BID know at MissionHillsBID@gmail.com. For the most up-to-date information and news on what's MissionHillsBID.com.

#### The Death of a Community Asset ► Continued from page 7

By Barb Strona

time before it fell.

Today was a sad day. The city recruited an excellent company of professional arborists and ISA certified tree workers. They came with many trucks and lots of heavy machinery. At first, they merely arranged their equipment so that no one would be harmed, and they could control their work. Then the foreman climbed into a cherry picker, a machine that hoists a tiny cabin with a man and his saws and ropes. He drives the cherry picker to the first limbs he will remove. Limb by limb is sawn off. A crane is raised so the man in the cherry picker can wrap heavy ropes around the branch. Once it is secured, he cuts it off with his chainsaw. He moves away, the crane lifts the limb and lowers it to the ground. As the smaller branches are removed, a tractor (aka skip loader) hauls

Removing the larger limbs and trunk is brutal. The limbs are removed until only the trunk remains. It is enormous. Several ropes must hold the portion to be cut. The man with the chainsaw makes several deep cuts around the trunk. Once the top portion is loosened from the rest of the trunk, the crane lifts it

and lowers it to the ground. Then it is hauled away. This continues until only a short stump remains. It is painful to watch. I hope trees can't feel what is happening to them when they are cut down. As they finished removing the last bit of trunk they cut, the crew with blower and the tractor proceeded to clean the street and the property abutting the tree's removal area.

Tomorrow, they plan to finish the job. They will grind the remaining trunk and roots, clear the debris and detritus, and we are left with a huge void in both our view and our hearts.

### ShamROCK St. Paddy's Day Music + Beer Festival Goes All Ages In 27th Year

The San Diego ShamROCK Music + Beer Festival returns to the streets of the Gaslamp Quarter from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m., Friday, March 17, 2023. ShamROCK will be accessible to all ages for the first time ever. For 27 years, locals and tourists alike have flocked to the Gaslamp Quarter as ShamROCK transforms the bustling San Diego downtown neighborhoods into a Celtic carnival for the senses with an abundance of pub-style seating, flowing green beer, traditional Irish steppers, activities, Celtic rock bands, photo-ops, shenanigan games (with prizes), and activation throughout the Gaslamp.

In addition to a multi-block music and entertainment lineup, ShamROCK block party attendees will be welcome to enjoy free games throughout the day at the ShamROCK Shenanigans Block. Giant lucky Jenga, Pot of Gold Cornhole, and Giant beer pong are just some of the shenanigans that will test your skill and luck! Throughout the day, the infamous ShamROCK leprechaun emcee will be hosting showdowns on stage with epic prizes that would make even a leprechaun green with envy. Keep an eye out for the full game schedule to include unicorn races, rainbow streamer relays, magical chairs and more



An incredible lineup of musicians will perform during ShamROCK.



Guests of ShamROCK come dressed in character to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day.

General Admission tickets start at just \$35 for a day full of festivities, non-stop music, and a keepsake ShamROCK stein. VIP ticket start at just \$79 and include 4 drinks, VIP dedicated entry, exclusive access to the Lucky Leprechaun VIP Irish Pub, festive Saint Patrick's Day hat, upgraded restrooms, and other tantalizing treats to be announced. As a thank you to our Military, guests with Military ID will receive \$5 off GA and \$10 off VIP!

Party with a purpose – This one-day Saint Patrick's Day affair funds the year-long programs and museum operations for the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation (GQHF), a small non-profit in the Gaslamp Quarter dedicated to preserving and protecting architecture, history, and the culture of the historic Gaslamp Quarter. The GQHF also runs the Gaslamp Museum at the Davis-Horton House, the oldest building in Downtown San Diego.

For more information, tickets, line-up announcements and more visit sandiegoshamrock.com.

### Old Town San Diego Celebrates the Mormon Battalion with Successful Parade & Event

The Annual Mormon Battalion Parade & Community event, which took place on Saturday, January 28, 2023 in Old Town San Diego, was a resounding success. The event brought together members of the community to celebrate the history and contributions of the Mormon Battalion, a group of approximately 500 men who served in the United States Army during the Mexican-American War.

The parade was the main attraction of the event. Historic reenactors in military formation paraded around the Plaza de las Armas concluding in front of the main stage. After a rousing salute the 176th Annual Commemoration was officially underway. The parade was followed by welcoming speeches from the events' organizers and special guests.

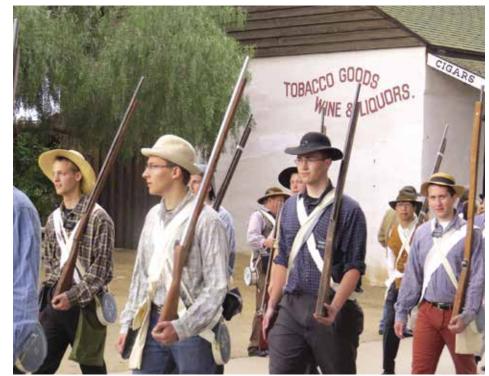
In recognition of the event and the significance of the Mormon Battalion, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors resolved to make January 28, 2023 "Mormon Battalion Commemoration Day." Supervisor Joel Anderson was in attendance at the event to present event organizers with the special resolution, highlighting the importance of the day and the significance of the Mormon Battalion.

The Dutch Oven Cook-off competition was also a hit, with local chefs showcasing their skills and competing for the title of the best Dutch Oven dish. The competition resulted in the "Best of Show" award going to Craig Turner for his "Cowboy: Beef Wellington" dish, and other category winners included Lemon Ricotta Cake, Tortellini Soup, and Black Bread.

The winners received gift cards from some of Old Town's most popular restaurants, including Casa Guadalajara, Rockin' Baja Cantina, Congress Cafe, Miguel's Cocina, Pizza Bella, and Cold Stone Creamery.

The event also included activities for kids, such as cattle wrangling, brick-making, and pioneer doll-making, which kept them entertained throughout the day.

The Annual Mormon Battalion Parade & Community event



The Mormon Battalion Parade and Community Event provides a re-enactment of the march of approximately 500 men who served in the United States Army.

was a memorable and meaningful celebration of the history and contributions of the Mormon Battalion. The event was well-attended and received positive feedback from attendees, and it is clear that this event will continue to be a popular annual tradition in Old Town San Diego. The recognition of January 28, 2023 as "Mormon Battalion Commemoration Day" by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors serves as a testament to the significance of the event and the importance of remembering the history and contributions of the Mormon Battalion.

### San Diego Junior Theatre Presents "How I Became a Pirate"

San Diego Junior Theatre, the nation's longest-running youth theatre Way and Village Place. program, from March 3 through 19, as it continues its 75th Anniversary Season with the popular musical adventure, "How I Became a Pirate," which will run Fridays at 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sundays at 2 p.m.

All Junior Theatre productions are performed in Balboa Park's historic Casa del Prado Theatre, 1600 Village Place, at the corner of Old Globe



Braid Beard and his mates enlist young Jeremy Jacob as they look for the perfect spot to bury their treasure in "How I Became a Pirate."

Sail off on a fantastical musical excursion when a band of comical pirates lands at North Beach looking for an expert digger to join their crew. Braid Beard and his mates enlist young Jeremy Jacob as they look for the perfect spot to bury their treasure. Jeremy finds that adventuring can be lots of fun, but also learns that love and home are treasures you can't find on any map.

Joining returning director and Junior Theatre teaching artist, Hunter Brown (last season's "The Stinky Cheese Man...") will be Junior Theatre teaching artist David Decker (music director), and Junior Theatre alum and teaching artist Gina Barba (choreographer).

Thanks to a generous contribution from The Conrad Prebys Foundation, Junior Theatre continues to provide an ASL-interpreted performance for each production. For this production, the ASL-interpreted performance will be Saturday, March 18 at 2 p.m. For optimal seating, members of the Deaf community can reach out directly to the box office at boxoffice@juniortheatre.com.

Additionally, a sensory-friendly performance has been added on Saturday, March 11 at 11am. The show will be modified for individuals with sensory needs, including people on the autism spectrum, allowing them to experience theatre in a safe, non-judgmental environment. Tickets for this performance are not available online and can be booked by calling the box office at 619-239-8355.

Junior Theatre strongly encourages all eligible patrons to be fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19. For the safety of our unvaccinated students who perform without masks, and our young, unvaccinated patrons, masks are still required for all patrons two years old and up. Patrons are asked to check https://juniortheatre.com/ covid-19-safety/ for full details and any policy updates prior to attending a performance.

Tickets are \$16 - \$18. Discounts are available for groups of 15 or more. For tickets and more information, visit www.juniortheatre.com or call the box office at 619-239-8355.

### **Bach Collegium San Diego** Presents One Night Only with Sylvia Berry

Join Bach Collegium San Diego (BCSD) for a return performance with renowned fortepianist Sylvia Berry. She is joined by members of BCSD, including Stefanie Moore, Soprano; Andrew McIntosh, violin; Andrew Waid, viola; and Heather Vorwerck, cello. The concert takes place at 7 p.m., Friday, February 10 at All Souls Episcopal Church, located at 1475 Catalina Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92107.

During an interview with Sylvia Berry, she shared what makes her techniques different from a concert pianist.

"My role is mostly the same. I play solo repertoire, chamber music, and concertos. I probably play with more singers than the average concert pianist because I love Art Song. The main difference in roles is that I sometimes play continuo, which basically means you're a member of the orchestra who provides chordal and rhythmic accompaniment, as well as accompaniment for solo singers in recitatives. When you go to a BCSD concert you'll often see Ruben Valenzuela and Michael Sponseller playing continuo on the organ and harpsichord with the orchestra; in music from the classical era by composers such as Haydn and Mozart, the fortepiano is used instead.

"What is most different is the instrument itself. For this concert I'll be playing a replica of the type of fortepiano (that's mostly a term to designate the instrument as an early piano) that Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven played. Unlike a modern piano that has 88 keys (a span of a little over seven octaves), the Viennese pianos of the 1760's-early 1800's had around 61 keys and five octaves. These instruments are not as loud as modern pianos, but they have more

Aches & Pains? Chronic Illness? Stress?



Sylvia Berry will be performing with members of Bach Collegium San Diego.

dynamic range. I can play much softer on an early piano, and the loud passages are much more explosive. The contrast between the two dynamic ranges is stark! There's also a gizmo on older Viennese pianos called a 'moderator' which slips a piece of cloth in between the hammers and strings - this creates an ethereal sound that is unavailable on pianos of our time. We also need to remember that music was performed in much smaller venues in the 18th and early 19th century, and the intimacy - and even mystery! - of quiet sounds was greatly appreciated. These instruments also have a lot more clarity in the bass, a quality that's really illuminating for the works of Beethoven.



► Continued on page 12

### The Emilio Nares Foundation Celebrates 20th Year of Giving Back

The Emilio Nares Foundation (ENF), a non-profit that helps families navigate their child's journey through cancer, is excited to celebrate its 20th anniversary this year. To commemorate Emilio's 28th Birthday on Friday, January 6, the Emilio Nares Foundation will launch a new campaign to raise awareness about childhood cancer and encourage donations through various fundraising events and outreaches into the community throughout the next year. ENFis also pleased to announce the 20th annual Harvest for Hope fundraiser on Sunday, September 10, 2023, featuring signature food from local San Diego chefs, fine wine and spirits, craft beer tasting and live entertainment.

After co-founders Richard and Diane Nares' son Emilio lost his brave battle with cancer at only five years old, they felt inspired to help other families in remembrance of Emilio's legacy. Since 2003, the Emilio Nares Foundation has worked to provide support and hope to low-income and underserved children battling cancer and their families in Southern California. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the foundation. To commemorate Emilio's bravery, which inspired ENF's mission, the Emilio Nares Foundation is welcoming the community to join in celebrating 20 years as well as announce the 20th annual Harvest for Hope event.

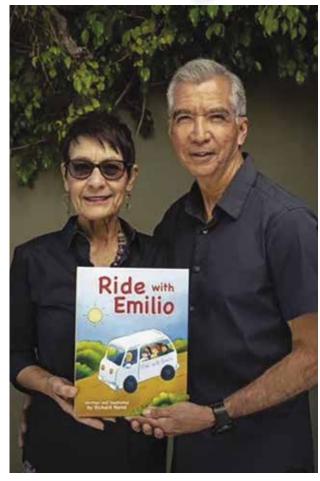
"We are so thrilled and grateful to be celebrating such a milestone for the foundation," says Diane Nares, co-founder of the Emilio Nares Foundation. "We started the Emilio Nares Foundation 20 years ago, after Emilio lost his brave fight with Acute Lymphoblastic

The Emilio Nares Foundation (ENF), a non-rofit that helps families navigate their so many within the Southern California community. We are incredibly grateful for our donors and their relentless efforts in joining us on our mission as we wouldn't be able to serve the community and save lives without their support."

ENF is calling on the community to help commemorate this milestone with a special donation to Ride With Emilio to increase their reach in the community further allowing them to service families and patients through one of the most difficult and sometimes devastating time of their lives. The flagship Ride With Emilio pediatric cancer patient transportation program provides free and reliable rides to and from treatment appointments for low-income patients and their families, many of whom don't have a car and would be forced to ride public transit for hours just to make it to the hospital.

Over the past 20 years, Ride with Emilio has traveled over 1.4 million miles to safely transport children to their medical treatments. This campaign helps families navigate their child's journey with cancer and other lifethreatening illnesses, and ensures no child misses a medical treatment due to lack of transportation. All donations during this time will go towards the foundation's Ride with Emilio free transportation program for children battling cancer.

Altogether, ENF has served over 600,000 families in Southern California and continues to support children fighting cancer and their families through fundraisers like Harvest for Hope. The annual Harvest for Hope food



Diane and Richard Nares are shown with the inspirational book about their son, written and illustrated by Richard Nares

and wine tasting fundraiser, featuring plates from renowned San Diego chefs paired with wine, beer and other spirits, will take place on Sunday, September 10, 2023.

To learn more about the Emilio Nares Foundation or make a donation for their 20th anniversary, visit ENFHope.org.



### 134th Annual Pacific Coast Men's Doubles Championship

The La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club, located at 2000 Spindrift Drive in La Jolla, one of California's most treasured beachfront resorts for almost 87 years, will host the 134th Annual Pacific Coast Men's Doubles Tennis Championship, from Thursday, March 2 through Sunday, March 5. Many of the best NCAA Men's college teams the country are expected compete, including: Boston College, UC Berkeley, Ball State, UC Davis, Butler University, UC Santa Barbara, California Lutheran University, UC Los Angeles, Claremont-Mudd -Scripps (CMS), UC San Diego, Nebraska, University of Michigan, Pepperdine, University of San Diego, San Diego State University, University of Southern California, Stanford and Villanova.

Also entering this tournament will be top teaching pros, promising juniors, college coaches and tour players, making this one of the most interesting and unusual competitor fields in the country.

"We are very happy to host the 134th Annual Pacific Coast Men's Doubles Championship at the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club," said Tournament Director Bill Kellogg. "Tennis fans are going to have a great opportunity to watch



Pictured are Andrew Baird (left) and Alexander Hoogmartens of UCLA, the 2022 Pacific Coast Doubles Champions.

the top collegiate players in the high-level doubles competition." country along with a strong field of independent competitors. We are looking forward to four days of

Named one of the "Top 50 Tennis Resorts in the World" by Tennis Resorts Online, the La Jolla

Beach & Tennis Club's reputation as a top tennis destination started when it attracted its first major tournament - the Pacific Coast Men's Doubles Championship in 1942. The tournament is one of the five-oldest tennis events in the world and the second oldest tennis event in the United States. First held in 1890 at The Hotel Del Monte in Monterey, California, the event was created to promote the sale of real estate on the Monterey peninsula. The original concept pitted the best players from the East versus those from the West. This coast-to-coast rivalry was the inspiration for the Davis Cup. Past winners of the Pacific Coast Men's Doubles Championship include on the greatest names in tennis, including Kramer, Jack Schroeder, Bobby Riggs, Pancho Segura, Don Budge, Trabert, Stan Smith, Bob Lutz, Arthur Ashe, Dennis Ralston and John McEnroe.

The Club will also host the 2023 USTA National Hard Court Championships for Women's 50-90 age groups and La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club Hard Court Tournament for Men's 60-85 age groups from Monday, May 15, through Sunday, May 21.

#### Bach Collegium San Diego Presents One Night Only with Sylvia Berry ► Continued from page 10

"The most striking difference between playing early keyboard instruments (harpsichord, fortepiano, etc.) and the modern piano is that we have to bring our instruments to the concert. My husband Dale Munschy and I usually drive mine around in a minivan, and luckily, he often tunes for me. This time I'm borrowing an instrument from a colleague in Palm Springs. We'll fly to his house, get his fortepiano and his van, then drive to San Diego with it. There's never a dull moment.

When asked about the music she selected for this concert, Berry offered some important insights.

"After my concert with BCSD in May 2022, I dreamt of playing with some of the players in a chamber music setting, especially cellist Heather Vorwerck who is a school mate of mine from our Oberlin days. We haven't played together since the '90s.

"I started thinking of some of my dream pieces, and violist and Bach at Noon coordinator Andrew Waid suggested I pick two and anchor the program around them. So, the 'big works' on the concert are Beethoven's ebullie Cello Sonata in F major (Op. 5, No. 1), and Mozart's dramatic Piano Quartet in G minor, K. 478. I also wanted to do a set of Mozart songs because they are gems that most Mozart-lovers don't know. The set I crafted revolves around different kinds of love. It almost tells a story, one that includes an angry woman burning the letters of her unfaithful lover. It's a dramatic miniature masterpiece. Just as Schubert would do later, Mozart places the action in the piano part while the singer tells the story, so you can hear the roaring flames in the piano.

"Additionally, I created a 'pastiche sonata' of three short works by predecessors of Beethoven and Mozart whose chamber music was meant to highlight the pianist (who at the time would have been an accomplished woman who had learned the piano as part of her feminine upbringing) who would be accompanied by string players who were usually much less accomplished violinists and cellists. These types of work are called 'accompanied keyboard sonatas,'

based on title pages that always said something like, 'Sonatas for the harpsichord or fortepiano with the accompaniment of a violin.' Playing thee together was an early dating activity! I chose works by Johann Schobert, Luigi Boccherini, and Johann Christian Bach, the youngest son of Johann Sebastian. Fun fact: Boccherini wrote his Op. 5 violin sonatas for Anne Louise Brillon de Jouy, a famous French musician and composer who was close friends with Benjamin Franklin.

"I'll also play a couple oddball solo pieces, again with the aim of exposing listeners to music they probably don't know by Mozart and Beethoven. There's a wonderfully avant-garde "Unmeasured Prelude" by Mozart that I love to play because it reveals a facet of Mozart's improvisational skills that we're not too familiar with. It's a piece he wrote for his sister, who was also a great keyboardist. In short, there will be a little bit of everything."

When asked about the musicians joining her in this concert, their roles, she offered, "They are all wonderful musicians who have committed years of their lives to mastering instruments from a different era and studying how they were played. It's not an easy thing, but those of us who do it are usually speaking a similar language when we come together. Soprano Stefanie Moore has the perfect voice for this repertoire, has also studied performance practices of the period, and really loves Art Song. We've never met but we've talked about the songs over the phone and have already had a lot of fun. I feel very lucky to get the chance to work with them all."

Don't miss this rare, one-night-only event in an intimate, salonstyle concert featuring chamber music by Mozart, Beethoven, and their contemporaries.

Bach Collegium San Diego engages audiences with accessible, historically informed performances and educational programs featuring repertoire from the Renaissance, Baroque, and early Classical eras. The ensemble was founded in 2003 by Music Director Ruben Valenzuela to diversify the musical offerings of the San Diego community.

For more information, visit https://bachcollegiumsd.org/, or contact via email at info@bachcollegiumsd.org. To order tickets, call 619-341-1726.

### Valentine's Day Marriage Appointments

The San Diego County Assessor/Recorder/ County Clerk Jordan Marks is reminding love birds wanting to "tie the knot" or renew their wedding vows on Valentine's Day, February 14, to make their appointment now for a marriage license and ceremony. Appointments are filling quickly.

The downtown San Diego, Chula Vista, Santee, and San Marcos offices will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for marriage license and ceremony appointments.

"Walk-in" services without an appointment will be offered for lovebirds living in the moment only at our historic Waterfront Park downtown office. Ceremonies will be offered at one of the waterfront marriage arbors or indoors in our newly renovated ceremony rooms. Appointments are required for all other times and locations.

Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk Jordan Marks said, "We are excited to offer walk-in services for Valentine's Day at our beautiful waterfront downtown location and make love more memorable with a magical marriage service for hundreds of San Diegans across the County this Valentine's Day."

Appointments for love can be made using our award-winning online booking system at www.sdarcc.gov or by calling (619) 237-0502.



San Diegans continue to participate in the annual Valentine's Day marriage ceremonies

### dizzy's Offers a Lineup of Talented Performers

During February and early March 2023, dizzy's, located at 1717 Morena Boulevard, behind the Musicians Union Building at Arias Hall, has an impressive group of talented musicians scheduled to perform.

8 p.m., Saturday, February 11: Alto saxophonist Christopher Hollyday and his sextet featuring pianist Pamela York, with Derek Cannon on trumpet, Matt Hall on trombone, Rob Thorsen on bass, and Tyler



Misha Piatigorsky returns to dizzy's with Chris Wabich on drums and Ahmet Turkmenaglu on bass.

Kreutel on drums.

8 p.m., Saturday, February 18: The Lori Bell Quartet - Women in Jazz. Four female musicians join forces, taking jazz intuition to new levels, featuring three-time Global Music Award winner for performance in jazz, composing and arranging, Lori Bell on flutes, with Melonie Grinnell on piano, Evona Wascinski on bass, and Monette Marino on percussion.

8 p.m., Wednesday, February 22: TrioGram playing music from their soon-to-be released album, featuring Bijan Taghavi on piano, Will Lyle on bass, and Mark Ferber on drums.

8 p.m., Friday, February 24: Expressive Manhattan pianist/composer Misha Piatigorsky returns to dizzy's with his New York City trio with Chris Wabich on drums and Ahmet Turkmenaglu on bass.

8 p.m. Saturday, February 25: Celebrating Beatles songwriter/guitarist George Harrison on his 80th Birthday with a special performance of his compositions featuring guitar virtuoso Fred Benedetti with vocalists Regina Moomjean and Julia Picone, multi-instrumentalist/bassist Jeff Pekarek, and percussionist James Morton.

8 p.m., Friday, March 3: Argentinean gypsy jazz guitar virtuoso Gonzalo Bergara and his band perform.

8 p.m., Saturday, March 4: An album release Celebration for David Whitman's award-winning album "Oh Hugo!" The program will feature the composer/percussionist's Jazz Septet with guests Bob Sheppard on woodwinds, Ryan Dragon on trombone, and Andrew Neesley on trumpet.

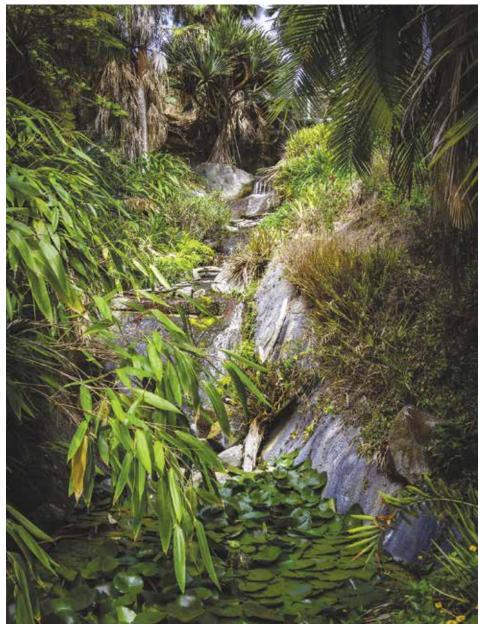
For more information and cost of tickets, visit dizzysjazz.com.





### A Month of Classes and Workshops at San Diego Botanic Garden

in Encinitas, California, is rolling out its calendar of February events, classes and workshops, including the return of its monthly bird watch. The 37acre urban oasis houses four miles of trails that display nearly 5,300 plant species and varieties and 15 gardens that represent different regions of the



San Diego Botanic Garden tropical rainforest waterfall.

San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG), located at 300 Quail Gardens Drive world, 12 demonstration gardens, and the largest public bamboo collection in North America.

#### SDBG is offering a variety of programs during the month of February:

Sandy Zelasko of Sandra Lee Photography is back with a new class on Wednesday, February 15. Learn to enhance your smartphone photography with a plethora of apps from the app store! We will have an opportunity to photograph in the Garden while trying out new techniques then expand our editing skills beyond SnapSeed and camera editing tools. This class will be both in the classroom and outside in the Garden A list of applications will be provided prior to class for those who wish to download them to use in class. Register by February 8.

The SDBG Succulent Wreath Team will help you create your own tabletop mushroom decoration with a variety of succulent cuttings from the Garden on Thursday, February 16. All materials are provided, but please bring small clippers or scissors. Register by February 9.

Learn how to make your very own beautiful succulent arrangement with local Succulent Designer Ileana Canada of Ily the Plant Lady on Saturday, February 18. During the DIY Succulent Arrangement workshop, participants will put together a beautiful succulent arrangement using a curated selection of high-quality materials.

Kokedama is a traditional Japanese Living Art form where moss is used as a container for a plant. In this interesting and hands-on workshop, which takes place on Saturday, February 25, you will learn the skills behind Kokedama and how to make your very own. All materials are provided. Please bring your own apron and gloves. Register by February 18.

Join herbalist Corinne Feinberg on Monday, February 27 as she teaches you to communicate with the natural world through an intuitive method of herbal medicine. This folk tradition of herbalism is centered around cultivating a relationship and listening to the wisdom of the natural world as a portal to understanding how plants can support us in all facets of our being, and how we can in turn support their ability to thrive alongside us.

She invites you to join in playful learning, meditative medicine, pleasure for the senses, and the ever-unfolding wisdom of the plant kingdom as we learn about herbal medicine from direct experience paired with scientific findings. We'll be exploring non-psychoactive plants through various herbal preparations and sitting amongst the diverse medicinal plants on the verdant grounds of the Herb Garden. Previous herbal medicine knowledge or experience is not necessary to attend. Register by February 23.

To learn more and register for classes, call (760) 436-3036 or visit, sdbg.org.

### Completion of 26th Street Trail Restoration in Balboa Park

Balboa Park access in the Golden Hill area is much safer and easier thanks to a \$380,000 project to restore the pathway for pedestrians and bicyclists along 26th Street. On January 31, 2023, city and project leaders officially cut the ribbon to mark completion of the months-long project carried out by the California Conservation Corps (CCC) in partnership with Forever Balboa Park and the City of San Diego. The ribbon cutting ceremony took place at the north end of Golden Hill Park, along Golden Hill Drive near the trailhead.

With project coordination provided by Forever Balboa Park in conjunction with the city, CCC Corpsmembers tamed the footpath that had naturally been created by bicyclists and pedestrians over the years, clearing, widening, and stabilizing the trail to make it easier to navigate. They also installed fencing to provide protection for trail users from 26th Street vehicular traffic. The final touch was planting 25 baby coast live oak trees along the trail in the Bennington Memorial Oak Grove, an important restoration method that will strengthen the grove and eventually add more aesthetic beauty, cooling shade, and other environmental benefits to this scenic park access point.

The project plan began in 2019 when Forever Balboa formed a unique partnership with the California Conservation Corps. After a park ranger identified the unsafe makeshift trail as a priority project, CCC secured state funding with Forever Balboa Park as its nonprofit partner. Forever Balboa Park's right of entry agreement with the city enabled CCC to begin work on the project in April of this year following pandemic-related delays.

The project is part of California's Active Transportation Program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging walking and biking to get around. In addition to creating a smoother trail and installing lodgepole fencing, CCC Corpsmembers built stone stairs into the steep hill at the top of 26th Street and replaced the four old, dilapidated wood footbridges.

"Collaborating with the CCC and the city to improve visitor experience and safety, while helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, is a win-win for everyone," said Jackie Higgins, Forever Balboa Park's Vice President of Planning. "California Conservation Corps did a remarkable job on the 26th Street Trail, and Forever Balboa Park looks forward to working with them again in the future."



26th Street trail bridge offers a safe pathway for bicyclists and pedestrians.

"The importance of providing safe and environmentally conscious transportation pathways between our communities continues to grow," said Lisa Tomas, CCC San Diego District Director. "Unique partnerships like this one, with the City of San Diego, the California Conservation Corps, and Forever Balboa Park, serve the greater good of our communities."

### San Diego Zoo Safari Park to Host Seniors Free in February 2023



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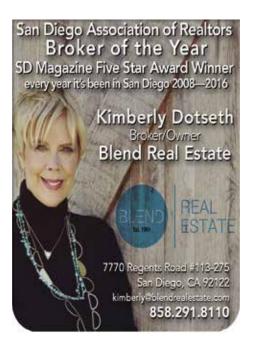
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#### Grandparents can enjoy a free day while entertaining their grandchildren at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. Photo by Emily Senninger.

The San Diego Zoo Safari Park, located at 15500 San Pasqual Valley Road in Escondido, invites guests ages 65 and older to visit for free throughout the entire month of February. During Seniors Free month, seniors may present their valid photo ID upon arrival and gain free admission to the Safari Park, where they can explore expansive habitats and connect with wildlife. The Safari Park's 1,800 acres are home to vital conservation efforts-with more than 3,000 animals representing over 300 species, and a botanical collection of more than 1.75 million plantsoffering remarkable educational opportunities and fun for the whole family. By visiting the Safari Park, guests help support San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance in its mission to save wildlife worldwide and help create a world where all life thrives. The Seniors Free offer is valid only at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, and only for the month of February; parking not included.

The Safari Park is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except for February 18 thrugh 20 when the Park is open until 6 p.m For more information, visit https:// sdzsafaripark.org/seniors-free.

#### **Real Estate**

#### Ramona



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# New Agent Dawson Wise



Dawson has been in the Real Estate business since 2021. He's the third generation in his family in the Real Estate Business. He graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University with a degree in Managerial Organizational Communications in December of 2021 and jumped right into his career. He focuses tremendously on having great communication throughout the whole process whether that being buying, selling, or investing in real estate. He is dedicated to putting in 100% for all his clients and guiding them to make the best decision possible!



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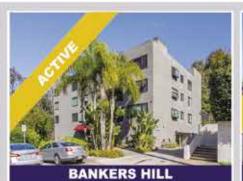
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