

# PRESIDIO SENTINEL

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Serving the Heart of San Diego

June | 2021

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Digital Copy



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## An Appreciation for Those Who Created San Diego History

By Patty Ducey-Brooks



This past month, I was doing some research recently on businesses that have been operating in the City of San Diego upward of 100 years. That's when I learned about the long standing history of Walter Andersen Nursery, which opened in 1928 by Walter Andersen Sr. on Juan Street in Old Town San Diego, near the intersection of Taylor Street.

What I also learned is that Walter Andersen was responsible for starting the Old Town Chamber of Commerce, which I serve on today. It made me feel somehow connected to Walter Andersen, as if I was supposed to learn this about him and his contributions to San Diego.

In the early years of his company, Walter Andersen Nursery provided landscaping and garden services, from maintenance to landscape design and installation as well as selling plants and supplies. Over the years the landscape and plant sales grew to be the majority of the business and the maintenance side was phased out. Throughout the depression the business grew. Walter Andersen's reputation for supplying the finest plant material and providing quality landscaping grew as well.

Walter Andersen left his mark on San Diego in many ways. Some of the larger projects he worked on over the years include the downtown San Diego Post Office; the County Administration building; numerous projects for the San

Diego Zoo and Safari Park; the Westgate Hotel; National Steel and Shipbuilding; Westgate Park, the original Mission Valley home of the San Diego Padres; and the Christmas tree-shaped Cedrus deodoras planted in the center median along Orange Avenue in Coronado.

That's pretty impressive!

Additionally, Walter Andersen Nursery has participated in and supported many flower and garden shows over the years: the Orchid Show, the Coronado Flower Show, and the Del Mar Fair. It's stated that Walter Andersen Nursery is the longest running exhibitor at the Del Mar Fair Flower Show, not missing an exhibition since its inception in 1938.

As the plant sales grew to be a larger portion of the business, Walter Sr. and his son Walter Jr. decided to stop landscaping and concentrate on selling plants and gardening supplies. Daily operation of the nursery was turned over to Walter Jr. in the mid 1970s, but Walter Sr. continued to take an active role in the business and was at the store six days a week until shortly before his death in 1983.

In 1995, the decision was made to expand the nursery operation by opening a second store. After careful study and consideration, a piece of property was purchased in Poway for the second store.

Today, the nurseries are still family-

owned and operated with Walter Jr. as chairman, and Ken Andersen serving as president and CEO of nursery operations.

In 1969 Walter Anderson moved to its current location at 3642 Enterprise Street, which is right next to SPAWAR (now NAVWAR), the subject of editorial in this issue. When I realized this, I reached out to a member of his family who works for the Nursery to learn more about what they know about the Navy's plans for NAVWAR.

As you might expect, Walter Anderson Nursery is a small, family owned business that has worked long and hard to be a respected member of the business community. What is forthcoming can either allow them to continue to operate at the current location, or, force them to move. The later of the two is definitely not in the best interests of the family and those who do business with Walter Anderson Nursery. We will continue to cover NAVWAR, and provide more information on this business that has contributed significantly to San Diego, including starting and supporting the Old Town Chamber of Commerce.



**In 1928 Walter Anderson purchased a Model A truck to transport nursery products around the city.**

**This past month, Mission Hills residents started a petition to encourage the Navy to tear down and reconstruct NAVWAR on site of the old SPAWAR location. This is identified as Alternative 1 on NAVWAR's list of options. To learn of the petition and to join the effort, visit [www.presidiosentinel.com](http://www.presidiosentinel.com). The home page includes information on the petition. To get involved in this effort, email [ppsntinel@aol.com](mailto:ppsntinel@aol.com).**

# Uptown Planners: Working for the Community (?)

By Tom Mullaney



Many residents are unaware that we live in the Uptown Community. The reason is that we have a strong identification with our neighborhoods. We see ourselves as residents of Mission Hills, Presidio Hills, Hillcrest, Bankers Hill and University Heights. Don't forget Middletown and Western Slopes, rising above San Diego Avenue.

Uptown is a big community, stretching from Presidio Park to Trolley Barn Park, near Park Boulevard. It's home to 40,000 residents, which is twice the population of Coronado.

**What's happening in Uptown? Let's look at one aspect, land use. Driving around, it's hard to miss the new development projects:**

- Fort Oak, the 85-foot tower which blocks the morning sunlight on Green Manor.
- Hillcrest 111, a large project under construction at Robinson and 7th Avenue.
- 5th and Olive, which will tower over St. Paul's Cathedral when completed. The zoning allows 150 feet in height; got an exception for 220 ft. The sky is the limit!

The current Community Plan and zoning allow enough development

for 10,000 more homes in Uptown, enough to add 20,000 more residents to our community. But that's not enough for some. In 2016, city officials hatched a plan to upzone four blocks in the core of Hillcrest. Now, the project has grown to 14 times that much area, from Park Boulevard to Dove Street. Illustrations show buildings of 10 to 15 stories on Washington Street near the Wells Fargo Bank.

Your community planning group, Uptown Planners, is aware of all this. What do they think? Many of their members want more.

They belong to a group called "Rise Up Town." Their website states: "more neighbors," "tall buildings" and "increased zoning height."

Increased over what? Mission Hills got zoning forced upon the neighborhood in 2016, allowing 100 feet heights, despite a strong community consensus for a 50 feet limit. Much of Hillcrest is already zoned for 100 feet and higher. What's the need for more?

**Looking ahead to this summer, Uptown Planners has scheduled an election for July 6. Residents, property owners and business owners can vote and will have this choice:**

- Rise Up Town candidates, who want more neighbors, tall buildings, and increased zoning height.
- Eight independent candidates who have banded together to support their vision for Uptown.

**Here's what the eight independents have written as their goals:**

- "Quality neighborhoods, thriving businesses"
- "A focus on quality of life". "Responsible development"
- "Compatible with neighborhood character & historic preservation"
- "Affordable housing, transportation improvements, bicycle safety"
- "Adequate parking, open space and parks"
- "Neighborhoods that stay beautiful and welcoming even as they change"

**The eight independent candidates:**

- Helen Rowe Allen
- Christopher Cole
- Stuart McGraw
- Lu Rehling
- Mary Brown
- Roy Dahl
- Mary McKenzie
- Mat Wahlstrom

To get the details about the July 6 election: Connect to the website, provide your email. We'll send you updates. Website: [www.UptownForAll.org](http://www.UptownForAll.org).

Tom Mullaney has been a Mission Hills resident since 1983, and is a member of Uptown Planners.

**The Department of the Navy  
Announces Virtual Public Meetings  
for the Draft Environmental Impact  
Statement for the Navy Old Town  
Campus Revitalization**

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Navy prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with modernization of the Old Town Campus (OTC) to support Naval Information Warfare Systems Command's (NAVWAR) current and future operational readiness. Additionally, the public will have the opportunity to participate in the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process. The 60-day public comment period began on May 14, 2021 and ends on July 13, 2021.

**SUBMIT COMMENTS:**

- Online through the project website:  
**[www.NAVWAR-revitalization.com](http://www.NAVWAR-revitalization.com)**
- By mail to:  
Navy OTC Revitalization EIS  
Project Manager  
Attention: Ron Bochenek  
750 Pacific Highway, Floor 12  
San Diego, CA 92132-0058
- Verbal comments at the virtual public meetings

All comments must be postmarked by **July 13, 2021** to be considered in the Final EIS.

**VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS:**

**5:30 to 8 p.m. PDT**

**Tuesday June 8, 2021**

**Wednesday June 23, 2021**

Information on accessing the virtual public meetings is available on the project website.

There will be a presentation and formal oral comment session at each virtual meeting.

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations: contact the Navy OTC Revitalization EIS Project Manager, Ron Bochenek at 888-682-6289 or [info@NAVWAR-revitalization.com](mailto:info@NAVWAR-revitalization.com)

Visit [www.NAVWAR-revitalization.com](http://www.NAVWAR-revitalization.com) for more information or to submit comments online.



# City Hall’s High-Rise Project at NAVWAR Would Be a Disaster - Public Land Reuse with no Public Benefit

City Hall is backing mass high-rise development for NAVWAR. This would gridlock coast traffic and obstruct bay and ocean views of Presidio Hills and Mission Hills residents. plus all of Old Town.

Save Our Access, a 501c3 non profit, favors letting the Navy renovate NAVWAR. We back creation of an area River Trail Park on part of this public land.

The Navy’s Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the reuse of the 70.5 acres NAVWAR sites in the Midway district is out. It lists alternatives where the Navy retains the property (alternative 1). The city mayor and council back a dense Manhattan-style city within a city

(preferred alternative 4).

The EIS’s “preferred alternative 4” NAVWAR high-rise commercial development consists of 106 buildings stretched for half a mile along I-5 that reach up to 350-feet in the air. This plan includes ten thousand new residential units for 14,000 residents. The unelected SANDAG board also includes a \$4 billion redundant white elephant transit hub.

These elements will overwhelm area roads and parks. EIS renderings show views from Presidio Hills, Mission Hills, and Old Town will be blocked, leading to diminished property values. The traffic impacts

► Continued on page 4



NAVWAR Alternative 4 is designed to change the skyline for all of urban San Diego, including Old Town San Diego.

## Local Market Update for April 2021

A Research Tool Provided by the Greater San Diego Association of REALTORS®

92103

Hillcrest, Mission Hills

Single Family	April			Year to Date		
Key Metrics	2020	2021	Percent Change	Thru 4-2020	Thru 4-2021	Percent Change
New Listings	12	22	+ 83.3%	79	91	+ 15.2%
Pending Sales	5	16	+ 260.0%	44	69	+ 56.8%
Closed Sales	9	19	+ 111.1%	50	62	+ 24.0%
Median Sales Price*	\$1,485,000	\$1,736,000	+ 17.0%	\$1,222,500	\$1,496,000	+ 22.5%
Percent of Original List Price Received*	97.6%	101.5%	+ 4.0%	95.8%	98.6%	+ 2.9%
Days on Market Until Sale	26	31	+ 19.2%	39	36	- 7.7%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	37	23	- 37.8%	--	--	--
Months Supply of Inventory	2.9	1.4	- 51.7%	--	--	--

Townhouse-Condo	April			Year to Date		
Key Metrics	2020	2021	Percent Change	Thru 4-2020	Thru 4-2021	Percent Change
New Listings	28	54	+ 92.9%	147	205	+ 39.5%
Pending Sales	6	36	+ 500.0%	74	142	+ 91.9%
Closed Sales	23	43	+ 87.0%	85	128	+ 50.6%
Median Sales Price*	\$550,000	\$580,000	+ 5.5%	\$550,000	\$600,503	+ 9.2%
Percent of Original List Price Received*	98.6%	100.4%	+ 1.6%	97.5%	100.0%	+ 2.6%
Days on Market Until Sale	19	33	+ 73.7%	35	31	- 11.4%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	82	60	- 26.8%	--	--	--
Months Supply of Inventory	3.4	1.9	- 44.1%	--	--	--



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# City Hall's High-Rise Project at NAVWAR Would Be a Disaster - Public Land Reuse with no Public Benefit

► Continued from page 3

cannot be mitigated. These impacts would ruin San Diego's quality of life.

The high-rise wall of alternative 4 is the equivalent of a new city. It would bring decades of impacts like ongoing air pollution, construction noise, torn up streets, and major taxpayer expenses for the required infrastructure.

Encouragingly, for their part, the Navy seems content to create its new needed facilities without any public land privatization - "This could be accomplished using either Navy redevelopment alone or public-private partnership collaboration." (EIS pg 1, par. 2)

To upgrade its facilities, the Navy needs about 1 million square feet. (EIS 1-11). If the public supports EIS Alternative 1, the Navy says its old footprint can greatly downsize, leaving much of the inland of the two parcels for River Trail Park. Alternative 1 would take 5 years instead of alternative 4's 30 years, and would preclude the decades of disastrous impacts from high-rise wall construction. (ES.4.2)

The NAVWAR site is irreplaceable and invaluable public land. The Navy's EIS provides no public benefit analysis to see how San Diego citizens might directly benefit from this proposal. No EIS provision was made to make up for the area's major park and sports fields deficit. No mention is made how already gridlocked coast and beach access would become even worse.

The mayor visited New York bankers to fund the mega city proposal at NAVWAR. He was not thinking about the public interest.

The Navy alone can renovate on site and free up part of the

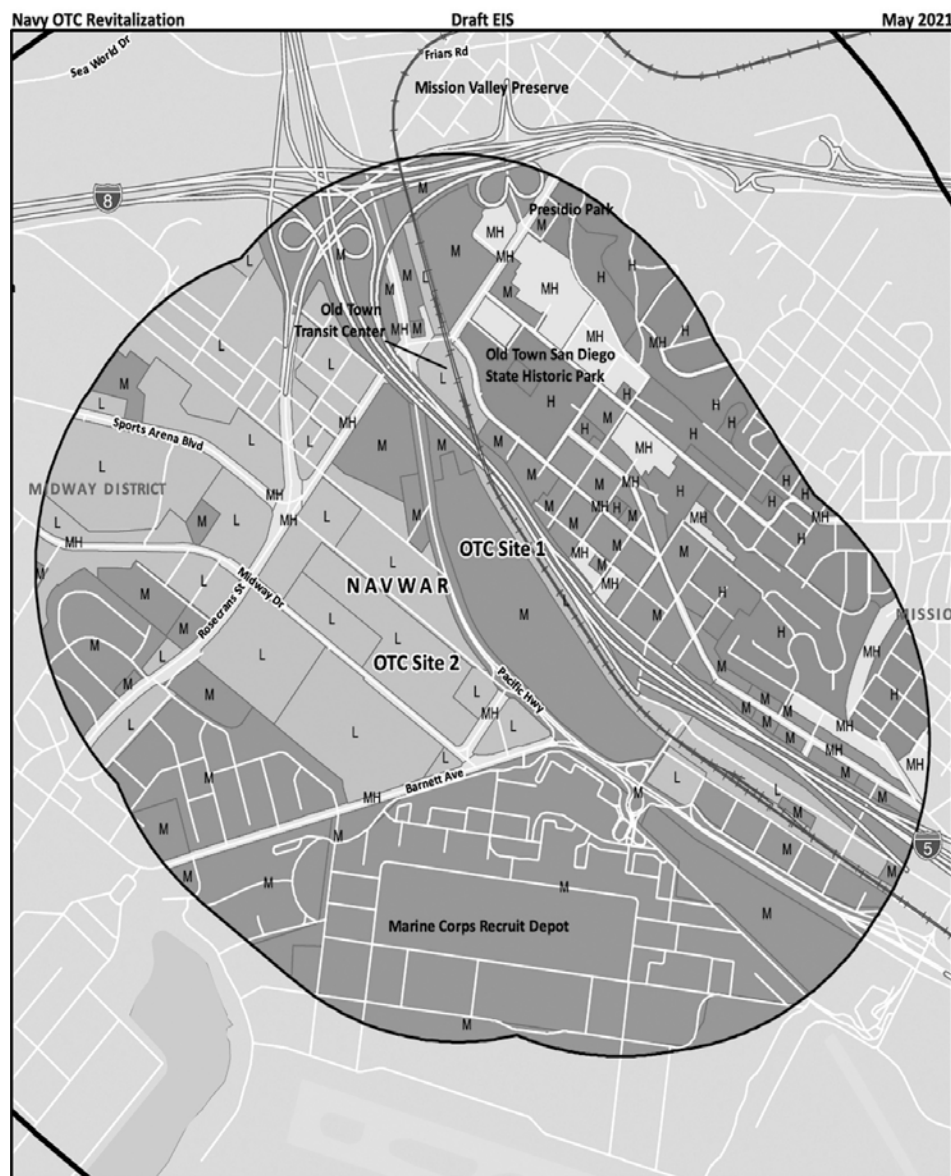


Figure 3.3-10. Visual Sensitivity of LAU Viewers within one-half mile of OTC

*The NAVWAR map lays out the land use for the project, resembling a city within the city of San Diego.*

property to address the public's need for recreation at a new River Trail Park - while saving views and access for beachgoers.

Save Our Access supports this win-win for the Navy and the public.

The deadline for public comment on the proposal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is July 13.

EIS comments can be submitted at [info@NAVWAR-Revitalization.com](mailto:info@NAVWAR-Revitalization.com), The EIS Project Manager is

Ron Bochenek - (888) 682-6289.

The mayor and the council are backing this giveaway. Contact them.

Save Our Access is raising funds to respond to the legal and public awareness issues raised by this insider deal. Your financial support is appreciated.

**John A. McNab, President,**  
**Save Our Access (619) 531-0773**  
**[saveouraccess@protonmail.com](mailto:saveouraccess@protonmail.com)**

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# Golden Takin Born at the San Diego Zoo is off to a Strong Start

Wildlife care specialists at the San Diego Zoo welcomed the birth of a female golden takin last month, the first of this takin subspecies to be born in the Western Hemisphere. The female calf is named Mei Ling, meaning “beautiful antelope” in the Mandarin language. Golden takins are a horned mammal related to sheep and have adapted for life in the high elevation of their native Himalayan Mountain habitat.

The San Diego Zoo is the only place that takins (rhymes with “rockin’”) can be seen in the Western Hemisphere. These ruminants are very agile, navigating rugged landscapes with ease. They get their name from the golden hue of the thick, shaggy coat sported by adult takins.

Female takins generally give birth to a single kid in early spring. Within days, the young are capably moving on their own, a trait that helps them avoid predation. Young takins have a



The female calf is named Mei Ling, meaning “beautiful antelope” in the Mandarin language.

much darker coat than adults. Their deep brown color serves to keep them camouflaged from

predators. Visitors to the Zoo’s Asian Passage, however, should have no trouble viewing the

youngster as she bonds with her mother and becomes familiar with her habitat.

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Babe is residing at the Escondido Campus of the San Diego Humane Society, located at 3450 E. Valley Parkway in Escondido. **For more information, and to schedule an appointment, call (619) 299-7012, or visit [www.sdhumane.org](http://www.sdhumane.org).**

**This gorgeous senior lady is China, an eight-year old, domestic short hair.** After just a few days at SDHS, she started winning the hearts of everyone she meets. We’ve been able to build her trust, and found that she loves gentle head pets and lounging with her humans. She’s received some TLC from our medical team and is feeling good! She’s ready to find a soft place to land for her next chapter. Are you who she’s been waiting for?

**To schedule an appointment, please can (619) 299-7012 or visit [www.sdhumane.org](http://www.sdhumane.org).**

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# The Three Secrets to a Satisfying Retirement

By Rick Brooks



As we work towards retirement, the financial services and marketing industries bombard us with images of happy people traveling, playing golf and walking on the beach; a permanent vacation. The reality is a bit more mundane: the average retiree spends most of their time (after sleeping) watching television.

For those preparing for retirement (and even those already retired), there are three keys to getting the most out of your retirement years, and each requires investments (of a sort) before you get there.

**Financial Security.** It shouldn't be a surprise that satisfied retirees have enough money to do the things they want to do. You don't have to be rich, you just have to feel comfortable that you can afford to spend money on the things that make you happy. Research suggests that these include expenses like travel, dining out with friends and theater or other entertainment. Studies have shown that retirees with stable, secure incomes tend to be more satisfied than retirees with less stable income.

Research also shows that most people have trouble spending money in retirement. After saving for retirement for many years, that saver mindset is a hard habit to break. As you prepare for life after a paycheck, you need to remind yourself that all of the saving you've been doing during your working years is so that you can spend that money during your retirement years. However, you also need to know what you can afford to spend, so that you don't burn through your nest egg too quickly. Finally, in today's low interest rate environment, the notion of 'just living off the income' really won't work for most securities-based savings.

**Health.** I've written about this before, but good health is critical to satisfaction in retirement. You could have all the money in the world, but not be as happy in retirement as someone with less money but in better health. This requires investments and sacrifice during your working years, only a few of which are financial. Exercising, eating better, and avoiding things that lead to poor health like smoking and drug use pay off in better health in retirement, and a longer life expectancy. In fact, life expectancy in the U.S.

is steadily rising, even faster among the top 10 percent of households (by income). Why? Beyond simply having access to better health care, higher income and better educated households in general tend to do things like exercise, eat better and avoid bad habits like smoking.

**Relationships.** Research shows that those with strong friendships (and strong relationships with a spouse) are more satisfied than those who do not have them. It is also correlated with longer life expectancy. In fact, good relationships with friends are a more reliable predictor of retirement satisfaction than close relationships with your children.

This is probably the hardest part, at least for many men. In general, women build strong social groups and work hard to maintain those networks over time. Men's networks tend to be built more around work, resulting in a loss of social support at retirement. For men, a good investment in retirement satisfaction is building non-work social networks before retirement, either with friends or through clubs, church or charity work.

Retirement is a huge change, but one that most of us will face eventually, and the experience will be different for everyone. Like any journey, planning and preparation go a long way towards making that change smoother and easier. Planning ahead for things like where you will live, big trips you will take, etc., can help take some of the stress out of the transition. Test-driving some of your grand adventures (like renting an RV for an extended trip before buying one) can help you determine if you will actually enjoy something that looks like fun from a distance.

Investing in yourself (beyond just saving money for the future) will pay huge dividends later on in life, and help prepare you for a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement.

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.

## Father's Day, Graduations and Summer Fun at Liberty Station

Businesses at Arts District Liberty Station are ready to help you celebrate every occasion. As COVID-19 restrictions open up and your social calendar begins to fill up, enjoy some of the best arts and culture attractions in San Diego.

### Summer Camp Style

Get crafty with a new Craft Camp every week at San Diego Craft Collective from June 21 through the end of summer. Give your toddler the gift of music with one of the Songbirds Music summer sessions, featuring three to seven week and outdoor or online options. Help your little ones connect with their inner artist and choose between 10 weeks, each with a different theme, of art camps at Monart School of Art. Encourage your kids to channel their "prana," or energy, into something intentional and participate in a yoga summer camp with If I Was A Bird yoga studio. Your little ones will engage all their senses at Kid Ventures Preschool Academy with opportunities to develop socially, emotionally and academically through exploration and creative play during their Summer Care Program running Tuesday, June 1 through Friday, August 27.

### Dance is in the Air

After months of pivoting programs to film and online formats, dance companies of the Dorothea Laub Dance Place are ready to perform for live audiences safely outdoors. Over four weeks, San Diego Ballet and the San Diego Dance Theater present outdoor performances on the South Promenade in Liberty Station. Tickets must be purchased ahead of time directly through each company's website. Details of this month's performances include:

- San Diego Ballet presents Debussy Dances: Preludes and Arabesques, Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6
- San Diego Dance Theater presents Young Choreographers + Invited Guests, Friday, June 11 through Sunday, June 13

### Dinner and Show

The LOT is back and just in time for the premiere of some of this summer's most anticipated films including "Cruella" and "The Conjuring 3." Swap your extra serving of popcorn for some signature cocktails, flatbreads and more at their restaurant overlooking the fountains of Luce Court or cuddle up along one of the fire pits under the stars

### San Diego Watercolor Society's June Exhibit

One of the longest running galleries, San Diego Watercolor Society, celebrated its reopening last month with a brand-new exhibit titled Shape Zone, available exclusively for their members, through June 27



San Diego Dance Theater presents Young Choreographers + Invited Guests during June.



The LOT opens with food and movies

## Part 2: Adam Graves With more of the San Diego Zoo's Horticultural Department

By Barbara Strona



The San Diego Zoo is known for its conservation efforts. Familarly called "Team Plant," it is comprised of four sections. First is San Diego Zoo which focuses on research, conservation, direct science, education and outreach. The second section is San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research holding a seed bank with over 550 selections and 375 taxa. The Institute dries and freezes seeds for future propagation and does genetic analysis. San Diego Safari Park, the third unit, provides safe sites for plants that need more space, providing the environment is appropriate. Finally, there is also the Center for Plant Conservation at San Diego Zoo Global whose mission is to unite expertise worldwide to save disappearing species.

The Zoo grounds house nine special accredited collections, including orchids, cycads, palms, bamboo, ginger, ficus, acacia, erythrina, and aloes. Unofficial special collections are Hawaiian plants, caudiciforms, and carnivorous plants. The Ex Situ Collections are from other areas. Normally removing plants from their natural habitat is not an acceptable way to collect them; however, moving endangered plants like the rapidly disappearing cycads, which have no safe habitat, is essential for securing a genetic repository for future conservation work. These collections educate and entertain the public as well. Keeping and verifying the botanical collection



*Cycas circinalis*, also known as the queen sago, is a species of cycad known in the wild only from southern India.

through our accessioning system\* is really important proving: "We have what we say that we have."

San Diego Zoo deals with Exceptional Endangered Species, species whose seeds are not easily stored and germinated. Oaks, cycads and orchids are examples of these of particular concern to the Zoo.

Climate change and invasive pests have caused our oaks' decline. Oaks' acorns are viable only for six to twelve months. Normal freezing and drying seeds to preserve the trees doesn't work. The seeds need sufficient moisture to grow, but if they are not frozen and dried, they are susceptible to fungal infestation. The Zoo works

with five endangered species of oak found in California, Baja California, and the Islands of San Clemente. To propagate these declining oaks, the staff grows seedlings from acorns.

These are then given, never traded or sold, to various botanical gardens to grow and propagate. Besides raising seedlings, the Zoo staff rely on science, such as micropropagation, which involves collecting live tissue, feeding it a rich cocktail, placing it in a special medium, freezing it with liquid nitrogen, thawing it, and planting the tiny root ball, which Adams says resembles a tiny meatball.

Cycads, on which dinosaurs feasted centuries ago, are threatened everywhere. Their seeds cannot be dried and frozen; the safest method of preservation is moving them to safe environments. Graves warns that slow-growing cycads "are not for people who want instant gratification." The sago palm is the fastest growing. Two of the rarest cycads, between three and five hundred years old, grow in our Zoo. One is the *encephalartos latifrons*; the other is the *encephalartos woodii*. In the wild are fewer than 65 of the former; the latter is extinct in the wild and all those remaining are male. Cloning, hybridizing the clone and then back-crossing the clone is one possibility of reproducing it. Graves is certain that whoever installed our cycads "sweated bullets" doing so.

Whatever method works for creating a method of reproducing a plant on the brink of extinction, San Diego Zoo's horticulturalists share successes, share plants, publish when they achieve a duplicatable result, and move on to the next problem.

The orchid is the third of our Zoo's trio of Endangered Species. Our Zoo has an enormous orchid collection with incredible diversity. We have over 3000 plants, 161 genera, and 769 taxa. One reason for our incredible collection is confiscation of smuggled plants. Smuggling has caused many species to become endangered or extinct, especially in Southeast Asia. In 1988, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife confiscated a plethora of plants. The Zoo now has a specialist whose only responsibility is the care and propagation of orchids. His collection grew exponentially in 1990 when a huge collection of paphiopedilum (slipper orchids) was collected.



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► Continued on page 15



## Celebrations, Collaborations and Contests

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



I love the start of summer: the warm sun, the flowers, the long days, and maybe even a vacation somewhere. The sense that the whole summer is in front of us with fun and relaxation just waiting to be had can't be beat. This year both Father's Day and the first day of summer are on June 20 - providing two more great reasons to celebrate in Mission

Hills. From a relaxing massage to a tempting Moto Guzzi racer, there is no better place to find that special gift for dear old dad. And, how about all those graduates who deserve something unique to acknowledge their achievements? While you are shopping in Mission Hills do remember June 18 is National Splurge Day designed just for you.

This year we also look forward to the long awaited safe and full re-opening of San Diego on June 15. How great is it going to feel to be able to move about freely? What do you have planned for your masks once you no longer need them? I would like to burn mine! I'm sure it is a universal desire that we never have to endure something like this again.

Our Mission Hills businesses pivoted and survived and need your continuing support as they fully re-open. Adding to our already stellar line-up of fun and fine establishments will be La Puerta on Goldfinch, What De Health Thai on Fort Stockton, Firoi's Pizza at their new location on West Washington, along with two rumored establishments, including an upscale liquor store on Eagle Street, and a European wine bar and bistro on Fort Stockton Drive. Look for all of these businesses to open and please place them at the top of your "must enjoy" list.

In celebration of the re-opening of San Diego, the Mission Hills BID is planning a mixer that will take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 16 at DixiePops, 301 West Washington Street. We'll have lots of pops, shaved ice, ice cream and more for you to enjoy. And, raffle prizes will be offered in "baskets" worth approximately \$100 each. Try your luck for \$10 per ticket. Someone has to win – why not you?

Our mixer's special guest speaker will be Alex Vats, owner of Vaatika Salon on West Lewis Street. Vats is a marketing professional who has been an inspiration to us as we look for more ways to promote our Mission Hills businesses. We always

have fun while learning when we spend time with Vats. If you live or work in Mission Hills, we welcome you to meet and hear from Vats at the June 16 mixer. Please email MissionHillsBID@gmail.com to let us know you'll be attending.

And, if you live, work or spend time in Mission Hills I hope you have enjoyed the banners that have been flying on Mission Hills lampposts. These hand painted creations are from the 2021 Colors on Canvas banner art contest. The contest was open to the children who are enrolled at Grant K8 School or attend after school art classes at Paint Box Art Studio.

I was delighted to serve as a judge this year and was truly amazed by all 67 beautiful banners. These kids are very creative and very talented in how they have chosen to celebrate the many aspects of Mission Hills. The older kids' banners are technically proficient while the younger kids' banners are just so sweet.

We will recognize the accomplishments of these young artists from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 8. An indoor installation and silent action of the banners will take place at The Frame Maker, 3102 Reynard Way. Cash, credit cards and checks will be accepted. Due to concern about the COVID-19 pandemic, The Frame Maker has requested no more than eight attendees at a time be inside their gallery. And, masks and social distancing will be a requirement.

At the same time and across the street, an awards celebration and reception and sales of upcycled tote bags from prior year banners will take place at Cake Bakery, 3085 Reynard Way. Cash, credit cards and checks will be accepted. The Cake Bakery events will take place in their outdoor patio where mask wearing and social distancing will be left to the discretion of each attendee.

If you wish to attend the June 8 events, please RSVP to MissionHillsBID@gmail.com with the number of grown-ups and children in your party, along with each of their names.

There are many different ways to learn more about the Mission Hills BID, its meetings and activities, including our website: MissionHillsBID.com, Facebook: MissionHillsBID, Instagram: MissionHillsSD and Twitter: MissionHillsSD. If you love our Mission Hills business neighborhood and have ideas and time to help promote it, the Mission Hills BID needs you. Please contact us at MissionHillsBID@gmail.com.



Pictured left to right are 2021 Colors on Canvas banner judging participants: Mission Hills resident, Amy Halquist (golf cart owner and driver who escorted judges); John Bertsch, Coldwell Banker West; Steve Wheeler, Mission Hills Branch librarian; Jesse Zmuda, owner of Backbone Floral & Vintage; and Rosario Monetti, owner of Meshuggah Shack.



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# The Grand Opening of Oseas Villatoro In Hillcrest

By Aubree Lynn, Stylist

It finally happened! After looking forward to this day for the past year and a half, I was finally able to attend another newsworthy fashion event, while supporting friends in this industry who are fashion designers and retailers.

I'm referring to a ribbon cutting ceremony for my friend and colleague Oseas Villatoro, who just opened a brick and mortar store at 1475 University Avenue in Hillcrest.

Having worked with Oseas for over seven years, I first saw him grace the Fashion Week San Diego stage to win best in collection. He then moved on to New York's Fashion Week, and fashion shows in Mexico. Then he created his own annual event, titled Experience Fashion Night.

Over the years, I have written about him designing clothes for me, styling shoots for him, and, being a part of his life and fashion journey. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience, and I was sure there would be lots more stories to share.

So when he asked me to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new store opening in Hillcrest, I jumped at the opportunity to support him and his exciting venture. It was refreshing to dress for the occasion, and to celebrate another creative win for Oseas Villatoro.

As one would expect, Villatoro set the tone with his personality, starting with a sidewalk DJ who was mixing tunes to set the vibe for the evening. Guests enjoyed delicious hor d'oeuvres, a donut bar pegboard, and ample seating allowing everyone to socialize and reconnect. For the first time in a long time, it truly felt like life was back to normal, void of the pandemic restrictions, which has robbed us of time to enjoy each other, and has had a severe impact on the fashion industry that I have come to love and respect.

In true Oseas fashion, his store has character and personality. There is an immense, backdrop wall decorated with deep green foliage, a neon sign that screams: "Stay Wild," and a hanging swing that seems to encourage a playful environment.

The ribbon-cutting event turned out to be a ceremonious occasion. That's because Villatoro received an award recognizing May 14, 2021 as Oseas Villatoro day.

It was a night to remember. I was so happy for my dear friend who continues to live life his way and with true devotion to the fashion industry. The evening and my journey with Oseas Villatoro have influenced me to believe that with vision, perseverance, and desire dreams came become reality.

To learn more about Oseas Villatoro and his new storefront, visit [www.oseasv.com](http://www.oseasv.com).



Aubree Lynn is shown with her friend and colleague, Oseas Villatoro

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## North Coast Repertory Theatre Presents “Becoming Dr. Ruth”

Most know Ruth K. Westheimer as Dr. Ruth, the extraordinary sex educator who empowered millions across the globe to claim their own sexual pleasure and fulfillment. Few know the whole story of losing her family in the Holocaust, her emigration to Israel where she became a sniper for the Haganah, or the complex personal journey that led her to fame and celebrity status. In Mark St. Germain’s compelling solo showcase, Dr. Ruth graciously invites the audience into her living room, chatting in her inimitable fashion while revealing the often-astonishing details of her unbelievable life.

Six-time Tony and Emmy nominee Tovah Feldshuh is the industry standard for playing iconic Jewish women from Golda Meir to Ruth Bader Ginsburg. In “Becoming Dr. Ruth,” Feldshuh (TV’s “Law & Order,” “Crazy Ex-



*Six-time Tony and Emmy nominee Tovah Feldshuh will perform as Dr. Ruth. Photo courtesy of Aaron Rumley.*

Girlfriend,” and “The Walking Dead”) deftly inhabits the warm, wise, witty persona of the beloved media figure. “Tovah is pitch-perfect in the role of Dr. Ruth. We’re so delighted to have her

performing on North Coast Rep’s intimate mainstage,” said Artistic Director David Ellenstein. “We expect “Becoming Dr. Ruth” to be a smash hit in our streaming season.”

This production will be directed by David Ellenstein and filmed for streaming following all COVID safety guidelines from the CDC, SD County and Actors Equity Association. Audiences will see a full theatrical production directed by David Ellenstein; with sets by scenic designer Marty Burnett; costumes by Elisa Benzoni; and prop design by Phillip Korth; wig design by Peter Herman; and stage manager, cinematographer/editor Aaron Rumley filmed the show. Reserve your tickets now for this breezy, thoroughly engaging evening of theatre, even as it explores some of the darkest chapters of the past century.

“Becoming Dr. Ruth” will stream on Showtix4U.com on demand from June 9 to July 4, 2021. Tickets are \$35 for individual viewing and \$54 for group viewing and can be purchased at northcoastrep.org. Runtime is 90 minutes.

## ArtWalk to Debut New Summer Series in Little Italy

ArtWalk Little Italy Summer Series announces its debut in Little Italy beginning Sunday, June 27 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Taking place at the Piazza della Famiglia, located at 523 W. Date Street, and the adjacent block W. Date Street, each one-day show will include thirty select artists exhibiting their stunning works of art. The event will run every other Sunday including June 27, July 11, July 25, September 5, and September 19, giving locals and visitors incredible opportunities to purchase one-of-a-kind art from local, national, and international artists in a variety of “Little Italy is an artist’s haven and takes pride in supporting local so, what better place for this exciting new ArtWalk event than Little Italy?,” said Chris Gomez, district manager of the Little Italy Association. “We are



*Guests can enjoy lots of different artwork to appeal to their tastes and lifestyles.*



*Beautifully blown glass is one of the many art forms that are available for sale.*

proud to host this event in our community and can’t wait to see the incredible works of art displayed, while walking through the Piazza and taking in the crisp San Diego summer air.”

“We’re ecstatic to bring this new event to Little Italy and help spread our love and excitement for art,” said Curt Brooker, director of ArtWalk San Diego. “The art community has shown an unbelievable amount of resilience this past year and we’re committed to continuing to help them thrive. As in-person events continue to pick back up, we look forward to bringing new light and hope into people’s homes and art collections. Whether you’re a seasoned art collector or just looking for a new piece to add to your home, office or as a gift, I can guarantee you’ll find something at our Summer Series.”

The ArtWalk Little Italy Summer Series, in addition to ArtWalk San Diego’s three annual festivals, support their non-profit partner, ArtReach San Diego, a nonprofit organization aimed at increasing equity in visual arts education in K-8 schools throughout San Diego County by delivering free or low cost workshops to schools that have no other resources for art, focusing on Title One Schools. Many of the programs ArtReach offers are provided at no cost to schools.

**For more information on ArtWalk and its programs, visit [www.artwalksandiego.org](http://www.artwalksandiego.org). For more information on additional events taking place in Little Italy, visit [littleitalysd.com](http://littleitalysd.com).**

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## Mission Hills Artist Wins Awards

In an unusual double win, Ann Slater, an artist and resident of Mission Hills, won both the Best of Theme and Best of Miniatures awards in the continually competitive May 2021 Member's exhibition "Shape Zone" held a gallery show in May 2021, at The San Diego Watercolor Society (SDWS) gallery at 2825 Dewey Road in Liberty Station.

Slater's painting entitled "Above it All" was selected by prominent local artist and juror Rise Parberry for the Best of Theme honor, out of more than 270 entries. Parberry said of the painting, "The theme was shapes, and I felt like there were a lot of beautiful interacting and directional shapes, accented by beautiful rich color." Of the Best of Miniatures, "Contentment," Parberry said "The cat just bursts right out of that very small painting with such emotion and bliss, he's just waiting for you to reach down and pet him and rub him. It's got an engaging texture. A very fun and unusual painting."

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. "Contentment" (Best Mini) is a painting of the neighborhood cat. It took quite a few snap shots, in between petting, to get just the right pose. "Above It All" (Best Theme) was more about creating the foliage around the parrot. Depth was created by layering shapes of different sizes. Eye movement was achieved by directional lines and placement of color.

Slater is a signature member of the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies and currently has a painting in this year's show in Utah.

The gallery exhibit is the first in-person showing of art for the San Diego Watercolor Society since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, and will run through Saturday June 27, 2021 at the gallery at 2825 Dewey Road in Liberty Station. The gallery is open Friday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*"Above it All" by Ann Slater is a mixed media artwork.  
Photo is courtesy of San Diego Watercolor Society.*



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## “Wanderlust” Is Nominated for Best Americana Album of the Year

Enter the Blue Sky recently announced that their album, “Wanderlust,” has been nominated “Best Americana Album of the Year” at the annual San Diego Music Awards (SDMA). Released on leap day (February 29) in 2020, the album was released just before the pandemic shutdown, to a standing-room-only full-house event.

The band has a long history with the SDMA’s, having been nominated in 2019 for best Country/Americana band of the year.

“Wanderlust” has received positive reviews from the music community, with the SDMA nomination capping it off. “Lollis has a strong vocal presence, the dominant feature in the sound, and the songs are softly rendered with viola accents, with plenty of emotional heft as she delivers the memorable words,” says Frank Kocher of San Diego Troubadour, June 2020. “Wanderlust is a personal and earnest document offering a revealing glimpse into the inner world of Enter the Blue Sky and Sandé Lollis.”

Enter the Blue Sky is led by Sandé Lollis who writes all material for the band, plays rhythm guitar, and sings lead and back up vocals.

“We have high hopes for this album. It has a slightly different flavor from our first, partly because of the passing of harmonica player John Seever in 2018, and partly due to the natural evolution that comes with time and personnel



**Members of the Enter The Blue Sky band (left to right) include Paul Tillery, Sandé Lollis, Karen Childress-Evans, and Tina Dee.**

changes,” offered Lollis. “Our music grew bigger and more epic as it matured during the four years since our first album. It was way overdue and fans are ecstatic. We’re pretty darn proud of it.”

Paul Tillery plays upright bass on the album. Often using a bow, he pulls the listener along an intentional path that is picturesque in the mind’s eye and sweet in the ear. Tillery adds the bottom foundation to everything but then takes it a little bit further, adding the atmosphere and environment that Enter the Blue Sky is always going for.

Karen Childress-Evans plays viola, sometimes in harmony with the bass, sometimes taking the lead, creating a mood of tension and release, serious and playful. When asked about the process, Childress-Evans says, “We are four parts that came together in

this, and each of those parts stand on their own, all coming from different genres and experiences, and coming together and making something that’s greater than the sum of its parts, which I think, is magical.”

Tina Dee takes on backing vocals with sincere devotion to the project, creating buttery tones that blend perfectly with Lollis’ powerful, sometimes edgy, vocals. Dee shared, “I was over the moon to be asked to be a guest vocalist on the album; my first experience with such an endeavor, and then overjoyed to be invited to join ETBS. I’ve been a huge fan all these years.”

Bart Mendoza, in the San Diego Troubadour July 2020 issue, said, “Wanderlust is a testament to what a wonderful tunesmith and arranger Lollis is. As an acoustic trio, all the instruments in Enter the

Blue Sky have to do a lot of heavy lifting, and everyone here is more than up to the task, with Childress-Evans’s work on the album’s sole cover “No Soy De Aquí, Ni Soy de Allá,” particularly impressive. Fans of singer-songwriters or acoustic country will find much of interest here.”

The public has a hand in choosing the album to win; voting for the awards goes on through Wednesday, June 30, and everyone can vote once a day everyday at <https://dosd.com/p/sandiegomusicawards>.

The awards event takes place Tuesday, August 24 at Humphreys by the Bay. ETBS band members are enthusiastic about attending and hoping to hear their name announced when it comes time for the winner.

“To be nominated is such a big deal, it’s a bit surreal,” says Lollis. “There are so many talented artists in San Diego, and to find ourselves in the mix is both humbling and affirming. We are honored to be nominated.”

Enter the Blue Sky is hopeful that the recognition will give them more opportunities to be heard because, as Lollis puts it, “We just want to share our music, to know that it touched someone; the connections, that’s what it’s all about.

**Wanderlust is available at [EnterTheBlueSky.com](https://EnterTheBlueSky.com), Spotify, and iTunes, or at any of their live shows.**

## Tea & Tonic With a Twist Event Benefits Sexual Assault Survivors

Center for Community Solutions’ (CCS) Tea & Tonic with a Twist event will be held at 2 p.m., Friday, June 18, 2021. This year, attendees will have the option to join the annual event in person at beautiful Coastera for a Mexican fusion interpretation of the usual tea fare or attend virtually from the comfort of their own home. All proceeds will help CCS provide nearly 19,000 San Diegans with hope, healing, and prevention this year.

“After having to cancel our event last year because of the pandemic, we’re eager to see our compassionate supporters in-person or virtually at this very critical and special Tea & Tonic for CCS,” says CEO, Verna Griffin-Tabor.

In addition to live music and a live and silent auction, this year’s program at Coastera features Chanel Miller, an inspiration to assault survivors worldwide. Chanel Miller is a writer and artist. Her memoir, “Know My Name,” was a New York Times bestseller, a New York Times Book Review Notable Book, and a winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, the Ridenhour Book Prize, and the California Book Award. She was named one of the Forbes 30 Under 30 and a Time Next 100 honoree and was a Glamour Woman of the Year honoree under her pseudonym, Emily Doe. Not only will attendees get to hear Miller speak, they will also receive a complimentary copy of her book, “Know My Name.”

Center for Community Solutions (CCS) is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit corporation that provides prevention and intervention services for survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence. Founded in 1969, CCS has remained committed to solving the problems of relationship violence and abuse, improving the lives of survivors, and changing the social conditions that breed and tolerate their existence. CCS assisted more than 17,000 San Diegans last year and operates the only Rape Crisis Center in San Diego. For more information, visit [www.ccssd.org](http://www.ccssd.org).



**Chanel Miller is an inspiration to assault survivors worldwide.**

## SOHO's 38th Annual People In Preservation Awards Honors Preservationists

Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO), San Diego's countywide preservation group, celebrated its 38th annual People In Preservation Awards, on Thursday, May 27 during National Preservation Month.

This year's awards honored twelve distinctive people and projects ranging across multiple historic preservation mediums, from building restorations and adaptive reuse, to historic community traditions and important arts and cultural centers. They include the extensive restoration of a Mid-Century Modern coastal gem, the rehabilitation of a support building at the beloved Hotel del Coronado, and the recognition of a long-time writer especially known for her work in La Jolla.

Each spring, current residents and stewards Susan and Pat James play host to an annual garden party at the turn-of-the-20th-century Wisteria Cottage in Ocean Beach. The community gathers to share its history and greater history of the neighborhood, carrying on a decades-old tradition begun by the Ocean Beach Historical Society in 1994.

### Honorees included:

Navy Building 158, also known as the Fort Rosecrans Post Exchange, was constructed in 1908 for use as a gymnasium and retail store with goods and services for military personnel and their dependents.

The tale of the formation of Chicano Park, a National Historic Landmark, is one of San Diego's most moving activist and preservation stories. Author Beatrice Zamora and illustrator Maira Meza tell this important story and share the history of the development of Logan Heights and Barrio Logan in their bilingual children's book "The Spirit of Chicano Park / El espíritu del parque Chicano."

Homeowners Breeann and Nick Zamonis brought their historic 1925 Spanish Revival style home with Monterey influences in Mission Hills back to life. Using historic photographs, they restored the original entryway, and reconstructed the original cantilevered wood balcony.

You will be hard pressed to find another writer who has a better way with words for sharing San Diego and La Jolla history than La Jolla Historical Society historian Carol Olten. The breadth of topics she has written about include discussions of popular architectural styles and building types in La Jolla.

When the iconic Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics (IGPP) Munk Laboratory at the University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institute of Oceanography began to show the wear and tear of decades situated on the coast, Sam Farmer, Facilities Management Project Manager at UCSD, and a dedicated team of professionals stepped in to rehabilitate and preserve this important



**Mission Hills homeowners, Breeann and Nick Zamonis, restored an historic 1925 Spanish Revival style home. Photo is courtesy of Sandé Lollis.**

modern resource.

Four Balboa Park groups and projects are being recognized. The San Diego Automotive Museum has received a major facelift with the recreation of four historic murals in tile. The work is thanks to the Committee of One Hundred, whose mission is to preserve and protect the park's Spanish Colonial style architecture.

Centro Cultural de la Raza, the cultural community center whose mission is to create, promote, preserve, and educate about Chicano, Mexicano, Latino, and Indigenous art and culture is being honored as they mark their 50th anniversary in this location.

WorldBeat Cultural Center has covered its concrete water tank inside and out with cultural murals, and adaptively reused and converted it for programming through music, art, dance, multi-media arts, and education.

The Balboa Park Conservancy organized a collaboration with several key park groups and the city for the restoration of the historic 1935 Alcazar Garden.

Michael Haslett, project lead, and BRE Hotels and Resorts are being recognized for the adaptive reuse and rehabilitation of the single-story brick Laundry Building at the 1888 Hotel del Coronado.

For more information about SOHO, visit [SOHOsandiego.org](http://SOHOsandiego.org).

## "Federico" Book Signing & Jewelry Event at Bazaar del Mundo in Old Town

How did a young man from Tututepec, Oaxaca, become a famous jewelry artist and philanthropist living in Los Angeles? Find out at Diane Powers' Bazaar del Mundo Shops in Old Town when author and jewelry artist Federico Jimenez Caballero makes an appearance for a signing of his new book, "Federico: One Man's Remarkable Journey from Tututepec to L.A.," from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 12 at the Bazaar del Mundo Shops, located at the north entrance to Old Town on the corner of Juan and Taylor.

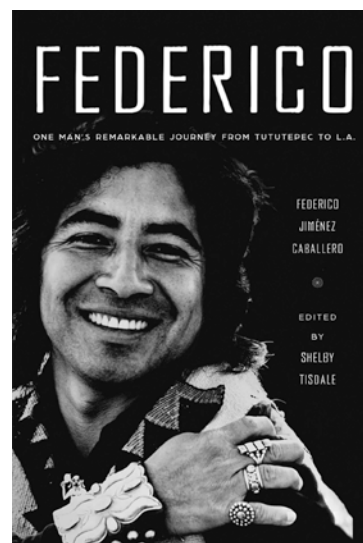
Jimenez Caballero always held a deep love and respect for his Indigenous roots and at a young age began to collect jewelry and textiles that reflected his culture. After meeting his wife and following her from Oaxaca to Los Angeles in the late 1960s, he brought his passion for jewelry by opening a series of shops to the public.

He began selling his handcrafted jewelry to well-known Hollywood stars and quickly became an established and recognized artist in the industry. His stunning turquoise and red coral creations have been worn by Christie Brinkley, Ali McGraw and Elle McPherson, who remain loyal collectors of his work.

During the event, a collection of Jimenez Caballero's stunning jewelry will be available for purchase at 20 percent off. The event is open to the public and will include delicious Mexican cuisine from neighboring Casa Guadalajara to enjoy in the courtyard of the shops. Masks are required and safety measures will be in place.

**For more information, visit [www.bazaardelmundo.com](http://www.bazaardelmundo.com) or call 619-296 3161.**

**Federico Jimenez Caballero will be present for a book signing and to share more about his passion for cultural jewelry designs.**



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# National Monument Open Until Sunset During Summer Weekends



*The Old Point Loma Lighthouse at sunset.  
Photo is courtesy of Pauline Geisler of the National Park Service.*

Cabrillo National Monument will be open until sunset on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays starting Friday, May 28 for Memorial Day weekend through Sunday, September 5 of Labor Day weekend. The tidepool area will be open until 30 minutes before sunset. Normal operating hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the tidepools closing at 4:30 p.m. These exclusive extended hours on weekends will provide increased access for visitors to enjoy spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean and San Diego during sunset.

Park facilities are open, including trails, restrooms, exhibits, visitor center, park store and the Old Point Loma Lighthouse. The theater is temporarily closed for renovations.

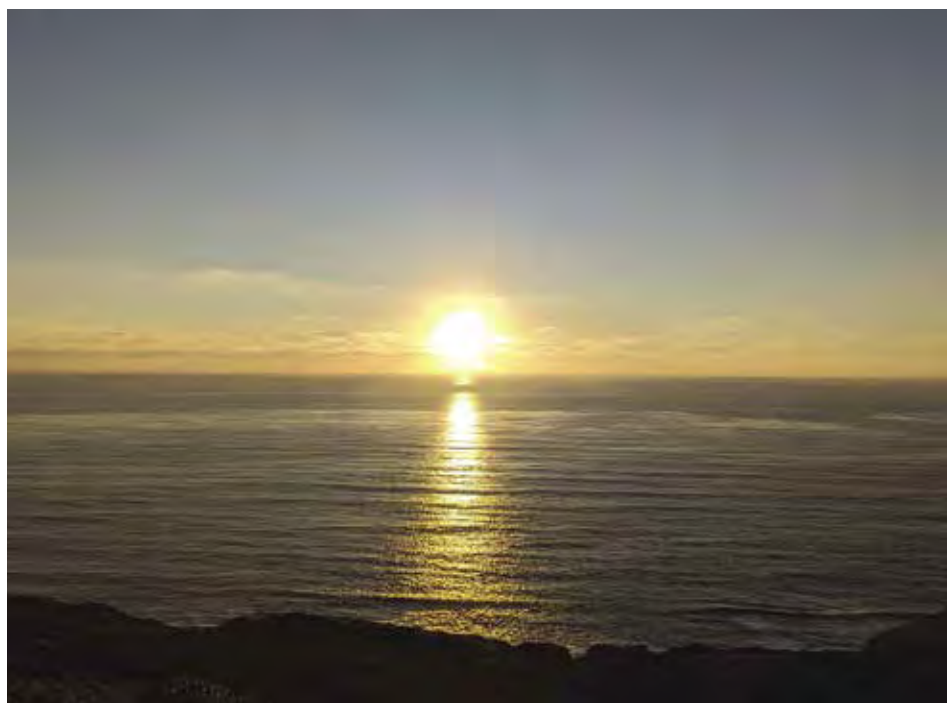
Junior Ranger books and badges, maps, and visitor information are available at an outdoor station located next to the Cabrillo Visitor Center. The park store is operated by Cabrillo National Monument Foundation (CNMF), an official non-profit partner of the National Park Service dedicated to supporting the educational mission of Cabrillo National Monument.

Updates about current conditions are available at [www.nps.gov/cabr](http://www.nps.gov/cabr) and social media channels. Annual park passes, day use passes,

and national park passes are available for purchase in person at the park entrance. Free passes are available for active duty military, veterans, people with permanent disabilities, and 4th graders.

Cabrillo National Monument is one of over four hundred units in the National Park Service system. The park is located in San Diego, California, perched on the southern end of the Point Loma peninsula more than 400 feet above the shoreline. The park offers unparalleled panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and the urban skyline and mountain ranges from San Diego to Mexico. The park commemorates the voyage of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, the first European to chart the West Coast of what is now the United States. The park includes the Old Point Loma Lighthouse, illuminated in 1855, and 21 military fortifications, which protected San Diego harbor in World War I and World War II. The extensive rocky intertidal area along the monument's western boundary contains one of the best-preserved and well-studied tidepool ecosystems in Southern California.

Visit the park website at <https://www.nps.gov/cabr/planyourvisit/fees.htm> for more information.



*The park offers unparalleled panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean.  
Photo is courtesy of Pauline Geisler of the National Park Service.*

## Taste of Little Italy Returns with a Fresh New Style

Foodies start making plans for Little Italy's 13th Annual Taste of Little Italy. To prepare for new guidance regarding the reopening California, Taste will now be held over two days, from 4 p.m. to 8 pm., Tuesday, June 22 and Wednesday, June 23. Attendees will be able to take in the summer air while walking through the neighborhood's 48 square blocks, sampling mouthwatering bites from over 20+ culinary gems over both days. Each evening different restaurants will be showcased. A Taste Passport is

provided to ticketholders as a guide, listing all participating restaurants, menu offerings and COVID-19 procedures.

"We are so excited to be able to bring back Taste of Little Italy for our 13th year, especially after such a difficult year," said Chris Gomez, district manager of the Little Italy Association. "It's an opportunity to enjoy the sights and delicious bites of Little Italy's many eclectic and diverse restaurants, so be sure to bring your appetite. We encourage purchasing your tickets early, since the Taste of Little Italy sells out quickly."

Upon arrival, attendees will check-in at their scheduled time in the Piazza della Famiglia where they will be given their Taste Passport. Guests will then make their way to each restaurant stop, taking away their "tastes" to enjoy at their leisure. Current participating restaurants include: Allegro, Ballast Point, Bencotto, Bobboi Natural Gelato, Buon Appetito, Caffè Italia, Civico 1845, Crack Shack, Craft & Commerce, Davanti Enoteca, Filippi's Pizza Grotto, Farmer's Table, Frost Me Café & Bakery, Graze by Sam, M Winehouse, Mikkeller Brewing, Monello, Mr.

Moto Pizza, Nolita Hall, Not Not Tacos, Pali Wine Co., Parakeet Café, Puerto La Boca & Samsburgers.

To ensure the safest experience for everyone, attendees are asked to maintain proper physical distancing and are required to wear face masks when they aren't sampling their "taste." Attendees will also be split into two different time slots each day to disperse guests more evenly during event hours. After visiting every stop on their Taste Passport, guests can eat while they stroll or will be able to

enjoy their bites and sips at one of the many open-air piazzas Little Italy has to offer. Tickets are priced at \$50 for advance purchase, plus a small service fee, and increase to \$55 one week before the event. A portion of every ticket sold goes directly back to the restaurants to provide some financial relief from the hardships they have suffered due to COVID-19. For a full list of participating restaurants and to purchase your tickets to the 13th Annual Taste of Little Italy, visit [www.tasteoflittleitalysd.com](http://www.tasteoflittleitalysd.com).

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*Guests will be able to enjoy a variety of food samplings throughout Little Italy.*

## Part 2: Adam Graves With more of the San Diego Zoo's Horticultural Department

By Barbara Strona

► Continued from page 7

Orchids are quite difficult to propagate. At the Zoo, they begin life in a micropropagation laboratory where the tiny seeds feed in tiny jars. Once they are baby orchids or protocorms, they are shipped all over the world. Propagators must supply immature orchids with a fungus in their environment as have a parasitic relationship with it until it is an

adult and becomes independent.

Because wild collections of orchids and subsequent illegal trafficking lead to the extinction of many species, in 2015 San Diego Zoo Global sent a crew to Palau, island home to the highest diversity of orchids in Micronesia, where they held a training workshop on seed collection, propagation, and storage. The staff also set up

a plant nursery and a Palau intern trained with San Diego Zoo's horticultural staff. San Diego Zoo Global also helped launch a micropropagation laboratory in Palau. The goal is for Palau to create a revenue stream through propagation and conservation of orchids.

The Zoo's horticultural staff is also responsible for growing food,

called Browse, for many of the animals "from elephants to ants," says Groves. Each day a dozen elephants eat a staked truckload of Ficus, mulberry, acacia, and giant bird of paradise, Chinese elm, and any trees that fall. Thirty acres is set aside for Browse, the areas that grow materials for the animals. The food is placed to replicate the way it would be found in the wild. Acacia is placed so giraffes must reach for their food. The last two feet of eucalyptus are given to the finicky koalas who find the rest of the branch too tough. The eucalyptus that grows profusely throughout San Diego County are toxic to koalas; they eat other less prevalent varieties. One acre of eucalyptus will feed two koalas for a year.

One challenge the Zoo faces is pest control. Obviously, pesticides are verboten. Other methods of control are needed. The South American Palm Beetle is our latest invader. It lays its eggs in the tops of our Canary Island Palms. The grubs literally eat the palm from the inside out. These grubs are a delicacy in Southeast Asia, and they are high in protein.

Another challenge is maintaining the landscape with the animals. Pregnant animals require quiet; elephants and some primates are tough on trees. Peacocks pick flowers. Even the plants present problems as their roots destroy the infrastructure.

We thoroughly enjoyed Adam Grove's talk, and encourage you to contact him through the Zoo for a tour. It will be well worth your while.

June 24 is the last meeting before September. It will be a Zoom meeting from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Chuck McClungwill speak on How Orchids Rebloom. Reservations are required. Please visit [missionhillsgardenclub.org](http://missionhillsgardenclub.org) for more information, and to register.

\*Accession is a means of obtaining additions to a collection including information about it and its origins and often a receipt for its arrival.

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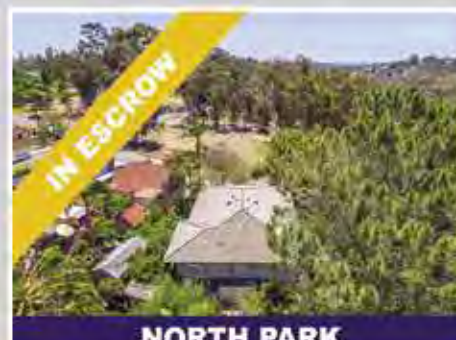
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