

PRESIDIO SENTINEL

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Serving the Heart of San Diego

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Inspirational Children's Book Taps the Power of Music and Interactivity... Influence Children to Do Good

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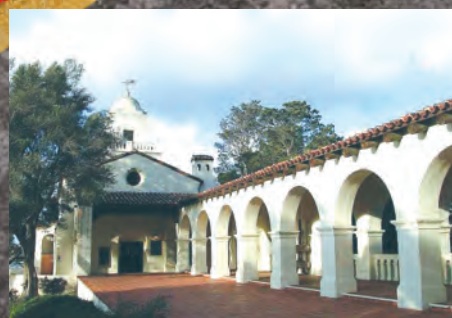


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A Team Effort to Help the Homeless in Little Italy

By Patty Ducey-Brooks



Following a recent conversation with Marco LiMandri, chief executive administrator of the Little Italy Association, and Donnie Dee, president and CEO of the San Diego Rescue Mission, I learned of a team approach that they have initiated to support those experiencing homelessness in Little Italy. Their goal is to have fewer people calling the sidewalks of Little Italy their home, and for those experiencing homelessness to connect with people who care and are willing to help them take their next step forward. The San Diego Rescue Mission will be in the Little Italy neighborhood seven days a week offering basic assistance, including hygiene products, snacks and clothing, and access for those in need to obtain necessary documents to transition from being homeless to living in shelters and other residences. "Partnering with the San Diego Rescue Mission is something we are very passionate and excited about," said Marco Li Mandri, "It's important to us to work with an organization that leads with dignity and compassion, to support the unhoused citizens within our neighborhood. Our hope is to assist them in taking the next step forward and support as much as we can along the way."

According to Donnie Dee, "We have a team of outreach workers who understand the challenges of those who have been homeless. That's because our workers have been there and can speak with experience to those they encounter. We start with building trust."

This new program comes at a time when the state of homelessness in San Diego, and the Country as a whole, has grown exponentially over the past year. The Rescue Mission brings the professional knowledge to help people navigate the social service system and connect them with the right resources. They also offer emergency shelter at their downtown location for women and women with children in addition to a long-term residential program for men, women and single parents.

The key element to further this effort is the fact that LiMandri and Dee share a "vision and dream" that working together they can turn around people's lives, especially those who believe they are alone, with no one to help them transition. Both understand that due to the comprehensive approach, there will be a learning curve to this effort. Which means, they will also put in place the means to evaluate its impact on the community, with feedback from businesses and residents in Little Italy.

When I asked LiMandri why he chose San Diego Rescue Mission as the Little Italy Association's partner, he offered that the proximity, with



Volunteers assist San Diego Rescue Mission clientele.

offices and shelters near Little Italy, and the history of the organization, were important decision factors

Since its existence in 1955, it has focused on adjusting as needed to those it serves, the homeless, as well as the programs that San Diego Rescue Mission already has in place to offer. It is a "one-stop shop" in a sense. It's not just about "getting people off the streets, it's about turning their lives around."

Its newest outreach initiative, Walk With Me, offers an opportunity for unsheltered neighbors to build a supportive friendship with a volunteer. The Rescue Mission has seen common misperceptions about homelessness fade, new doors of hope open and lives changed on both sides.

Little Italy hopes to inspire other communities in San Diego and beyond to lead with compassion and take action from the heart when it comes to assisting our unsheltered neighbors.

Founded in 1955, San Diego Rescue Mission is a faith-based organization that offers safe-haven as well as restorative care and rehabilitation services to those in our community seeking to recover from experiencing: homelessness, addiction, abuse, and poverty. For additional information about the San Diego Rescue Mission, please visit www.sdrescue.org.

San Diego History Center to Complete Serra Museum Restoration

The Conrad Prebys Foundation, the local philanthropic organization well known for providing vital funds in support of the visual and performing arts, higher education, youth development, healthcare, and medical research, has granted \$330,000 to the San Diego History Center for the restoration of the north tower and east façade of the Junípero Serra Museum in Presidio Park.

The maintenance and refurbishments on the 93-year old building are scheduled regularly and this comprehensive restoration work on the north tower and east façade will match the west façade work completed in 2019 and debuted at the celebration of the 250 anniversary of contemporary San Diego. Restoration work is expected to be completed by mid-February and the Museum will reopen to the public to experience its popular interactive exhibitions.

Cited above the original Presidio, The Serra Museum is at the intersection of two major freeways – Interstate 8 and Interstate



The museum, considered an architectural icon, is the work of Master Architect William Templeton Johnson, and features the Mission Revival architecture style.

5 – and is viewed monthly by more than 8 million travelers. The museum is an architectural icon for our region, the work of Master Architect William Templeton

Johnson, and features the Mission Revival architecture style that is so successful it is often mistaken for the first California mission although it was dedicated on July 16, 1929.

Popular with education groups and researchers worldwide, The Serra Museum is also acknowledged as one of the region's most popular destinations for tourists.

Over 50 and a Lifelong Learner?

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Pete Rodman, a member of the program, shared his feelings about Osher Lifelong Learning, "We have switched from the classroom to Zoom. It is terrific. We see mostly the same faces and always new subjects but no commute and no parking to be early for. Zoom is so easy that even I can do it. In many ways Osher has been one of the most enriching contributions to my retirement life. Join Now. You'll love it!" -

Kim Davies, also a member, offered, "Everything about learning to me is life affirming: it's positive, it's optimistic and it's not just the specific information like how to keep your brain healthy, it's really just looking forward to learning something new each day."

Sample some free videos of Osher classes: extension.ucsd.edu/olli/video-access.

Learn more at the Open House at 10 a.m., Saturday, January 8, 2022. RSVP at extension.ucsd.edu/olli/openhouse.

For more information, visit extension.ucsd.edu/olli.

Teen Writers' Plays Will Come Alive in Playwrights' Project's 37th Season

Playwrights' Project will present its 37th annual Plays by Young Writers' Festival showcasing new scripts written by youth across California. This year's Festival will be presented with filmed performances offered virtually to the public and an in-person screening of the filmed performance at 7 p.m., January 22 at the Museum of Photographic Arts to celebrate the young playwrights. Virtual public performances will take place at 7 p.m., January 28 and 29, 2022.

On-demand streaming will be available from January 31 through February 13, 2022 for teachers to share with students along with an education packet detailing writing prompts and discussion questions for each play. This year's scripts were written by five young writers between the ages of 13 and 17.

Playwrights' Project's Executive Director Cecelia Kouma said, Plays by Young Writers offers young playwrights a rewarding opportunity to work alongside professional theatre artists to bring their writing to life in creative ways. This season features imaginative journeys and self-discoveries as writers contemplate self-identity, the value of connection, and the need for creative escape from the routines of daily life. These young writers have words of wisdom for all of us, regardless of our age. It is an honor to hear their insights and amplify the voices of these inspiring young leaders."

Each of these young writers is a winner of Playwrights' Project's California Young Playwrights' Contest, and their plays will be featured in Playwrights' Project's 37th annual Plays by Young Writers' Festival, sponsored by the Sheila and Jeffrey Lipinsky Family Fund and Mandell Weiss Charitable Trust. Contest winners were selected from 276 plays submitted by students from across the state. Three scripts will receive full professional productions and one script will receive a staged reading.

All contest submissions were evaluated, void of identifying information, by Rachael VanWormer (contest coordinator) and a pool of theatre professionals who volunteered their time and expertise. The top 43 scripts were reviewed by Cecelia Kouma (executive producer), who worked with the contest coordinator to choose 10 finalists whose plays were evaluated by final judges. Final judges in the selection process included Peter Cirino (co-founder of TuYo Theatre and SDSU Theatre faculty), Ahmed Kenyatta Dents (director of Venue Experience & Artistic Associate at San Diego REP), Josefina López (award-winning Playwright & Plays by Young Writers Alumna), Annie Weisman (award-winning Playwright & Plays by Young Writers Alumna) and George Yé (Mesa College Theatre faculty and multi-faceted theatre artist). Yé, Kouma, and VanWormer chose the final plays for the season based on the judges' feedback and interviews of the top finalists.

The Festival features work by writers ages 13 and younger as staged readings, and works by ages 14 to 18 years old as full professional productions.

Plays by Young Writers' Festival for ages 11 and up is directed by George



The Festival features work by writers ages 13 and younger as staged readings, and works by ages 14 to 18 years old as full professional productions.

Yé and includes "Boxed In" by 14 year-old Declan Kallberg of Temecula; "Petunia" is by 15 year-old Ana Cabrera of Cardiff; "Reverie" is by 17 year-old Jacqueline Vellandi of Ladera Ranch; "The Jealous Soccer Ball" is the work of 13 year-old Ahmed Al Hashimi and Yaseen Issa.

Since its founding in 1985 by Deborah Salzer, thousands of writers have been entered scripts in the California Young Playwrights' Contest and 192 have been produced in Plays by Young Writers. Many of the past winners have successful careers as professional playwrights. Lauren Yee (2004 winner), wrote the hit play "Cambodian Rock Band" and has earned awards and accolades including the 2019 Whiting Award for emerging writers, 2018 Horton Foote Prize for Outstanding New American Play, and was named the second most produced playwright in 2020.

**Ticketing and Information is available at
www.playwrightsproject.org/productions/pbyw.**

Inspirational Children's Book Taps the Power of Music and Interactivity to Engage, Enthrall and Influence Children to Do Good



"A Little Spark" is an innovative, inspiring, and entertaining tale about unlikely comrades who join forces on a quest to defeat a threatening enemy.

Inspirational Children's Book Taps the Power of Music and Interactivity to Engage, Enthrall and Influence Children to Do Good

Whether gifting for the holidays, a birthday, Valentine's Day or "just because," children's literature is a timeless gift that can impact the recipient, families and society at-large in meaningful ways. This truth is exemplified with "A Little Spark" children's book authored by Chris Parsons—a truly unique title that was recently awarded the prestigious Mom's Choice Award Gold Medal for best in family-friendly media. Fittingly so, as this distinctive interactive, read-along chapter book is centered around the noble theme of doing good in the world.

To complement the beautifully illustrated 160-page book, Parsons collaborated with renowned music producer Bruce Faulconer to develop the full album with an original soundtrack and accompanying audiobook. "Lyrics range from playful to heartwarming and, in one instance, even a bit ominous," noted Faulconer. "The music keeps the reader poised and, at times, thrillingly on the edge of their seat. We worked with an amazing group of performers and have created something truly special that's resonating with kids and adults, alike."

Enhancing the story and the various audio components, "A Little Spark" also comes complete with a free companion online resource library available at BeThatSpark.com, which boasts over 50 book-related family activities like coloring pages, character puppets, word searches, mazes, dance videos, character drawing video tutorials and more. A parent's guide is also available to help plan and optimize the overall experience.

"Parents, grandparents, caregivers and educators are indelibly seeking great content to engage with kids, and 'A Little Spark' is written with purpose and intention toward that end," said Parsons. "The storyline, and the various lessons embedded throughout, underscore that even the smallest creature can make the biggest difference. This takeaway message is especially important

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Planning is the Key to Goal Achievement

By Rick Brooks



I recently had the pleasure of joining my clients for the christening of their new boat. It was one of those rare experiences when you can share the moment as a lifelong dream comes true. This dream was a long time coming and was the result of a lot of hard work and planning.

One of the first things we do when we begin a new relationship with a client is discuss their needs, their goals, and their dreams. These conversations are a lot of fun (and occasionally unrealistic, and they act as a guide as we help our clients organize their finances and think about what needs to happen in the coming months and years to make those dreams reality.

Much of financial planning is fairly mundane stuff, like making sure our clients have enough insurance or that their beneficiary designations are correct on their retirement accounts. These details are important because we don't want something silly and avoidable to come between our clients and their dreams.

When it comes down to specific goals, like buying a home or a new boat, we often work to design a savings plan to reach that objective. If we have several years to do this, we can invest aggressively in the hope that we can earn higher returns and have more money to work with later on. Retirement savings is an example of this kind of a long-term

saving and investing strategy.

We began working with this client about six years ago. From the beginning, they told us that their dream was to get the kids into college (fully funded), sell the business, buy a boat and sail off into the sunset. Our job was to help them think about what this would look like, project their income and expenses over the coming years and help them start thinking about what would need to happen along the way to make this dream a reality.

We discussed what the kids would need to pay for their college expenses. We discussed preparing the business for sale and how their investments could provide income over the years to help support them. As we kept up these conversations, things began falling into place. Along the way, our clients identified the boat they would want for their travels, and we helped them to project how this would impact their income, expenses, and savings, and helped them to get comfortable with the huge financial outlay they were about to make.

Once this was all settled, they started to save up for the payments that would be required. There would be three progress payments over a period of about three years. Because the time frame was relatively short, we agreed that it would be inappropriate to take any risk with these funds. When you have a big check that you know will need to be written, you want to make sure the money will be there to fund it. Investing aggressively could bring you more money to work with, but

if things go badly you can come up short as well. So we invested these funds very conservatively in securities that would mature as the payments came due, providing peace of mind that the funds would be there to make their dreams reality.

This really paid off in 2020, as one of the progress payments was due in the first months of the COVID pandemic when the markets were extremely volatile. Our conservative strategy ensured that the payments were there despite those ups and downs in early 2020, and that second payment went out on schedule, funded by a maturing Treasury Note.

As much as I like a good Disney movie, making your dreams come true isn't about magic wands or fairy godmothers. In the real world, it involves organization, planning, adapting to change and often a lot of hard work. But the reward is that something you've always wanted can become real, and that's a truly marvelous experience.

So, as you make your new years resolutions, remember that writing down your goal is only the first step, but the journey will be well worth it in the end.

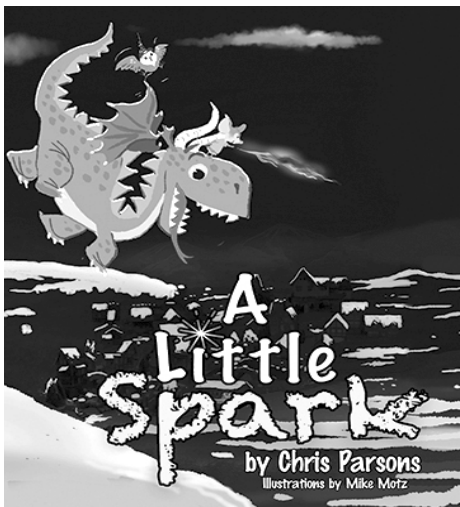
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Inspirational Children's Book Taps the Power of Music and Interactivity to Engage, Enthrall and Influence Children to Do Good

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for young, impressionable children to hear because they so badly want to be seen and heard...in today's culture more than ever."

"Children's literature is a powerful force that can shape and nurture the minds of kids," continued Parsons. "In the case of 'A Little Spark,' the combination of a great story, captivating illustrations and



"A Little Spark" provides storytelling, music and a means to teach character-building skills.

rich characters—in combination with mood-inducing music—can truly engage young minds in an impactful and immediate way. One that not only entertains and inspires young audiences, but also helps them develop critical thinking skills and encourages a sense of adventure and the confidence to take that first step."

As per the Mom's Choice Award, "A Little Spark" is an innovative, inspiring, and entertaining tale about unlikely comrades who join forces on a quest to defeat a threatening enemy. A little Spark reminds us that to awaken our passion and spirit, we all need something in life to make the world be a warmer place, and to always look for ways to "Be That Spark."

Working in partnership with a teacher advisory group, the "Be That Spark" elementary education pilot program launched this past October in multiple first grade classrooms. This one-of-a-kind scholastic program combines the book, music

and all of the related material into a formal academic lesson plan designed to provide a fun, inspiring experience for educators and their students. The Be That Spark program includes a focus on helping students develop positive character traits based on the characters and lessons from the book. It aligns with U.S. standards by creating meaningful and challenging lessons for students intended to increase their reading, listening and comprehension skills.

"Our panel of judges really felt this book merited a place on our list of the best in family-friendly media products that parents and educators can feel confident in using," said Dawn Matheson, CEO, Mom's Choice Awards. Other accolades include "A Little Spark" earning its place as an Amazon new release best-seller in a number of categories, including #1 in Children's Music Books.

"A Little Spark" is available on Amazon and at all other all major online bookstores and retail channels in the U.S.

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A 3-Week-Old Giraffe Calf Gets a Name at the San Diego Zoo


Just in time for the New Year, a newborn giraffe calf at the San Diego Zoo has received the perfect gift—a name. The 3-week-old female calf will be called Mawe (pronounced “maw way”), meaning stone in Swahili. She was born to first-time mom Saba; and at birth, she weighed a little under 150 pounds and stood approximately 5 feet, 10 inches tall. Mawe has been introduced to the other members of the herd, and both mom and baby are doing well.

Science teams have estimated that fewer than 100,000 giraffes are left in their native habitats—a decrease of more than 40 percent over the last 20 years. It is believed that the downward trend is due to habitat loss, habitat fragmentation and poaching in certain regions. San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance has partnered with numerous conservation organizations on large-scale conservation projects, in an effort to slow and eventually stop the continued decline of giraffe populations.



Mawe was born to Saba, a first time mom.

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Dana

This sweet lady is Dana. She is a 5-year-old, American Pit Bull Terrier and German Shepherd mix. Dana’s energy seems almost limitless, and she loves going for outdoor adventures like long walks and runs. She is housetrained and absolutely loves her human companions. Dana has some dog-reactivity on leash, and can be selective with her playmates so she’ll need a patient adopter committed to using positive reinforcement to help her be successful. Are you looking for an active buddy to energize your day?

Dana is currently residing at the Oceanside Campus of the San Diego Humane Society, located at 2905 San Luis Rey Road in Oceanside. For more information, visit www.sdhumane.org or call (619) 299-7012.



Sampson

Meet Sampson, a two-year-old, domestic short hair. This handsome kitty is looking for his new family. Sampson has been a total sweetheart in our care and loves to accept all of the pets and scratches he can get. Making new friends is this feline’s favorite thing to do. Sampson has some medical needs that will require a little extra TLC from his adopters, but we think those adorable ears deserve all of the love in the world. Does Sampson sound like the purr-fect cat for you?

Sampson is residing at the San Diego Campus of the San Diego Humane Society, located at 5500 Gaines Street in San Diego. For more information, visit www.sdhumane.org or call (619) 299-7012.

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Affordable Housing at What Cost

By Paul Krueger

A new definition of “affordable housing”: \$2,000 monthly rent for a 480 square-foot, one-bedroom, one-bathroom ADU. Building industry consultant admits it’s “absurd, from the standpoint of affordability”

The permit application for a multi-unit rental complex on a single-family lot confirms that two of the apartments will be reserved for an affordable rental program administered by the San Diego Housing Commission.

In return for that set-aside, the city gave the developer a two-unit “bonus.” Instead of building just four units, he and his investors can cram a total of six rental units on this average-size residential lot in San Diego’s Talmadge neighborhood. Plus, the city’s controversial “Accessory Dwelling Unit” ordinance gives all absentee landlords and their investment partners additional perks not available on other apartment projects.

- They are exempt from the infrastructure fees required for other developments. Those fees help maintain city streets, sidewalks, sewer and water lines, parks, and other basic requirements of urban life.

- They don’t have to provide any off-street parking for tenants, even though the closest bus or trolley line might be three miles away. They don’t have to provide any incentives for mass transit use, or any disincentives to vehicle ownership.

- They can clear-cut the back and side yards, without replacing any lost landscaping, in direct conflict with the city’s Climate Action Plan and Urban Forestry Program.

- They can build multiple, multi-story rental units right up to the neighbor’s property line, with second-story windows that look directly into neighbors’ homes and backyards.

The developer of the Talmadge project is taking advantage of all those giveaways. And he’s giving nothing in return to low-income renters. That’s because the city’s restricted rent program allows him to charge top dollar for those apartments.

In a recent presentation to the North Park Planning Committee, a consultant for that project confirmed that the one-bedroom, one-bath backyard apartments — including the two “rent restricted” units — are expected to rent for \$2,000 each. “I agree that’s absurd from the standpoint of an affordability perspective,” the consultant admitted.



Developers can build multiple, multi-story rental units right up to the neighbor’s property line.



Second-story windows look directly into neighbors’ homes and backyards, eliminating any privacy.

It’s also evidence of the total failure of the city’s ADU policy, enshrined in an October 2020 ordinance that city staff falsely claimed was simply bringing San Diego into compliance with state regulations.

Instead of boosting the city’s anemic inventory of much needed very-low and low-income rentals, the ADU ordinance has produced only market-rate — and above-market-rate — housing. (The average monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment is \$1,823, as of August 2021, according to the market research firm Co-Star.)

But San Diegans searching for real solutions to our housing problem now have the power to help rewrite this ill-conceived, regressive ordinance.

On Thursday, December 16 city planning commissioners considered proposed amendments to the ADU codes. Neighbors For A Better San Diego (NFABSD) had identified a number of changes that would require developers to pay their fair share when building multi-unit projects. These proposed amendments also protect and preserve established neighborhoods while

maintaining incentives, discounts, and streamlined approvals for homeowners who want to build a backyard “granny flat” and, if they choose, also convert their garage to an additional living unit.

NFABSD had prepared a tip sheet with talking points to share with the commissioners via Zoom, during the public comment portion of their meeting. Research had confirmed that many San Diegans strongly support and endorse the following restrictions:

- Limit ADU development to what the state requires: one Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) and one Junior Accessory Dwelling Unit (JADU) on single-family lots in residential neighborhoods. The so-called “Bonus ADU” program benefits only developers, not homeowners or other residents.

- Limit building height to 16-feet. ADUs are by definition “accessory” units, and should not tower over existing homes.

- Require four-foot minimum rear and side yard setbacks, to comply with state guidelines. By allowing “zero” setbacks, the city has increased fire risk and made firefighting more dangerous.

- Collect Development Impact Fees from property investors and developers. Our aging neighborhoods were not designed for high-density and do not have the infrastructure to support multi-unit ADUs.

- Protect our urban tree canopy and fight climate change by requiring developers to replace the shade trees and landscaping they destroyed to make room for multi-unit dwellings.

However, for those who participated in the Zoom meeting, the commissioners denied all of the proposed options, except they opted to add in the “additional tree request.”

“This disappointing result has not shaken our confidence, and we’re confident that common sense and good community planning will prevail when the City Council’s Land Use committee and the full council discuss the issue early next year. Your input at those public hearings are crucially important, and will make a difference. Keep current by joining our mailing list at www.nfabsd.org.”

Paul Krueger is a Talmadge resident and volunteer with Neighbors For A Better San Diego.

You can learn more about the effort to sensibly rewrite our city’s destructive ADU regulations at www.nfabsd.org.

A Look at the Old Year and Its Blessings

By Barb Strona



2021 was certainly much better than 2020. First, it allowed us a bit of a respite from the isolation of 2020, especially for those of us who got vaccinated.

I, for one, was thrilled. On the date that my vaccinations were deemed effective, I had a cleaning crew clean my entire house! I never expected that in my 80s I would have the major responsibility for the housework and gardening. I admit it was good for me. I learned that it can be rewarding, but not rewarding enough that I am willing to do it ad infinitum (or to the grave). I am grateful to have the means to pay someone to clean twice a month. I still do the gardening, with a little help from the grandsons and husband.

The vaccine also allowed theatres to reopen with cautionary behaviors. We can go to restaurants, although my husband and I still prefer to be outdoors whenever possible. We are once more masked thanks to the new variant, but we are thankful to be vaccinated and boosted.

I spent our year of incarceration watching YouTubes of dressage, a form of horseback riding. Rider and horse attempt to be well-balanced enough to perform various maneuvers with just a slight shift of weight or movement of a human's body part, hopefully conveying to the horse what you would like him to do. The more I watched, the more obsessed I became. Finally, in July of 2021, I found an excellent trainer who was willing to teach a geriatric rank-beginner the principles of dressage.

Friends say it has changed me; I agree. I am charged with energy and find myself doing shocking activities such as vacuuming the house. I have become manic thanks to riding twice a week. I even go to the gym to maintain or gain whatever physical strength I might need. I am happier than I have ever been in my life. I have said this before: find and follow your passion to truly benefit from old age. To do this, it is worth staying healthy and maintaining your body.

Unfortunately, today we still face many serious issues. Our country is as divided politically as it was prior to, during, and after the Civil War. Whereas we once compromised, working together for the greater good of the country, today seems to be just a power struggle, each side trying



The Hotel Coronado provided the perfect setting for Christmas celebrations.

to defeat the other. Shootings occur with sickening regularity. Homelessness increases. Education in the United States is falling behind that of other countries. Health coverage is still hideously expensive. Sadly, many people are working harder; however, their pay is insufficient to allow them to live comfortably in our country. The almighty dollar seems to be winning the war against climate change. Despite violent changes in the weather which science has proved are the result of pollution and mismanagement of the land we have, we continue to waste food and water, using land and resources with neither care nor conservation, and grabbing whatever materials will fill our coffers with money.

Despite the myriad problems our planet and the nations living on it are facing, I see bright spots. COVID has given us some blessings. Realizing how easily we can lose our loved ones, getting together with friends and family has more meaning than it did. The feeling of celebration seems stronger. This holiday season seemed to have turned every neighborhood into a Santa Claus Lane.

On the Saturday before Christmas, a group of us gathered at a friend's home in Coronado

where we had drinks and snacks before taking off for the Hotel del Coronado, said to be three blocks from her home. About a mile or so later (she either is spatially challenged or has no concept of distance) we came to the hotel. We walked past hordes of people, looking, eating, drinking. The atmosphere was one of glee and happiness. The hotel lived up to its reputation. The main tree stood in its place of honor in the center of the huge lobby. We took the opportunity to preserve our presence on film. Then we went out to look at the light show in two enormous conifers on the hotel grounds. Again, people radiated joy. Our last stop was dinner at the Tavern, next to the hotel. By the time I got home, I had two huge blisters: one on a heel; one on a toe. The fun we had made up for the blisters' pain.

Covid has made us relish working and playing with our teenaged grandsons. Since we are all vaccinated, it is wonderful to have them help me with clearing debris from windstorms, helping grandpa clean the roof of debris, and woodworking with grandpa making presents for family and friends.

For some reason, COVID meant we watch less television. Perhaps stopping our cable subscription helped; finding programs is harder

without cable. Both my husband and I love to read; we find books more entertaining than television. I suspect we interact more as well.

COVID has made us physically more active. My husband walks with a friend weekly, teaches a couple of classes at Mesa online and in person, works in his woodshop, serves on the San Diego Automotive Museum board, is active in a book group. I have horseback lessons twice a week, go to the gym at least two or more of the other days of the week, garden, bake, make candy, and do household chores.

While I really enjoyed my solitude during our year of isolation, I am thoroughly enjoying visiting with friends, both old and new. I still read in my spare time and often when I ride the stationary bike at the gym. These activities are not new to us; the difference is we relish the time we spend doing them.

COVID has changed us. People seem more patient. I suspect knowing everything is finite makes each day seem more vivid and encourages us to really Carpe diem!

At 6:30 p.m., Thursday, January 27, Tyler Timble will present a Zoom lecture on backyard fruit for the Mission Hills Garden Club.



Mission Hills: Abundantly Ours Happy New Year and Best Wishes for 2022

By Dixie Hall, President Mission Hills BID and DixiePops Owner



I am excited for the start of a brand-new year. It's a clean slate and all things are possible, and spring will be here before we know it. I have been re-elected

Executive Director Susan McNeil Schreyer, are committed to the vitality of our neighborhood. In 2022 we will continue our contractual partnership with the City of San Diego working through a committee system focused on promotions, economic development, design and parking, with the goal of enhancing Mission Hills' attractiveness as a regional destination for dining, shopping, professional services, health and beauty, relaxation and more. With that mission in mind, we are already off and running.

During the first week of January the BID launches Colors on Canvas 2022 hand painted banner art contest. Watch for Mission Hills' school children hand painting the blank side of these banners designed by Mission Hills resident and business owner Stuart White. Art instructors Jaimee Brant at Paint Box Art Studio and Sarah Ekedal at Grant TK8 School continue to be instrumental in this community-wide student art contest.

This year we are fortunate to have sixteen contest sponsors starting with Title Sponsor Patterson Engineering, Inc. Major Sponsors

include Troy Curnett owner of One Mission Realty, Tom North owner of North Properties, and Richard Woods owner of Woods Real Estate Services. Partner Sponsors are Jaimee Brant owner of Paint Box Art Studio, Grant TK8 School, Grant TK8 School PTA, Samantha Altas owner of The Frame Maker, Lazy Acres, Jesse Zmuda owner of Backbone Floral & Vintage, Sam and Sarah Mattia owners of Pizza e Birra, Dixie Hall owner of DixiePops, Thorn Brewing Co. Mission Hills, Cake Bakery, Rosanna Photography, and State Farm – Brad Sund. Our heartfelt thanks go to these generous sponsors for making Colors on Canvas 2022 a reality.

The plan for this hand painted banner art contest is for all art to be Mission Hills centric. This is the first year we have received responses from high school participants. All students start painting the first week in January under the supervision of art instructors Sarah Ekedal at GrantTK8 School and Jaimee Brant at Paint Box Studio. From the week of March 8 through the week of April 18 the banners will fly on lamp posts throughout Mission Hills. On April 27, 2022, this community wide partnership with businesses will culminate in an awards celebration reception and auction at The Frame Maker where the banners are professionally displayed for all to enjoy. All banners are available for purchase through a silent auction. Please save the date. It really is fun to see how the children portray Mission Hills.

The BID's Annual Strategic Planning Workshop is in the works for January 19. We will gather to plan how we may best enhance the growth and improvement of Mission Hills businesses and combat deterioration through our work in the Washington Street Maintenance Assessment District.



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Please note that the Washington Street Maintenance Assessment District was formed in 1993 by a vote of Mission Hills' commercial and residential property owners, is supported by an annual property tax assessment of approximately \$24, is administered and managed by the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department and has a community advisory committee chaired by Mission Hills resident Stephen Shushan. Each year the Mission Hills BID elects two representatives to serve on the Washington Street Maintenance Assessment District community advisory committee, alongside other community-based organization representatives from Mission Hills Garden Club, Mission Hills Heritage, and Mission Hills Town Council.

Mission Hills is a community abundant with talent and resources. We would love to have more community members involved with the Mission Hills BID. Please consider how you might become more involved in 2022. Don't be shy.

Kids of So-Cal End 2021 at a High Point

By Aubree Lynn

2021 was the year that Kids Fashion Week So-Cal was able to truly shine. We were able to do model workshops, model call, training, and produce our Fashion Week, and also hold the 2nd annual Lemon Grove Toy Drive and Giveaway.

December was a truly quick moving month for the Kids of So-Cal Fashion Week. Recruiting models and designers from the East Coast to the West Coast was an amazing experience. We were able to present six designers, two of which were kids: Gabby's World (age 8), and The Poetic Bunch (age 9). The talent that these kids showed on and off the runway was beyond impressive.

Opening the show was Purhnel, a spoken word artist. Hosting the show was Tati and Jesse from 94.1FM. They were an amazing addition to the overall show. However, the highlight of the show was the 24 models gracing the stage, while DJ JC Calleros mixed stylized music for each designer.

We were extremely grateful to be able to produce the show in 2021, and to follow by presenting another season of gifting back to the community.

With very little time to coordinate the Lemon Grove Toy Giveaway, organizers were KFW So-Cal and their contributing partners, including the Lemon Grove Lions Club and Improving Lemon Grove. The event was held at 13 Point Brewery. Starting the week of Thanksgiving, 16 businesses throughout the city collected over 700 toys for the children of Lemon Grove. Super Santa came out for photo ops and to spread cheer and joy to the kids receiving gifts. Thanks to 619 Media, Fox 5 News came to cover the event and spread more Christmas cheer.

What a wonderful way to close out 2021, and a huge thanks to all who made it happen!

A special thanks to my team, KFW Network, and So-Cal gals (Selina Hall and Rajanee Wright) for all you did this year for the kids of So-Cal, the Toy Giveaway, and me! And thanks to all who helped throughout the year: Tonya Kendall, HMUA lead; Bree Hody, KFW So-Cal honorary contributor; Liana Lebaron, Mystique; Kimberly; Myles; Cathy; Travis; all the other individual volunteers who contributed their time and talent. We appreciate you!

For more information on Kids Fashion Week Network and ways you can contribute to this non-profit, please visit www.Kfwnetwork.com.



Left to right are the KFW So-Cal Team: Rajanee Wright, model coach; Selina Hall, model coach and creative director; Aubree Russell, director; and Tati of 94.1FM, host.

Mission Hills Artist Wins Best of Miniatures Award



Ann Slater, an artist and resident of Mission Hills, San Diego, California has won the Best of Miniatures award in the highly competitive December Members Show "Frozen in Place" on display in the San Diego Watercolor Society (SDWS) gallery at 2825 Dewey Road in Liberty Station, San Diego. Slater's painting entitled "Madame Secretary" was selected by nationally known juror Scott W. Prior for this honor, out of over 200 entries.

"Madame Secretary" is by Ann Slater. Photo is courtesy of San Diego Watercolor Society

Prior said of the painting, "I like the design and I love the pattern, it's really different, it shows a psychedelic bird with a real attitude."

Ann Slater was born and raised in San Diego. She received a degree in Mathematics with a minor in Art from San Diego State University. The next 14 years were spent traveling and working in restaurants. Returning to San Diego she taught at Carlsbad High and at her alma mater, San Diego High School. Slater credits the SDWS for her growth as an artist. Animals are a common theme in her watercolors. Her work creates

depth by layering shapes of different sizes. Eye movement is achieved by directional lines and placement of color. Slater is a signature member of the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies and had a painting selected for this year's show in Utah. This is the second Best of Miniatures that Slater has won this year.

The Gallery is currently open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday through Sunday. The works can also be found on the San Diego Watercolor Society's website at www.sdws.org where the paintings can be both viewed and purchased from the Online Store.

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2022 Sundance Film Festival Is Coming to San Diego

Media Arts Center San Diego's Digital Gym Cinema and the Sundance Film Festival have partnered to bring selections from the 2022 Sundance Film Festival to San Diego, California as part of the Festival's Satellite Screen program running Thursday, January 28 through Sunday, January 30. Local audiences will also be able to participate in the full festival experience via its online platform beginning January 20.

Launched at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival, Satellite Screens is a partnership between the Sundance Institute and independent arthouse cinemas that brings the Festival experience to communities across the U.S. The Sundance Institute selected Media Arts Center San Diego's Digital Gym Cinema in recognition of its shared alignment as a mission-driven nonprofit and the organization's commitment to vibrant independent film, excellence in community programming and outreach, and to inclusion and equity.

"We are overjoyed that the Digital Gym Cinema was selected as one of seven satellite screens by the Sundance Institute. We look forward to connecting their programming with local audiences at our new Digital Gym Cinema at UC San Diego at Park and Market," said Moisés Esparza, exhibitions director, Media Arts Center San Diego.

"Building on our experience last year, we've discovered new possibilities of convergence, and we embrace the fact that we are now an expanded community in which active participation matters and audience presence — however and wherever it manifests — changes everything," said Festival director Tabitha Jackson. "We are delighted to continue our Satellite Screen program in year two of our ongoing experiment into what a Festival can be, and this partnership expresses our strong belief in the vital contribution of regional cinemas in upholding a thriving cinema culture for independent artists and adventurous audiences. Sharing Festival films with these theaters and democratizing the audiences who can access the brand-new work expands the conversation we'll be starting in Park City and on our Festival Platform, and it's a privilege for Sundance, and an asset for the filmmakers."

Eight films have been selected as part of the Festival's Satellite Screen program, and which will play at seven independent arthouse cinemas across the United States for local audiences during the Festival's closing weekend. These titles represent a truly international and multicultural slate of comedies, period pieces, dramas, and documentary films that were selected as a cross-section of



"Alice" is by director and screenwriter Krystin Ver Linden; producer is Peter Lawson.

the overall Festival program. The feature films, all world premieres, are "Alice"; "Emergency"; "Every Day in Kaimukū"; "Free Chol Soo Lee"; "Honk for Jesus, Save Your Soul"; "La Guerra Civil"; "Marte Um (Mars One)"; and "Sirens," with additional Short Film participation to be announced.

"This year's full program reflects the unsettling and uncertain times we've been living in for the past year and a half. The artists in the program, through their bold and innovative storytelling, and their sheer determination to create work in this moment, challenge us to look at the world through different lenses and examine and reevaluate how these stories impact us now and in the future," said Kim Yutani, the Festival's director of programming. "These eight selections for the Satellite Screens are a carefully curated group of films that give a meaningful taste of this year's program — they are intimate, moving, comedic, thrilling and political. I hope audiences will experience as many as possible."

General admission tickets will be available on January 6, 2022, at digitalgym.org. To participate in the Sundance Film Festival online, package sales begin on December 17 and single film tickets become available on January 6 at sundance.festival.org.

San Diego Theaters Unite for World Premiere Play

MOXIE and TuYo Theatres present the World Premiere live co-production of the new play "Sapience" by Diana Burbano from January 23 through February 20, 2022, at MOXIE Theatre, located at 6663 El Cajon Blvd Suite N, San Diego, CA 92115.

"Sapience" is an imaginative play that explores how we communicate and invites audiences to experience theatre in a new way. The production marks director Vanessa Duron's MOXIE directorial debut. Alongside Duron is MOXIE Founding Artistic Director, Delicia Turner Sonnenberg, as artistic mentor on the production, and inclusion specialist, Samantha Ginn, who will provide additional support to neurodiverse members of the cast and help create a completely sensory-friendly experience for the entire run of the production.

MOXIE and TuYo are also proud to partner with Autism Society San Diego, which will participate in post-show workshops following each performance. "Sapience" explores the story of Elsa, a Latinx primatologist, who has a secret that's becoming harder to keep since she's been working with an orangutan named Wookie. Elsa hopes to prove she can train Wookie to speak a human language, but when Elsa's teenage nephew, A.J., who is on the Autism spectrum, also develops a relationship with Wookie, Elsa's worldview explodes.



MOXIE Founding Artistic Director Delicia Turner Sonnenberg is artistic mentor on the production.

"Sapience" explores communication through the lens of verbal vs. non-verbal, human vs. animal, and Spanish versus English in a groundbreaking and imaginative story about how we communicate and seek to be understood. Following each performance, audiences will be invited to participate in an educational workshop designed in close collaboration with "Sapience" production partners at Autism Society San Diego.

The workshop will build upon the themes of the show and allow guests to foster an appreciation for how community and culture are strengthened by

different ways of thinking and enriched when we lift the voices of neurodiverse individuals, Latinx people, and Spanish-speaking people. All post-show workshops, like performances, will be sensory-friendly, a unique occurrence because most theatres schedule only one or two sensory-friendly performances per production..

It will also be an opportunity for MOXIE Theatre to build the expertise and infrastructure needed for sensory-friendly performances, which they have committed to continue offering during future productions.

Diana Burbano is a Colombian immigrant, a playwright, an Equity actor, and a teaching artist at Breath of Fire Latina Theatre Ensemble and South Coast Repertory. Burbano's play "Ghosts of Bogota," won the Nu Voices festival at Actors Theatre of Charlotte in 2019 where it will be produced in 2022.

Vanessa Duron is a local San Diego actor/director/writer and producer. She graduated from San Diego State University with a BA in theatre. Duron has experience working as an artist at MOXIE Theatre, TuYo Theatre, Blindspot Collective, Trinity Theatre, Stagehouse Theatre and as an assistant producer for the Latinx New Play Festival at the San Diego REP and co-producer for "Recover-Me."

For more information, visit www.moxietheatre.com or call (858) 598-7620

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St. Madeleine Sophie's Center to Host Annual Tea by the Sea

St. Madeleine Sophie's Center (SMSC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating and empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to realize their full potential, will host its annual Tea by the Sea event from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., on Saturday, January 22, 2022 at the Marine Room in La Jolla, located at 2000 Spindrift Drive, La Jolla, California 92037. The event will benefit the Sophie's Gallery art program that is currently offered to over 400 students at SMSC.

This year's Tea by the Sea honorary chairs are Maureen King, Barbara Menard, and Angel Kleinbub. Guests are encouraged to dress in their favorite tea-time attire for the event, and attendees will be treated to complimentary signature cocktails and hors d'oeuvres paired with beautiful oceanfront views. The event will also feature a silent auction and live music for all to enjoy.

"We are excited to welcome guests back in-person to Tea by the Sea in 2022. Thank you to Maureen King, Barbara Menard, and Angel Kleinbub, for their support with this event," said



Guests of previous Tea by the Sea event share camaraderie and ocean front views at the Marine Room.

Debra Emerson, CEO of St. Madeleine Sophie's Center. "Tea by the Sea continues to support the Sophie's Gallery art program which provides a special opportunity for our students to express themselves through vibrant, original works of art."

St. Madeleine Sophie's Center

is a nonprofit organization that serves more than 400 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through nationally recognized, innovative programs. Its mission is to educate and empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to realize their full potential. Developmental

disabilities include autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy and other cognitive disorders for which there are no cures.

Tickets are available now for \$135 per guest or \$1,350 per table of 10. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://stmsc.org/tea-by-the-sea-registration/>. For more information, visit www.stmsc.org.

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Fashion Valley Receives Sustainability Recognition And Certification



Fashion Valley is located at 7007 Friars Road in San Diego.

Fashion Valley, located at 7007 Friars Road in San Diego, has been recognized by the Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM®) and has received the IREM® Certified Sustainable Property certification. This recognition is a mark of distinction for sustainable, efficient and environmentally friendly properties.

The IREM® Certified Sustainable Property is a prestigious sustainability certification program that focuses on the role of exceptional real estate management in green building performance. To earn the certification, a property must first meet key baseline requirements, and then earn necessary points across energy, water, health, recycling and purchasing categories.

This certification is a mark of distinction for office, medical office, industrial, multifamily, senior housing and retail properties. IREM®'s sustainability certification provides properties with recognition for resource efficiency and environmental programs.

Tenants and residents increasingly associate environmental performance with quality, so the certification presents a prime opportunity to showcase quality, responsible real estate management.

Simon's Sustainability Office is led by the head of Sustainability, a

full-time dedicated employee responsible for managing the company's ESG programs. Head of Sustainability leads the ESG executive committee (formerly named the Sustainability executive committee), which includes C-suite executives from core functions of the Company, including the general counsel, chief financial officer, chief administrative officer, president of development, EVP of Simon management, and SVP of human resources. The ESG executive committee supervises Simon's sustainability performance, including monitoring climate-related issues, and reports directly to the CEO and board of directors. This committee provides leadership and oversight to encourage and assure sustainability opportunities are supported and recognized at the highest level of the company.

"While our primary focus has and continues to be the health, safety, and wellbeing of our customers, communities and employees, we are determined to meet our long-term carbon reduction commitments by updating our internal policies, stimulating innovation, and developing a robust tenant engagement program," shared Aharon Kestenbaum, head of Sustainability for Simon.

La Maestra Family Clinic, Inc. Receives Top Quality Recognition

La Maestra Family Clinic, Inc., doing business as La Maestra Community Health Centers, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) and a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides culturally and linguistically competent primary, specialty care, and social services to uninsured and underserved San Diegans, has earned Community Health Quality Recognition (CHQR) badges for its achievements in access to care, quality outcomes, healthy equity, information technology, and contributions to the COVID-19 pandemic response. The Health Resources and Services Administration recognition places La Maestra among the nation's top performing Federally Qualified Health Centers in clinical quality measure performance and quality of health care services.

Specifically, La Maestra was recognized as Health Center Quality Leaders for performing "best overall" in clinical quality performance – among all health centers in the U.S. It was also recognized for advancing Health Information Technology (HIT) for Quality, having met all criteria to optimize HIT services that advance telehealth, patient engagement, interoperability, and the collection of social determinants of health data. La Maestra was also recognized for sustaining its designation as a Patient Centered Medical Home at three clinic sites in central, east, and south San Diego County, CA.

"Through our continuous quality improvement strategies, access to quality of care and comprehensive health and wellness services has always been the top priority," said Zara Marselian, PhD, FACHE, president and chief executive officer of La Maestra Community Health Centers. "I am very proud of our team for this incredible recognition particularly as our organization was responding to the needs of the community during the pandemic."

La Maestra Community Health Centers earned "best overall" in clinical quality performance.



UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of California Expands Access

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of California recently announced a \$1.5 million investment in community-based programs aimed to reduce health disparities and improve health equity in San Diego. The funding will support initiatives from 17 San Diego organizations, including community- and faith-based organizations, educational institutions, federally qualified health centers and nonprofits, to address specific health needs of underserved members of the community and gaps in access to health care.

The funding will provide support to Interfaith Community Services; Champions for Health; Chicano Federation of San Diego County; San Diego County Promotores Coalition; San Diego Youth Services; Family Health Centers of San Diego; Neighborhood Healthcare; South Bay Community Services; HealthCorps; SAY San Diego; La Maestra Community Health Centers; Cajon Valley Union School District; Oceanside Unified School District; San Diego Rescue Mission; TrueCare; San Ysidro Health; and Father Joe's Villages.

"The challenges facing San Diego and the state disproportionately impact communities of color, and the path to sustainable solutions is best achieved through building community relationships with outstanding organizations whose missions closely align with ours," said Kevin Kandalaft, CEO, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of California. "We are proud to collaborate with passionate and driven organizations toward the expansion and delivery of accessible health care."

According to America's Health Rankings, a comprehensive assessment of the nation's health on a state-by-state basis compiled by the United Health Foundation, California ranks 48th nationally in access to primary



UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of California donated funding to Family Health Centers of San Diego purchase two electric mobile units that will be used by the "Tiger Teams."

care providers and 49th for severe housing problems (including lack of working facilities and overcrowding).

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of California will collaborate with the local organizations to target specific population health issues including housing insecurity and homelessness, access to primary care services, health equity training, youth-specific services, school-based services and mental health supports, and mobile care capabilities.

Family Health Centers of San Diego, a federally qualified health center that cared for more than 285,200 patients through nearly 1 million visits last year, is the largest provider of safety-net health care in San Diego County. It received funding for the purchase of two electric mobile unit "Tiger Teams" that will provide basic primary care, vaccinations and other mobile-capable services in underserved communities, targeting populations unable to leave their home to access care.

"We are grateful for United-

Healthcare's support of our Tiger Team Project. With this funding, our mobile health care team will bring critical care to vulnerable, low-income San Diegans in their own homes, ensuring they maintain optimal health," said Fran Butler-Cohen, CEO, Family Health Centers of San Diego.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of California will also support Chicano Federation's mission to invest in under-resourced communities with programming aimed at building resiliency and promoting self-sufficiency, including addressing critical needs like care for infants and toddlers, early childhood education and housing. The funding will provide for the development of a community service center in collaboration with a Latinx community-based organization.

"Chicano Federation has a long history of responding to our diverse community's concerns. To advance our mission of promoting self-sufficiency, we have partnered with UnitedHealthcare to launch the Chicano Federation

Community Resource Center to ensure that our community has a safe space to get the support they need," said Nancy Maldonado, president and CEO, Chicano Federation of San Diego County. "We are excited to be working alongside UnitedHealthcare to continue to advance health equity for San Diego in a meaningful and holistic manner."

This initiative is one part of UnitedHealthcare's ongoing efforts to address health equity, promote positive health outcomes and expand access to all. The company, which is one of the businesses of UnitedHealth Group, is also investing in programs and partnerships focused on food, transportation and social isolation, including \$80 million to fight the pandemic and support vulnerable minority populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. In October 2020, UnitedHealth Group also awarded \$4 million to University of California San Diego to expand the state's mental health workforce.



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8th Annual Swing with Santa Golf Tournament

St. Madeleine Sophie's Center (SMSC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating and empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to realize their full potential, held its 8th Annual "Swing with Santa" Golf Tournament in memory of Don Parent this past year. This year's event successfully raised over \$27,000.

Golfers joined SMSC at the Singing Hills Golf Resort Pine Glen 3-Par Executive Course at Sycuan where they enjoyed a day full of fun, opportunity drawings, games, a golf ball drop, food and drinks, and a visit from Santa.

The "Swing with Santa" Golf Tournament is held annually to help support SMSC's annual Student Appreciation Holiday Celebration. All funds raised from the golf tournament will go towards providing each SMSC student with a \$20 gift card at the celebration later in the year. The student celebration will also feature holiday music, a festive ugly sweater contest, and a visit from Santa for the



Debra Emerson, left, CEO of St. Madeleine Sophie's Center, is shown with Santa and guests of the golf tournament.

students to enjoy.

"Thank you to our sponsors and supporters who helped make our annual Swing

with Santa tournament a big success," said Debra Emerson, CEO at St. Madeleine Sophie's Center. "We are so thankful for

the community coming together to help provide each of our more than 400 students with a special holiday present."

19th Annual Gator by the Bay Festival Returns in 2022



Gator by the Bay provides live music by local and national artists.

Tickets are now on sale for the 19th annual Gator by the Bay Festival, Southern California's largest Louisiana-themed music, food, and dance festival, with hundreds of live performances and lots of crawfish. It returns to Spanish Landing Park, Thursday, May 5 through Sunday, May 8, 2022. Tickets are now available for purchase at the early bird rate for a limited time.

Presented by the Bon Temps Social Club of San Diego, Gator by the Bay brings the spirit of New Orleans and bayous of Louisiana to the picturesque San Diego Bay for a memorable celebration that is best described as Southern California's Mardi Gras in May.

"Gator by the Bay is a one-of-a-kind event that brings joy and lasting memories to people of all ages," says Festival Producer Peter Oliver. "Each year over 15,000 passionate enthusiasts attend this event to get a taste of Louisiana's rich culture on the West Coast. After two years of dormancy we are happy to be back with all the fan-favorite Mardi Gras experiences including samples of the history, food, music, dancing, and more."

Hosting everything from A to Zydeco, this four-day, family-friendly event features more than 100 live musical acts and special

performances. The event includes over 10,000 pounds of crawfish from Louisiana, a chef-led gumbo cook-off, flowing libations, seven stages – five with wooden dance floors, a Mardi Gras costume parade, and a full weekend of fun to coincide with Mother's Day weekend. Each day during Gator by the Bay brings new experiences, live entertainment, and unforgettable moments at every corner with activities designed for music lovers, food enthusiasts, dancers, and more.

Gator by the Bay kicks off Thursday, May 5 with an evening concert and an optional seated dining experience featuring the best flavors of Louisiana. Festivities continue Friday afternoon and evening with live music and dance lessons, and into the weekend with two jam-packed days of food, fun, dancing, costume parades, and music.

There are several ways to experience Gator by the Bay, including single day, multi-day and hotel ticket packages. Early bird pricing is available beginning December 1, 2021, with current discounted tickets.

To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.gatorbythebay.com.



Guests attend dressed ready to party.

Maritime Museum of San Diego Holds Tall Ship Sailor Training



Graduates of the program will have the opportunity to volunteer as sail crew aboard the San Salvador.

Maritime Museum of San Diego is offering the first stage of 2022 curriculum to train individuals 18 years of age and older how to sail and maintain tall ships. Vessel training includes learning the skills to sail the 19th century Star of India, the world's oldest active sailing tall ship, plus the official tall ship for the state Californian and the recently built 16th century Spanish galleon replica San Salvador.

Sail and maintenance crew members will learn skills such as knot tying, terminology, line handling, and sail setting, sail theory, maintenance of the ships, and even the possibility of "laying aloft" to climb and work in the rigging of these historic vessels. Dr. Raymond Ashley, Ph.D., K.C.I., President/CEO of the Maritime Museum of San Diego describes the opportunity enthusiastically, "This class is designed as the first step to learn to become a tall ship sailor and volunteer time as a dedicated and well-respected member of the Maritime Museum of San Diego."

Open orientation will be held at 6 p.m., Wednesday, January 5 at the Maritime Museum of San Diego aboard the steam ferryboat Berkeley. The first class will be held at 8 a.m. sharp Sunday, January 16, 2022. Classes are limited to 150 participants, free with museum membership. Participants must be 18 and older and provide their own health insurance. Classes continue every Sunday through March 13, 2022.

Graduates of the program will have the opportunity to volunteer as sail crew aboard the Californian and the San Salvador during regularly scheduled weekly underway programs.

Tall ship sail class candidates should visit sdmaritime.org for more details.

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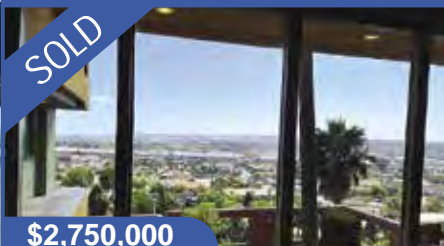


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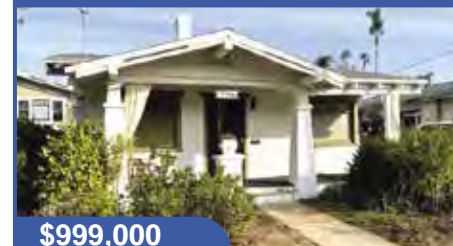


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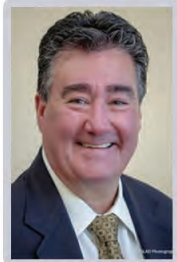
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