

# PRESIDIO SENTINEL

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Serving the Heart of San Diego

December | 2021

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## Jungle Bells at the San Diego Zoo Offers Festive Fun for the Entire Family

'Tis the season for holiday fun, and Jungle Bells at the San Diego Zoo proudly supported by California Coast Credit Union offers memory-making holiday experiences for the entire family. Scheduled events will treat guests to views of amazing wildlife, twinkling lights, entertaining live performances, holiday music and more.

Visitors to Jungle Bells won't want to miss "Aurora," an exciting visual and sound experience that weaves 3D projections, music and light into a spectacular performance. Friendly mythical wind, water and ice sprites share their stories, as well as the power of nature contained within their mystical orbs. As the performance comes to a dramatic and beautiful conclusion, the Aurora Borealis appears—the only time it has been seen in San Diego. "Aurora" takes place twice nightly (except Dec. 24) at Hua Mei Plaza, at 6:30 p.m. and at 7:40 p.m.

In addition to "Aurora," Jungle Bells is full of exciting experiences, including Dr. Zoolittle's animal-themed version of "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," the Northern Frontier Holiday Forest aglow with specially decorated and lighted



*A reindeer at the San Diego Zoo enjoys treats for the season.*

trees, and the toog tree on Front Street, which doesn't just light up, it appears to come to life, "dancing" to sounds of the season. Guests can visit Santa at Gingerbread Landing, see some of Santa's elves as they keep things hopping with their energetic trampoline performance at the "Toy Shop Hop," enjoy a

jazzy carol session and strolling musicians, join in the Reindeer Games on the main plaza and meet larger-than-life friendly Zoo characters like Dr. Harry Lion, Churchill Polar Bear, Sydney Koala and their friends.

Jungle Bells is not just about holiday sights and sounds, but also delicious holiday smells

and tastes from seasonal treats like hot chocolate and cookies, and other culinary delights offered at the Zoo's restaurants and food stands.

Located just outside the Zoo exit, the beloved Balboa Park Miniature Train will be running during Jungle Bells. Train tickets are \$3 for ages 1 and older; children younger than age 1 are free. Ages 5 and younger must ride with a paying adult.

Those looking for something extra special to do during Jungle Bells can enjoy a 90-minute Inside Look Twilight Tour, available for a limited time only. This evening tour features a special look at animals that are just waking up as the sun goes down. Reservations are required. For prices, times and more information, visit [sandiegozoo.org](http://sandiegozoo.org).

Jungle Bells is scheduled Dec. 10, 2021 through Jan. 2, 2022. The San Diego Zoo is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. during this event, except for Dec. 24 when the Zoo closes at 5 p.m. Jungle Bells activities are free with Zoo admission or membership. Parking is free. For more information, visit [sandiegozoo.org/junglebells](http://sandiegozoo.org/junglebells).

## Santa Returns to Fashion Valley for the Holidays

Santa has returned to offer his joy personality for families as part of the Simon Santa Photo Experience at Fashion Valley Shopping Center. Santa arrived on Thursday, November 11 and will be available until Christmas Eve.

### Things to know before you go:

- Reservations are encouraged. Make Santa reservations today by visiting: <https://www.simon.com/mall/fashion-valley/stores/santa-photo-experience/stream/tis-the-season-for-photos-with-santa-6188686>.
- Families may choose to sit with Santa or maintain social distance.
- Santa's helpers will wear masks throughout the duration of each visit.

The Santa photo experience will be open daily. Set hours vary and can be found by visiting: <https://www.simon.com/mall/fashion-valley/stores/santa-photo-experience/stream/tis-the-season-for-photos-with-santa-6188686>



*Santa Claus has returned to Fashion Valley Shopping Center to celebrate the Christmas season.*

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## Kids Fashion Week Network So-Cal and the Holidays

By Stylishly Aubree Lynn, Director of KFW Network So-Cal

We can't believe the holidays have finally arrived for us to celebrate. In keeping with the season, Kids Fashion Week Network is deeply involved in the giving season.

Last year, due to Covid, we were unable to put on our first show here on the West Coast. Instead, we held a toy drive that served over 300 families in the community of Lemon Grove and has now become a regular event.

This year, we are back-to-back with Kids Fashion Week (KFW) Runway show and the following week our Annual Toy Drive. We are eager to let the holiday season commence.

Our non-profit 501(c) 3 is ready to announce KFW Network So-Cal "Fierce and Fancy" Runway Show to be held on Sunday, December 12 with 24 models; five designers/clothing companies, amongst them two kid designers from the East



**Kids Fashion Week So-Cal models for the upcoming Runway show.**  
Photo is courtesy of Black Queen Photography.

Coast; a 16-year old kid DJ; vendors; and the amazing show host amazing donations for raffle prizes; Tati from Jesse and Tati in the

morning on Star 94.1.

We are overwhelmed with the amount of love and support we have gotten from So-Cal and all over.

To say we are excited and blessed to continue with our show and the Kids Toy Drive, with over 14 partnered businesses, would be an understatement. We are ecstatic.

A special thank you to our sponsors: B & B Autohaus, Palm Care Pharmacy, and contributions from Lifepoint Church, Lemon Grove Lions Club, Kids Ark, Jade Brunston and Travis Russell. And, thanks to KFW So-Cal and DC

Team, Host Tati, Glam Team, photography and videography team, and Bree Hody for volunteering. Without all of their participation, this show cannot happen. For tickets, to give a donation, and to find out more about the Kids Toy Drive, visit [www.kfwnetwork.com](http://www.kfwnetwork.com).

## San Diego Repertory Theatre Appoints New Managing Director



**Abigail Buell joins San Diego Repertory leadership after an extensive national search.**

San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) announced Abigail Buell as the newly appointed managing director of San Diego's downtown resident professional theatre, now in its 46th Season. Buell joins San Diego Repertory leadership after an extensive national search by M/Oppenheim Executive Search. She has spent the last 16 years as a theatrical and performing arts visionary, leader and devoted arts advocate in New York City. She has marketed hundreds of productions throughout her career, including leading multimillion dollar marketing campaigns for Broadway's "To Kill A Mockingbird" starring Jeff Daniels, "King Lear" starring Glenda Jackson, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," as well as "The Music Man" starring Hugh Jackman.

"San Diego Repertory Theatre's

mission really speaks to me both personally and as a leader in the national theatre community. San Diego REP is truly a rare jewel that not only has a progressive pursuit of celebrating diverse voices across our region, but is an organization that truly lives and breathes this both on and off-stage. I am a committed advocate for San Diego REP and seek to ensure that the incredible work we are producing is accessible and available to communities both within and beyond San Diego," states Abigail Buell.

Artistic Director Sam Woodhouse shared "Finding a new partner to join me to lead San Diego REP as we step towards our 50th Anniversary Season was a big challenge for the search firm that we employed in the quest. Over 300 people in the American theatre were interviewed and consulted to find the ideal person for San Diego REP. I am so glad that we have found Abigail, who I believe embodies the vision, ambition, savvy and wide range of skills we need in our new managing director. I am thrilled she has joined our leadership team."

Most recently, Buell was the head of marketing at RWS Entertainment Group, the largest provider of live entertainment for the hospitality, leisure and attractions, municipality, theatrical and corporate industries across North America. Her clients included: Warner Bros., Disney, NBCUniversal, Holland America Cruise Line, Celebrity Cruises, Macy's, Westfield, SeaWorld, Legoland, among others.

She also led all audience efforts for the TV hit, "Inside the Actors Studio" for over seven years with guests that included George Clooney, Sean Combs, Brad Pitt,

Jennifer Aniston, Steve Carrell, Amy Adams, Neil Patrick Harris, James Cameron among others.

Buell is a graduate of the Commercial Theatre Institute and holds a dual degree in Pre-Law and Advertising Management

from Drake University as well as a Certificate in Urban Planning and Design from Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Buell and her fiancé, Michael are delighted to have relocated to San Diego with their dog, Lucy.

## Live Christmas Trees!



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# Giving Thanks Two Years Into a Pandemic

By Rick Brooks



The past couple of years have been challenging on many levels. There were ups and downs, to be sure. Having my adult daughter living at home for almost a full year was wonderful, though we all agreed it was best when she moved back to school to finish her graduate degree. Not spending 90 minutes a day on I-5 between downtown and Solana Beach was a clear silver lining, not to mention the nearly empty roads when I did have to go to the office.

## Family and friends

Despite the enforced separation of the pandemic, our family huddled together and stayed close. Zoom and Facetime helped us to bring in family members from around the country and to stay connected to local friends when we couldn't get together. As things settled down a bit, outdoor walks and gatherings took the place of Zoom (to much fanfare and rejoicing I might add). In the end, maintaining those connections was one of the most important things we did during the pandemic to help keep spirits. And the research on happiness is pretty clear on this point: social connections are critical to happy and healthy longevity.

## Health and Medical

As the pandemic started to come into focus in early 2020, our medical system kicked into high gear. We've all heard stories about the long hours and stress imposed on our medical professionals and first responders who've borne the

brunt of the pandemic's hardships. A friend of mine who works in public health has worked harder and longer than I thought humanly possible trying to help manage the county's response to the pandemic. Another friend who is an emergency room doctor has spent months on the front lines with limited protective gear and caught COVID himself. So many of our health care workers have toiled silently in the background as hospitals and clinics filled to the breaking point.

The speed with which the vaccines were developed was breathtaking, a true testament to American ingenuity and creativity. These vaccines have really enabled life to return to something close to normal and have saved tens of thousands of lives by preventing more serious COVID infections. And as I write this, several potential new treatments are being reviewed by the Food and Drug Administration, another remarkable achievement.

## Personal Development

Many people spent the pandemic honing new skills. I've been enjoying the new season of the Great British Baking Show featuring one gentleman who started baking at the beginning of the pandemic and is now a finalist. My oldest daughter certainly perfected her croissants (which was not good for my waistline), and I've become a wiz with Zoom. Working from home never really seemed feasible for me, but as we've gotten used to it over the past 18 months, it's much easier to flex between being in the office and being at home.

## Financial

Probably the biggest surprise of the pandemic is how well the stock

market and financial system has performed over the last two years. If you had told me in December of 2019 that 2020 would see a global pandemic in which the global economy and global trade would effectively shut down for several months while millions of people (including more than 370,000 Americans) died but the stock market would hit new highs by year-end, I'd have probably asked what you were smoking. But that's exactly what happened. A combination of record fiscal and monetary support in the form of government spending and low interest rates, combined with unprecedented shifts in how and where corporate America works resulted in little more than a brief hiccup for most of the economy. To be sure, millions of workers and renters have been displaced, and I don't want to minimize the damage done to the workers least able to handle the challenges of the past year. But the economy has come roaring back and the financial markets have clearly benefitted.

As we adjust to a post-COVID reality, we remain especially grateful to our family, friends, and colleagues who helped make the challenges of the last two years just a little bit easier to deal with.

This column is prepared by Rick Brooks, CFA®, CFP®. Brooks 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](mailto:rbrooks@bfadvisors.com). Brooks and his family live in Mission Hills.

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# Mama's Kitchen Volunteers Prepare 3,000 Pie Boxes



**Mama's Kitchen Thanksgiving Bake Sale continues to offer a variety of delicious pies.**

Dedicated and hardworking Mama's Kitchen volunteers were busy assembling, folding and labeling thousands of pie boxes for the annual Mama's Pies Thanksgiving Bake Sale. The boxes were then delivered to local bakers who donated their time and talent

to bake pies that are in turn sold by volunteer pie sellers to benefit Mama's Kitchen.

Each pie cost \$30 with funds raised allowing Mama's Kitchen to cook, prepare and deliver 12 nutritious meals to vulnerable San Diegans facing hunger due

to critical illnesses, including HIV, cancer, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and chronic kidney disease. This year, Mama's Kitchen hopes to raise \$125,000 during the six-week sales period to fund 50,000 meals to benefit the organization's clients in need.

Considered San Diego's largest annual bake sale, Mama's Pies brings together community volunteers to sell Thanksgiving pies baked and donated by local caterers, restaurants, and bakeries.

For 31 years, Mama's Kitchen has served over 10 million meals and has never turned away a client who qualified for its services.

Mama's Kitchen saw a 50 percent increase in demand in response to COVID. In 2020, the organization delivered 600,000 meals to our neighbors in need of nutrition and support. Mama's Kitchen is currently home-delivering more than 12,000 meals a week, all throughout San Diego County.



## Newest Destination at the San Diego Zoo Entering Final Phases

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (SDZWA) is expanding its mission to help all life thrive by cultivating some of its most important allies—the next generation. Opening in February 2022, the 3.2-acre Denny Sanford Wildlife Explorers Basecamp at the San Diego Zoo will be a place where guests and their families can enjoy an exciting experience that inspires empathy for all wildlife.

“The new and innovative elements of Wildlife Explorers Basecamp encourage our explorers to gain a better understanding of their role in the natural world by getting a glimpse of life from the wildlife’s point of view,” said Paul A. Baribault, president and chief executive officer of San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. “It’s a fun, accessible and meaningful way to discover how we’re all connected, and that the health of the smallest members of the wildlife community is inextricably linked to our own human health.”

“The name reflects the underlying goal of the area,” said Shawn Dixon, chief operating officer of San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. “We are calling it a Basecamp because it’s designed to serve as a launch pad for budding



*Basecamp uses special sensory elements to create a multifaceted engagement approach, with microscopes and touch screens, plus animation and dynamic lighting installations.*

conservationists of all ages to be inspired to care for and protect the future of our planet.”


Built on the site of the former Children’s Zoo, Wildlife Explorers Basecamp is designed to appeal to a broader audience, while maintaining its place in the hearts of young explorers. The area blends innovation and immersive technology with opportunities to

check out extraordinary species—ranging from leafcutter ants and orb weaver spiders to prairie dogs and sloths—all designed to introduce the next generation to the natural world with an eye toward the future.

Wildlife Explorers Basecamp is divided into four types of habitats and features the wildlife that live in these areas— Rainforest, Wild

Woods, Marsh Meadows and Desert Dunes. Included throughout the space will be breathtaking and remarkable wildlife experiences to bring audiences up close to nature as never before, interactive play opportunities, oversized species-themed sculptures and a one-of-a-kind floating, seven-foot-high stone globe representing the Earth and how we are all connected.

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## help us find a home



**Butter**


**Butter is a beautiful, two-year old, domestic short hair who has been working on gaining confidence.** She was extremely shy and fearful when she first came into our care, but she’s made great progress and is comfortable exploring, playing, and hanging out once she gets to know you. Butter gets along well with the other cat-friendly cats. She would benefit from a quiet home where her new family can be patient while she gets acclimated to her new environment. Just imagine the wonderful bond you can build with Butter by giving her time and love.

**Butter is currently residing at the San Diego Campus of the San Diego Humane Society, located at 5500 Gaines Street in San Diego. For more information, call (619) 299-7012 or visit [www.sdhumane.org](http://www.sdhumane.org).**

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**Layla is a goofy and energetic, six-year-old, Boxer-Labrador retriever mix who has a passion for the great outdoors.** She enjoys spending time out in the sunshine with her humans, whether it’s hiking on a trail or just running around the back yard. Layla may do best as the only animal in her new home, and new people can be a bit intimidating for her so please take introductions slowly. Layla would also do best in a calm household with adults only. This total sweetheart can’t wait to meet her new family and hopefully be home for the holidays.

**Layla is currently residing at the Escondido Campus of the San Diego Humane Society, located at 3500 Burnet Drive in Escondido. For more information, call (619)299-7012, or visit [www.sdhumane.org](http://www.sdhumane.org).**



**Layla**

## SPCA



## Safdie Rabines Architects

By Ginny Ollis

One of Mission Hills greatest treasures is her people – historically, neighborly, and leading positive. Jose Ricardo Rabines and Taal Safdie, architects situated in the building at 925 Fort Stockton, quietly but with enormous effect, are bringing their design skills and conscientious purpose to our community, state, and world. A visit to their website, safdierabines.com, will put you in awe.

As a child, Rabines reports, he loved drawing and art, but the President of Peru, who was also an architect, impressed him with the power of architecture to influence social conscience. Safdie's father was an architect, sharing with her his philosophy and esthetics. When Rabines and Safdie met at school, the alignment of their purpose drove a union.

Understanding the client's need is their first purpose, and then using their insights and creative skills to elaborate. You can see a lot of their work at the La Jolla UCSD campus, where they have done several immediately striking projects: The North Torrey Pines Living and Learning Neighborhood demonstrates their creative use of space and nature, as well as constructed form, to generate peace and inspiration.

Their work on public projects is a testament to their ability to bring



***Taal Safdie's father was an architect, and an inspiration for her philosophy and esthetics.***

leadership regarding environmental respect to their clientele. Note the Harbor Drive Pedestrian Bridge, The National City Aquatic Center, the Lusail Pedestrian Bridges and Iconic Structure in Qatar, the Epstein Family Amphitheatre at UCSD, the UCLA Court of Sciences Student Center that delivers roof top gardens and almost disappears within the courtyard to enhance space, and the purposeful yet stunning Diversionary Theatre here in San Diego.

Fire Station 50 invited them to create a site for essential workers to have both functional necessities at hand and an environment of peace and happiness, a function they believe should be the basis of all medical care centers and schools. And wow, they did.

The work of Safdie and Rabines is also a prominent gift to our residential architecture. At their website you will be enchanted by the Tree House, perched on a hillside with three sides of the living room sliding away into Eucalyptus trees and merging in and out. The Ocean Penthouse, the Bay House on San Diego's Sail Bay, the Goldfinch Canyon House, the Clark Street Residences, are just a few of the homes to which they have brought style and serenity. Trust me, their website will bring you wonder and joy.



***Ricardo Rabines is one of the namesakes behind Safdie Rabines Architects.***

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***The Tree House is the work of Safdie and Rabines and is perched on a hillside with three sides of the living room draped among Eucalyptus trees.***



# Trees Are Nature's Pharmacopeia

By Barb Strona



Last fall the Mission Hills Garden Club enjoyed a visit to a magnificent garden and a buffet supper at the home of arborist Gary Walker, known as "the Tree Whisperer." Walker, a man of many talents, has been "involved with nature all my life." Son of a French mother and a United States citizen father, Walker has lived in Paris, Casablanca, Barcelona, Miami, Boston, Chicago, and San Diego. Exposure to the arts and nature from his early days until now led to his becoming a talented artist, designer, musician, composer, and poet. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from University of Massachusetts, and studied at Harvard, Northeastern University and Emerson College, all schools in the Boston vicinity. Walker studied under Dr. Alex Shigo who is considered the father of modern arboriculture. Shigo brought the study of tree biology to the public as well as to fellow arborists.

Walker's background contributed to his becoming an outstanding arborist in his own right. He has had more than thirty years' experience in garden design and working with trees. Walker has won awards for many of his gardens, and he has been featured in numerous magazines. He has traveled all over the world and has researched many of the world's best gardens.

Walker lives in Hidden Meadows on over twenty acres. He fell in love with the property in 2018, but the owner wasn't ready to sell. A year later, Walker convinced the owner that he

would cherish and care for the property as well as or better than the previous owner had done. The sale was consummated.

Walker loved the Moroccan feel of the property's house as well as the plethora of beautiful trees on the land he was buying. He painted his new home the deep pinkish coral tone one sees all over Marrakech. His home and his gardens are filled with artifacts, masks, Buddhas, sculptures, gates, and other items he has collected in his travels over his lifetime. Best of all, he made friends with a neighbor who has almost succeeded in having 277 of his 350 acres which surround Walker's deeded to the county to be maintained in its natural state in perpetuity.

From Walker's land one sees spectacular views of the neighboring mountains. Walker refers to his surroundings as "a giant canvas where I can paint with plants." He told me when he plants, he is very conscious of the colors he is adding, choosing a palette that will either complement or augment whatever is already there. The property abounds with oaks, eucalyptus, jacaranda, and California pepper trees which Walker has interspersed with countless flowering specimen trees and fruit trees. He has also planted bulbs, rose bushes, and anything that will add to his living canvas.

Walker hired crews to prune and lace trees that had been neglected. He wanted to resuscitate an orange grove, but that proved impossible. He removed all the dead orange trees but one whose trunk and branches he painted the brilliant yellow of his home's courtyard; birds can use it as a perch encircled by twigs which Walker



Gary Walker is shown with his dog, Lily.

painted lavender.

Walker has painted murals on walls, both interior and exterior. Walking on the property with Walker and his Bichpoo dog, a combination of Bichon-frisé and poodle, you feel you are in a magical space created by the plants both above and around you, by the colors---both nature's and those painted---by the beautifully toned windchimes, and the art pieces. Walker has landscaped about two of the twenty acres he owns. Throughout the landscaped grounds Walker has placed furniture for sitting and contemplating the surroundings.

Everything Walker does reflects his adoration of nature. On his website, CreativeAlchemist.org, you can see and hear samples of his creativity. He is particularly focused on trees. He points out in a recorded podcast that if we planted more trees and cared for those we already have, these trees could help us solve our environmental crisis. Trees are natural filters, he points out. They take in carbons and give off oxygen. They mitigate sound and moderate temperature. They provide food, shelter, and habitat for humans and many of the other animals.

Trees are "nature's pharmacopeia," with complex compounds which have been used to mitigate pain and cure diseases for centuries. In addition to providing us with beauty, trees are "timekeepers," Walker calls them. They change their garb as a woman changes her outfits to suit the season. (I stole the simile from Walker.) Trees appeal to every sense: sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste. Their beauty

is inspirational, and Walker says there are people in the Amazon who can communicate with trees. We are learning that trees communicate with each other, helping and protecting future generations. They are also long-lived. The world's oldest tree is located somewhere in the Pine Valley area of eastern California. This Great Basin bristle-cone is known as the Methuselah Tree, believed to be perhaps 4800 years old.

Visiting Walker's garden was a truly moving experience. We also were treated to fabulous food made by garden club members.

There is no meeting in December, but the club will meet from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, January 27 at Mission Hills Church of Christ, located at 4070 Jackdaw Street.

Consult the club's webpage for more information at [missionhillsgardenclub.org](http://missionhillsgardenclub.org).



The world's oldest tree is located somewhere in the Pine Valley area of eastern California.

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## Mission Hills - All About the Holidays

By Dixie Hall, President of Mission Hills BID and Owner of DixiePops



This holiday season, whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, or the Winter Solstice, please join me in shopping local as you comb through your gift list. Explore locations along West Lewis, Goldfinch and Fort Stockton, onto West Washington and West University and Reynard Way, and remember India Street to the west too.

You may wonder why I am always suggesting, urging and cajoling Mission Hills' residents to "shop local." It's because there is no better way to show your appreciation for all that our local businesses do to contribute to the sense of "community" which makes Mission Hills a place to call home and not just an impersonal collection of houses and random business centers. Personally, I love recognizing customers as they come in and chat. As a customer, I enjoy going where someone knows my name and appreciates my business.

As tough as it has been for our local businesses, their philanthropy has continued through gifts of funds and commitment of time and energy to our schools and community-based organizations. I again ask that before you go online or head to the mall, think of our local businesses and whether they might have the special gift for you. Local support of local businesses will help our neighborhood thrive.

The holidays are a joyous season of giving and time spent with family and friends. Most often it is also a time for gift-giving to a host and hostess or a gift-exchange among loved ones, or with a favorite colleague. During the holidays, there's plenty of pampering and indulging to be enjoyed, without leaving Mission Hills. Our wide assortment of shops are filled with small and large shopping treasures and offer a variety of price ranges and gifting possibilities. In Mission Hills shoppers turn errands into adventures.

West Lewis Street is all aglow with unique gift items galore. On West Lewis, when you buy a special holiday something for someone, remember to buy something for yourself as well.

Indulgences, from one-of-a-kind children's and women's clothing, a retail and kitchen studio filled with gourmet groceries and curated home and kitchen ware, to hard-

to-find grown-up beverages and curated collections of specialty florals and vintage good abound on West Lewis. Noteworthy too are great places to grab a warm

coffee or tea, enroll in yoga and exercise classes, drop off all your dry cleaning and laundry services, and enjoy salon services.

Reynard Way stand outs for the holidays are CAKE Bakery and The Frame Maker where you might want to order delicious baked goodies or have a long awaiting piece of art beautifully framed. Self care services provided by Saffron & Sage and convenience store items are also offered in the neighborhood.

On India Street, also recognized as International Restaurant Row, stocked and ready to go for a traditional British Christmas, Shakespeare's Corner Shoppe & Afternoon Tea will not disappoint. Don't miss their annual visit from Father Christmas (Santa Claus), Saturday December 11, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., complimentary photos, punch and shortbread and gift for the kids are planned. On Christmas Eve from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., join Shakespeare Pub & Grille for an evening of tradition, music, and fun, and sing along to your favorite Christmas carols accompanied by a British styled brass band. Also on India Street holiday tamales, pizzas, traditional dinners, sandwiches, gelatos and international foods are ready for you and your holiday guests.

On Goldfinch Street and on Fort Stockton Drive catch up with friends and family over a festive beverage or a meal. Browse the real estate listings. Perhaps enjoy a massage or a facial. Get a fresh hair style. Buy a holiday gift or three. On West University Avenue there could be a piece of jewelry waiting for you.

West Washington Street is our busiest and most diverse commercial area. It is filled with music lessons and listening options, dining and desserts and grown-up drinking, gourmet ice cream and cheese, self-care and beauty, excellent groceries, and everything your pet may need. And for those year-end must-do's, don't forget our neighborhood banks, dentists, insurance agents, realtors and accountants.

Indeed, Mission Hills' wonderful selection of small and large treasures has something to offer even the fussiest person on your list. Please don't just take my word for it. Discover for yourself how much more our neighborhood has to offer this holiday season.



*Dixie Hall (center), owner of DixiePops and president of the Mission Hills BID, with Shop Small volunteers J. Daniel Geddis (left) and Gary Catalano (right) prepared and delivered 800 Shop Small tote bags in time for the local holiday shopping kick-off.*



*Susie Shamas of Mission Hills Liquor & Deli is all set for the holiday shopping deluge thanks to Shop Small elves J. Daniel Geddis (right) and Gary Catalano (left).*



*Selina Stockley (left) and the team at Shakespeare's Corner Shoppe are ready to welcome holiday season shoppers.*

**Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



# La Mesa’s Holiday in the Village



*Holiday in the Village includes carolers and local bands. Photo by CeCe Canton (cecephoto.com)*

The 6th annual La Mesa Holiday in the Village will once again be ringing in holiday cheer for everyone from noon to 9 p.m. at La Mesa Boulevard, between Spring Street and 4th Street in La Mesa. Guests will have the chance to take part in free festive fun with live music, cozy fires, craft vendors, food, holiday photo opportunities, and a kids’ area bigger than Santa’s Toy Shop.

This year’s locally loved La Mesa Holiday in the Village is going back to its roots to bring guests more entertainment, more vendors, and an inclusive holiday experience for all ages to enjoy. Get in the holiday spirit while playing carnival games, listening to carolers, and enjoying delicious food and drinks from La Mesa

local favorites.

Walk the streets of La Mesa’s historic downtown while exploring over 50 local craft vendor stands, then cozy up with artisan and craft food and snack specialties. Friends and family can relax by the fire pits while enjoying holiday caroling, cheerful holiday music, and fun live entertainment on the La Mesa Lumber Stage. La Mesa’s free Holiday in the Village will turn everyone holly and jolly with a full lineup of entertainment including traditional holiday songs and music, local bands, and community performances.

For more information, visit <http://www.lamesavillageassociation.org/events/holiday-in-the-village.aspx>.

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## Cygnnet Theatre Presents “A Christmas Carol”

“A Christmas Carol” returns to Cygnnet Theatre for its seventh season of cheer. It has become a true holiday favorite, with San Diegans making Scrooge, the Spirits, and the Cratchit family part of their holiday tradition. This year the show features the same warm story of hope and redemption, along with new cast members. The family-friendly musical runs through Sunday, December 26 at Cygnnet Theatre in Old Town.

Written by Charles Dickens and adapted by Sean Murray, with an original score by Billy Thompson. This production is a re-imagined take on the original holiday classic featuring lively music, unique puppets and live sound effects.

“As we’ve been rehearsing to bring our Christmas Carol back for audiences, I reflect on the uncertainty and isolation so many of us patiently rode out, longing to be able to see each other and celebrate each other again,” says Murray. “Like Old Scrooge, we found ourselves alone, hunkered down and just getting through it all. But time can heal. And reconnection with each



**Tom Stephenson (left) is Ebenezer Scrooge in the 2021 “A Christmas Carol” at Cygnnet Theater in Old Town San Diego.**

other has been our glorious reward. I’m thrilled to once again tell the story of one man’s reconnection with his family, his community, and his humanity.”

Cygnnet Theatre will once again be transformed into a Victorian Christmas card thanks to the creativity of set designer Andrew Hull. Kyle Montgomery is lighting designer

and sound designer is Matt Lescault Wood. Costumes are by Jeanne Reith, and Peter Herman will provide wigs and makeup. Choreography is by Katie Banville. Original puppets designed by Michael McKeon. Musical director is Patrick Marion.

Tom Stephenson is once again everyone’s favorite Ebenezer Scrooge. Returning veterans include Megan

Carmitchel, Melinda Gilb, David McBean, and Patrick McBride. New cast members include Lucky Allen Weaver and Erin Vanderhyde.

All patrons must adhere to Cygnnet Theatre’s Health and Safety protocol. Patrons must provide a photo ID along with their COVID-19 vaccination card (digitally or physically). To be considered fully vaccinated, final dose date must be 14 days prior to the show date. For those who are not vaccinated (regardless of age) Cygnnet will require proof of a negative Coronavirus PCR Test dated within 72-hours of your performance. Masks are required to be worn while inside the theatre’s lobby and while watching the performance.

Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased in person at the box office located at 4040 Twiggs Street in San Diego Old Town Historic State Park, by calling 619-337-1525 or by visiting [www.cygnnettheatre.com](http://www.cygnnettheatre.com). Children 12 and under receive half-off tickets with each paid adult.

## “Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas!” Returns to the Old Globe Theatre

“Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas!” is a wonderful, whimsical musical based upon the classic Dr. Seuss book. Back for another incredible year, the family favorite features the songs “Santa for a Day,” “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch,” and “Welcome, Christmas (Fah Who Doraze),” the delightful carol from the popular animated version of How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Celebrate the holidays as the Old Globe Theatre is once again transformed into the snow-covered Who-ville, right down to the last can of Who-hash. It runs through Friday, December 31, 2021 at the Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage in the Old Globe Theatre, part of the Conrad Prebys Theatre Center.

It is directed by James Vásquez, with books and lyrics by Timothy Mason, music by Mel Marvin, and original choreography by John DeLuca.

The cast includes Andrew Polec as The Grinch, Tommy Martinez as Young Max, John Treacy Egan as Old Max, and, alternating in the role of Cindy-Lou Who, Sophia



**Sophia Adajar as Cindy-Lou Who and Andrew Polec as The Grinch in “Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas!” Photo by Rich Soublet II.**

Adajar (Pink Team) and Leila Manuel (Red Team).

Rounding out the cast of “The Grinch” are Christopher M. Ramirez as Papa Who, Ariella Kvashny as Mama Who, Larry Raben as Grandpa Who, and Bets Malone as Grandma Who; alternating in the role of Annie Who are Dempsey Baker

(Red Team) and Juliette Cutugno (Pink Team); alternating in the role of Betty-Lou Who are Isabella Pruter (Red Team) and Maya Washington (Pink Team); alternating in the role of Boo Who are Benji Katzke (Pink Team) and John Perry Wishchuk (Red Team); and alternating in the role of Danny Who

are Alexander Dalton (Pink Team) and Ali Nelson (Red Team).

The Grown-Up Who ensemble consists of Leo Ebanks, Kyrsten Hafso Koppman, Patricia Jewel, Corey Jones, Bibi Mama, and Lance Arthur Smith.

The Swings for “The Grinch” are Arya Bosworth, Jacob Caltrider, Bobby Chiu, Bethany Slomka, and James Vásquez.

The creative team include additional choreography by Bob Richard and music direction by Elan McMahan. “The Grinch” creative team also includes John Lee Beatty (scenic design), Robert Morgan (costume design), Pat Collins (lighting design), Paul Peterson (sound design), Anita Ruth (orchestrator), Joshua Rosenblum (vocal arrangements and incidental music), David Krane (dance music arranger) Caparelliots Casting (casting), and Jess Slocum (production stage manager).

For additional information about “Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas!,” visit [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org).

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# Mission Hills’ Author’s Book Release Party

This past November, Anna Wilcoxson of Mission Hills held a book release party to announce her debut novel, “Secrets and Promises.”

The book is fictional, however, is flavored with some of her own heritage and memories, which are reflected in the contents of the story:

When a feisty ninety-six-year-old schoolteacher and her daughter go to Italy to find their roots, they uncover a secret about their family’s past... a secret that connects them to the powerful Urbani Truffle Empire. They share the same last name but no one in the village is talking, until they meet a one-eyed man, named Enzo, who still remembers.

Enzo looked at us, his one eye intent and compassionate at the same time. “Some stones are better left unturned. Are you sure you want to hear this?”

Mom’s answer was immediate. “I’ve lived a long time and I’ve always found that knowing more of the truth is better than knowing less of it. There are secrets in this town...I can feel it...secrets about our family’s past. Tell us the story.”

In the early 1900s, three brothers flee their Umbrian village in Italy for a fresh start in the promised land of America. They leave behind an act of vengeance, a devastating loss, and the heartache of unrequited love. Settling in a seaside town near the Mexican border called San Diego, they struggle to gain a foothold and secure a piece of the American dream. How they deal with the burden of loss that haunts them, and how they earn their seat at the table through sacrifice and ingenuity, is a story every immigrant can relate to.

Through it all, the truth about their past, and their ancestry, remains a mystery. It is only after three generations, and the revelation of a secret love affair, that the pieces of the puzzle finally come together.

Anna Wilcoxson, who grew up in San Diego, California in the 1960s, has lived a colorful life filled with adventure and artistry. She began her career in 1975 as a dancer with the original San Diego Ballet Company under the directorship of Dame Sonia Arova. She performed with the Santa Barbara Ballet Theatre and The USIU International Company, which is where she earned her BFA for dancing and teaching at the USIU School of the Performing Arts. In 1995, Wilcoxson opened her own ballet school, teaching and directing classic ballet productions for children.

In 2009, when she assumed the role of caregiver for her ninety-five-year-old mother, Wilcoxson’s creative passion shifted, and she began writing



Anna Wilcoxson of Mission Hills has enjoyed a life filled with the arts, history and a strong Italian heritage.

short stories based on her life and experiences in the performing arts. A trip to Italy with her mother in 2010 sparked the idea for a novel centered around the stories she had heard as a child about her immigrant ancestors. She now divides her time between San Diego and Scheggino, Italy, and more stories are likely to be written.

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## Inspiration Heights Historic District Progresses

By Barry Hager

Last year Mission Hills Heritage began an ambitious project to nominate Inspiration Heights—one of the earliest subdivisions in Mission Hills—as an historic district for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Historic district status will highlight the history of Inspiration Heights and its importance to Mission Hills and San Diego, and help protect the irreplaceable architectural gems that line the streets of Inspiration Heights.

Mission Hills Heritage (MHH) has hired the consulting firm of Architectural Resources Group (ARG) to prepare the nomination package and guide its processing through the California Office of Historic Preservation, the agency which handles nominations to the National Register. MHH board member and Inspiration Heights resident Kirk Burgamy, along with a committee of MHH volunteers, is overseeing the process. ARG has prepared a draft of the nomination report and completed field survey work, and the package should be ready for submittal this spring.

The nomination will highlight important details about the history of Inspiration Heights and its significance to our community and the City as a whole. For example, when Harry L. Miller, re-subdivided the land in 1909,



*Newly built homes in the 1909 Inspiration Heights subdivision.  
Photo is courtesy of the San Diego History Center.*

renaming it Inspiration Heights, key elements of a planning document known as the Nolan Plan were incorporated into the tract. John Nolan, a landscape architect and planning consultant from Cambridge, Massachusetts, who advocated for incorporating nature and open space into city planning, was hired by a City of San Diego-sanctioned committee to prepare a master plan to guide development in the City.

The so-called Nolan Plan was published in 1908 but never officially adopted by the City. However, new residential subdivisions in Mission Hills, including Inspiration Heights, were the first to directly apply key elements of the plan. The

Inspiration Heights tract included a system of curvilinear streets and irregularly-shaped lots that conformed to the adjacent topography of hills and canyons, rather than imposing a rigid system of gridded blocks as with earlier subdivisions. This arrangement made more efficient use of the land and leveraged its unique natural attributes. The tract also incorporated a hierarchy of street widths to improve circulation within the subdivision. Parkways were planted with queen palms to dress streets without obscuring views and harmonize with San Diego's temperate climate.

The nomination will also reference a promotional brochure

for Inspiration Heights that was illustrated by an eighteen-year-old local artist named Virginia Goodrich, whose sketches and watercolors depicted a romanticized interpretation of Inspiration Heights that accompanied narrative descriptions of the tract and its attributes.

Acceptance to the National Register of Historic Places will represent a significant honor for Inspiration Heights and all of Mission Hills. Designation at the national level will also ease the path for designation at the local San Diego level. Once designated at the national level, the City of San Diego's historic guidelines will automatically qualify the district for local designation. No additional analysis or reports will be required to designate the district locally. Once designated locally, owners of contributing properties will be able to apply for Mills Act contracts to receive property tax benefits.

This project involves significant expense. Please help us pay for the cost of the consultant and other expenses by making a donation to Mission Hills Heritage. Donations can be made at our website, [www.MissionHillsHeritage.org](http://www.MissionHillsHeritage.org). With your help, we look forward to making the Inspiration Heights Historic District a reality.

## Mission Hills United Church of Christ Calls New Pastor for Ministry with the Community

After a national search, Mission Hills United Church of Christ (MHUCC) called The Rev. Dr. David Bahr as their new senior pastor. Bahr moved from Denver, Colorado, with his husband soon to follow, and began his ministry on Sunday, October 24.

"The congregation wanted a pastor who shared our commitment to social justice and who would push us out of our comfort zones to make sure we are truly meeting the needs of our community," said Julie James, who co-chaired the search process. "David clearly stood out as the person called to join us in our work."

During his first service, Bahr read from Amanda Gorman's book "Change Sings," encouraging the children and youth to change the world through compassion and love for the world around them.

Bahr said, "That's who I believe we are as a church."

MHUCC distributes free food every month from the parking lot and has helped young



*Art Pate (left) and The Rev. Dr. David Bahr, the new senior pastor at Mission Hills United Church of Christ, will be present on Saturday, January 15 to meet the community.*

families and seniors alike for decades, supporting an on-site preschool and nearby Green Manor, which it founded in the 1970s to provide low-income senior housing. The church has also partnered with community-serving

organizations including Just in Time for Foster Youth, El Nido and Special Delivery San Diego among many others.

"I'm excited to join a congregation that is so committed to making a difference in the community," said Bahr. "Mission Hills UCC's desire to support children and families in building a world that is open, inclusive, just, and compassionate speaks deeply to my own understanding of what God calls us to be as a church."

Bahr came to San Diego after 14 years of ministry in Denver, where his congregation was deeply involved in racial justice and the Black Lives Matter movement, and hosted an overnight shelter for unhoused women.

"I see some of the same challenges here in San Diego that we faced in Denver, though of course the context is different," said Bahr. "How do we, as a faith community, respond to a multi-pronged housing

and homelessness crisis, or to the fact that law enforcement here stops Black and Latino residents far more often than they stop people who look like me?"

Originally from a farm in North Dakota, Bahr first discerned a pull toward ordained ministry as a teen and began pastoring two small congregations as a 20-year-old. He earned his Master of Divinity at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and his Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., writing his dissertation on the then small number of Protestant congregations that had called an openly gay minister.

MHUCC is inviting the community to an open house to meet Pastor Bahr on Saturday, January 15 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**More information about the event and the congregation is available at [www.missionhillsucc.org](http://www.missionhillsucc.org).**



## The Power of Community Can Support Local Seniors This Holiday Season

By Brent Wakefield, President and CEO, Meals on Wheels San Diego County

The holidays are upon us and the past two years have delivered far less than holiday cheer as seniors have struggled with social isolation, loneliness, and hunger more than ever.

Luckily, local senior nonprofit organizations stepped in. They have done the hard work year-round to keep seniors safe, healthy, and independent. I like to say, they are the boots on the ground in our senior communities – truly making a difference in seniors' lives through empathy and support.

For organizations like Meals on Wheels San Diego County, the gratitude shown by local seniors as we step in to meet their nutrition needs makes every interaction worth it. Harvard research recently found, "gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships." We – and other senior-focused nonprofits – couldn't imagine a better outcome from our services.

The momentum must continue – especially during the holiday season. The power of community cannot be understated in supporting our local seniors. Banding together to help make the holidays special can take many forms.

Here are three ways you can positively impact the work of senior-related nonprofits this holiday season.

If you can make charitable contributions this year, consider giving back to local senior-related organizations to support San Diego's older adults in need. Funds will not only help impactful programs continue year-round, but also assist in making the holidays extra special for seniors isolated to their homes, and away from their loved ones again this season. Also note, the IRS announced expanded tax benefits this past September for individuals and businesses interested in charitable giving.

The need for volunteers has never been higher, and senior organizations are always in search of more giving individuals. Sometimes a volunteer is the only person our seniors see all day. For us, each volunteer helps keep our wheels rolling and has a profound impact on the seniors they encounter every day.

A well-rounded care package is both practical, fun, and an easy way to tell a senior, "I Care." Many charities have lists on their website for the specific items they need. Care items can also be coupled with personal notes of encouragement to help brighten their holidays and start the New Year off right.

Choosing a senior-related organization to support doesn't have to be a guessing game. Online resources like GuideStar and Charity Navigator can assist in your search and provide valuable information for you to select an organization.

This holiday season, your time and money can help keep seniors in their home where they want to be – and that's a beautiful thing. No act is too small. With your help, seniors can age with dignity, purpose, and security. We hope you'll join in, recruit friends and neighbors, spread the word, and share some holiday cheer.



**Brent Wakefield is the president and CEO of Meals on Wheels San Diego County.**

## The New Children's Museum in San Diego Names New Leader

The New Children's Museum announced today that Elizabeth Yang-Hellewell will take the post of executive director and CEO on January 3, 2022. Yang-Hellewell is an accomplished museum leader with



**Elizabeth Yang-Hellewell will take the post of executive director and CEO on January 3, 2022. Photo is courtesy of The New Children's Museum.**

demonstrated success in strategic development and fundraising. The appointment comes at the conclusion of a nationwide search led by Museum Board President Caroline Perry, working with nonprofit recruiters Morris and Berger and a Board subcommittee.

"We believe that Elizabeth will have a powerful impact on our organization and lead us into a bright future. Not only does she have solid experience in museum management, strategic planning and philanthropy, she brings a genuine passion for contemporary art and our mission," said Caroline Perry, board president. "The board of directors and I are confident in her ability to work with our

leadership team to continue to fulfill our mission, secure our financial position and elevate our role in the community."

For the past eight years, Yang-Hellewell has been at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (MCASD), where she served as chief advancement officer and member of the three-person executive leadership team. She was responsible for an annual operating budget of \$6 million and was part of the team that raised \$86 million for MCASD's La Jolla campus expansion (public opening slated for April, 2022). In addition to fundraising, her responsibilities spanned across the institution to help develop best practices in organizational performance, budget management, forecasting and strategic planning.

"As someone who has dedicated my career to supporting the work of living artists, educators and arts education programming in museums, I am deeply invested in the potential of museums as powerful spaces and resources for community engagement," explained Yang-Hellewell. "The New Children's Museum has established itself as a beloved community resource and a brilliantly innovative model for both children's museums and contemporary art spaces. I'm looking forward to building on their impactful work with a firm commitment to developing increasingly more diverse, equitable, inclusive, accessible – and of course fun – experiences and opportunities for communities inside and outside of the Museum."



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## Home Start Exceeds Fundraising Expectations at 14th Annual Fall Festival

Home Start, Inc., a nonprofit child abuse prevention and treatment agency that has strengthened San Diego's families and communities since 1972, held its 14th Annual Hallo Wine Festival outdoors on Saturday, October 23, 2021, at the Historic Burnham House. The event raised over \$50,000 - making it the most successful year in the event's history.

Home Start's Hallo-Wine Fall Festival is held every October in recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. All funds raised support the organization's programs that provide critical assistance to vulnerable children and families affected by this hardship in San Diego.

"Seeing our community come together to support our mission is remarkable. Because of our incredible supporters, this year's Hallo-Wine was our most successful ever. We are already turning



*Left to right are Liz Morrison, volunteer; Rene McKee, Cal Coast Credit Union, VP Community & Public Relations; and Laura Tancredi-Baese, Home Start, CEO who attended the 14th Annual Hallo Wine Festival.*

those dollars into life-changing resources and services for those in need," shared Home Start Chief

Executive Officer Laura Tancredi-Baese, LCSW.

This year's festival's Co-

Presenting Sponsors were Molina Healthcare and Evelyn Favero-Heald. Hallo-Wine attendees were able to enjoy a variety of gourmet hors d'oeuvres, boutique wines, hand-crafted beers, and local spirits, in addition to the live entertainment, silent auction, and many other interactive activities. Guests also heard from a local Home Start client who shared her personal story of how Home Start helped her and her family overcome homelessness.

Home Start's vision is for every child in San Diego to have a safe, stable, and nurturing home. For those interested in providing assistance to families affected by domestic violence and other crises, Home Start coordinates volunteers, accepts donations, and operates a thrift boutique and Bright Futures Candles in Normal Heights. These social enterprises provide job-training and program revenue for young mothers facing homelessness.

## New Crockpots Donated to Local Military Families in Need

United Way of San Diego County (UWSD), in partnership with Support the Enlisted Project (STEP) hosted an in person drop off event this past November to donate more than 100 new crockpots of benefit local military families in need.

The crockpots were collected and purchased through UWSD's inaugural "Holiday Crockpot Drive" that happened from October 18 through November 12, 2021.

UWSD's inaugural "Holiday Crockpot Drive" provides more than a crockpot. It's providing ways to cook at home, sustainability, the opportunity to stretch a dollar, and most importantly bringing families together over a warm

meal. Each crockpot donation will contribute a lifetime of warm meals and memories for the families that sacrifice so much for our community and country. For military families experiencing food insecurity, a crockpot can support the following:

- Provide a warm meal in transitioning housing situations
- Lower the cost per meal for a family to stretch their dollars
- Make meal preparation quick and easy when working multiple jobs
- Provide a way to teach children how to cook safely
- Cook larger quantities of food creating additional meals
- Provide a variety of meals using SNAP approved ingredients



*Nancy Sasaki, president and CEO, United Way of San Diego County and Tony Teravainen, USN (Ret.) CEO and co-founder of Support The Enlisted Project, are shown delivering crockpots.*

## Mission Hills Artist Wins Second Place



*Susanne Slater's painting, titled "Linus," was selected by nationally known juror Barbara Tapp.*

Mission Hills artist Susanne Slater has won second place in the highly competitive November Members Show on display in the San Diego Watercolor Society gallery at 2825 Dewey Road in Liberty Station, San Diego. Slater's painting, titled "Linus," and was selected by nationally known juror Barbara Tapp for this honor, out of nearly 300 entries. Tapp said of the painting, "Although this painting is abstract through its elements, we can see a mouth, nose, eye - and we then see it as a dog. The character of the dog comes out due to the rhythm and directions of textures. It is a very well-constructed abstract, with a warm feeling. The artist knew how to direct your eye. It is a very exciting painting, with beautiful, harmonious color. The 'lost-and-found' edges are very appealing."

Slater has become a well-known watercolor artist in San Diego over the past 10 years.

She has been juried into and won multiple awards at the San Diego Watercolor Society and at other venues around town, including the Southwestern Gallery in Balboa Park, the San Diego Art Institute in Balboa Park and Spanish Village. Her formal training in drawing, sculpting and painting was received at the Jeff Watts Atelier in Encinitas, CA. This is where she began watercolor and met her mentor James Mallard. Since that time, she has trained with a number of national and international artists. Over the years Susanne has traveled internationally and painted scenes from France, London, Germany, and Prague. In 2012 she was a featured artist at the Mission Federal ArtWalk in Little Italy. Her painting "Balboa Park" was chosen by Mission Federal Bank for their advertising campaign. More of her work can be found at <https://www.slatewatercolors.com/>.



## North Park Book Fair Holiday Edition



*Books inspire and allow the mind to wander to far away places.*

100-plus local vendors make holiday shopping easy for book lovers

Do you enjoy giving loved ones the perfect holiday gift, but hate the slog of driving to a dozen different shopping centers?

North Park Main Street and Verbatim Books just made the season a little brighter with its holiday book fair, featuring 100+plus vendors offering books, original art, specialty gifts and more. The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday,

December 11 at North Park Way and 30th Street in North Park.

This fun and free, family-friendly event will include tasty offerings from local restaurants, music from local bands, and live poetry and spoken word performed by San Diego artists. The little ones will enjoy crafts, story time – and a visit with Santa.

“North Park hosted its first book fair in July and were delighted by the feedback,” says Angela Landsberg, executive director of North Park Main Street.



*Verbatim Books owner Justine Enitsuj is excited to be a part of the North Park Book Fair.*

“San Diego is a city that loves to read and understands the importance of supporting local businesses. We are so grateful that our community asked us to host another book fair for the holidays.”



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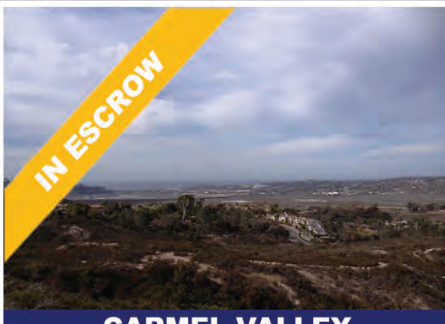
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