Creative, Playful and Bright Lights in the Heights 2014

On December 18, the Lights in the Heights judging team eagerly drove every street of UH from canyon rims to Texas Street, El Cajon Boulevard, Lincoln Avenue, and Washington Street to find the best holiday lights and decorations. This year residents really challenged our skills with their delightful and surprising displays! Team members Jeannie Hine, Cheryl and Chris Cooke, Andy Cameron, and I toiled past midnight over late night dinner food adapting and inventing categories and successfully choosing winners in all but two categories. The competition was so strong for Best White Lights (4572 Delaware vs. 4350 Proctor Place) and Best Black (4500 blocks of Delaware and New York Streets) that decisions had to be made after some additional drive-bys and deliberation. Delaware squeaked by in both cases; Best Black deciding on the charming scenes of whimsical animals (including flying pigs and a leaping deer) Award). Best Lighted Animals award). Also spotted was a continuously running series of holiday videos projected from inside onto a picture window at 3242 Madison (Most Innovative Display award). This was our first year using an award for Best Apartment Building, won by 4505 North Avenue. Most of the apartments had decorated their railings and windows and there was a beautifully lit tree on the curved second story balcony in front. Overall, we noticed more large, and fun, inflatable figures than in the past, intriguing laser lights, and a sparkling Eiffel Tower with its shadow projected onto a wall. Of course, every year we look forward to seeing those homes that have a spectacular display of lights and decorations, but every glimpse of light and sparkle as we drive around oohs, aahs, or smiles.

We are grateful to the residents and businesses for bringing your time and creativity to bring a holiday spirit to University Heights in 2014! Grand Prize Hall of Fame: 818 Madison Best Holiday Trees: 1702 Mission Cliff Best Succulent Garden: 1890 Mission Cliff Best Business Display: Inner Balance Institute, 1816 Lincoln Thank you to Andy Cameron, lighting expert and “dad” of Norbert the Halloween dragon on Maryland Street, for designing the awards certificates this year. Certificates will have been hand delivered to each winner by the time you read this article. See you again next December for more Lights in the Heights!

Best Cottage: 1629 Madison
Best Classic Home: 4545 Rhode Island
Best Home: 4572 Delaware

How we chose University Heights

By Scott Schechter

Our search for a new home began in Chicago where it is cold, snowy, and flat. Isabel was born there, and I lived there for 25 years. However, it was time for a change. We researched and considered many cities, and San Diego quickly rose to the top of our list. Obviously, the weather is fantastic, but that’s only one of many reasons to choose San Diego. Here, we can be at the ocean or in the mountains in a half hour, and it is big enough to have cultural amenities we have come to expect. We thought of moving within a few years, but the timing was uncertain. We came to explore last February, and it rained for three straight days. Despite that, we explored neighborhoods, restaurants, and farmers’ markets. We are urban dwellers, enjoy walking, use public transportation whenever possible, and own only one car, so it seemed that the area north of Balboa Park would fit our lifestyle.

We returned to San Diego in June to hone down our search area. So we did what any good urban dwellers would do – we walked, walked and walked. Walking almost every street between Mission Hills and North Park, we talked to friendly people about the different neighborhoods and the lay of the land. When we crossed the Vermont Street Bridge into University Heights, we knew we had found our neighborhood. We could walk over the bridge to many shops and restaurants, or up Park Street to the center of University Heights, which seemed an ideal area to explore and enjoy.

We met Pfy Zaimar at Principle Real Estate, and she showed us 11 places the next day, including a house on Johnson that we had found on our walk. We loved it, and when we learned it was in our budget, we bought it and changed our moving plans from a few years to a few weeks.

Since we moved into the neighborhood, we’ve been welcomed by many community members. We’ve explored many of the local restaurants, and some of our University Heights favorites are tapas at Cuvea, the chocolate chip cookie at Red House, the vegetarian Thai options at Plumeria, and sitting at Lestat’s or DeMi and enjoying a coffee and bakery item. Most importantly, we can sit on our deck looking over the 70 degree weather in January.

Scott Schechter moved to University Heights four months ago with his wife, Isabel. He is a Financial Adviser with Eagle Strategies LLC.

Bourbon Street Under New Ownership

Before Bourbon Street, Pea’s Bar was there on Park Blvd. In the mid-80s owners, Ted Buettner and David Heinlein, made a very large investment, stuck their necks out, worked with UHCA and the city to develop Bourbon Street. Improvements to Park Blvd. had already begun (UHCA lobbied and received new sidewalks, trees, lighting, and underground utilities). Eventually the neon sign adorned our business district. Until then, there was little pedestrian activity, no bakery, cafes, or restaurants. Bourbon Street led the way.

Now, new owners, ELE Collective Partners John Fani and Andy Zlotnik, promise a new kind of vitality, an exciting new direction for our business district. We welcome and look forward to meeting John at the February UHCA meeting.
The ostrich design is owned by UHCA. Please note any usage of it must receive prior approval by UHCA.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Blair Alexander & Dan Belair

THANK YOU RENEWALS
Mary “Mike” Rybarczyk, Pattie & Brett Lobner, Nancy Gross, Ron Oliver & Brent Osborne, Sharon Ritchie, Anne Marie Sachs & Adam Hill, Bill & Patti Wildy, Phyllis Charlton & Randi Dreipkin, John & Jean Cummins, Rebecca Estrada, Larry Seubert, HJ. Seagrarm, Hans & Heidi Baumgartner, Neil Ferrier, Martha Carey & Elisabeth Fidler, William Pierce & Renee Carmett, Jessica Colosimo & Case Jest, Brett & Beth Miller, Benjamin & Mona Burke, Cheryl & Christopher Cooke, Judy & Weston Kifile

Thank you to those members who give an extra donation along with your membership dues. Our activities such as Carolling in the Heights, newsletters, and neighborhood cleanups depend upon your generosity. UHCA is a 501(c)3 organization. Donated in 2015 may be tax deductible.

Are you, family members, or neighbors celebrating an award, recognition, house historic designation, anniversary, etc., or anything else that’s special? If so, let us know about it so we may include it in the UHCA News. Email us (uhcanews@yahoo.com) with details and your contact info.

University Heights Map
Boundaries and Zone Watch

The bold outer boundaries on this map define the community of University Heights. Every block and apartment/condo should have an established Neighborhood Watch.

A Zone is a neighborhood within University Heights as defined by the 6 Zones on this map.

The blocks within each Zone are linked together via a Zone Watch Coordinator, who manages an email list of participants wishing to receive crime watch information. Please contact your Zone Coordinator for more information.

ZONE COORDINATOR E-MAIL CONTACT
Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com
Pam Isaac pamisaacs1@gmail.com
Susan Fosselman susan.fosselman@microsoft.com
Christopher Hutchinson christopherhutchinson@hotmail.com
Tamara Zybylly tamara@tamarazhomes.com
Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com

President’s Corner by Bernie Horan

I may be the last to wish you a Happy New Year. We’ve survived the whole holiday season once again and faced January with new resolve to make meaningful changes to our everyday lives. Then the weeks go by and we settle into a pattern.

Now it’s February. For me, this seems to be the beginning of the regular year. We have our routine, new or otherwise, and the days march on in 2015. I always need to regroup about now and see if I am staying the course on those resolutions......I am not. And so, I begin another year of schedules, plans, and ways to make them happen. I have to focus on some near goal that gives me a stepping stone to reaching some final “larger picture.” It’s all a trick of the mind but it works for me.

If you made your own set of resolutions for the year, I wish you success. If you are like me and need to start over, that’s okay too. It’s the journey after all. Happy Valentines Day to you too!

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2015: Leading San Diego Forward

By Council Member Todd Gloria

I have been looking forward to 2015 since I began representing District Three on the City Council six years ago. This year will spotlight the centennial celebration of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park with festivities and legacy improvements like the reopening of the California Tower. It will also focus on a host of important city issues that I am eager to make progress on with your continued participation.

The city’s first priority will always be the safety of our citizens. We must do all within our power to ensure the dedicated people of the San Diego Police Department are compensated at a level that reflects their hard work and retains their experience for the protection of University Heights. This is the most significant short-term challenge facing us, and I believe we must tackle it early in 2015.

Whether I’m at the grocery store or just checking Twitter, the biggest frustration you continue to share with me is the condition of our streets and sidewalks. In recent years, we began to chip away at this problem, but we must do better. I have serious concerns with the lack of a comprehensive solution to this multi-billion dollar infrastructure problem that is the biggest long-term challenge facing us. As the Chairman of the Council’s Budget Committee, I will schedule hearings to draw attention to this matter throughout 2015.

Before we have the opportunity in June 2016 to approve the minimum wage increase I championed, I will pursue the application of California’s new earned sick leave law. We have heard from hundreds of hourly city employees who do not currently have this benefit. Allowing seasonal lifeguards, library aides, recreation center staff, and others who regularly interact with the public the ability to take time off when they are ill is the right thing to do for our workers and for protecting public health.

Last year I led the city to make significant reforms to our homelessness programs. The changes we made focused on reallocating our limited resources to results-oriented programs proven to move people off the streets and into housing. In 2015, I will monitor and report on the efficacy of these programs and continue to build relationships between service providers, government, businesses, philanthropists, and the public to leverage additional resources to achieve our goal of ending homelessness in San Diego. While we still have a long way to go, we will not give up on this effort until we meet our objective.

As a new member of the Environment Committee, I look forward to this year’s work. Continued on page 11

United States President Barack Obama

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111 / 202-456-2841 fax
president@whitehouse.gov

California Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-445-2841 / 916-558-3160 fax
governor@gov.ca.gov

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
600 B Street, Suite 2240
San Diego, CA 92101
619-239-3884 / 619-239-5719 fax
senator@boxer.senate.gov

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
750 B Street, Suite 1030
San Diego, CA 92101
619-231-9712 / 619-231-1108 fax
senator@feinstein.senate.gov

Speaker of the Assembly Toni Atkins, 78th Assembly District
1350 Front Street, Room 6054
San Diego, CA 92101
619-650-3900 / 619-650-2094 fax
toni.durran@asm.ca.gov

San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101
619-236-6330 / 619-236-7228 fax
kevinfaulconer@sandiego.gov

San Diego Board of Supervisors Ron Roberts, 4th District
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101
619-531-5444 / 619-557-4025 fax
keit.leastanu@sdcounty.ca.gov

San Diego City Council Todd Gloria, 3rd District
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101
619-231-6063 / 619-595-1481 fax
mchase@sandiego.gov

By California Assembly Speaker Toni G. Atkins

A new Legislative Session has begun—as we reflect on the past year and celebrate our accomplishments, we also dream of the future and making 2015 an even happier, healthier year.

We in the State Assembly are also deciding on legislative priorities that aim to make California even more prosperous in 2015.

This past legislative session was a remarkable one—with historic water legislation, a rainey day fund to end the boom and bust of revenue cycles, and a balanced budget that once again invests in human services and infrastructure; we worked to make vast improvements in the lives of Californians.

We intend to carry this momentum forward into the new session.

We are resolved to support businesses so they can make bigger and stronger investments in California and create more good-paying jobs for Californians.

We imagined projects like the San Pasqual Academy, a unique home and school for foster children; a new County Operations Center in Kearny Mesa, which serves as a government campus designed to be as friendly and efficient for visitors as it is for those who work there; and the beautiful County Waterfront Park, which since its May opening has transformed and sterilized and unappealing parking lots into an active and attractive space for all ages.

The better news is we have much more on the way.

Imagine the San Diego Trolley reaching to UC San Diego and our largest concentration of medical facilities. We are on track with the Mid-Coast Line to start construction late this year or in early 2016, connecting downtown and Imagine Bay-Park link, it will celebrate the city and let people enjoy its beauty.

Imagine a new, 158,000 square foot crime lab serving our region’s cities with state of the art technology.

Imagine a more fun style of transit, an aerial gondola loop designed to carry up to 60 passengers a minute from a downtown trolley station to Balboa Park. Connect the loop to the imagined Bay-Park link, it will celebrate the city and let people enjoy its beauty.

Imagine a new sports stadium befitting, and benefiting, our major metropolitan area.

Achieving all of these goals is possible, and this year alone we will make progress on each. Imagine that! County Supervisor Ron Roberts represents University Heights as part of his Fourth Supervisorial District. You can follow him on Facebook at Supervisor Ron Roberts, on Twitter at @RonRobertsSD and at www.RonRoberts.com.

We are resolved to provide for California’s veterans by increasing access to support services and veteran’s housing.

We are resolved to keep our world-class public universities affordable for all California families.

And we are resolved to expand access to affordable housing and fair wages, so that no California families have to struggle with homelessness and poverty. After all, no California who works a full time job should be living in poverty.

California needs a strong economy, a healthy business climate, affordable education, good jobs, and opportunities for all. We in the State Assembly are committed to building a state where it is safe, healthy, and affordable to live, work, and raise a family.

As a member of the Assembly, I have been given the amazing opportunity to help create a stronger, brighter future for California. Friends of Alice Birney’s 4th Annual Big Give was a huge success! We had 182 Donations and $14,851 in a single day and a $7,664 match from our generous anonymous foundations for an astounding grand total of $22,515 raised on December 18! Thank you to our contributors for showing that every little bit can and does make a difference in the support for Birney Elementary’s Art, Garden, and Spanish programs. With your support, I believe that we can make 2015 the best year yet.

Speaker Atkins proudly represents the people of coastal San Diego, from Imperial Beach, through the Mexican border, north to Solana Beach, and most of central San Diego. For more info about Toni, please visit http://asmdc.org/speaker/. Follow her on Twitter @toniaisattn. or at Facebook.com/SDToni.
More about Lions Club Speaker, Marcia De Runtz

Marcia was diagnosed with Retinitus Pigmentosa/RP when she was 19. She tells people that she doesn’t have time to be blind... therefore, by not considering it a disability, and just an inconvenience... so be it.

The Lions Optimetric Vision Clinic is one of the shining stars of San Diego County. For those who are unfamiliar with the LOVC, they provide basic vision care to low- and no-income people, including students from elementary thru college and adult education, seniors, and residents of rehab facilities. The clinic is a 501(c)3 and functions primarily on the fees they charge clients: single vision glasses are $30 and bifocals are $45. They have three paid staff, doctors volunteer their time, and volunteers provide visual therapy. One of the most appreciated donations is frames. The average frame cost between $4 and $9. Consider the “gift” of a couple hundred frames, calculate that and you have saved them a small fortune. Any usable frames and equipment are donated to the Tijuana Lions Vision Clinic.

Nothing can be done to improve Marcia’s vision. But HER VISION is to help improve the lifestyle of those who are referred to their clinic... a new pair of glasses or a surgery; through their affiliation with Shiley Eye Institute, puts a whole new light on people’s lives.

Meet Marcia and hear more about her story at the February 5 UHCA meeting. Bring unused glasses too.

UH Library Task Force Seeks Reset

By Philip Gill, President of UH Friends of Library

The University Heights Library Task Force (UHLTF) convened a special meeting on Monday, January 21, to discuss with Misty Jones, the director of the San Diego Public Library System, what it will take to find a new UH branch library finally off the ground. The meeting was called after a recent Union-Tribune article listed four branch libraries slated to be replaced, and UH - the oldest branch in the city - was not on it.

30 UH residents and community activists attended the meeting to express their concerns to Ms. Jones that the long-talked about new branch might never happen, especially since a new Parkcrest/Mission Hills branch on Washington and Front Streets is expected to start construction later this year.

The UH library is considered inadequate for the needs of the more than 60,000 city residents, plus several thousand students, in its economically, ethnically, and age diverse service area. For more than 15 years, the community has focused on the historic San Diego Normal School Teachers’ Training Annex, a nationally registered historic building at Park and El Cajon Boulevards, for adaptive reuse as the new UH library. The building is owned by the SD Unified School District and located next to its 4100 Normal Street headquarters.

Ron Johnston, president of the UHLT, told the meeting attendees that the main obstacle to repurposing the annex has been the city’s failure to commit to the project, something the school district has previously done.

Attendees discussed a number of funding options to get the new branch off the ground, but finally agreed that the place to start was to update a previous city 2004 feasibility study to see if the annex could be converted. Ms. Jones commented several times that funding for new branches goes to those communities that exert pressure on the city.

In Case You Missed It

By Monica Laxot

Our December meeting seems so long ago; the holidays have come and gone, and 2015 is in full swing. Here’s a recap of the discussion at the December UHCA meeting, in case you missed it:

The Stonewall Citizens Patrol provided an update on Bourbon Street restaurant & bar on Park Blvd. Due to the resignation of security personnel hired by the establishment, Stonewall continues to boost efforts in the area to compensate. The Stonewall Citizens Patrol is an all-volunteer organization, and donations are welcome to help them continue their efforts. You can donate or get more information at http://www.stonewallcitizens.org/.

San Diego Police Department Community Officer Dave Surwilio provided tips for holiday safety and reviewed local crime stats, which have showed significant improvement over the years (see below). He also discussed the ramifications of Proposition 47, which reduces some offenses to misdemeanors from previous felony charges. Officer Surwilio encouraged local businesses to consider submitting a Letter of Agency, which allows police to go onto private properties to deal with potential trespassers when the owners are not present.

Representatives from Councilmember Todd Gloria’s office and County Supervisor Ron Roberts’ office focused on homeless issues, discussing the Housing First plan announced by Mayor Faulkner and Councilmember Gloria. Residents were encouraged to help in the Point-In-Time which counts local homeless populations.

General UHCA announcements included the Lights in the Heights contest, and the UH Banner District unveiling. Also featured was a drawing for gift baskets, the winners of whom were selected from those who donated to The Birney School Giving Tree. Fun & merriment ensued, sweets were consumed, and everyone went safely on their way to enjoy the rest of their holiday season.

SD Police Department’s Partnership with University Heights

By Nan McGraw

Crime stats were high in University Heights in the mid-80s. UHCA and SDPD began an partnership back then by engaging in activities such as our Saturday morning “Coffee with the Cops.” That morphed into “Ice Cream with the Cops” and “Cookies with the Cops.” Neighbors would gather at crime vulnerable spots in UH. UHCA would provide coffee, ice cream, cookies or donuts, and SDPD would present what’s happening and why.

Crime stats started to go down. Some reasons for that decrease could be attributed to lower city-wide crime, community policing, Zone Watch, Neighborhood Watch, and community pride. UHCA members were leaders in community policing and an example to other communities. Thanks to SDPD and our Community Relations Officer David Surwilo for the continued partnership that keeps us safe but still on our toes and ever vigilant.

Crime still happens here so connect with your neighbors via Zone Watch, Neighborhood Watch, and Next Door. Be proactive. Contact your Zone Watch Coordinator listed on page 2 and start a Neighborhood Watch program on your block. Also, REPORT ALL CRIME to reflect true stats.

The following stats are a comparison from a one-month time frame (Oct./Nov.) in 1994, the same months 20 years later in 2014. Note the decrease in car prowls and residential burglaries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Incidents</th>
<th>Nov. 1994</th>
<th>Nov. 2014</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Commercial Robbery</td>
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<td>Residential Robbery</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Theft (over $950)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

Recruiting Former Members

If you’re a former graduate or member of the CERT San Diego program, they are reaching out to you. The CERT program has undergone changes to its program structure that may be of interest to you. As of January 1, all formerly active members will have the opportunity to become reactivated with CERT SD by taking a single, four-hour refresher course. By completing this refresher, you will become eligible to be placed on Tier 1, receive an active ESW card and be eligible to be activated by the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department. To remain active as this tier you need to attend one refresher course per calendar year. You do not need to report your attendance and do not need to attend any further training. To learn more, go to: www.sandiego.gov/fire and click on Services & Programs.
February 2015

Sunday  Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday
1  HILLCREST Farmers Market  Lincoln & Cleveland  9 am - 2 pm
2  Groundhog Day
3  Uptown Planners Meeting  Joyce Beers Center  Uptown Center  6 pm
4  UNICO Meeting  4420 Park Blvd.  Suite 104, 6:30 pm
5  Toni Atkins "Public Office Hours"  UH Library  6 pm
6  UH Rec Council  5:30 pm  UHCA mtg  6:45 pm
7  The Point Cleanup  1:30 - 3:30 pm
8  HILLCREST Farmers Market  Lincoln & Cleveland  9 am - 2 pm
9  uhca NEWS  Deadline for Feb issue Articles & Advertising (Tomorrow the 10th)
10  Hilcrest Town Council  Joyce Beers Center  Uptown Complex  6:30 pm
11  YOGA for seniors at UH Library  6 pm
12  LINCOLN’S BIRTHDAY
13  Chinese New Year
14  Valentine’s Day
15  HILLCREST Farmers Market  Lincoln & Cleveland  9 am - 2 pm
16  Presidents’ Day  UH Library closed
17  Fat Tuesday  North Park Planning Committee  North Park Christian Fellowship  2901 North Park Way  6:30 pm
18  Library Task Force  UH Library  6:30 pm
19  Carlsbad recycled paper & yard waste collection
20  PREVIEW BOOK SALE  FSDPL (members only)  Book Sale  3 - 6 pm
21  BOOK SALE  FSDPL  Book Sale  8 am - 3 pm  Buchanan Canyon Clean up  9 am  Johnson between Lincoln & Hayes
22  Washington’s Birthday  BOOK SALE  FSDPL  Book Sale  noon - 4 pm
23  HILLCREST Farmers Market  Lincoln & Cleveland  9 am - 2 pm
24  uhca NEWS  Block Walker Drop-Off
25  UH Book Club & Salon  UH Library  6:30 pm
26
27
28

February is Black History Month. See the Expressions in Equality Exhibition at Visions Art Museum in Liberty Station.
SDPD Advice and Offerings

by Officer David Surwilo

Regularly I receive requests to revisit the topic of door to door soliciters. In San Diego these soliciters are required to have a business tax certificate and a solicitor’s identification card. Soliciting is not allowed between the hours of 8pm and 9am, it is also not permitted where “No Soliciting” signs are present. If a company is legitimate they will gladly show you their paperwork. I stress to everyone there is NO reason to open your door to challenge these people for ID and tax certificate. I strongly warn you not to jeopardize your homes safety integrity by opening your door. Instead open a window next to the door and tell them you are not interested and if they do not depart you SHALL call the police.

If you get the candle, magazine, solar, or alarm sales folks coming around the worry is they may be casing a property with mal-intent. If you suspect someone is soliciting illegally, casing a property or acting suspiciously you may call us on the non-emergency police line (619) 531-2000.

San Diego Police Department’s Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP) service is completely free. If you know someone who is elderly or disabled and also lives alone, RSVP volunteers can stop by and check on them regularly. The RSVP program also does vacation checks as well. They are always looking for volunteers to join their team as well. You are Not Alone. They are always looking for volunteers to join their team as well. They are always looking for volunteers to join their team as well. They are always looking for volunteers to join their team as well. They are always looking for volunteers to join their team as well.

In addition, other SDPP offerings include:

- A “Letter of Agency” is an authorization form to allow SDPP to arrest people unauthorized to be on your property should you be away from your home or business. Please check the SDPP website for this form: www.sandiego.gov/police.
- Graffiti reporting process: Officer Sergio Zamora from the SDPD’s Graffiti Strike Force is the officer assigned to investigate Western Division’s graffiti and tagging. His number is (619) 515-2754 (sazamora@sdpd.sandiego.gov). There are no changes to the graffiti reporting process. You can still contact Urban Corp for graffiti removal (800) 829-6804 and they will respond to your photograph and paint out the graffiti. Contact the Graffiti Strike Force at (619) 531-2900 if you have information leading to the arrest of graffiti vandals or if you have additional evidence to provide.

Downtown Seniors on a Road Trip: The Lafayette Hotel

by Jan Percival

Keep your eyes on The Lafayette Hotel. It’s about to have a collection of new, albeit temporary, residents. They will be moving from Westminster Manor, a downtown apartment tower where a $12.5 million renovation is already under way.

Understanding that seniors don’t welcome disruption, the new owners of the 1972-era building have taken the unusual step of finding temporary quarters for their residents, many of whom have chosen the historic El Cajon Boulevard hotel as their home for a few months. Chelsea Investment Corp, in partnership with Westminster Manor of San Diego, Inc., purchased the building in November. Chelsea is overseeing the building renovations and the relocation effort.

Gwynne Joyce Joseph, 71, and her neighbors will begin their adventure in early February, leaving their studio and one-bedroom apartments while the Westminster gets a full interior and exterior makeover. She says she’s treating it like a vacation. “I think I’ll have fun over there,” she said, regarding the move to the Lafayette.

Built in 1946 by developer Larry Imsig and once owned by Conrad Hilton, the hotel sports a swimming pool designed by Johnny Weissmuller and has played host to the likes of Bob Hope and Ava Gardner. A long-awaited renovation was completed in 2011, bringing new life to the hotel, swim club and bungalows. Josh Lujan, Lafayette’s general manager, said it will be exciting to host their new residents. While they frequently provide space for corporate relocations, it is not necessarily on the scale of this one that will fill 20 to 30 rooms on a rotating basis over the eight-month renovation at Westminster. He and the staff had a chance to meet many of the residents before the relocation, first at a reception and later a holiday caroling event. “We are welcoming them with open arms,” he said. “I think people were excited to connect with the heritage and history of The Lafayette.”

The new guests will be served three meals a day in their own private dining area as well as have full access to the pool, exercise room, and lounge as part of their accommodations. Special events, like movie nights and other activities, will also be provided free of charge. Eighty-year-old Ed Stacey, who will leave his 10th-floor, bay view apartment for about three months, said he was a little skeptical about the plans to move when he first heard about them. But after visiting and meeting the new guests, he said he was won over by the place. It has everything I want including a pool, a big lobby, an exercise room – and three meals a day. I think I’d kinda like the break.”

Chelsea engaged social worker Joe Gavin of the Serving Seniors organization to work with the residents and Westminster’s property management team to ease the relocation process. “It’s been great getting to know the staff at the Lafayette,” he said. “They’ve been very welcoming and are taking special steps to see that our residents are treated as their own.”

New Business on Park Blvd. Cecilia’s Fine Jewelry

Need a little something special for your Valentine? Check out Cecilia’s Fine Jewelry just north of Plumeria. Cecilia worked for the Francis Family Jewelers for almost 20 years, and has been in the jewelry business for 27 years. When they closed Dec. 24, she made plans to open her own jewelry store in University Heights. She loves the neighborhood. If you get this newsletter by Saturday, January 31 be sure and drop by for the grand opening between noon and 5 pm. She specializes in jewelry design, repairs, watch repair, estate jewelry, resale, and appraisals. She is open Monday-Thursday from 10 am - 6 pm. On Friday and Saturday she’s open from 10 am - 7 pm.

Cecilia’s Fine Jewelry
4669 Park Blvd.
619-297-7300

Plume

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION

UHCA’s Plume for February goes to the many businesses and volunteers who made the Caroling in the Heights such a spectacular performance. Mystic Mocha’s Rami and Linda are always so generous with their goodies and hospitality, thank you. New venues this year, Cueva Bar, thank Oz, and thanks to Mike, owner/chef of Circa. Your neighbors and patrons loved the entertainment.

Also new this year, Steve “Sheep” Riley, owner of the Big Front Door, thank you for the fantastic cookies and hot chocolate. Thanks to Twigg’s who provided wonderful treats at the Vermont Street Bridge. Thanks to the volunteers who made this event possible: Christopher Hutchinson, Van Effner, Rhett Butler, MaryBeth Chruden, Maureen Markey and Peter Rose, Marcia and Greg Sorini, Susy and David Holts, Monica Lanctot and Adam Graham, Jeanine Hine, Kristie Edgmond. As usual, our performers, The Full Measure Carolers, were spectacular. A special tribute goes to Andy Cameron, UH lighting guru, for his expert skills at the Vermont Street Bridge and the Markey-Rose home.

New Business on Park Blvd.
Cecilia’s Fine Jewelry

Remember the first time you fell in love? Give someone you love a gift they will treasure all year long.

Give the Gift of Friendship

Give someone you love a gift they will treasure all year long.

A Friends of University Heights Library membership is the perfect gift for all your friends and loved ones.

Call or stop by to get your gifts!
1459 Park Blvd.
(619) 892-4912

SDPD University Heights Branch Library
Meet Toni Atkins, California State Assembly Speaker and Her Staff

The University Heights Library is honored to be chosen as one of the local venues for Public Office Hours for Speaker Toni Atkins and her staff.

Please feel free to drop in, say hello, ask questions, and discuss your concerns. The “Office” is open to the public at 6 pm on the first Wednesday of every month. February 4 is the date of your next opportunity to take advantage.

Become a Friend of the University Heights Library

If you enjoy the services and programs provided by the University Heights Branch Library, you need to know that our programming depends on the generosity of donations from the community. One of the best ways you can help support the library is to join the Friends of the University Heights Library. For a minimum donation of $10 ($5 for students and seniors) you can sign up for an annual Friends membership. Just stop into the branch and ask a staff member for a membership envelope. Help our library to be fabulous, make new friends, join the Friends of the University Heights Library.

Friends of the Library Book Sale – Saturday, February 21 (8 am – 3 pm) and Sunday, February 22 (noon – 4 pm)

Find great bargains on books, DVDs, Music CDs and vintage vinyl at the Friends of the San Diego Public Library Book Sale. All proceeds for the book sale go to support the Friends of the San Diego Public Library. Please join us.

UH Book Club & Salon: Five Came Back A Story of Hollywood and the Second World War By Mark Harris

Mark Harris has provided a startling account of how five acclaimed directors (John Ford, George Stevens, John Huston, William Wyler, and Frank Capra) enlisted in every branch of the US forces, only to return, deeply moved and changed, to approach film making in new ways. These directors went to war in the 1940s to make propaganda films and came home deeply affected by what they saw and what they did. The stories of what these film makers did in the war are dramatic and nearly every page offers an example of the author’s ability to capture the essence of a person or an event. This captivating and well-researched history makes you want to revisit many of the films that these directors were involved in after their return to civilian life.

For 15 years author, Harris worked as a writer and an editor covering movies, television, and books for Entertainment Weekly. He is the author of Pictures at a Revolution: Five Movies and the Birth of the New Hollywood. A graduate of Yale University, he lives in New York City with his husband, Tony Kushner (author of the 1993 Pulitzer Prize winning play Angels in America).

The Book Club is meeting on Wednesday, February 25. The book will be available at the UH Library’s front desk in February. New members are always welcome!
Birney Buzz

By Laura Dadmun
Alice Birney Elementary School Parent

Shoes With Heart Fundraiser

From January 28 through February 6, Birney will be participating in Shoes With Heart. Just drop off any unused shoes (pairs only please!) at Birney during this time period. Birney will donate the shoes to Shoes With Heart, which will in turn deliver the shoes to needy people in developing nations. Birney then receives money based on how many pounds of shoes we collect, and old shoes get a new life.

Come Out to U-31 on February 20 -- Have a Great Time and Support Birney!

Join us on February 20 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm at U-31, a great local watering hole, for a fun evening of drinking, dancing and socializing while supporting Birney. U-31 is located at 3112 University Avenue. It has great food, including burgers, tacos, green bean fries, and a full bar. U-31 will give 40% of the receipts generated to Birney's Foundation, so come check it out!

Thank you to the UHCA Giving Tree “Angels” who donated $1,120 in gift cards for the children and families in need.

Those Pesky UT Supplements

by Shelia Moss

Tired of receiving those each Friday? Here’s how to stop their delivery; call the Union Tribune at 1-877-730-8252 and tell them that you do not want to receive the Friday Tribune at 1-877-730-8232 and tell them that you do not want to receive the Friday Tribune at 1-877-730-8232 and tell them that you do not want to receive the Friday Tribune at 1-877-730-8232 and tell them that you do not want to receive the Friday Tribune at 1-877-730-8232 and tell them that you do not want to receive the Friday Tribune at 1-877-730-8232 and tell them that you do not want to receive the Friday Tribune at 1-877-730-8232 and tell them that you do not want to receive the Friday Tribune.

United Methodist Bishop to Address Social Justice and the Immigration Crisis

By Holly Watt

The San Diego School of Christian Studies will present an address by United Methodist Bishop Minerva Carcaño on the topic of Social Justice and the Immigration Crisis, primarily as pertaining to children, on Sunday, February 15, at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary of First Church in Mission Valley. First United Methodist Church of San Diego is located at 2111 Camino del Rio South, west of Texas St.

Holly Watt
Director of Communications
FIRST CHURCH
First United Methodist Church of San Diego
(619) 297-4366 x126
mulitchurch@fumcsd.org

N°2 PROJECT UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
KEEP U.S. CLEAN AND DEPENDABLE

Doggie Baggies Needed for Project No. 2

UHCA is collecting doggie bags, newspaper, and produce bags to supply Project #2 (see above). Please bring them to UHCA meetings.

Jog-A-Thon 2015!

On Friday, March 13, the kids at Alice Birney Elementary School will participate in their annual Jog-a-Thon. Our kids will be raising money to protect programs that make Birney unique and successful. 100% of the proceeds will go to support enrichment activities, such as Spanish and art instruction, which are critical to our International Baccalaureate certification, as well as support teachers with needed supplies. Birney’s foundation, Friends of Alice Birney Elementary School, is asking local businesses to sponsor the event by donating money or prizes for the kids who participate in the Jog-a-Thon. In the past, we’ve received generous support from Mary Anne Stevens, The Burger Lounge, Birch Aquarium, the Midway Museum, the Automotive Museum, Sprouts, and The Water Lady, to name a few. How about you? Your donation will support our school activities and help us raise the needed funds to support our kids. Please contact aliceinwerenfrieden@gmail.com if you can contribute to our efforts in any way.

Pet owners who do not clean up after their dogs are a real issue in our neighborhood. There are piles of dog waste everywhere. This waste affects everyone. It is not only smelly and unsightly, but it is unhygienic and pollutes our water. Pet waste attracts flies, dogs, and other insects. From the county: “Pet wastes are among the many common stormwater pollutants that can degrade water quality. When water (i.e., rain, hose water, sprinklers, etc.) contacts pet wastes the resulting stormwater runoff has been found to contain high concentrations of pathogens such as bacteria, parasites, and viruses. When they wash into our recreational waters, they can make people sick with sore throats, intestinal problems, rashes, nausea, and eye and ear infections.” It is also a crime to leave dog waste behind. Dogs are not allowed to defecate or urinate on the property of another. It is the owner’s job to curb the dog and immediately remove any feces to a proper receptacle: San Diego County Code 62.670.

In an area with primarily street parking (south of El Cajon Blvd), it is common to arrive home after work in the dark and step out of one’s car into a pile of poop, or worse, to take one’s groceries out of your car and to set them into a pile of poop. Many neighbors are upset about this situation. We have tried confronting the dog owners in our area and nearly all who were asked to pick up after their pets became defensive and fairly refused. In response to this situation, UHCA has generously offered to supply two doggie waste bag dispensers, in hopes that making waste bags accessible will cut down on the amount of waste left behind by negligent owners. Prior to handing out the dispensers, weekly counts of the amounts of poop left behind in one square block were counted for four weeks and all poop was picked up by volunteers. The two new poop bag dispensers were hung in public locations by two gracious volunteers who agreed to host them on their properties. A special thanks to Emma, Rick and Doug.

Sam is a seven-month-old rescue of diverse lineage - Black & Tan Coon Hound, Toy Manchester Terrier, Bomer, German Shepard, and according to the DNA test, even Chihuahua! His prior was rescued from under a freeway and taken to the Helen Woodward Animal Center in Rancho Santa Fe. He is an energetic, happy youngster who loves meeting dogs and people alike. He is spayed and, after the perinatal period of the nearby all-way! We are optimistic that the dispensers will make a difference, however, on our first day of counting, piles of dog waste were found located immediately beside each dispenser. This finding leads us to our special plea. We would like to make a special plea to the apartment complex owners and managers. If your property allows dogs, please be responsible and provide waste bag dispensers, but also hang signs stating that the pet owners must pick up after their pets and bring their waste home with them and dispose of it in their own trash bins. By talking with our neighbors when we go out to scoop the dog poop off our streets, and through personal observation, we believe that the majority of the dog waste offenders in the study area live in apartment buildings where there are limited areas to walk one’s dogs. If the apartment managers would be more proactive about the needs of the dogs they allow on their property, maybe we would have cleaner streets.

Lastly, it is also very important for those who do scoop up their dog’s waste to take this waste home with you to your trash bin. If you stop on the way and throw your trash into another’s bin, this results in one trash bin full of everyone’s dog feces. This is a nuisance and means that one homeowner now has to smell a week’s worth of feces from many different dogs. In the summer, the smell is overwhelming and the flies are unbearable. Moving one’s trash bins out of sight is always a good idea and is actually a law, however, on many occasions, we have observed neighbors entering our property and the properties around us in order to rid themselves of their dog’s waste. This is trespassing and definitely not neighborly behavior. If you want to have a dog as a pet, you also own its poop. You are responsible for its health and happiness, its food and shelter, it exercise and its waste. Dogs are wonderful additives to people’s lives, but they come with poop and if you own a dog, this poop is yours.
EATING OUT

Adams Avenue Grill 2201 Adams Ave. 298-8440
Bahia Mexican & Seafood 1905 El Cajon Blvd. 542-0540
Bahn Thai 4646 Park Blvd. 298-6383
BBQ 81 2302 El Cajon Blvd. 225-1958
bfé (big front door) 4135 Park Blvd. 255-4100
Circa 2212 Adams Ave. 269-9152
Cueva Bar 2123 Adams Ave. 269-6012
DeMi Café Café 1735 Adams Ave. 788-4216
Flavors of East Africa 2322 El Cajon Blvd. 955-8778
Great Maple 1451 Washington St. 255-2382
Hope at Lafayette 2222 El Cajon Blvd 780-0338
Lancer’s Bar 4671 Park Blvd. 298-5382
Lestat’s on Park 4496 Park Blvd. 282-0437
Loving Hut 1900 El Cajon Blvd. 682-9490
Mama’s Bakery & Lebanese Deli 4237 Alabama St. 688-0717
Mizitah Abyssinian Bistro 4651 Park Blvd. 546-7900
Mystic Mocha 2105 Mission Ave. 688-0858
Park Boulevard Deli 4504 Park Blvd. 295-1362
Park House Eaterly 4574 Park Blvd. 295-7275
Pizzeria Bruno Napoletano 4207 Park Blvd. 260-1311
Pizzeria Luigs 2121 El Cajon Blvd. 294-9417
Plumeria Vegetarian Cuisine 4951 Park Blvd. 269-9989
Pomegranate Restaurant 2312 El Cajon Blvd. 297-4007
Red Fox Steak House 2221 El Cajon Blvd. 297-1313
Red House Pizza 4615 Park Blvd. 546-7430
Small Bar 4628 Park Blvd. 795-7998
Soltan Bamoo 4645 Park Blvd. 298-2801
Summer’s Market 4602 Park Blvd. 296-0594
Twiggs 4590 Park Blvd. 290-0016
Well Spring Tea Room 4538 Park Blvd. 298-2800
Wing Stop 1901 El Cajon Blvd. 297-WING (9464)

Note: Both Bourbon Street and Lei Lounge have closed. See page 1.
An Introduction: Roosevelt Middle School
by Richard Harris

It isn’t what it used to be. Roosevelt enrolled about 750 students five years ago and 960 today, whereas San Diego Unified enrollment is stable, demonstrating that Roosevelt is a magnet school for parents who want rigorous public education for their kids. See for yourselves and ask your important questions by joining a campus tour any Friday at 9 a.m. Visit sandi.net/Roosevelt to sign up.

Performing Arts Adventurers at Roosevelt Middle School

Cultural commentators have bemoaned the dwindling attendance of young people at classical music, jazz, choral performances, ethnic dance and other performing arts genres. "Cutting The String" is a result of collaboration with DanceArt.org and will introduce several types of Latin dance (March 20). "Let’s Laugh Together" in collaboration with Finest City Improv, will explore types of improv and stand-up comedy (May 8); and later this spring, Sassafrass will provide a combo or two to highlight Dixieland, Blues, Swing and American Songbook jazz. Programming in future years may expose students to classical orchestra, opera, choral genres, hip hop, circus, various Latin (the students are over 60% Latino), world music and dance, and who knows what else.

Events will typically be in the evening (at 3366 Park Boulevard), with students, parents and the public invited. Concerts are free (pass the hat) or reasonably priced with proceeds supporting a growing "wish list" of school needs.

The first event, "Time Travel Through Classical Music," in collaboration with AmatueurFinest.org was in January. But don’t mass future performances which include "Cious's String," Croc's concert with DanceArt.org and will introduce several types of Latin dance (March 20). "Let’s Laugh Together" in collaboration with Finest City Improv , will explore types of improv and stand-up comedy (May 8); and later this spring , Sassafrass will provide a combo or two to highlight Dixieland, Blues, Swing and American Songbook jazz. Programming in future years may expose students to classical orchestra, opera, choral genres, hip hop, circus, various Latin (the students are over 60% Latino), world music and dance, and who knows what else.

So put the above dates on your calendars and check out the web site at FriendsofRoosevelt.org or coosevelt.org for more information.

Richard Harris, Community Volunteer and Chair of the Friends of Roosevelt Middle School, 619-255-3345

Roosevelt Middle School international Baccalaureate® Magnet

Todd Gloria, Continued from page 3

approval and implementation of San Diego’s Climate Action Plan that is based largely on the plan I authored when I served as Mayor. In the interim, I have worked with San Diegans more options than driving remains critical. Making our transit system a high quality transportation option with more efficient service like the Rapid through University Heights and the addition of WiFi to some Rapid buses, and adding safer pedestrian and bicycle facilities throughout the city are changes I anticipate this year.

I also foresee the passage of a standardized parklet policy that will encourage development of creative public spaces like the Diegomania relief relief measure aimed at helping small and start-up businesses, and updating the city’s non-discrimination language to ensure San Diego’s policies reflect tolerance and respect for all people.

Since joining the City Council in 2008 and through my service as Council President and Mayor, I’ve tried my best to move San Diego forward and to leave the city I love better than I found it. I’m proud of the accomplishments we’ve achieved together and can’t wait to celebrate more for you in 2015.

The City’s first priority will always be the safety of our citizens. We must do all within our power to ensure the dedicated SDPD officers are compensated at a level that reflects their hard work and retains their experience for the protection of University Heights. This is the most significant short-term challenge facing us, and I believe we must tackle it early in 2015.

Whether I’m at the grocery store or just checking Twitter, the biggest frustration you continue to share with me is the condition of our streets and sidewalks. In recent years, we began to chip away at this problem, but we must do better. I have serious concerns with the lack of a comprehensive solution to this multi-billion dollar infrastructure problem that is the biggest long-term challenge facing us. As the Chairman of the Council’s Budget Committee, I will schedule hearings to draw attention to this matter throughout 2015.

Before we have the opportunity in June 2016 to approve the minimum wage increase I championed, I will pursue the application of California’s new earned sick leave law to the hundreds of hourly city employees that do not currently have this benefit. Allowing seasonal life guards, library aides, recreation center staff, and others that regularly work less than full-time to take time off when they are ill is the right thing to do for our workers and for protecting public health.

Last year, I led the city to make significant reforms to our homelessness programs. The changes we made focused on reallocating our limited resources to results-orientated programs proven to move people off the streets and into housing. In 2015, I will monitor and report on the efficacy of these programs and continue to build relationships between service providers, government, businesses, philanthropists, and the public to leverage additional resources to achieve our goal of ending homelessness in San Diego. While we still have a long way to go, we will not give up on this effort until we meet our objective.

As a new member of the Environment Committee, I look forward to the approval and implementation of San Diego’s Climate Action Plan that is based largely on the plan I authored when I served as Mayor. In the meantime, giving San Diegans more options than driving remains critical. Making our transit system a high quality transportation option with more efficient service like the Rapid through University Heights and the addition of WiFi to some Rapid buses, and adding safer pedestrian and bicycle facilities throughout the city are changes I anticipate this year.

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SECRET S OF SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZING Part One

By Cathryn Golden

The New Year is upon us! Have “the voices” started yet? you know, the ones that speak to you about how “you really SHOULD organize that closet…garage…pantry—storage area…office…file cabinet…fill-in-the-blanks!!!” We’ve all heard them. The voices that make you feel guilty about “the stuff”. Then make you feel overwhelmed about how to even begin. And most likely have made you attempt (unsuccessfully) to change the situation—only to feel the onslaught of almost realistic naivete upon reliving the whole unending scenario. Did I mention guilt???

Perhaps a different approach might work better—tell the gnawing “stuff” that it is to finally letting go of things that aren’t needed or aren’t working for you anymore; feeling really good about the things that you do keep; and having what’s left be organized, accessible, and functional. What a concept!!! Based on the first approach, I would suggest that the FIRST secret is: Eliminate "SHOULDING" on yourself!! Seriously— as Dr. Phil would say, "How’s that workin’ for ya??" In the words of the Frozen song; "Let it go,.....!!!"

The next order of business (a/k/a secret) is to figure out: What is the advantage of changing this situation? There truly is psychology behind the reasons why and the actual things that our life just happens; other times it’s much more involved. (That could be a whole series of articles in and of itself.) But let’s save some time, and cut to the chase. Drum roll...here is the secret: Find something MORE IMPORTANT (and enticing) than "the stuff"!

Otherwise, it’s probably not going to happen, or it’s going to take a REAL-LY L-O-N-G-G-G time for it to occur. Period. The End.

So it’s helpful to have a vision of: What will it look like and feel like when you are through with the project? The more it revs you up, the better. A couple of examples could be: It feels AMAZING to finally park my car in the garage!!! I LOVE sleeping in an extra 15 minutes every morning (because I can easily find things)!! What would YOU like to have or do...instead of the clutter? Find the YES! factor; and write it down!

Additionally, a very empowering secret is to: Create a SHORT saying (mantra) associated with what you’re working toward. Examples: “Car in the garage!” “Extra sleep, every day!”” Memorize it, repeat. This is especially helpful if you’re having a “yeah, but...” moment, and they do occur. No biggie. This will get you back on track. The more lightly you’re having about you, the easier it will be.

On your mark—get set—GO!!

Previews of coming attractions:

How to start? Where to start? What to do...and NOT do?

Cathryn Golden, CPA®, CFSC, CGC, Owner

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gold@balanced-environments.com

By Cathryn Golden

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Townhouse | 4BR/2.5BA | Building: 1,892 Sq. Ft

Pemberley Realty’s Happy Hour!!!

Thursday, Feb. 12th: 4-6pm

Pemberley Realty invites you to a happy hour at Elbowroom. We will be serving appetizers and a drink of your choice. Just come and hang out with us to have fun and discuss real estate updates in 2015.

Roxanne Govari & Team

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