The Annual Dinner was an incredible success! With your help, Point Loma Association raised over $27,000 to fund future projects and support our many ongoing projects.

Too many thank yous to count, but we especially thank our silent and live auction donors, program sponsors, the Pizzaro Brothers, and table sponsors, who really help with the bottom line. Special thanks to the Point Loma Artists for providing the beautiful and whimsical table centerpieces, with extra special thanks to Marianne Blackmar, who coordinated the project.

Thanks to all of our public figures for making the evening special. The PLA received a proclamation from Representative Scott Peters for its contributions to the community, and then Dick Lareau wore a pathway to the stage for many proclamations of thanks for his work on behalf of the PLA — not the least of which is his 40+ year tour of duty creating the PLA Awards slide show. We were honored to have Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Councilmember Lorie Zapf, Councilmember Ed Harris, and County Supervisors Greg Cox and Ron Roberts there to honor Dick.

Final honors went to past PLA Chair Cecilia Carrick, who was presented with the Lighthouse Award by Councilman Ed Harris. Cecilia: it was the LEAST we could do.

None of this could happen without a dedicated dinner committee. We’ll be meeting again soon to plan for next year! We are currently considering another venue and format change. Have an opinion? Join the committee! E-mail kerriderosier@gmail.com if you want to help.

—Kerri De Rosier, 2014 Annual Dinner Co-chair
Chairman’s Message

PLA was very busy in 2014. We’ve been working every angle possible to improve and grow our fine organization. We have made strides with our social media, which is really raising awareness of how important PLA is to our community and what it has accomplished over the years. Talking to people every day, I have seen a tremendous transition from “I think I’ve heard of them,” to, “Yes, they just landscaped the median on Nimitz!”

Speaking of medians, we should be breaking ground shortly at the Nimitz median fronting Centrahora and Bernice. This is part of our long range plan to improve Nimitz from W. Point Loma to Harbor Drive. This will be an exciting makeover. Many thanks to Councilman Ed Harris for his support in making this project a reality. It was a true pleasure working with Councilman Harris and staff over the last eight months. They deeply care for our community and it showed.

We had a great turn out at our annual dinner. I need to mention Dick Lareau’s “retirement” from producing the Annual Dinner slide show. Dick was honored for his service throughout the evening — much deserved after all these years. I remember, back in the day, being in charge of the lighting for the program with his son Mark. Hard to believe! I have a sneaking suspicion Dick will stick around to help the PLA.

In closing, Vice Chairwomen Sally Bixler has been very anxious to explore higher level giving. We have the wonderful component of the Point Loma Foundation to handle larger donations. PLA is an important part of this community, and helps make Point Loma a VERY desirable place to live and work. In my opinion, it helps our real estate prices, too. With even a handful of larger gifts, we can do some amazing projects/ improvements. Please keep that in mind as you’re considering end-of-year donations!

See you around PL.

—Robert Jackson

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Congratulations to our six Annual Dinner Beautification Award winners

The Beautification Awards committee, led by Dick Lareau, recognized the following awardees for their contributions toward beautifying and enhancing Point Loma. Dick Lareau prepared the following descriptions of the award winners (thanks to Stuart Hartley for the photos):

Sweetaly Bakery and Bistro – A handsome bistro remodel with a colorful Italian interior and a quaint landscaped patio for outdoor dining (and a fine bakery!). Pictured: Francesco Manfredi with Robert Jackson


Point Loma High School – The Point Loma High School Art program is simply outstanding. Art teacher Sean Wells has encouraged exciting and colorful artwork in the central patio as well as wall murals and a new art gallery. The school also earned honors for landscaping at the new entrance on Voltaire Street. Pictured: Robert and Sean Wells

Silver Gate Yacht Club – Is recognized for their handsome new building with, of course, a nautical theme. It enjoys great bay views and a very special sculpture on the masthead. Pictured: Robert with Jeanne Irwin

Driscoll, Inc. Walkway at Intrepid Landing – A neat walk beginning at Shelter Island Drive and passing the bay and harbor. It fronts on the new development by Tom Driscoll and the Driscoll Family. Pictured: Robert and Tom Driscoll

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PLA member Dorothea Laub buys a building!

Long-time PLA member Dorothea Laub had been thinking about ways to honor her husband, Dick, who passed in May, 2013. Then one day, she went to Con Pane at Liberty Station, where she looked up at the Command Center. “I saw an empty space up there and decided to put Dick’s name on it!” said Dorothea.

She met with NTC Foundation Executive Director, Alan Ziter, who arranged for the naming gift. There are 26 historic buildings in all in the NTC Arts and Culture District, with 16 fully occupied; proceeds from the sale will help fund renovations to the remaining eight buildings in Phase 3, and support the existing tenants by assuring affordable rents and promoting collaboration. And — added Ziter, “Legacy Naming Gifts are available on any one of them!”

“As Point Loma neighbors, we have been watching and supporting this project since the beginning,” said Dorothea. “I’m happy to help set an example of the kind of support that can be provided to a project of this magnitude and value.”

A Rotating Exhibit

Here’s a short story about the new sculpture recently unveiled at the Point Loma Assembly’s art show in November: Nancy Phillips, who was in charge of the show, thought she’d “take it up a notch” and see if she could secure a sculpture to place outside the hall. She contacted sculptor Garrett Goodwin, who had a former “Urban Tree” piece awaiting a new home. Nancy is hoping that this is the first in a series of rotating public art exhibits at the Hall. Nancy acknowledged Bruce Cook for securing a donation of the pedestal from AZAR Builders Inc. Interested in purchasing the piece? Contact Garrett at www.goodwincreations.com.

For the past two years, 42 families have been “farming” at Westminster Park. The gardens are managed by Fred Gestra, who is playfully known as the “gopher buster.”

Participants grow vegetables/fruits/herbs during all seasons. Sunshine is abundant. Crops are harvested for individual use, and for group use. There are 42 spaces available with a hose bib at each plot. The cost is $50 a year to cover the expense of water.

There is a waiting list at the Church Office. Call the church at (619) 223-3193 if you would like to participate.

 Beautification Update

West Point Loma/Nimitz gets a face lift: On Friday, November 14, under the leadership of Karen Davis, the Mean Green Team pulled up weeds and remnants of old plantings to prepare the site for new colorful iceplant. Sticks of fire and aloes will also be used along one edge.

Tree Donation: The PLA received a donation of 15 trees from the City of San Diego’s Park District. All were planted at Point Loma Park, with 12 planted in the parking lot area, as many of the original trees had died. Two others were planted in the northeast corner of the park, and another was planted closer to Catalina Blvd. in front of the fire station. With help from

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Dinner Highlights
Photos by Michele Friszell Photography
District Two Update
By Councilmember Lone Zapf

Dear Community Members,

On December 10, 2014, I was sworn in as the elected District 2 Councilmember and could not be more thrilled for the opportunities that lie ahead for the residents of the Peninsula. As a lifelong community volunteer, I look forward to working with the Point Loma Association on projects, beautification improvements, and solutions to neighborhood issues that will only improve the quality of life on the Point.

With that said, I am happy to support the Point Loma Businesses Improvement Committee, who has been working hard to create a business improvement district in Point Loma. As a former small business owner, I have been an outspoken advocate for these districts that support our local businesses and help maintain community character.

I also fully support the PLA’s efforts to connect our beaches to our bays with a Nimitz Parkway full of beautification improvements starting with a new median effort at Centraloma. Nimitz Blvd. has come a long way with scenic and bicycle safety improvements and I look forward to supporting more on the City Council.

I would also like to introduce Conrad Wear as my Community Representative for Point Loma and Ocean Beach. Conrad grew up on the Point, attending local schools like Dana and High Tech High and has been working hard to ensure that I understand issues and projects that are important to Point Loma. He can be reached at bwear@sandiego.gov.

Going forward, I feel confident that by working with the PLA and our supportive Mayor, we can do a lot in this community. Please be on the lookout for my State of the District address in February, where I will outline my vision for District 2. You can find more information about that event on my web site at www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd2/ or please call at 619.236.6622.

Sincerely,
Lorie

Total Green Landscaping, the PLA helped plant the trees, and will do the initial extra watering until the trees are established.

Update on Centraloma project

The PLA’s next big Nimitz median project is located at the intersection of Nimitz and Centraloma. Landscape Architect Ned Daugherty just received the proper permits from the City of San Diego, and we might just get the thing planted in time for the rainy season.

As you can see, the plantings and hardscape will be very similar to the project further north on Nimitz.

Many thanks to the Hervey Family, Councilmember Ed Harris, Nancy Peckham, Cecilia Carrick, Stanley Nadel and Dorothea Laub for their generous contributions towards the project.

Membership corner

Are you a computer wiz? We’re looking for folks to contribute content and help on the web site update committee. E-mail martyesmith@gmail.com if you can help.

Like to play in the dirt or wield a paint brush? You’re invited to join the Mean Green Team on Fridays at 9:00, serve on the Beautification Committee, or join the PLA’s Graffiti Busters team. Contact Ron Brooks at brooks1@cox.net.

Not a PLA member? Join! It’s the best $30 you’ll ever spend. Go to our website, www.pointlomaassociation.com, to join!
Behind the scenes with Cecilia Carrick

Last October, former Councilman Ed Harris bestowed Cecilia Carrick with the PLA’s highest honor — the Lighthouse Award. Cecilia is a well-recognized figure as past PLA chair, and for her service on the Mean Green Team and Beautification, but she spends a lot of time behind the scenes as well filling out grant applications for the PLA’s big projects.

“There’s a morass of paperwork,” said Cecilia. “It’s one of the main ways we get things done.” She described filling out grant paperwork for our median projects as “cumbersome, time consuming.” “There are lists of 12, 14 items that need to be checked off,” said Cecilia. “For the PLA to move forward, there’s a lot of behind the scenes work.”

It’s because of this extra effort that Cecilia was especially delighted to receive the Lighthouse Award. “It’s an incredible honor for people to realize that you’re doing the extra work. People don’t get enough ‘atta boys,’” she said. “It’s not essential, but it’s nice!”

In the near future, Cecilia hopes that the PLA can continue to push forward on Nimitz, which she calls a “lofty goal.” “It’s a difficult project,” she said, “It will take years to finish.” Then she paused and said, “I guess it’s no different when a group got together over 50 years ago and said, ‘Let’s work on Rosecrans.’ We’ll have to take it small chunks at a time. We will be busy as long as we want to be.”

Congratulations, Cecilia, for your work in the spotlight – and behind the scenes!

Events at Liberty Station:

January 17: Winter Beer Festival — The 5th annual San Diego Brew Fest returns to Liberty Station, featuring dozens of local and international craft beers, music, and San Diego’s most popular food trucks. sandiegobeerfest.com

February 14-15: California Open Wildlife Arts Festival at the McMillin Event Center. The PSWA promotes wildlife art, and educating and enriching the community through their outreach programs, seminars, workshops, study groups and monthly meetings. www.pswa.net