

# PRESIDIO SENTINEL

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Serving the Heart of San Diego

April | 2022



## San Diego Ballet Debuts World-Premiere of "Giselle"

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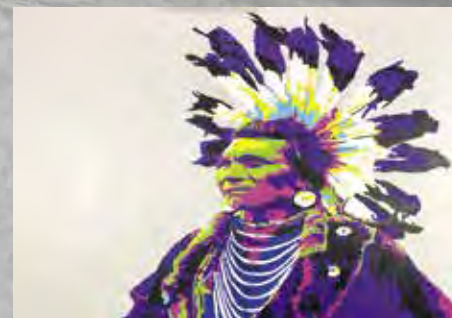
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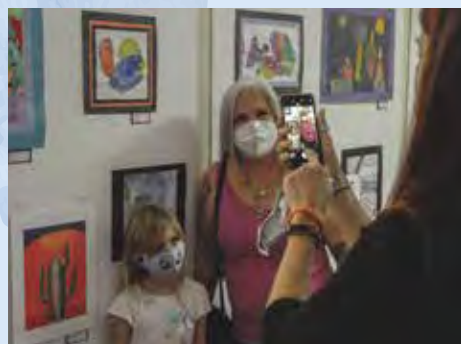
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# Big Plans for Revitalization of the UCSD Hillcrest Medical Center

By Patty Ducey-Brooks



As we all know, change is inevitable. And sometimes adversity builds character.

Recently, many of you shared with me that you would like to be a part of the planning process and the discussions on developments happening in your community.

With that in mind, a Mission Hills neighbor shared with me information on a Zoom meeting being coordinated by the UCSD Hillcrest Medical Center. Based on her recommendation, I signed up to participate and learn what is being planned at the site.

During the presentation, those who attended heard from Patty Maycent, CEO, of UCSD San Diego Health; David Brenner, MD, Vice Chancellor of UCSD Health Sciences; Joseph Califano, MD, Moore's Cancer Center; and Supervisor Nathan Fletcher.

There was a lot offered during the presentation, including the fact that the Hillcrest Campus is going through a five-phase long range development plan:

- Phase 1: Outpatient Pavilion and parking facility to be completed in summer 2025
- Phase 2A: Housing Facility and Wellness Center to be completed in 2026
- Phase 2B: Multi-use Facility to be completed in 2027
- Phase 3: New hospital to be completed in 2030
- Phase 4: Old hospital demo in 2031
- Phase 5: Housing and Central Green to be completed in 2034

Beyond the fact that this is going to change the footprint of the current UCSD Hillcrest Campus in a big way, what peaked my initial interest is when I learned that Bachman Place will be closed to traffic starting April 1, 2022 and extend through 2024. Only employees of UCSD accessing the parking garage on Bachman Place will be allowed on the road. For many of us in the Uptown area, this has become a common road to enter and exit Hillcrest. I shared concerns that drivers would elect to use Presidio Drive and Juan Street to reach their Hillcrest destinations.

However, after further discussion with Lisa Rhodes, chief administrative officer of Perioperative and Procedural Services for the Hillcrest Campus, I was told that navigation maps will direct drivers to use 163 from I-5 and I-8. At the same time, she did respond respectfully that any moderation in traffic on these two streets would be addressed as needed.

She also expanded on the plans for the campus and construction management efforts that have been initiated, including monitoring the air quality during the

construction and creating a staging area for large dump trucks in an effort to prevent traffic issues.

Rhodes also shared more about Phase 1 and the Outpatient Pavilion, its purpose, size and benefits to UCSD Hillcrest clients. The intent is to create a one-stop facility that allows clients to access and receive care in a more inclusive manner.

There will be six floors to the pavilion, four above ground and two underground with a total of 250,000 square feet. Rhodes offered that this facility will be 50 percent larger than the comparable La Jolla outpatient pavilion. The parking garage that is included in Phase 1 construction will provide easy access to the Outpatient Pavilion.

Going forward, after Phase 1 is near completion, UCSD plans to begin Phase 2, which includes a residential facility with rental units to be offered first to UCSD employees. The units will be of various sizes from micro-units up to family sized two- and three-bedroom units. The goal of the residential facility is to create an attractive and accessible housing site that is close to work and the services and accommodations in Hillcrest and the surrounding communities.

With the assistance of Rhodes and other Hillcrest Campus staff, I will continue to share more about the progress of Phase 1 of the UCSD Hillcrest Medical Center and am eager to hear comments from our readers.



**The rendering shows the UCSD Hillcrest Medical Center, and Phase 1 with the Outpatient Pavilion and new parking garage. The long-range development plan for the Hillcrest Campus is estimated at \$2.5 billion. Phase 1 represents a \$550 million investment.**



## The San Diego Museum of Art Presents Art Alive

The San Diego Museum of Arts' 41st annual Art Alive, an event in which floral designers transform famous works of art from the permanent collection into exquisite floral displays, returns Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1, 2022. A highly anticipated San Diego spring tradition, Art Alive is the Museum's signature fundraiser that provides support for education, outreach programs and special exhibitions.

The celebration will feature nearly 100 floral interpretations of works of art throughout the Museum created by local floral designers, filling the galleries with a brilliant crescendo of color and scent. Local San Diego artist and owner of Tend Living, Britton Neubacher has been selected as the rotunda designer and will transform the Museum rotunda into "organized chaos." The artist, who produces eco-friendly pieces and impressive living walls, will create a 40-foot-high installation utilizing only recycled botanical plants and florals.

This year, after a brief hiatus, Bloom Bash returns, with the signature kickoff event expanding further into the Plaza de Panama to accommodate a growing guest list and offer additional outdoor activities. The opening celebration will feature food and beverage delights from more than 30 local San Diego restaurants, live music, a Ferris wheel and an exclusive light installation from sculpture and performative artist Ian Brill.

"We're elated to host the 41st annual Art Alive event, a collaborative and creative force that brings the San Diego community together," said Roxana Velásquez, Maruja Baldwin executive director and CEO at The San Diego Museum of Art. "This year we're also excited to offer visitors the chance to see two special exhibitions during Art Alive weekend that beautifully complement the event. Exploring issues of climate, sustainability and our Earth, TERRA: Fernando Casasempere marks the first full U.S. show by contemporary London-based Chilean artist Fernando Casasempere. Also on view is Monet to Matisse: Impressionist Masterpieces from the Bemberg Foundation, which showcases masterpieces from some of the most significant names in European painting, including Paul Cézanne, Edgar Degas, Claude Monet, Berthe Morisot, Pablo Picasso, Alfred Sisley, and Pierre Bonnard. These works are rarely seen outside of their home at the historic Hôtel d'Assézat in



*Floral designers transform famous works of art from the permanent collection into exquisite floral displays.*

Toulouse, France, so we are especially thrilled to bring them to San Diego and Art Alive."

The Art Alive 2022 floral exhibition will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, April 29 and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, April 30, and Sunday May 1. General admission is free for members, \$40 for nonmembers, \$5 for youth (ages 7 to 17), and free for children six-years of age and under. In addition to viewing the annual floral exhibition during Museum hours, Art Alive 2022 offers four full days of experiences, activities, and celebrations, including:

**Art Alive 2022 Premiere Dinner from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., Thursday, April 28**

An intimate black-tie event, the Premiere Dinner will take place in the Museum's galleries among a special installation of Op Art from the Museum's permanent collection and will offer an exclusive first look at Fernando Casasempere's upcoming exhibition.

**Member's Preview from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., Friday, April 29**

Early access to the Art Alive floral exhibition for Museum members.

**Bloom Bash from 7 p.m. to midnight on Friday, April 29**

The Bloom Bash opening celebration is the official Art Alive kick-off party. The celebration will feature a custom art installation by Ian Brill, a sculpture and sounds artist. Bloom Bash will also feature culinary creations from San Diego's top restaurants and chefs, floral-infused cocktails, live music and dancing, interactive entertainment and an exclusive after-hours viewing of this year's floral exhibition. Cost is \$250 for members and \$300 for nonmembers.

**Garden of Activities from noon to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1**

Great for families, the Garden of Activities features a variety of floral-themed art projects designed for children and families to enjoy together and is free with Art Alive admission.

In the interest of health, safety, and providing a positive experience for all, Art Alive will again be a timed ticketed event. Additionally, proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test result will be required. As COVID-19 guidelines are subject to change, visit [SDMArt.org/COVID-19-updates](http://SDMArt.org/COVID-19-updates) the week of the event for current requirements.

Tickets are also available online  
at [www.sdmart.org/art-alive-2022/](http://www.sdmart.org/art-alive-2022/)

The San Diego Museum of Art is located at 1450 El Prado in Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif., 92101. For more information, call (619) 232-7931, or visit <http://www.sdmart.org>.



# RSVP

## Retired Senior Patrol Volunteers Wanted

The San Diego Police Department's Western Division is seeking additional members for its Retired Senior Patrol Volunteer (RSVP) Team to serve the communities of Mission Hills, Hillcrest, Point Loma, Linda Vista, Ocean Beach, Old Town, Midway, Morena, Harbor-Airport, Liberty Station, and Roseville.

By your participation, you join an important Team to assist with the following:

- Neighborhood safety and crime prevention programs
- Provide additional visibility in your neighborhoods.
- Assist officers with diverting traffic at accidents, crimes, and fire scenes
- Assist with disaster preparedness and homeland security efforts
- Visit elderly residents (as part of the "You Are Not Alone" program)
- Participate in community events
- Home security checks for residents on vacation as requested.

Volunteers must be at least 50 years of age, in good health, semi or fully retired, and possess a valid California driver's license. There are flexible schedules with a minimum of 3 days per month service.

To learn more, please call  
**RSVP Western Office at 619-692-4945**  
Leave a message to include your name and telephone number  
or email: [bzamost@pd.sandiego.gov](mailto:bzamost@pd.sandiego.gov)



# Mission Fed ArtWalk Celebrates 38 Years in San Diego's Little Italy

Mission Fed ArtWalk is back for its 38th year bringing a weekend-long, free premiere arts and culture event to San Diego's Little Italy. The event will run from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 30 and 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 1. The festival attracts locals and visitors to San Diego's Little Italy giving all an opportunity to meet more than 300 local, national, and international artists and purchase art directly from the creators. The largest and longest-running arts festivals in Southern California showcases every medium of art including painting, sculpture, glass work, photography, fine jewelry and more. After browsing and purchasing one-of-a-kind art, attendees can enjoy live entertainment, interactive art experiences, street food, family-friendly art projects at KidsWalk and more.

"We are thrilled to reach the amazing milestone of bringing this fine art festival to the San Diego community and connect San Diegans and visitors to a sea of talented fine artists from all over the U.S., Mexico and beyond for 38 years running," said Curt Brooker, director of ArtWalk San Diego. "Mission Fed ArtWalk has become a time-honored tradition that encourages everyone to explore different facets of artistic expression and enjoy the friendly environment whether you are an art



*An artist and guest discuss her artwork and technique. Photo is courtesy of Candace Audick.*



*A talented artist shares her artwork to guests of ArtWalk. Photo is courtesy of Candace Audick.*

buff or just beginning to build collection."

ArtWalk Little Italy festival supports 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.

"At Mission Fed, we strive to enhance and improve the lives of all San Diegans by giving back to the community," said Debra Schwartz, president and CEO of Mission Fed Credit Union. "As the title sponsor for the last 14 years, we join in the excitement around the announcement of the 2022 festival and look forward to it. Arts and culture are critical to our positive health and well-being. The rows of artwork combined with live music, cultural expression and art activities, fosters an environment that celebrates visual and performing arts in San Diego. We encourage all San Diegans and visitors to save-the-date in their calendars!"

Attendance is free. For more information, visit [www.artwalksandiego.org](http://www.artwalksandiego.org).

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All Proceeds Benefit Community Improvement Projects!



## Insurance for International Travel in a COVID World

By Rick Brooks



After more than two years of being stuck at home, there are a lot of people who are ready to pick up and go. ANYWHERE!

International travel is more “adventurous” in the COVID era – the pandemic is still raging in much of the world, so the possibility that travel plans could be upset by illness or sudden changes in local travel restrictions is quite real. Given this uncertainty, it makes sense to consider buying travel insurance to help recover the cost of your trip if you end up having to cancel it for some reason. The premiums are not trivial, but the insurance provides peace of mind if your plans change suddenly. With a global pandemic changing travel and coverage, knowing the details of your coverage has never been more important.

Here are five things to look for when insuring your travel abroad:

**COVID coverage.** Does your insurance policy cover COVID related illness, cancellation or disruptions? This isn’t as clear-cut as you might think. Travel insurance is intended to cover unexpected events, but a two-year old pandemic is hardly new or unexpected. Be sure that your policy specifically includes COVID related coverage (or at least doesn’t exclude it).

**Medical expenses?** Most U.S. health insurance plans will cover life-threatening situations, but there are important nuances so

you should contact your carrier to understand the details. Medicare, for example, won’t cover you outside the U.S., but your Medicare supplement plan might. If your plan doesn’t provide sufficient coverage, or you plan to be gone more than a few days or weeks, you may want to consider purchasing a dedicated travel health insurance plan. In any event, you should be prepared to pay for medical care up front and be reimbursed later. COVID coverage is also specifically included in many plans available today.

**Medical evacuation?** Here in the United States, we generally take good health care for granted. If you become seriously ill or are injured while traveling, your regular medical insurance may not cover the cost of getting you home, or even to better care where you are. Even if you’re travelling in Europe, the cost of returning home with nursing and support equipment can be significant. Some medical insurers will only pay for life and death evacuation. According to Consumer Reports, medical evacuation can range from \$20,000 - \$250,000 so it’s definitely worth insuring, even if it doesn’t happen very often.

**Pre-existing conditions?** Many travel insurance policies will not cover travel interruptions or cancellation from known medical conditions. How this is defined will depend on the policy you purchase. You may be able to obtain a waiver by purchasing your travel insurance within a few days of your first purchase for your trip.

Are you paying for unnecessary coverage? The cost of replacing a

bag of clothes and some toothpaste probably doesn’t justify the price of insuring it. And benefits for accidental death due to accidents like a plane crash is going to be very expensive compared to the likelihood of something happening. On the other hand, “Cancel for Any Reason” coverage can help recover much of the cost of an interrupted trip, even due to COVID.

Just buying the insurance isn’t enough. If you actually have to use it, you may have to fight to get your expenses covered and claims are currently taking a long time to process. Make sure to keep your receipts and document your expenses, especially medical expenses.

Remember that this is insurance. The best insurance policy is the one you never have to use. But the high cost of travel makes it worth considering, especially for medical needs on the road. If you’re wondering whether the benefits of travel insurance are worth the cost, ask yourself how much you’re willing to lose if the trip goes sour. Travel insurance for a \$500 domestic trip might not be worth the expense, but what about a two-week European vacation or an African safari? Definitely.

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

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## Poets and Poetry Lovers

By Elaine Karin

National Poetry Month is widely celebrated throughout the country each April. It was founded by the Academy of American Poets in 1996 to highlight the achievements of American poets, support poets and poetry, bring poetry into our classrooms, and encourage the reading of poems.

To celebrate, the Friends of the Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Knox Library is sponsoring a Blackout Poetry Project the week of Monday, April 11 to Saturday, April 16. Find out what blackout poetry is and create your own blackout poem. Library patrons of all ages are invited to participate.

During regular Library hours, pick up materials outside the library and create your poem at the Blackout Poetry table inside. Patrons displaying their completed poem in the library will be entered in a drawing to win a \$50.00 gift certificate for the “Library Shop” at the Central Library. All participants will receive an appreciation



**Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Knox branch is located at 215 W. Washington Street.**

incentive of imprinted “National Poetry Month” pencils.

San Diego’s first Poet Laureate, Ron Salisbury, shares his love for poetry and reads some of his work at 2 p.m., Saturday, April 9 in the Community Room at the Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Knox branch.

Special events include “Poem in Your Pocket Day” on April 28 where

you can pick up poems or share favorite poems in your pockets.

A Kids’ Poetry Workshop is scheduled for 1 p.m., Saturday, April 23.

Want to read some of your own poetry? Come to the Open Mic event at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 16. Curran Jeffrey will facilitate the reading.

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## Podder Retires from the County's Agriculture, Weights & Measures Department

By Yvette Urrea Moe, County of San Diego Communications

After four years of service protecting the region's agriculture industry, Podder is going to be sniffing out the life of leisure.

The detector dog has retired from his work with the County's Agriculture, Weights & Measures Department. County staff organized a small ceremony at the Waterfront Park to acknowledge Podder's work. His former colleague, Yeti, the County's other detector dog, and Venus, a retired detector dog, and other officials attended to give him a pat on the back, a scratch on the head, and lots of treats and toys.

"In honor of Podder's service, I'd like to present this service award for four years of County service," said Ha Dang, commissioner/sealer for Agriculture, Weights and Measures.

The Labrador and beagle mix has worked with his handler Kyle Moranton to intercept unmarked agricultural parcels that are shipped in violation of agricultural quarantine, or contain unwanted plant pests including insects, diseases, and other harmful organisms to agriculture.

"He has a great nose," Moranton said. "I'm going to miss him."

Only six-years old, Podder is retiring due to a medical condition. He has since been adopted and is happy, Moranton said.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture Detector Dog Team program began in 2009. The dogs sniff and identify unmarked



Podder the agricultural detector dog has retired.

parcels, which are a high-risk pathway for significant pests to enter the states. Dog teams conduct inspections at parcel facilities such as UPS, FedEx, and the U.S. Postal Service. Dogs are trained to alert on packages that contain agricultural material such as plants, cuttings, fruits, vegetables, seeds, and soil. Those packages are then opened and checked for insects, diseases, or quarantines.

Podder made 426 visits to parcel facilities, where he found 728 plants in unmarked parcels, including 137 rated insect pests capable of causing serious harm to agriculture or were questionable, Moranton said.


Another San Diego County agriculture inspector is now training to become a dog handler and will join the department in the summer with a new detector dog.

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## help us find a home



**Dana**


This sweet, six-year old lady is Dana, an American pit bull/German shepherd mix. She is a staff and volunteer favorite and has limitless energy. Dana loves going for outdoor adventures like long walks and. She is housetrained and absolutely adores her people. 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 energetic buddy to share your life with? She is looking for a forever home.

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

---

Are you looking for a special piggy to join your family? Kylee is a Vietnamese potbelly pig and would be a wonderful addition to your home. This apple-munching and carrot-chewing pig is happy to lay out in the sun all day long, but you can always catch her attention with some nice hay or a dollop of peanut butter. Kylee can be a bit shy when meeting new people, so it is best to go slow with her. She may do best as the only pig in the home. Pigs are very smart and clean creatures, so if you're looking for a new farm friend, she's ready to go home.

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



**Kylee**

## SPCA



## Native American Art Show Brings Acclaimed Native American Artists from All Over the USA to San Diego



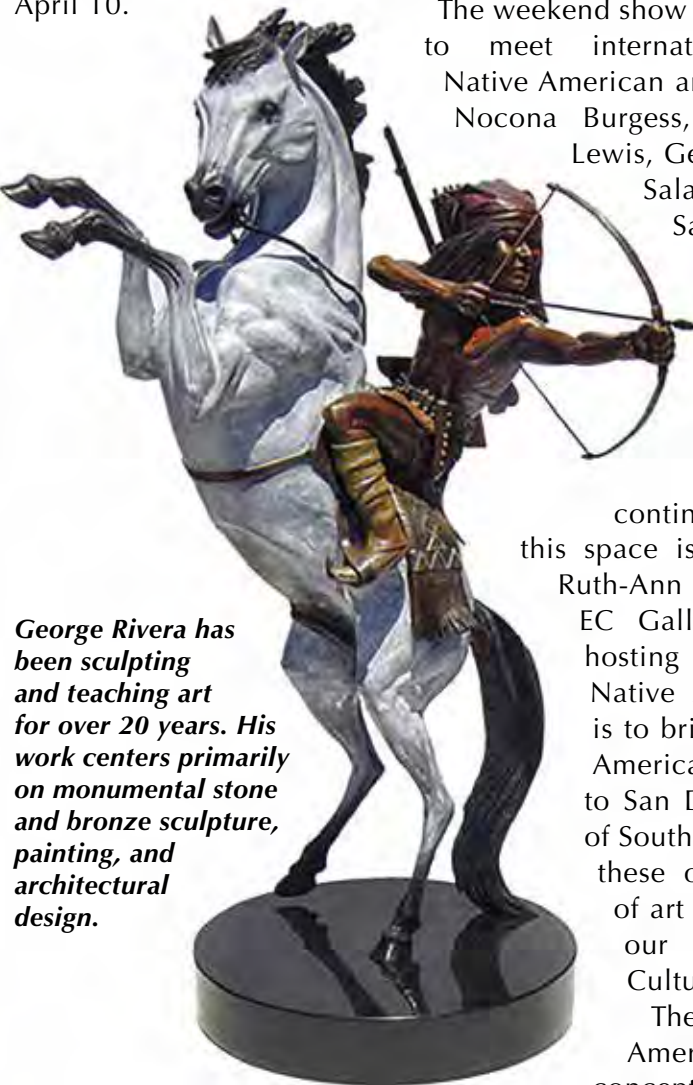
*Chief Eagle is by Joseph Hopkins, a citizen of the Muscogee Nation and a Native of Oklahoma, is a modern Indigenous artist long celebrated and revered in the national art scene*

Exclusive Collections Gallery (EC Gallery), a contemporary art gallery featuring a variety of original sculptures, paintings and mixed media pieces, announces their first ever Native American Art show "This is Indian Country," from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, April 8 through Sunday, April 10.

The weekend show will allow attendees to meet internationally acclaimed Native American artists, Randy Barton, Nocona Burgess, Joe Hopkins, LX Lewis, George Rivera, Jeremy Salazar, and Cody Sanderson. There will also be a VIP reception from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, April 9.

"10-million Native Americans live on this

continent and the art in this space is tremendous," said Ruth-Ann Thorn, Founder, EC Gallery. "Our goal of hosting this inaugural Native American art show is to bring the finest Native American art in the country to San Diego and invite all of Southern California to see these one-of-a-kind works of art as well as celebrate our Native American Culture."



*George Rivera has been sculpting and teaching art for over 20 years. His work centers primarily on monumental stone and bronze sculpture, painting, and architectural design.*

The EC Gallery Native American show was conceptualized by Ruth-

Ann Thorn, a registered tribal member of the Rincon Band of Luiseño/Payómkawichum Indians in Southern California. She is an Indigenous woman warrior, and her ability to overcome adversity speaks to her resilience as a Native woman. As a tribal leader, art dealer, producer/host of "Art of the City," her artistic vision as an entrepreneur is fueled by a passion for her community. Ruth-Ann serves her tribe as the chair for the Rincon Economic Development Board and is the chair for her tribe's Investment Board.

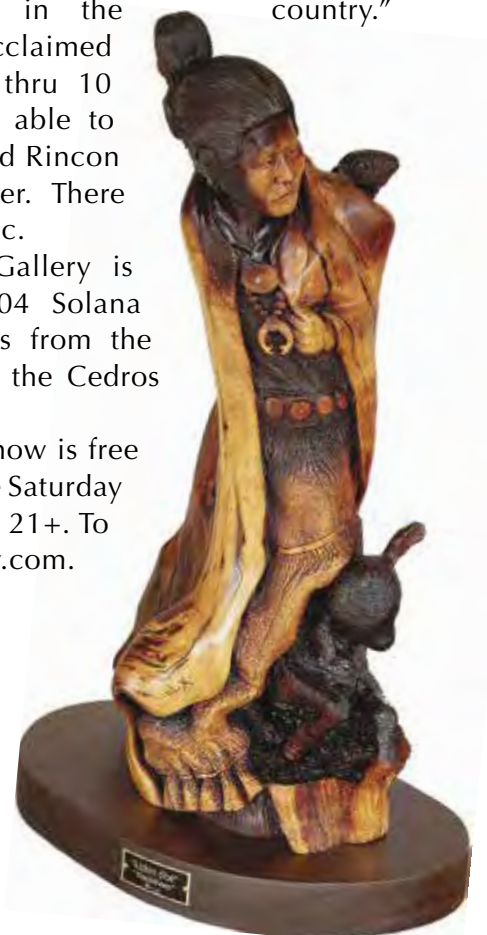
"My mom and I opened our first gallery in 1995 in La Jolla and it was built from the passion we have for sharing visual arts," added Ruth-Ann. "We had no idea we would realize such great success bringing art to the people. It was fun and exciting. In addition to our rotation of acclaimed arts shows we hold in our gallery, we are proud to introduce Southern California to the amazing work of the top Native American artist in the country."

In addition to meeting the acclaimed artists, guests at the April 8 thru 10 shows, attendees will also be able to enjoy Native American wine and Rincon Reservation Road Brewery beer. There will also be light bites and music.

The 4,000 square-foot EC Gallery is located at 212 S Cedros #104 Solana Beach, CA 92075 (it is across from the Belly Up next to West Elm) in the Cedros Design District.

RSVP is recommended. The show is free and open to all ages -- except the Saturday VIP event where guests must be 21+. To RSVP, visit <http://www.ecgallery.com>.

*LX Lewis is a Native American acclaimed artist with vast experience in many media work as well as three-dimensional art. He creates ceremonial and dance regalia with a distinctive style that combines traditional forms with modern design.*



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## Kokedama Workshop

By Barb Strona



In February, the Mission Hills Garden Club attended a workshop on Kokedama, an offshoot of Bonsai, given by Kanako Yamada. Kokedama is a plant which grows from a sphere consisting of roots covered in soil and then wrapped in colored moss. The sphere represents the earth. After feasting on delicious Japanese style hors d'oeuvres, we learned how to make Kokedama and had an opportunity to purchase some plants as well as saucers to hold them.

First, we chose our plants. Like Bonsai, the roots of the plant are trimmed so they can live in a shallow pot. This means that any extra roots or tightly bound roots are carefully cut away. Then, depending on what you are planting, you prepare the soil. We put a sheet of moss, green side down, on the table. Then we mixed regular soil with just enough water to mold it into a ball. Succulents and other drought resistant plants have about 10 percent perlite added to the soil to prevent over saturation which will result in root rot.

Making the roots' ball of dirt was hard work and required strong fingers. Wrapping the moss around that was harder still. We used fishing line to secure the ball. First, we tied the line around the top of the ball, leaving about a foot of line in the plants' leaves which would be used to secure the finished product. Then we proceeded to tightly (but not so tightly that it would cut the moss) wrap the rest of the line around the moss, crossing the line again and again, creating a grid.

When it was finished, we tied the line to that which had been left in the plant. Mine was an absolute failure. Dirt squirted out of the moss since I failed to overlap the moss. The ball was more of an amorphous blob. Fortunately, Yamada saw my disastrous mess and deftly created a very neatly wrapped moss ball around my dirt covered roots. She did tamp the ball against the table, but gently enough to leave room for the plant to breathe.

The plant is extremely easy to care for, she said. It thrives with indirect sunlight. It is watered from the bottom. Fake moss is used as real moss needs sunlight. Since the moss is fake; the color may fade. Should that happen, a bit of green food coloring mixed with water and sprayed over dry moss will rectify the situation. Do not water the plant until it feels light when you lift it. Then, depending on the size of the plant, pour a half cup or a cup of water into a saucer and leave the plant until it has absorbed the water, about five to ten minutes. Misting it is also a good idea. "Most important," Yamada said, "give a lotta love to the plant." During the growing season you might want to feed it every other week with Miracle Grow diluted to about three percent of the water used. In winter, monthly watering should suffice.

These plants are hardy and should last about two to five years. You know it is time to remake the root ball or plant it in a pot when roots show or the ball becomes deformed. You may cut the moss, trim the roots, add more dirt, and wrap with moss tied with fishing wire.

If, for some reason, your plant should die, the ball is an excellent



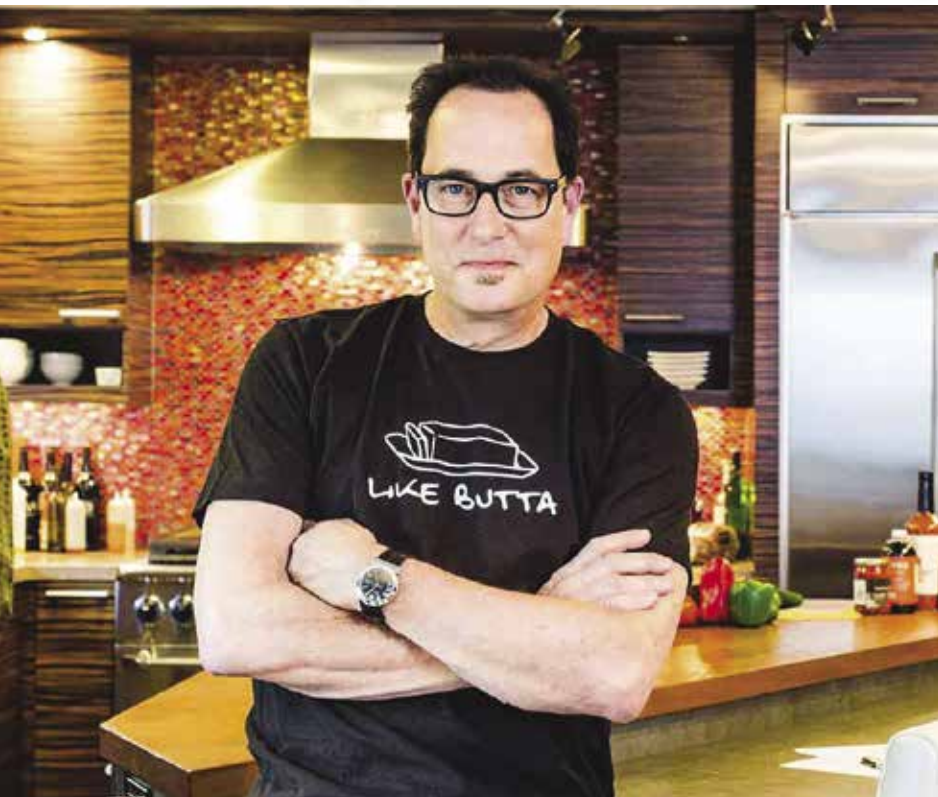
**Kanako Yamada demonstrates how to create Kokedama, a plant which grows from a sphere consisting of roots covered in soil and then wrapped in colored moss**

"container" for flower arrangements. She made a couple of arrangements using pussy willow and flowering fruit tree branches. That was comforting to me since I still seem to be a serial plant killer.

Don't miss "Bees in Our Gardens" at 9 a.m., Saturday, April 23 at Mission Hills Nursery, 1525 Fort Stockton Drive. The talk will cover the life cycle of bees and will be a wonderful talk for families. It's free to members, \$5 for non-members. Please visit the website for more up-to-date information: [www.MissionHillsGardenClub.org](http://www.MissionHillsGardenClub.org)

Saturday, May 7 is the 2022 Mission Hills Garden Walk. The theme is Homegrown. Tickets may be purchased on-line only. Get your tickets early as we sold out within a week last year.

## Mama's Day Returns In-Person, Celebrates 31 Years



**Sam "The Cooking Guy" Zien will be hosting and providing a special presentation for VIP guests.**

Mama's Day returns to an in-person event scheduled for 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday, May 6 at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine located at 3777 La Jolla Village Drive. Mama's Day one of San Diego's most anticipated culinary events, is held the Friday before Mother's Day to bring together attendees for an evening of fun, food, friends and fundraising.

Returning as this year's culinary host is Emmy® award-winning chef, author, YouTube personality and restaurateur, Sam "The Cooking Guy" Zien. In addition to hosting the event, he will also provide a special presentation for VIP guests.

Mama's Day will feature more than 20 food purveyors offering delicious bites from San Diego's finest restaurants, catering companies, and hotels. In addition, this year's event will feature a special addition of curated libations, including wine, cocktails, beer, and specialty beverages. Mama's Day is a one-night-only event for everyone to enjoy.

Proceeds from the event help raise critical funds for Mama's Kitchen's mission to deliver three medically tailored nutritional meals a day, seven days a week and free of charge to local women, men and children vulnerable to hunger due to HIV, cancer or other critical illnesses like congestive heart failure, Type II diabetes and chronic kidney disease.

**Tickets to Mama's Day can be purchased online at [mamaskitchen.org](http://mamaskitchen.org).**





## A Favorite Place in Mission Hills

By Dixie Hall, President Mission Hills BID and DixiePops Owner



While out and about recently, have you looked up to see the 76 Colors on Canvas 2022 hand painted banners by student artists that are installed on lamp posts scattered throughout Mission Hills? They will be on display for six weeks, through April 19. Each honors a favorite place in Mission Hills: a park, an event, a neighborhood of homes and street names, and many, many businesses. Sixteen judges are evaluating the banners based on long established contest criteria. These canvases represent the way in which the younger members of the community view and appreciate the place they call home. It is so

refreshing to see how much they value and take pride in their environment. If you are inclined to post a picture of your favorite banner, please remember to tag us @missionhillssd.

Join us on April 27 as we recognize the hard work and talent of the Colors on Canvas 2022 students, and their art instructors Sarah Ekedal at Grant TK8 School and Jaimee Brant at Paint Box Art Studio. Their banners will be professionally displayed at The Frame Maker and will be available for purchase in a silent auction format - or for those who don't want to risk losing their favorite to someone else, they can buy it at the pre-emptive price of \$150 One must be present at the April 27 event in order to bid on or buy the banners. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Silent auction bids will begin at \$65. All proceeds go toward funding next year's Colors on Canvas contest. To learn more visit [MissionHillsBID.com/Colors-on-Canvas](https://MissionHillsBID.com/Colors-on-Canvas).

The evening's food and beverage will be provided by Cake Bakery, Lazy Acres-Mission Hills, Pizza e Birra, and Thorn Brewing Company-Mission Hills. The event will be photographed by Rosanna Photography. Flowers will be provided by Jesse Zmuda of Backbone Floral. Sixteen winners will be recognized during the evening celebration. And Patterson Engineering, Inc will present the \$500 Marianne Kalem Legacy Award.

In addition to our Mission Hills centric celebration, April is a month filled with a variety of important holidays and observances - starting with the first and last days of Ramadan (1 and 30), first and last days of Passover (15 and 23), and Easter (17), Earth Day (22), and Arbor Day (29). And who wouldn't want to celebrate National Pet Day (11), National Beer Day (7) and National Burrito Day (7)? Lastly, don't forget Tax Day (15) - while it isn't fun - it is one you don't want to miss.

Looking forward to May, there are three more save-the-date events taking place that you should know about now so you can plan accordingly.

The Mission Hills Garden Clubs' 24th Annual Garden Walk will be held on Saturday May 7, 2022. The theme this year is Home Grown and will feature gorgeous gardens growing fruit and vegetables. Look for the Mission Hills BID's ad in the Mission Hills Garden Walk booklet where we promote shopping and dining in the neighborhood. For more information, visit <https://www.missionhillsgardenclub.org/Garden-Walk>.



*Colors on Canvas judges on inaugural outing with navigator (front row, left to right) Susan McNeil Schreyer and golf cart owner and chauffeur Amy Hallquist Hamric. Second row (left to right) is Alexandra Vats, owner of Vaatika Salon; Stephen Wheeler, librarian at the Mission Hills/Hillcrest Knox Library. Third row (left to right) is Jill Boyle, MFT, a licensed therapist in Mission Hills and Jesse Zmuda owner of Backbone Floral*

The One Mission Realty annual free shredding event is back. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 928 Fort Stockton Drive. Troy Curnett and his team, who have hosted this event for eight years, took a break during COVID and will enjoy welcoming you back as you rid yourself of boxes of paper you no longer need. Please join me in stopping by and find out how great it feels to declutter. More info may be found at [OneMissionRealty.com/shred](https://OneMissionRealty.com/shred).

Also taking place on Saturday, May 14 is the Mission Hills Community Garage Sale hosted by Maureen and Antoinette at COMPASS starting at 8 a.m. If you live in Mission Hills and wish to be a seller, contact Maureen and Antoinette to get on the list and map of participating homes. The deadline for registration is Friday, May 6. If you are a buyer, stop by COMPASS at 1621 West Lewis on the morning of the sale to pick up a map of homes and a small blurb about what each home is selling. This annual event is always a big hit.

If you enjoyed hearing about the work we are doing and all the neighborhood happenings, please consider becoming a BID volunteer. The BID's committee structure is a great way to impact neighborhood decision making in the areas of promotions, economic development, design and parking. To learn more, get involved, and support the Mission Hills Business Improvement District, please visit our website at [MissionHillsBID.com](https://MissionHillsBID.com) or email us at [MissionHillsBID@gmail.com](mailto:MissionHillsBID@gmail.com).

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## La Jolla Concours d'Elegance Kicks Off Weekend of Automotive Excellence

The La Jolla Concours d'Elegance presented by LPL Financial and Pacific Sotheby's International Realty celebrates its 16th year of automotive excellence with packed weekend of exclusive events Friday, April 22, Saturday April 23, and Sunday April 24, 2022. Earning a reputation as one of the finest internationally renowned classic automobile displays in the U.S., the La Jolla Concours is a unique blend of automotive history, art, and revelry that culminate into one unforgettable weekend. In 2022, guests can anticipate viewing over 150 stunning cars at the Sunday La Jolla Concours d'Elegance main event. For those unable to attend the ticketed event, the La Jolla Concours committee has created the inaugural Ferrari Friday event, presented by Pacific Sotheby's International Realty that is free to the public and a rare opportunity to see Prospect Street lined with Ferraris.

The Ferrari Friday event kicks off at 5 p.m., Friday, April 22 in the La Jolla village on Prospect Street. This event includes live entertainment, gallery champagne receptions, retail specials, specialty dining and cocktail prix-fixe menus, and of course – Ferraris. Prospect Street will be transformed into an automotive spectacle as the incredible showcase of over 75 of the most spectacular Ferraris take over the town for a public showcase attendees will not find anywhere else. This stunning display is completely free to the public



*The honored marque in 2022 has been awarded to Bugatti – a marque known for its relentless quest for perfection and innovation.*

and made possible by the collaboration of several San Diego based Ferrari clubs that have worked in tandem with the La Jolla Concours committee to provide an For automotive aficionados and novices alike, the La Jolla Concours d'Elegance automotive showcase taking place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, April 24 at the La Jolla Ellen Browning Scripps Park is not to be missed. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to view over 150 spectacular world-class automobiles displayed together on the La Jolla Cove lawn along the breathtaking Pacific Coast. On Sunday, in addition to the impressive selection of automobiles, attendees will enjoy

live music and entertainment. The Champagne and Honey Tasting Garden offers a reprise of bubbles and sweetness to toast the incredible weekend while tantalizing the senses. General Admission tickets start at \$85.

The 16th Annual La Jolla Concours proceeds will go towards the La Jolla Historical Society, which preserves the rich history of the village of La Jolla. In addition to the La Jolla Historical Society, the La Jolla Concours benefits several additional local community non-profit partners each year. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit [www.lajollaconcours.com](http://www.lajollaconcours.com).

## Attend the 31<sup>st</sup> annual EARTHFAIR 2022

Sunday, April 24 Balboa Park 10AM – 5PM

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# The Old Globe Presents “Bob Fosse’s Dancin’”

The Old Globe announced the cast and creative team for the Broadway - bound musical “Bob Fosse’s Dancin’”, with choreography by Bob Fosse and direction and musical staging by Tony Award – winning choreographer Wayne Cilento (Broadway’s “Wicked” and “The Who’s Tommy”). The original Broadway production was created, directed, and choreographed by Bob Fosse.

“Bob Fosse’s Dancin’” is presented by The Old Globe, produced in cooperation with Nicole Fosse and by special arrangement with Joey Parnes. Performances begin Tuesday, April 19 and run to Sunday, May 29, 2022 with the opening on Thursday, April 28. “Bob Fosse’s Dancin’” will play on the Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage in the Old Globe Theatre, part of the Globe’s Conrad Prebys Theatre Center. Tickets are now on sale and available at [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org).

“Bob Fosse’s Dancin’” is Fosse’s full-throated, full-bodied celebration of the art form he loved, practiced, and changed forever. His hit musical masterpiece is reimagined by director Wayne Cilento, who starred in the original Broadway production of “Dancin’” and is transforming the show’s original vision for 21st-century audiences. “Dancin’” brims with Fosse’s warmth, emotion, color, and endlessly influential style rarely seen in modern interpretations of his work. Featuring an eclectic score that spans a multitude of musical genres and an extraordinary cast of Broadway’s most accomplished dancers, “Dancin’” delivers the quintessential Broadway experience for Fosse fans and first-timers alike.

“Bob Fosse was a transformational figure in the musical theatre, and his innovations revolutionized dance on the Broadway stage and on film,” said Erna Finci Viterbi Artistic



Jacob Guzman performs for “Bob Fosse’s Dancin’.”  
Photo by Rachel Neville.

Director Barry Edelstein. “One of his greatest works, “Dancin’,” showcased everything that was breathtaking and unique about his vision. Now the brilliant Wayne Cilento, one of Fosse’s heirs and himself a Broadway treasure, revitalizes and reanimates this classic show for our moment and for the 21st century. “Bob Fosse’s Dancin’” is a jolt that will supercharge the Globe and our audiences as we boldly step forward—as we dance forward—from the two challenging years of the pandemic. It is a viscerally

exciting piece of theatre, with stagecraft as colorful and rich as its remarkable choreography, and the dancer-singer-actors Wayne has brought to San Diego are quite simply wonders to behold. This show is a bold statement about the joy and delight that are unique to the theatre, and I’m honored and truly happy to bring it to our city.”

The ensemble of principal cast members includes Ioana Alfonso (Broadway’s “Wicked”), Yeman Brown (Broadway’s “Jagged Little Pill”), Peter John Chursin (Broadway’s “Wicked”),

Dylis Croman (Broadway’s “Chicago”), Tony d’Alelio (Off Broadway’s “This Ain’t No Disco”), Jovan Dansberry (Broadway’s “King Kong”), Karli Dinardo (Broadway’s “Moulin Rouge!”), Jacob Guzman (Broadway’s “West Side Story”), Manuel Herrera (Broadway’s “Wicked”), Kolton Krouse (Broadway’s “Cats”), Mattie Love (Broadway’s “Wicked”), Yani Marin (Broadway’s “Wicked”), Nando Morland (Broadway’s “West Side Story”), Khori Michelle Petinaud (Broadway’s “Aladdin”), Ida Saki (Warner Bros.’ “In the Heights”), and Ron Todorowski (Broadway’s “Finding Neverland”).

In addition to Bob Fosse and Wayne Cilento, the creative team for the Broadway-bound production includes scenic design by Robert Brill; costume design by Reid Bartelme and Harriet Jung; lighting design by David Grill; sound design by Peter Hylenski; projection design by Finn Ross; music supervision, orchestrations, incidental music, and vocal arrangements by Jim Abbott; music direction by Darryl Archibald; dance arrangements and additional music by David Dabbon; casting by Tara Rubin Casting; production stage manager Beverly Jenkins; Mr. Fosse’s choreography reproduced by Christine Colby Jacques; associate direction/musical staging and additional choreographic reconstruction by Corinne McFadden Herrera; and text consultant and additional material by Kirsten Childs.

“Bob Fosse’s Dancin’” originally opened on Broadway at the Broadhurst Theatre on March 27, 1978 and later transferred to the Ambassador Theatre. The production ran for 1,774 performances. “Dancin’” was nominated for seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and brought Fosse his seventh Tony Award for Best Choreography.

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# San Diego Ballet Debuts World-Premiere of "Giselle"

Bringing the beauty of classical ballet front and center, San Diego Ballet will debut the world-premiere of "Giselle" at 8 p.m., Saturday, May 21 and 2:30 p.m., Sunday, May 22 at Balboa Theatre, located at 868 Fourth Avenue in downtown San Diego. A traditional French ballet set during a wine festival in France, San Diego Ballet's new staging of "Giselle" by Artistic Director Javier Velasco shifts the locale to early San Diego. Three years in the making, this haunting rumination on romantic love and sacrifice tells the tale of a simple peasant girl whose love for a nobleman sparks tragedy.

Javier Velasco, artistic director of San Diego Ballet offered, "Traditionally, placed in 19th century Europe, our evocative production shifts the locale to the pueblos and ranchos of early San Diego. San Diego Ballet is committed to the presentation of work that speaks to our Southern California audiences and this production does just that."

In Act One, Alberto, a nobleman, is awestruck by the beauty of Giselle, a peasant girl, and disguises himself as a peasant to win her love. Hilario, a peasant boy who also loves Giselle, becomes suspicious after witnessing an exchange between Alberto and another villager. After retrieving proof that Alberto has been lying, Hilario denounces him as an imposter. The shock of learning



Jessica Conniff is cast as Llorana. Photo is courtesy of Canela Photography.

of Alberto's betrayal is too great for Giselle whose mind becomes unhinged and dies of a broken heart.

Act Two is set at the grave of Giselle. Hilario is seen fashioning a cross to plant at Giselle's grave in hopes of keeping her from becoming a vengeful Lloranas, the beautiful spirits of young women seeking revenge on the men who betrayed them forcing them to dance to their death, but ultimately meets his death at the hands of the Lloranas.

Alberto arrives to leave flowers on Giselle's grave but becomes trapped and commanded to dance until death. Giselle appears to protect him and dances with him until the clock strikes four, at which hour the Lloranas lose their power, and Alberto is rescued from death.

This haunting romantic production will be performed at the Balboa Theatre. Tickets are available for purchase online starting at \$47 per person. Per the California

Department of Public Health (CDPH), attendees will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (at least two weeks after final dose) or provide proof of a negative test 48 hours before for a PCR test and 24 hours before for a rapid antigen test. Rapid testing will also be available on-site courtesy of Lux Concierge for \$40 per person one hour before the performance. For more information on San Diego Ballet, please visit [www.sandiegoballet.org](http://www.sandiegoballet.org).

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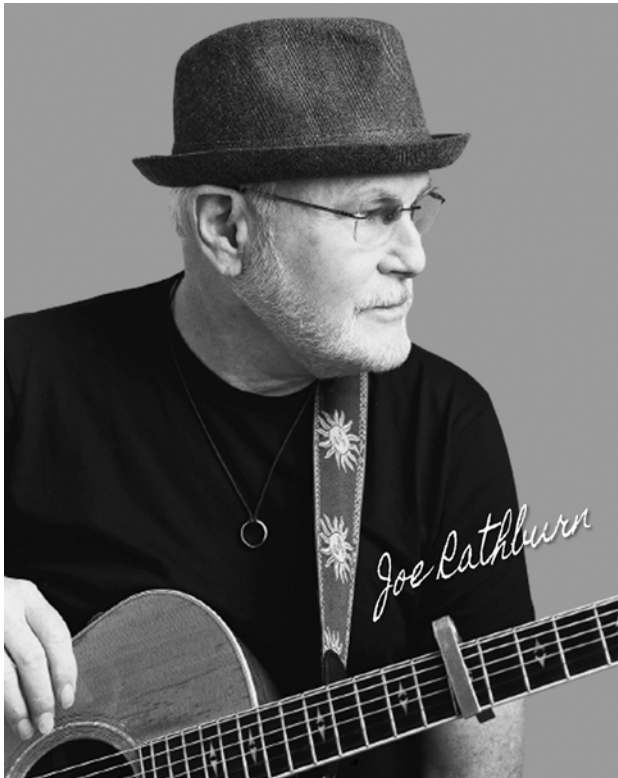
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## Songwriter, Singer and Musician Shares His Music with Baseball Fans

By Joe Rathburn



Joe Rathburn photo is courtesy of Jeff Wiant.

Wow, this will be my 19th season at the world-famous Tin Fish Gaslamp restaurant in downtown San Diego. In retrospect, it's been a beautiful, enjoyable run filled with all those things that make a career like mine worthwhile. I'm Joe Rathburn and I play guitar and sing for a living, and my main gig since 2004 has been playing for the Padres' fans before every (or nearly every) home game. I've made tons of friends and experienced so much during my time at the Tin Fish. On the sad side I've had long time patrons pass away, but I've seen young couples meet, get married, have kids, and bring those kids back to Tin Fish every season as a summer tradition.

I've played to huge crowds of baseball fans totally enjoying the music, and I've played to crowds of just one or two tourists who said I drew them in from blocks away. I've had lots of folks come back year after year and tell me they wouldn't be there if it weren't for me and my

music. That's especially gratifying.

I've been struck on the head mid-performance by a deranged homeless woman who claimed I "worked for the CIA and killed Johnny," and I've sat on the steps and played to a beautiful toddler fan as she clapped along generally enjoying herself.

Friends like Bill Fleming, Mark Fisher, and David Howser filled in for me those rare times when I got other jobs that took me away from Tin Fish, and folks like Art Fisher, David Beldock, and Roger Friend occasionally came and sat in with me. But mostly it was just me playing 3 hours straight, no break (my choice) over the course of an estimated 1300 games (not counting this coming season).

In 2013 I released a baseball songs CD which I'm very proud of, but which sold dismally to a crowd I thought would eat it up. To this day, however, it remains my best-selling recording online.

A brief history of the gig: I started playing at the Tin Fish on the Imperial Beach Pier for the then owner Joseph Melluso back in 2002. He soon opened the Gaslamp store and brought me there to play lunch hours. That was while they were still building PETCO Park and the Omni and Hard Rock hotels. It was so noisy, what with the regular city sounds coupled with all the construction noise, I had to quit and told him to call me when things quieted down. They finished the ballpark and Melluso immediately called me for Opening Day 2004. I've played there ever since. Melluso sold the place to new owners Mike Brown (RIP 2021) and Jerry Levy. On Melluso's advice, the new owners kept me on due to the good will I'd built with the fans, a decision I'll be ever grateful for.

Shortly after the new owners took over I had to fight for my job against City Hall when the vice squad determined the Tin Fish didn't have the proper license for me to be there, even though I'd been playing there for years. I won! With the help of all the fans signing petitions and a sympathetic vice squad lieutenant. Tin Fish staff got the paperwork straightened out and I was re-

instated and granted special permission to continue in perpetuity.

The staff and management at the Tin Fish has always been like family to me, treating me with respect and going the extra mile to make sure all was right for me when the unexpected would occur. Like the time my back went out and they'd send a couple of the young guys over to help me bring my equipment from the parking garage across the street, help me set it up, and help me tear it down and load it out when I finished playing. They did that until I was able once again to do it myself. Trust me, there aren't too many gigs where that would ever happen.

Once, then manager Jamin Toombs had put up those fake owls in the trees surrounding the patio where I perform. I asked him if they were effective. He walked over to a tree and took one down and chucked it at a bunch of pigeons on the ground, scattering them to the wind, and said, "Yeah, they work great!"

I'm dedicating this season to one of the finest people I've ever known, Mike Brown, co-owner of the Tin Fish, whom we lost last year to pancreatic cancer. Brown was always there, nose to the grindstone making sure all was as it should be, doing the daily work, and making sure the customers were happy. I remember him trying so hard. One day he took a little patch of ground right near the entrance to the patio, one of the few patches of ground for blocks, and turned it into a small flower garden. I was touched. He was dedicated to the place and deserves the recognition.

I'm grateful for all my friends and fans who've supported me down at the Tin Fish all these years. I look forward to the future and I hope I can keep folks happy there for many more seasons to come. Due to the MLB lockout the season's home opener has been delayed to April 14. But I'll be there in my usual spot ready to greet this year's crop of fans, friends, and patrons as we get ready to cheer on the Padres to another season of great baseball, the highs and lows, come what may.

## Candidate for District 2 Shares Her Perspective of City Council

Mandy Havlik has a different perspective on what a City Council member should be doing. It is why she is running for office and what makes her stand out in a crowded field. Mandy says she brings an extraordinary amount of diversity to a much-changed district after the drawing of new maps.

"I am going to bring community back to City Hall. I will only answer to the community."

A resident of Point Loma, Mandy an ardent advocate and defender of the coastal region has been involved in community issues since arriving in 2009 with her husband, Cameron, then a



Mandy is the mother of two elementary school children, and is an elected member of the Peninsula Community Planning Board

senior Naval Officer and now a Navy civilian employee. She sacrificed her career to being a military spouse.

Mandy is the mother of two elementary school children. She is well known as an elected member of the Peninsula Community Planning Board, founding member of Kate's Trees, member of Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Council and Save Famosa Canyon, Ocean Beach Elementary School volunteer, Rotarian and community advocate before the Ocean Beach Planning Board and Ocean Beach Town Council.

According to Mandy, this is one of the most important City Council races in the history of District 2 and will provide a forum to present community concerns on a lack of parks, dangerous streets and intersections, political establishment inaction on short-term vacation rentals, and the slow progress in addressing the homeless situation.

She sites other issues plaguing District 2: the status of the single-family home due to lot splits and backyard apartments, short-term vacation rentals that give priority to tourists over resident families, and the failure to provide adequate public services.

"We have a known community park deficit," she states. "Why are all of our open spaces being stolen for the benefit of developers?" Mandy along with a majority of District 2 voters opposed Measure E that would have erased the 30-foot coastal height limit in the Midway area. She

believes the Midway area can be revitalized and can address some of our community park deficit, without removing the 30-foot coastal height limit.

Mandy opposes current proposed land development of the NAVWAR site and offers that it is in tandem with the proposed skyscraper development of the MIDWAY district. She says it will bring unwanted Manhattan density to the area. Mandy says she will continue to fight against unchecked high-density skyscrapers in the coastal region that exceed 30 feet.

"I am concerned about the plans that city hall and other special interest groups have for our community," Mandy Havlik says of her campaign. "I have a proven track record for reaching out to neighbors, listening to the community and coming up with practical solutions that help improve our neighborhoods."

Mandy says she is qualified to provide much needed community-based leadership to the city council because she isn't betrothed to special interests or corporations. She says she will bring much needed transparency, inclusion, and accountability back to City Hall.

"We can protect our quality of life from the threat of Manhattan-style density. Let's partner with community groups instead of corporations."

"Feel free to contact me," Mandy says. "I won't call you names or ignore you. I will call you back."

Her website is mandyhavlik.com. She can be reached at mandyfordistrict2@gmail.com or (619) 535-9411.



## 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 at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 14, and an in-person screening of the filmed performance at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 7 to celebrate the young playwrights takes place at the Salvation Army's Joan B. Kroc Theatre. On-demand streaming will be available from Monday, May 9 through Tuesday, May 31 for teachers to share with students, along with an Education Packet detailing writing prompts and discussion questions for each play.

Cost for performances is \$50 for public screening and a reception with the playwrights; \$20 per household to stream online; pay what you can options available. On-demand virtual streaming to schools is free.

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."

This year's scripts were written by five young writers between the ages of 13 and 17.

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). 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 & 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.

Selection criteria focused on creative ideas, intriguing and authentic characters, original use of language, a story that is revealed through dialogue and action, producibility online, and a script that would benefit from further development in the production process. All contest participants who requested feedback received individualized written critiques.

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

In Declan Kallberg's insightful and timely script "Boxed In," decades have passed since COVID-19, but society still lives isolated from one another confined to their apartments. Neighbors Charles and Emily communicate nightly via screens, but Charles longs for a more human connection. Declan lives in Temecula, California, and attends Western Center Academy. He has been involved in youth theatre productions, classes, and camps since he was seven years old.



*"Petunia's" cast perform the story of a flower with roots on both sides of the Mexico and United States borders.*

"Petunia," by 15-year-old San Dieguito Academy student Ana Cabrera follows the journey of a flower who has roots on both sides of the Mexico and United States borders. In this allegory of a family separated by the border, Petunia struggles with feelings of isolation as the only mixed-race flower in her community and explores the meaning of identity and belonging.

Has life ever felt so monotonous and overwhelming that you wanted to escape? In Jacqueline Vellandi's play "Reverie," three students escape mundane realities through a collective daydream. Will a life of endless fun be as carefree as it seems? Seventeen-year-old Jacqueline wrote her script while attending Orange County School of the Arts.

This year's staged reading is "The Jealous Soccer Ball" co-written by Yaseen Issa and Ahmed Al Hashimi, both age 13. A school yard soccer ball feels jealous and lonely when kids ignore him in favor of his basketball friend. How will he achieve his goal? Yaseen and Ahmed wrote their script as part of a Playwrights Project Residency in Melanie Ellis's class at Hillsdale Middle School taught by Teaching Artist Tori Rice.

For tickets and information, visit [www.playwrightsproject.org/productions/pbyw](http://www.playwrightsproject.org/productions/pbyw).



*In Declan Kallberg's insightful and timely script "Boxed In," decades have passed since COVID-19, but society still lives isolated from one another confined to their apartments.*

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## Visual and Performing Art Receives Recognition and Honors



Family members share their experience while attending the VAPA art exhibition.

The Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Department of the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) announced winners of the 2022 VAPA Spotlight Awards. The VAPA Spotlight Awards celebrate Transforming Lives Through the Arts across San Diego Unified School District. These awards highlight outcomes that are aligned with the goals of the district’s strategic plan for the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) originally adopted by the Board of Education in 2016.

Awardees are nominated by the SDUSD VAPA community of students, teachers, parents, arts partners and administrators. Winners are selected by a committee that represents classroom teachers, VAPA leaders, the VAPA Advisory Council, and the VAPA Foundation, whose mission is to increase access to and enhance the quality of arts education in the San Diego Unified School District. The VAPA Foundation thanks North Island Credit Union and Gloria Rogers, vice president of School & Community Development, for graciously sponsoring \$250 scholarships to student award recipients.

Awardees were recognized at the 2022 VAPA Spotlight Awards

Presentation Event on Sunday, March 13, 2022 at the San Diego Civic Theatre. The awards presentation immediately preceded the 2022 High School Instrumental Music Honor Concert held in the theater.

**This year’s VAPA Spotlight Award winners are as follows:**

**Artistic Achievement Award**

- Benjamin Delgado, Student - Mission Bay High School
- Andres Martinez, Student - Central Elementary School
- Emma Schweitzer, Student - Canyon Hills High School
- Nicole Warkentien, Student - SD School of Creative and Performing Arts

**Artistic Growth Award**

- Jeanne Christensen, Teacher, Mira Mesa High School
- Peter Ekong, Student - Canyon Hills High School
- Jackson Vaccaro, Student - Green Elementary School

**Artistic Innovation Award**

- Mishell Rudden, Teacher, Dingeman Elementary School

**Creative Community Engagement Award**

- Andrea Lemaitre, Teacher – San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts
- Kayla Rodgers Teacher - San Diego High School
- Barbara Smith, Teaching Artist - McKinley Elementary School
- Malashock Dance, community arts organization
- West Coast Winter Guard, community arts organization

**Creative Leadership Award**

- Brandon Corenman, Teacher - University City High School
- Selina Gonzalez, Student - San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts

- Theo Martien, Student - Mt. Everest Academy
- Abigail Parra Rodriguez, Student - Canyon Hills High School
- Jeff Sabins, Principal - Mira Mesa High School
- Jessica Turner, Student - Canyon Hills High School

**Rising Star Award**

- Krista Nelson, Teacher - Madison High School
- Marielena Teng, Teacher - Challenger Middle School and Mira Mesa High School.

## 39th Annual Cinco De Mayo Celebration Takes Place in Old Town San Diego

Celebrating its 39th year, the annual Fiesta Old Town Cinco de Mayo, presented by Estrella Jalisco, returns for a weekend of free music, food, and culture from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. , Saturday, April 30 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, May 1. Old Town will be transformed into the largest Cinco de Mayo celebration in California, featuring a bustling mercado filled with artisan makers, vibrant décor, dozens of dining options, craft margaritas,

a lively cantina garden, and live performances throughout the weekend. In 2022, the triumphant return of the crowd-favorite Lucha Libre wrestling ring will have attendees cheering masked luchadores from the sidelines (or from the Lucha Cantina!). This weekend celebration is also the perfect time to explore the ‘Historic Heart’ of San Diego with visits to museums and historical sites of California’s first settlement.

Spanning seven blocks, this community celebration features lanes of mini-tiendas (shops), where visitors can peruse rows of colorful textiles, fine artwork and traditional crafts made by local artists. Throughout the Fiesta, restaurants and food vendors will be dishing out delicious food and drink with specials running through the weekend. Featuring a wide variety of restaurants and street food vendors, Fiesta Old Town Cinco de Mayo is truly a feast for the senses with world-famous margaritas, ice cold cervezas, handmade tortillas, delicious Mexican food, and creative menus



The Fiesta Old Town Cinco de Mayo celebration will include musicians, food and colorful entertainment.

filled with the flavors of Fiesta.

In 2022, the Café Coyote Stage returns boasting a stacked line-up that promises to have attendees dancing throughout the weekend featuring live music, local bands, mariachis, ballet folklorico, flamenco, and more. The entertainment extends through the mercado with street performances, lucha libre

wrestling, and roaming mariachis to create the most immersive Fiesta experience North of the border.

For more information on this family-friendly free Fiesta, visit [cincodemayooldtown.com](http://cincodemayooldtown.com). Proceeds from the Fiesta Old Town Cinco de Mayo benefit the Historic Old Town Community Foundation.

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# San Diego Restaurant Week: Brunches, Lunches and Dinners



Guests can expect lots of flavors and generous offerings.

San Diego Restaurant Week, the most delicious week of the year in San Diego, returns with over one hundred restaurants featuring delicious dining deals from Sunday, April 3 through Sunday, April 10. San Diego's top chefs will dish out diverse menus featuring special prix-fixe pricing in over thirty neighborhoods across the county. San Diego Restaurant Week highlights the culinary talent of San Diego with two-course lunches for \$10,

\$15, \$20, and \$25 and three-course dinners for \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50, and \$60 dependent on the restaurant's price points. San Diego Restaurant Week is the foodie highlight of the year as restaurants and budding culinary talents show up and show off delicious meals at a tantalizing value.

Lunch and Dinner are a long-standing San Diego Restaurant Week offering, but for those looking for something a little different, Sunday brunches are



Beautiful and delicious presentations will be enjoyed by guests.

popping up from participating restaurants throughout the county this year. On Sunday, April 3 and Sunday, April 10 select Restaurant Week venues will be offering a special San Diego Restaurant Week brunch with multiple courses and a special price point.

With so many restaurant options available, San Diego Restaurant Week's website makes it easy to decide the ideal brunch, lunch, or dinner option with filters for neighborhood, cuisine, dining options, and price point. Guests can browse menus for lunch, dinner, and brunches and although reservations are not required, they are highly recommended and can be made via the Restaurant Week website, SanDiegoRestaurantWeek.com.

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