

# SAN DIEGO Reader

VOLUME 43 / NUMBER 10  
MARCH 6, 2014



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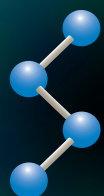
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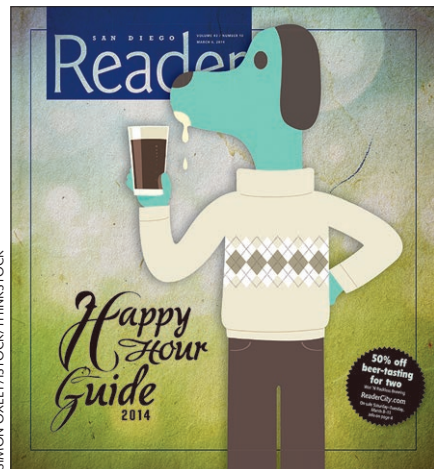




# San Diego Reader

SanDiegoReader.com  
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March 6, 2014



Clock out and belly up, San Diego — page 68



Philip Glass, visualized — page 88

## Three's a Charm WIN \$100

Find somewhere in our features  
(articles, listings, or classifieds)  
three instances of the same phrase.  
This week's clue: "job hounds" (2 words)



Last week's contest results — page 104

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## NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers

**Chief Zimmerman: four years and out**

New police chief signed up for tenure-limiting DROP pension a year ago

The term of San Diego mayor-elect Kevin Faulconer's quick pick to be chief of police may be limited to four years.



New San Diego police chief Shelley Zimmerman looks (looked?) forward to retiring in a few years.

According to a pension-board document, assistant police chief Shelley Zimmerman opted to participate in the city's so-called Deferred Retirement Option Plan, also known as DROP, as of March 2 of last year.

The program allows an employee to retire officially but continue working for five years, during which he or she receives a salary and a pension. The pension builds up in a separate account that can't be collected until the person retires.

An executive in the human-resources department of the San Diego City Employees' Retirement System says that the employee is required to retire after five years.

After looking into the matter, retirement spokesperson Christina Di Leva stated in an email: "Chief Zimmerman entered DROP on March 2, 2013 and will exit DROP on March 1, 2018. DROP is irrevocable and as such, a DROP participant must exit DROP at the end of the designated period. A DROP retiree may return to work as a provisional employee for a maximum of 90 days per year."

According to a personal statement of economic interest Zimmerman filed yesterday with the city clerk's office, her only reportable asset is stock valued at between \$10,000 and \$100,000 in cell-phone giant Qualcomm, Inc., which she acquired in March 1994.

Matt Potter (with Don Bauder co-reporting)

**Are you afraid of guns?**

Attorney General appeals restriction ruling  
On February 27, California Attorney General Kamala Harris asked the Ninth U.S. District Circuit of Appeals to review and reverse a February 13 decision in which a panel of the court ruled that San Diego County's requirement that people show "good cause" in obtaining a weapons permit violated the Second Amendment.

San Diego sheriff Bill Gore did not challenge the decision, disturbing law-enforce-

ment officials throughout the state who worried that concealed gun permits would proliferate.

Harris asked that the full 11-person court review the ruling. Harris is concerned that sheriffs throughout the state could be required to issue permits based simply on the applicants' wish to carry a gun for self-defense.

Don Bauder

**Man accused of being a gang member denies murder**

Told girlfriend to "forget him" and throw possessions away

On February 19, Rene Sanchez was brought into a San Diego courtroom, where he denied killing a man during a Halloween party at an Escondido home in 2007.

Sanchez pleaded not guilty to one count of murder and two counts of attempted murder; he also denied gang affiliations.

Last month, the district attorney's office unsealed documents that reveal information about the cold-case murder.

According to prosecutor Geoff Allard, authorities in Mexico captured Sanchez and handed him over to Escondido police in September of 2013. Sanchez is described as an American citizen.

On a Saturday night in October of 2007, just before midnight, Escondido police responded to a home in Pueblo Glen.

Witnesses told police that a group of strangers arrived and went into the backyard; the hostess of the party asked the group to leave. Next, a male host approached the group, a fight broke out, and then shots were fired.



Escondido police headquarters

A man was declared dead at the hospital later; he had five gunshot wounds. The party hostess suffered two stab wounds and survived; one other male victim survived a gunshot wound to his back.

An investigator stated that persons hosting the party were associated with a gang known as "Westsidiers," and the group of strangers who arrived were "Diablos," a rival gang.

One report stated that Sanchez phoned

continued on page 38



A surveillance camera caught suspect David Diaz trying to punch Carlsbad detective Scott Stallman.

**Goat noises and howling**

By Eva Knott

**'H**e attempted to punch me in the face as he ran towards me," said Carlsbad police detective Scott Stallman. The murder suspect had become increasingly "agitated" and "animated" after detectives confronted him with evidence that contradicted his story, the detective told a judge.

The detective said he had

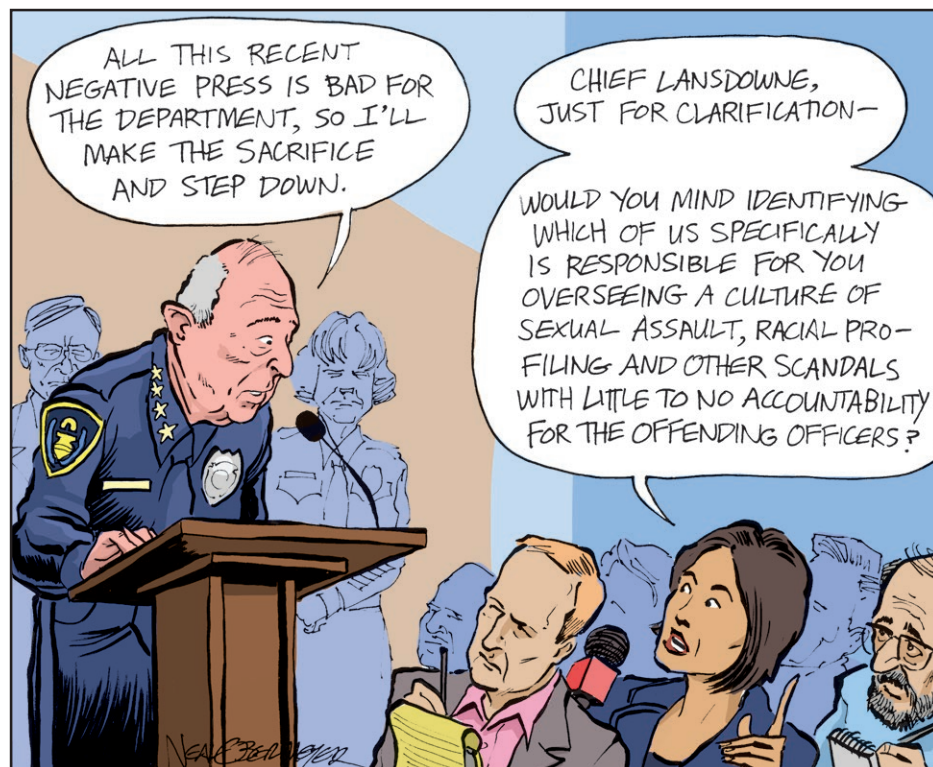
stood up and told 31-year-old David Diaz to stop pacing the room and regain his seat during an interview at police headquarters on Orion Way. Instead, Diaz rushed the officer and

swung at his head. That ended the recorded interview, according to the detective. A still photo of the confrontation was presented as evidence in San Diego Superior Court on February 5.

David Diaz has been in custody in lieu of \$5 million bail since August 7, 2013, when his housemate, 24-year-old Asher Freeman, was found stabbed to death in the home they shared at 3550 Sierra Morena Drive in Carlsbad.

Freeman had responded to a room-for-rent ad six to eight months before his death, police said. Freeman moved into an upstairs bedroom, and his housemate Diaz lived downstairs. Freeman was an art student who kept to himself and did not interact or socialize with Diaz, according to witnesses.

Police found Freeman face-down on the carpet in the middle of his bedroom, his head and hands were a bloody mess. The medical examiner later declared the cause of death to be multiple stab wounds to the head and neck. There was a separate pool of blood near the body;

**Neal Obermeyer**





David Diaz in court

it appeared the victim might have been moved or rolled over. Black ink was spilled and mixed with blood spatter around the room; more ink and blood were on a set of broken headphones found near the body. The deceased was lying near a little drafting table; investigators said they found many drawings and artwork in the room.

Cops followed blood droplets down the carpeted stairs, which led to a downstairs bathroom. There were blood smears in the shower stall and around the bathroom sink; blood from the sink was DNA-matched to Diaz. A black polo shirt found on the bathroom floor had a mixture of DNA from both Diaz and the deceased man, according to prosecutor Paul Myers. Blood spots found near the kitchen sink were matched to Diaz. Under the kitchen sink, investigators found two knives described as “extremely

clean” and “placed oddly” on top of cleaning supplies. Despite the cleaning, one of those knives had Diaz’s DNA on it.

Police said it was Diaz who dialed 911 to report a shooting, and it was still daylight when they arrived before 6 p.m. that Wednesday afternoon to find Diaz



Police found art student Asher Freeman's identification at the scene of his stabbing death.

on the phone, in the driveway of his home.

Diaz was “emphatic” that he did not go into the room where the body was found, according to detective Scott Stallman. “He told me he never entered the room.”

“He was nervous and high-strung,” said officer Adam Bentley. Diaz was shirtless, and cops quickly noticed scratches on his body and that Diaz was bleeding from one hand. “He said that a drug dealer had shot his roommate,” officer Bentley testified. Diaz told police that a drug dealer made a swipe at his belly with a knife before he fled, and when Diaz deflected that attack his hand got cut.

Parts of Diaz’s story changed over time, according to police. At first, Diaz reported hearing a gunshot, but no evidence of a gun or shots fired was found. Eventually, Diaz said that he saw a man stabbing his housemate. He also said he saw two tall black men come to the front door and then go upstairs with his roommate. When the two men fled, Diaz claimed they escaped

in a red Porsche or Ferrari that had been parked at the end of the driveway, witnesses said.

Cops collected surveillance video from a neighbor whose property overlooked Diaz’s home. Detective Stallman said he reviewed that video and did not see two men enter nor exit the residence; nor did he see a red sports car. The detective said he did see David Diaz exit the front of the house shortly before police arrived.

A neighbor told investigators that she heard a man’s voice that day, yelling, “Turn that shit down!” The witness understood the comment to be related to loud

music playing in the backyard. The neighbor said she knew Diaz’s voice and that it was not Diaz demanding the volume be lowered. She also said it was a little after 5 p.m. that same day when she saw Diaz make a small fire in his backyard and then he danced around the fire and made “goat noises” and “howling.”

Investigators interviewed the Diaz’s father, Manuel Diaz. The elder Diaz told police that he owned the home where his son and roommate lived. The father told investigators that his son David liked to watch DVDs of Al Pacino movies.

During cross-examina-

tion, defense attorney Matthew Roberts suggested that Diaz did not enjoy full mental health defense. He noted that investigators found 11 medications that had been prescribed to Diaz. Roberts also suggested Diaz’s irrational behavior might be attributed to drugs. Investigators confirmed that toxicology tests were ordered for Diaz but the results of those tests were not revealed.

Diaz pleads not guilty to one charge of murder and one felony charge of threatening violence on a peace officer. ■

(@evaknott)



Asher Freeman was found dead in this Carlsbad home he shared with David Diaz.



Detective Stallman testified that Diaz claimed not to have entered Asher's room. DNA evidence indicated otherwise.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB WEATHERSTON

PHOTOGRAPH BY EVA KNOTT



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## LETTERS

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Phone them in at 619-235-3000, x460; address them to Letters, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803; or submit them at [SDReader.com/letters](http://SDReader.com/letters). Include your name, address, and phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

### Ticket to Park

I just had to respond to "Ticket to Ride" (Letters, February 20) and the comment, "There are No Smoking signs posted everywhere in El Cajon, and a person smoking under each one of them."

I live across the street from Valhalla High School, and every school day there are parents parked right next to the No Parking - Bike Lane signs. I have lived there for 13 years and have never seen the Highway Patrol ticketing them. I'm sure if they did do that, there would be a loud scream from the parents: *How dare they ticket me!*

By the way, the students there do a better job of obeying that law than their parents. I have yet to see a student do that. Those who do park on the street are always within the legal parking areas.

Dale Dickerson  
Rancho San Diego

### Perch Wars

My name is Red C. Perch, and I am writing in response to Old Mackerel Breath

(Letters, February 6). I take offense to your comments. My family and the few friends I have left live on the reefs outside of the Children's Pool, Seal Rock, and the cove and its shoreline to the east.

You have eaten half of my family and lots of my fish friends. I have to breathe your crap every day to survive, which makes my fins rot and ache. We face constant pressure from you sea lions and your buddies, the harbor seals. And let's not forget those evil fishermen, who usually let us go these days. We try to be smart as we swim in schools to avoid you, but it is getting harder to survive every day.

It's a fact that you lions live and migrate to the Channel Islands, the Coronados, etcetera, and can even survive without the need of land. You have miles and miles of protected shoreline to live without the humans bothering you.

Who don't you go vegan and eat only kelp and moss like we do? Maybe you also might think about safe sex, in an attempt to control your out-of-control population. At least my buddies, the great whites, are enjoying that.

As far as the wall making the Children's Pool, I agree with Gary Gieselman of O.B./Point Loma (Letters, February 6), and the words of former President Ronald Reagan, who said to the former Soviet Union, "Tear down this wall!"

I hope to swim another day.

Red C. Perch  
Children's Pool Reef

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# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

TIJUANA

## Remembering hundreds of dissolved bodies Art project constructed on site of human remains

The story of Santiago Meza López is one of the most gruesome and well-known narco stories to come out from Baja.

Meza earned his nickname of “El Pozolero” because he dissolved more than 300



Artist Ramón García Vázquez turned a gruesome tomb into a dignified place.

bodies inside barrels filled with acid. Pozole is a traditional Mexican chunky soup; Meza was the soup-maker.

The place where El Pozolero dumped his remains is known as “El Gallero,” an empty lot roughly 50 feet by 230 feet. The RECO project, which stands for *reconstruir, reconocer y reconciliar* (rebuild, recognize, reconcile), was finalized on February 22. The project helped transform the empty lot into a dignified place where affected families can mourn.

The two pits are covered with mosaic murals done by Mexicali artist Ramón García Vázquez. “This is one of the most important

experiences I have had in my artistic career,” commented García.

MATTHEW SUÁREZ

## UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS Save the building...can we have a library?

Historic site “sits in a state of demolition,” but it’s not too late

For several years, the University Heights Community Development Corporation has been pushing to acquire the old Teachers Training Annex 1, owned by the San Diego Unified School District. The development corporation’s plan would renovate the 1910 structure and make it the new University Heights Branch Library.

The building is on the National Register of Historic Places and currently part of the school district’s education-center complex along Normal Street.

Also advocating to save the Italian Renaissance Revival-style building is Save Our Heritage Organisation. Bruce Coons, executive director of the organization, is skeptical that progress on the acquisition is being made. He previously stated that the building “sits in a state of demolition by neglect. The powers-that-be appear to simply be waiting until it’s conveniently too late to save this uniquely grand piece of local history.”

Ronald V. Johnston is chair of the University Heights development corporation’s library task force. In an email, he said he has “done all of the negotiations and reached agreements with the school board and school district. The city is not, and never will be, buying the land or building.” Johnston added: “The land and building is owned by the school district, and the library is to be a JOINT USE library as well as a shared-use space for the community and school district.”

The renovation cost would be substantial. Johnston said, “The extensive evaluation of the building, which was done by the architectural firm of Fields Devereaux, estimated

the cost to approach \$10 million. That was a few years ago, so that number could be higher or lower now.” As for funding, Johnston said their “current goal is to get the project included in the city’s infrastructure bond issue funding.”

DAVID BATTERSON

## ALLIED GARDENS Parking problems

People are dressing in the street

People who park on streets near Kaiser Hos-



Despite ample free parking onsite, Kaiser visitors/employees crowd residential streets.

pital/Medical Center on Zion Avenue may find “a friendly reminder” from District 7 city councilman Scott Sherman on their vehicles.

Sherman’s reminder advises the recipient “to be aware” about parking “in a residential neighborhood. Please be courteous to the neighbors...by not speeding, blocking driveways, or littering. If you are visiting Kaiser Permanente, please be aware that there is ample FREE parking on-site or through their FREE valet parking service.”

The parking-permit plan to prevent street parking in the neighborhood would start with a petition drive in the affected area. If approved by the city council, a household could purchase four permits, each priced at \$14 annually.

A packet containing the reminder (printed on yellow cardstock), a vehicle-tracker spreadsheet, and a parking fact sheet was distributed at the February 25 Allied Gardens Community Council meeting.

Councilman Sherman asked if anyone was interested in a permit program; no one raised a hand.

Tanah Lorah, Kaiser community and government relations manager, said that although it was legal for people to park on public streets, that her company was reminding employees and contractors about parking policies.

She said Kaiser listened to residents’ concerns. “A new one is people dressing in the street.”

Lorah advised people to call the police when they observe an illegal activity.

LIZ SWAIN

CARLSBAD

## Lassie safe from Korean dog butcher Collie flown to Southern California for adoption

On February 22, the annual San Diego Collie Club dog show took place at Magee Park along Carlsbad Boulevard. The show helps raise money for the Southland Collie Rescue organization.

In addition to the judging of over 25 collies from around the southwestern U.S., both smooth and rough coats (like Lassie), most people were talking about the rescue organization’s recent rescues from Korea.

The group got an email from a Korean dog-



Rescued collies and their owners at Magee Park

rescue group recently, saying a purebred collie had been found in a meat market, ready to be slaughtered. Southland Collie Rescue, based in Orange County, put out a call to its donors and quickly raised \$2000 to save the dog and

*continued on page 40*

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# BLOG DIEGO

TITLE: **Fur Babies** | ADDRESS: [lovemyfurbaby.blogspot.com](http://lovemyfurbaby.blogspot.com)  
AUTHOR: **Mary Catania** | FROM: **Little Italy** | BLOGGING SINCE: **2009**

## POST TITLE: **Crock Potting for Your Dog & Other Alternative Treatments**

POST DATE: **January 5, 2014**

“Would you feed your baby the same processed food day in and day out every day all day for the rest of his or her life? Probably not. So why are you feeding that to your dog?” That’s the question that my holistic vet asked me that opened my eyes to a whole new world of whole foods for my French bulldog Bleu.

You know you’ve surpassed your wild 20s and have reached your mature, sophisticated 30s when you have invested in a Cuisinart ceramic slow-cooker instead of Bloomingdale’s black leather pants. The ironic part is, I don’t really cook. As a vegetarian, I tend to snack a lot on whole grains, raw fruits, legumes, nuts, veggies, yogurt, and occasionally eat out.

But this year I’ve made a resolution to cook healthy. But this grand resolution is NOT for me. It’s not for my friends, family, children, or boyfriend, either. So, who could be more important than any of the above? My French bulldog Bleu.

Ever since I got him, I’ve been saddled with thousands of dollars’ worth of vet bills. Sinus infections. Viruses. Skin and food allergies. Head tremors. Papillomas. Ear infections. Conjunctivitis. You name it, he’s had it. And he’s only three. While my vet has tried her best to keep his bulldog baggage at bay, his problems keep coming back and new ones keep surfacing. I decided to try an alternative medicine route. I went to the Animal Healing Center and saw Dr. Diana Drum, a certified vet acupuncturist, chiropractor, and herbalist.

Be prepared to spend \$175 just to get your foot in the door, and also to wait week up to a few months to see one of these specialists; it’s worth it. Dr. Drum listened patiently as I recounted Bleu’s saga. She prescribed *thuja occidentalis* for Bleu’s papillomas that were forming all over his body. *Thuja* tincture comes from a tree and is a natural treatment for HPV (human papilloma virus), or in this case, CPV (canine papilloma virus). Warts

are small growths on the skin caused by a viral infection in the skin’s top layer. Bleu had a strong reaction to the meds and it scared me; he threw up the first time I administered it. But after a few weeks, only one small visible wart could be seen.



*Not just for people food anymore.*

Before dog food, dogs ate wild meat. Since we’ve introduced kibble, dog cancer and inflammatory diseases like arthritis and allergies have skyrocketed. Why are we feeding dogs stuff we would never touch? We all like convenience, and Americans are unfortunately culprits for easy fixes. If something is too much work, we look for an easy way out. Hence, prepackaged dog food. But I’m not taking the easy way out with my dog anymore. I can’t afford to. Neither can his health.

The best thing about crockpotting is you can make an entire batch of food for Fido that lasts all week long. You can refrigerate your food up to four days and freeze-dry any leftovers. The slow-cooker allows all the nutrients to stay in while thoroughly cooking your meat through. There’s even a rack on the top for your veggies if you want to keep them separate. I opted for the smaller size (3.5 quarts) because my kitchen is tiny and my dog is only 30 pounds.

The vet made sure to tell me that I have to slowly transition Bleu to a whole-foods diet. But in one month, he should be eating ground bison meat from Whole Foods, organic spinach, and sweet potato twice a day. What a lucky dog! Once I know Bleu can tolerate this diet, I can start adding in other veggies and starches and proteins, like sardines, radishes, parsnips, etc. It’s important to feed your dog veggies and fruits with low glycemic indexes. Surprisingly, carrots are high in sugar and not the best treat for your pup, although they like the crunch.

Who would have thought that a non-cooking vegetarian would be whipping up ground bison meat on a weekly basis in a crockpot for her doggy? I sure hope Bleu appreciates the effort.

*Bon appétit, mon chien!*

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# SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

## UCSD = UC Seeking Diversity

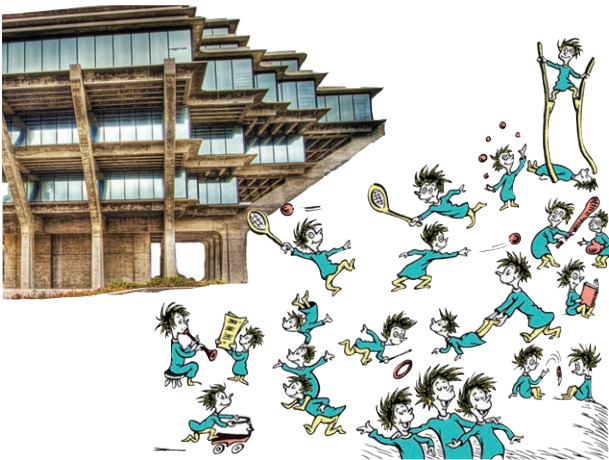
TIRED OF THE SAME-OLD SAME-OLD, LA JOLLA — In 2012, UC San Diego hired Wisconsin-based law professor Linda Greene to fill the newly created position of Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Now, after barely more than a year on the job, with nothing by way of explanation (or visible results), Greene has gone back to Wisconsin. But UCSD chancellor Pradeep Khosla has vowed to find a replacement and has already begun putting out feelers, in the form of a Dr. Seuss-style letter sent to key candidates nationwide. (Dr. Seuss, aka Theodor Geisel, was a great friend to the university, and its library bears his name and houses his papers.) *SD on the QT* has obtained a copy of the letter and presents it here without comment.

### Too Many Nguyens (pronounced “nwens”)

by UCSD

An unofficial adaptation of Dr. Seuss’s “Too Many Daves” (Thanks, Ted!)

We can’t quite explain all the whys and the whens  
But UCSD just has too many Nguyens  
And too many Itos, Tanakas, and Wangs  
Also too many Kims, and Parks, Lees, and Yangs  
Over forty percent have roots in the East  
We need to reduce that by ten points, at least!  
We brought in a Chancellor and paid her a lot  
But she didn’t help move our numbers one jot  
So now she is gone, and we’re looking afresh  
For someone to bring in some other-hued flesh  
And to help clarify, we’ve made out a list  
Not quotas, exactly, but you get the gist.  
We need a Sadiki, a Mwamba, a Tau  
Got some African blood? We need you, and how!  
A Proudfoot would send us right over the moon  
American Natives can’t get here too soon!  
All you Mexican types whose name ends in “z”  
Gomez and Lopez — you suit us to a T!  
Filipinos, yes please! Even Caucasians!  
Come on and help us offset all these Asians.  
Diversity doesn’t take care of itself  
We’ll need you to be our diversity elf  
And if you can get all those names on the bill  
We’ll happily pay you a cool quarter mil



12 San Diego Reader March 6, 2014

At least we didn’t go with any of Seuss’s anti-Japanese WWII propaganda.

## Stay with Us, San Diego

### UT-TV Hires Ron Burgundy for New Web Venture

THINKING WHAT COULD BE DONE AT *SD ON THE QT* WITH \$5 MILLION — When word came down that UT-TV was closing its cable-TV operations, U-T chief operator John Lynch-Mobbe “couldn’t help thinking what a waste it represented. We invested almost \$5 million in that newsroom. State of the art all the way. We had the machinery; what we lacked was the manpower.”

Lynch-Mobbe toyed briefly with the notion of molding a web-news operation from a crack team of seasoned, professional TV journalists, but quickly realized that no such thing exists. What did exist, however, was a crack team of fake TV journalists. “And, best of all, right at the top of the heap was a guy who’s already famous for working in San Diego: the Anchorman himself, Ron Burgundy. I reached out, and he jumped at the chance; we’re working out the details now.”

The character of Ron Burgundy has appeared twice on the big screen, portrayed by actor Will Ferrell. “Will’s already got a house in Orange County,” noted Lynch-Mobbe, “so geography wasn’t a problem. Neither was money; we were already losing \$500,000 a month on this thing. I figured, why not spend half of that and give my favorite comedian a day-job? Remember, he’s 46, and though you probably haven’t noticed, he’s slowing down. Lots of cameos and voice-acting these days, fewer and fewer features. A brief, regular



“A ridiculous man for a ridiculous town — it just made sense.”

send-up of our company’s industry was exactly the kind of thing he needed right now.”

Reached for comment, Ferrell said that the move was “a natural for Ron. He started in local TV news, made it to network, and then broke through on cable [in *Anchorman 2*]. But it’s pretty clear that the future of news is on the web, and Ron Burgundy is a man who lives in the future. The fact that I’ll be broadcasting from inside the ruined husk of a real-life daily newspaper only makes the joke that much funnier.”

## Mammalian Mudslinging!

### Sea World Sends Much Maligned Whale to Debate Young Local Activist

TRYING TO TIME MY CAMERA TO CATCH THAT FIRST SPURT OF BLOOD, SEA WORLD — When young Max Guinn sees a problem, he sets out to do something about it. The cofounder of Kids Eco Club has helped to start environmental clubs in more than 100 schools. So, when he saw the documentary *Blackfish*, which documented the problems surrounding Sea World’s policy of orca captivity, he set out to do something about it. He invited Sea World to debate the makers of *Blackfish*, with kids asking questions and himself, Max Guinn, as moderator.

Initially, Sea World declined to participate on the grounds that *Blackfish* was “dishonest and manipulative.” But as controversy continued to spread — several performers pulled out of the park’s annual Bands, Brew & BBQ shows at Sea World

Orlando this year — the park changed tactics. “So much abuse and slander has been heaped on Tilikum,” said Sea World “director of moral crises” Connie Schentz, referring to the 12,000-pound Sea World orca who has been blamed for three human deaths. “And everybody is talking about these whales’ ‘right to be free.’ Well, we decided to grant him another right afforded every American and let him confront his accusers directly. Plus, he just has a way of getting his point across, you know? I mean, we can talk about killer whales all day, but until you’re staring into the open maw of an apex predator like Tilikum, it’s all just talk.”

“I’ve had a rough go of it, that much is true,” said Tilikum in his opening remarks. “I was abused pretty badly as a child, and



Tilikum: “Ask yourself: ‘Would a psychotic killer wear such a jaunty hat?’”

as a result, I’ve always had problems with authority. In my case, that means trainers. I’ve made mistakes, and I’ve had more than my share of bad luck. I mean, it’s not like I asked that one drunk dude to go swimming with me. Frankly, I think I’m doing pretty well, all things considered. I’ve got a family, a job, and a place to stay. And now you people are trying to take all that away from me. Tell me why again?”

As of press time, an awkward silence was prevailing at Shamu stadium, site of the debate.



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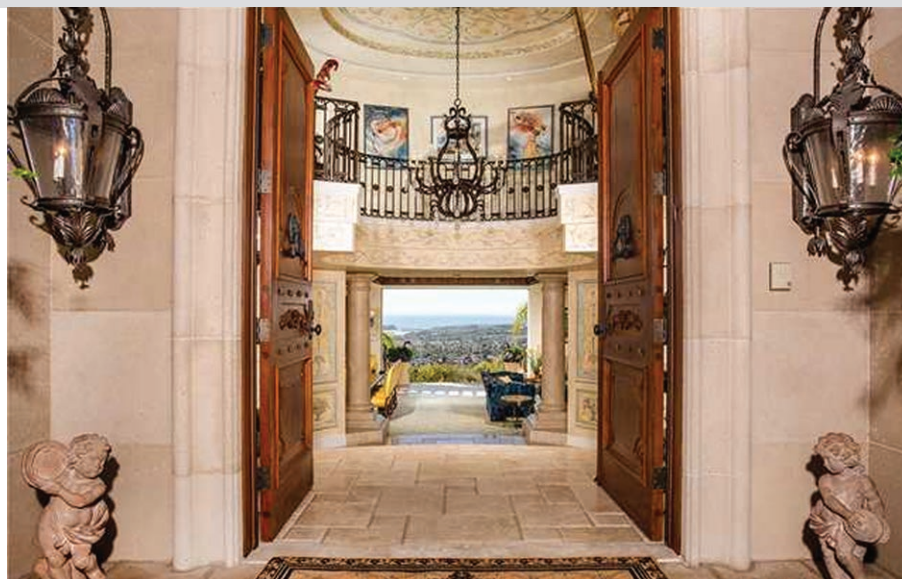
**CURRENT OWNER:** David Rosenaur | **LISTING PRICE:** \$4,995,000–\$5,395,000 | **BEDS:** 7 | **BATHS:** 9

# UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

“It’s the best value per square foot for a house with this build quality and view, anywhere in San Diego,” says Berkshire Hathaway agent Polly Rogers, describing her listing at 2645 Obelisco Place in Carlsbad. Still, the nearly \$5.4 million price tag hanging from the 10,618-square-foot custom estate is probably sufficient to chase off most bargain-chasers.

Constructed in 2000, the property sits on a



Pecan wood front doors, a grand rotunda foyer, and view over Batiquitos Lagoon and the Pacific to San Clemente Island are among the features of this Carlsbad estate.

half-acre gated hillside lot overlooking Batiquitos Lagoon. “Panoramic Pacific Ocean views & breathtaking sunsets over San Clemente Island greet you as you walk through the dramatic custom

pecan entry doors” into a “grand rotunda foyer” with French Beaumaniere limestone flooring, says Rogers’s marketing materials.

Inside, the home has three guest suites in addition to the master suite

that boasts his-and-hers bathrooms and walk-in closets, plus maid/caretaker quarters with kitchenette and private entry. The main level also features his-and-hers private

offices. Antiqued walnut and pine hardwood flooring is used throughout, and beyond the requisite gourmet chef’s kitchen the home has its own elevator and a solarium constructed from imported materials and with its own water feature and custom-made limestone table with seating for ten.

For the health-conscious, there’s a 1400-square-foot gym designed by Ray Wilson, founder of the Family Fitness Center chain that eventually became 24 Hour Fitness. The gym features 35 commercial-quality machines. Wilson owned the property at the time the current residence was built. There’s also a spa/massage room with en suite bath and an indoor spa pool.

The estate is equipped with a “smart

home” electronic control system including a full complement of security cameras, as well as on-site water filtration and air purification systems. There’s also a climate-controlled wine cellar with storage for up to 3000 bottles and an adjacent tasting room whose walls are adorned with hand-painted murals.

The living room, formal dining area, and great room all have vanishing doors that open onto a veranda and outdoor living area that features a pool, a spa, bronze statuary, waterfall, fire pit, and several levels of terraced entertaining areas.

Tax rolls show the current owner of record as David Rosenaur, who operated Beermann’s Brewing, a pair of defunct brewery/restaurants in the

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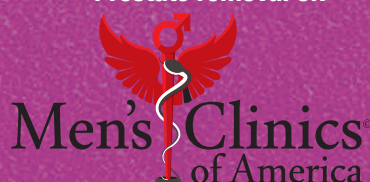
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northeastern Sacramento area. Multiple listing service records show that the property last sold in a 2005 all-cash transaction for \$5,150,000, but tax records indicate the sales price was only \$4,020,500.

The Obelisco estate was first offered for sale in February 2013, with an asking price set at

\$5,995,000, which was reduced to a value range with the sellers seeking offers between \$4,995,000 and \$5,395,000 last June. The listing has bounced between "active" and "cancelled" status a few times since then, most recently going active with the same list price in late January of this year. ■

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BY PATRICK DAUGHERTY

### Aftermath



Onetime NBA ref Tim Donaghy has become quite a success since losing his job for fixing games.

Great scandals. The world is agog. The world moves on. The world forgets. How many of the following scandals do you remember?

Where is Tim Donaghy, the corrupt NBA referee? August 2007, Donaghy pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and transmitting betting information across state lines. He was paid by a professional gambler to provide inside information on NBA games. Donaghy eventually served 11 months in a federal prison.

Many great leaders write books while in prison and Donaghy was no different, penning his cheating memoir, *Personal Foul: A First-Person Account of the Scandal That Rocked the NBA*, in the midst of his incarceration. VTI-Media published his book but failed to pay royalties. Donaghy sued, won, and in June 2012 was awarded \$1.62 million by a Pinellas County (Florida) civil court.

These are happy days. Indeed, Donaghy has done one better than Tonya Harding. Harding worked the freak circuit (wrestling, porn film, boxing, singing, commentator on a TV tabloid show), living off the notoriety she earned from knee-capping Nancy Kerrigan.

Donaghy tops that. He's making money off the very thing he was sent to prison for. Tim owns a handicapping franchise. Click over to *refpicks.com* and enjoy, "Tim Donaghy has been making picks for Professional Handicappers for the past 2 years while on Probation and has had one of the best win percentages in the Nation." So, dear reader, go ahead, pony up \$6000 and buy 100 days of Tim's personal NBA picks.

Assessment: Can't keep a good man down.

Bountygate: New Orleans Saints and paying bounties to Saints players who injured an opposing player to the point where said opposing player had to be taken out of the game.

According to the NFL, defensive coordinator Greg Williams initiated the program, head coach Sean Payton tried to cover it up, and general man-

ager Mickey Loomis failed to shut it down when ordered to do so by the team owner. Williams was suspended indefinitely, Patyon was suspended for ten months, and Loomis was suspended for eight games.

What happened? Williams's indefinite suspension turned out to last one season. He was reinstated and went to work for the Tennessee Titans as senior assistant/defense. In February 2014, the St. Louis Rams made Williams their new defensive coordinator.

Mickey Loomis was sentenced to sit out eight games of the 2012 season, but that had no effect since he already had a job as, get this, head of basketball operations for the New Orleans Hornets. He was hired in June, three months before the 2012 NFL season began. Funny thing, Loomis got his job right after New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson bought the Hornets.

Assessment: Some superficial wounds, no tissue damage. Sunny skies ahead.

And where is admitted steroid cheat Floyd Landis? You recall he won the 2006 Tour de France, then was busted for doping, then organized the Floyd Fairness Fund to finance his doping appeals. He raised more than \$1 million, almost half from small individual donations and merchandise sales.

I wrote at the time, "There are two stories about Landis that remain vivid to me. One is allowing his mother to defend him in public. The second is holding a benefit for himself at the Ephrata (Pennsylvania) Performing Arts Center. This is his hometown, Landis was born five and a half miles from the arts center. He drew 300 people that day. His people.

"He didn't have to go to the place where he was born, to the place where he was raised, to the place where his mother, father, brother, and sisters still live, lie to family, friends, neighbors, and then ask for their money."

Landis copped a deal with feds that kept him out of jail and has promised to return \$480,000 to, presumably, individuals who made small donations, *provided* he can earn the money. He lives in Connecticut now, in a guest house on the grounds of the David Williams estate. Williams is a financial trader and pro-cycling enthusiast.

Assessment: Things will never be good for Floyd.

Lance Armstrong's life collapsed during January of 2013, after he went on *Oprah* to perform the classic spilling of the gut. Lance admitted doping during all seven of his Tour de France wins. At the time his net worth was estimated at \$125 million.

Eight sponsors walked. Financial pundits said he lost \$100, \$150 million in future earnings in one day. He lives in Judicial World now, dealing with a mind-numbing number of lawsuits. The foundation he founded, Livestrong, asked him to leave. He received a lifetime ban from competitive cycling and was stripped of his seven Tour de France titles. Armstrong owns one coffee shop and one bicycle shop in Austin, Texas.

Assessment: Biding his time.

Find more Sporting Box columns online at [SDReader.com/box](http://SDReader.com/box)



# BestBuys

— EVE KELLY

Everyone keeps getting older. Lady, my Uncle Max's black toy poodle, has been with him for many years and has started to slow down. Max has moved into full pamper mode "for her declining years."

I gave a call over to Petbox (800-203-4588; [getpetbox.com](http://getpetbox.com)), a local company that ships all over the country. Company CEO Sean Conlon told me, "Petbox is a great way for pet parents to discover healthy new brands for their cat or dog, whether it be for treats or toys or grooming products. We get contacted by about 12 to 25 manufacturers a day about new products, and we scour the internet looking for boutique items — maybe there's an Etsy store that has really good stuff. We find unique things that you might not come across in a pet store."

After the finding comes the testing. "We have 15 team members," said Conlon, "ranging from animal-behavior analysts from the humane society to veterinarians. We also have seven office dogs that eat the treats and play with toys all day. If all the dogs like a toy or treat and it also stands up to our specifications, then it's something we keep for our members."

For food products, those specifications demand American sourcing and manufacture. "They have to be made here in the USA, and the ingredients have to be from here, too. The edible stuff must be extremely healthy."

In the toy department, "One of our favorites is the Floaty Dolphin by Aussie Naturals. It's made of neoprene, which is the same stuff that wetsuits are made of. Inside, it has a rope and tennis ball; there's no stuffing. It's all natural material, so if the dog should ingest any of it while chewing on it, there will be nothing toxic. For cats, our catnip sprays, catnip collection of toys, and even just catnip are extremely popular."

When it comes to grooming, "Daily grooming wipes are great. You use them to wipe down your dog or cat's coat. We also have shampoo from John Paul Pet, which is by Paul Mitchell; or Pethead, from the makers of Bedhead products. Their lemongrass shampoo for pets smells amazing."

Right now, said Conlon, "Petbox is the only pet-subscription series that lets you choose the items that go in the box. You

"We have seven office dogs that eat the treats and play with toys all day."

can either specify what you want or be surprised — though you can still give us general guidelines like small, medium, or large cat box or dog box. Eventually, you'll be able to be more specific: say, an eight-year-old dachshund hound with hip and joint problems and an allergy to chicken. We'll then let you know what specific products are best for that dog."

Cost is \$29–\$39 a month, depending on length of subscription. "You get one box a month featuring six premium products with a retail value of \$50, and shipping is always free."

Petbox deals in treats; for basic food orders, I called Russell Blauert, who co-owns San Diego Pet Food Delivery (619-655-4363; [sandiegopetfooddelivery.com](http://sandiegopetfooddelivery.com)) with his wife Lori. Blauert told me, "Anything a pet needs, we deliver it. But I would say that our niche is selling and delivering raw food for cats and dogs. We also own I.B. Pet, so that's our base and the way we get connections for products. But while most physical independent pet stores will usually have a small raw section, we can offer a large selection for sale online and then deliver it." He carries products from more than 15 raw-food manufacturers, with multiple varieties (\$5.49–\$67.99).

Raw foods, said Blauert, "are more nutrient-rich, and the animal absorbs more nutrients as well. Animals who eat raw food produce 50 percent less waste. Plus, our foods do not contain corn, wheat, or soy, which are just cheap fillers and can also be allergens."

When it comes to dry food, Blauert sells (and recommends) Blue Buffalo (\$18.99–\$65.99, depending in size and type) and Honest Kitchen (\$8.99–\$51.99). He also sells a lot of Bully Sticks chews (\$3.89–\$9.50) and elk antlers (\$7.99–\$36.99). "The elk antlers are a particularly good investment," he says. "It's a chew that will last you months and months." Local delivery is free on orders over \$48 and product usually arrives in two days.

Find Best Buys online at [SDReader.com/best-buys](http://SDReader.com/best-buys)

- 1: Russell and Lori Blauert of San Diego Pet Food Delivery
- 2: Sean Conlon of PetBox



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San Diego Reader March 6, 2014 17



# 2014 ARTS COVER CONTEST



# The \$100 Grand Prize goes to BERT!

Anonymous surf street artist BERT painted his favorite 2014 ASP World Championship Tour locations on his cover submission. He removed his favorite painting and installed it somewhere in the streets of San Diego, challenging the *Reader* to find it. We found it near our office in Golden Hill. Can you?



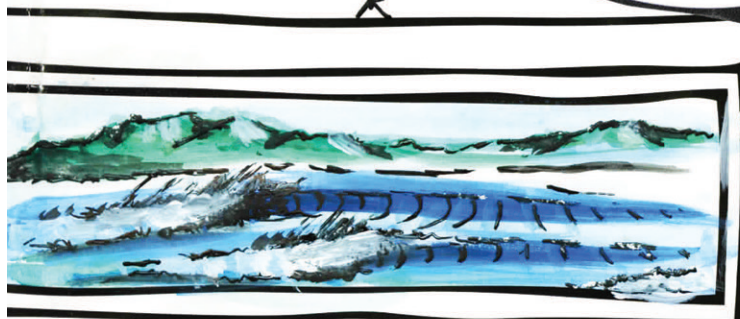
Go to [sdreader.com/artcover](https://sdreader.com/artcover) to see these entries and more!

We can't possibly print it here, but special mention goes to "Farts in San Diego." You know who you are!



# SAN DIEGO Reader

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FEBRUARY 13, 2014



2014 VIDEO THE

Arts in San Diego

BERT



# “Mah” means flax plant, “jongg” means sparrow

## “They still play mah-jongg?”

a New York native asks me. “I always wondered how an ancient Chinese game got into the hands of suburban Jewish women.”

Mah-jongg’s American origins interweave two immigrant cultures — Chinese and Jewish — then separate them by rules, styles, and traditions. What remains is the connection: the camaraderie and the constancy that give the game its glue, whether you’re playing with Hong Kong rules or with rules handed down by the National Mah Jongg League in New York.

When articles appeared two years ago in the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* heralding mah-jongg’s resurgence, hats were tipped to the group with whom the game is closely associated: the grandmothers — or “bubbes,” as they are known in Yiddish (“It’s pronounced BU-bee! Not bubba!” admonishes one player in a 2001 *Jewish Daily Forward* article) — who congregated in post-war living rooms across the country to

“bam” and “crak” their way through a gabby afternoon with the girls. These women, now in their 70s and 80s, learned to play as young mothers, when their children were small.

But the articles weren’t just a backward glance to a fading pastime. It was mah-jongg’s current allure that made headlines: “Mah jongg takes the 30-somethings by storm,” “Gen-X and Web Spurring a Revival of Mah Jongg,” and “Not Your Mother’s Mah-Jongg.”



INZYX/ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK

\* \* \*

“If you had told us five years ago that we’d be sitting around playing this game every Tuesday night, we would have said, ‘No way! That’s an old ladies’ game!’ ” offers the attorney, Tara, as she and her four friends shuffle the tiles, facedown, on the extra table that Trophy’s has accommodated them with.

An event planner, a speech therapist, two attorneys — one is also a fee-only financial

planner — and one stay-at-home mom who “used to be in real estate...now I supervise three kids.” Two married, one engaged, and two single, at either end of a decade. So much for stereotypes.

“At the beginning, we played at each other’s houses,” says the event planner, Heidi. “When I had the baby, we ended up at my house, so I could stay close. Then,” she adds with a wink, “my husband kicked us out...”

“He’s actually a very nice man,” interjects financial planner Julie, who, in her early 30s, is the youngest of the group. As the fifth-hand bettor in this game, she wanders the edge of the table, sampling snacks and supplying statistics. “He’s also tall, blond, gorgeous...”

“...and now we meet here every Tuesday,” Heidi continues, stepping over the spousal praise. “My mom taught us a year ago,” she continues. “We’re finally good enough that my mother lets us play with her group at the country club.”

A San Diego sports bar/restaurant

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## CONSTIPATION

....Tired of straining  
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Medical research study is underway to evaluate an oral investigational medication for chronic constipation. If you have infrequent bowel movements, straining, and not feeling empty when you do have a bowel movement, you may be suffering from chronic constipation and should possibly consider this study.



### To possibly qualify for the study:

- 1) Male or female, 18-80 years of age
- 2) History of infrequent bowel movements, straining, and hard stool
- 3) Not taking medications which may cause constipation

### Participants may receive all study-related:

- 1) Exam and consultation with a board-certified physician
- 2) Labs, ekg, colonoscopy (if over 50 and not had one in previous 5 years), and study medication at no cost
- 3) Compensation up to \$450.00, For time and travel

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## Migraine Study

- Do you experience migraines?
- Have you had at least 4 migraines a month for the past year?

If so, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication.

Qualified study participants between the ages 18 and 60 may receive study-required investigational medication and lab work. Qualified participants may be compensated for time and travel.

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**CHRONIC LOW BACK PAIN?**  
Do you also have constipation?



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You may be able to participate if you:

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- are taking prescription pain medication for moderate to severe low back pain
- have ever experienced symptoms of constipation from your pain medication.

## TYPE 2 DIABETES

You may qualify if you:

- Are at least 18 years of age
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## DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW SUFFER FROM BIPOLAR DISORDER?

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within the last year?

If you are 18-65 years of age  
You may be eligible to participate  
in a clinical research trial for an  
investigational medication.

Participants will receive  
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1. Study related exams
2. Investigational medication
3. Compensation for time and travel



## FEELING SAD / DEPRESSED?

If you are affected by depression, you may be eligible to participate in a research study of an investigational depression medication. You must be:

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only seems a long distance from a Brooklyn tenement. Not much has changed in what bonds mah-jongg players. “I’m sure we talk about sex more than our mothers did,” says the recently engaged Penny.

“I don’t know, you guys,” argues Barbara, the real estate agent. “My mom is pretty frisky. She likes to say, ‘Barb, you girls didn’t invent anything.’”

What they didn’t invent was their love and loyalty to this game and to each other, nor the intensity of their commitment. “I’d play three times a week if I could,” says Barb. “Sometimes we play Fridays and Sundays, too.”

“Now we’re addicted,” adds Penny, whose ring

flashes prettily against the ivory tiles as she grabs someone else’s discard and furrows her brow in strategy.

“I’m definitely hooked,” Tara says, rearranging tiles on her caddy. “I love the game, but I think it’s also about the female connection.”

Playing mah-jongg every week gives these women a break from their own busy lives and lets them learn about each other’s. When the five of them met — before mah-jongg, marriages, and maternity — it took a Jewish singles event to get them together; months would pass without contact. “Now we don’t go two weeks without seeing each

other,” Julie says.

“There’s always a problem that someone needs input on,” says Heidi, “and everyone has a different suggestion.”

“We talk and eat,” says Barbara, as she throws back a tile. “Those two things are never a problem.”

A hush falls over the table as another game begins and the tiles are divided. Tara recalls an ad that read “Seeking mahj player. No talking.” They all laugh, recalling that it took them four years to find out all five of them had the same middle name: Lynn. What took so long? “We all talk at the same time,” Tara says.

“Sometimes we just like to be quiet so we can

really concentrate,” Heidi says in a measured tone.

Julie whispers to me, “We used to talk a lot less when we didn’t understand the game.”

But it’s still, after all, a game. “We’re all very competitive,” Tara tells me as she eyes the others’ activity. “And besides, she’s taken all of our money.” She points to Heidi, this game’s winner, who’s been known to simultaneously pick tiles, breast-feed, and take business calls.

As the game ends, Penny confesses she was after Barbara’s Red Dragon and Tara confirms what she suspected about Heidi’s hand. Though it’s all friendly and lighthearted, you sense the eagerness

to play has as much to do with besting your best friend as it does with securing your suits.

The next game starts and the girls follow the now-familiar steps of setting up — racking the wall, rolling the dice, dealing, turning over tiles. These are the same gestures I will notice when I later visit the Wednesday-morning mah-jongg game at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, just a mile and two generations down the road. Wouldn’t their mothers be pleased?

Julie opens the mah-jongg set (about the size of a clarinet case) and shows me the plaque, set against the back of the wooden case. “In honor of our

mothers,” it reads, listing their mothers’ names in alphabetical order. “From the girls.” They had one mother-daughter dinner in 1999. With half their mothers longtime mah-jongg players, the next get-together might include an intergenerational game. Though the girls might not be old enough for a mahj cruise, they did spend the day at La Costa recently. “Of course, we brought the game,” smiles Tara, who’s sorry she has to leave early, but she’s got a meeting downtown in 20 minutes.

\* \* \*

The four-person game, similar to rummy, is played with 152 tiles (once bamboo, bone, or ivory; now plastic or Plexiglas

## RESEARCH STUDIES

### H.I.G.H.L.I.T.E.s Women’s Health & Safety Study

#### Volunteers must:

- \* be female
- \* be heterosexual
- \* be at least 18 years
- \* be in an abusive relationship
- \* have recently used cocaine, methamphetamine, or crack



All calls are confidential. For more details please call: **(619) 543-0457**

This research is conducted under the direction of Dr. Jamila K. Stockman from the UCSD School of Medicine.

#### What’s required:

A one-time face-to-face interview with a female interviewer that will last about 90 minutes.

Interviews will take place at our office in the Hillcrest neighborhood in San Diego (close to bus lines 1, 3, 10, 11 & 120 off 5th Ave. and Upas St. or 5th Ave. and University Ave.). Compensation will be provided for participation.



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## BIPOLAR DISORDER CLINICAL TRIAL

Researchers at Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital are enrolling men and women for a clinical trial. Individuals who have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and are currently experiencing a manic episode may qualify.

Eligible participants will receive all study-related care at no cost, and may be reimbursed for time and travel.

Participation is confidential and trials are safely conducted under the supervision of experienced physicians and research specialists.

To learn more, call **(858) 836-8350**.







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## BV

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A 2-visit clinical research study for non-pregnant women, 18 years or older, with bacterial vaginosis, a vaginal discharge, which is milky and has a foul-odor.

If you think you have BV you may be interested in this medical research study comparing a one-day, presently-marketed vaginal cream to an investigational cream or inactive placebo.

All study-related lab testing, cultures for std's, pap smear, and 2 office visits with a board-certified ob-gyn are at no cost and no insurance necessary.

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## MENOPAUSE... vaginal discomfort

A 3-month clinical research study is underway for Menopausal women affected by vaginal discomfort or Atrophy. An investigational vaginal suppository using DHEA will be used.



### TO POSSIBLY PARTICIPATE MUST BE:

- 1) Postmenopausal women, 40-80 years of age
- 2) Natural or surgical Menopause (>6 months after surgery)
- 3) Not presently using hormones



### PARTICIPANTS MAY RECEIVE ALL STUDY-RELATED:

- 1) Exam and consultation with a board-certified OB-GYN
- 2) Labs, pap smear, mammogram, and study drug
- 3) And will receive compensation for time and travel



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## WOMEN WITH FIBROIDS & HEAVY PERIODS

A 9-month clinical research study is underway to evaluate an investigational oral medication for women with fibroid tumors of the uterus with heavy periods who want an alternative to surgery

### Qualified participants may receive at no cost:

- Study-related exam and consultation with a board-certified ob-gyn
- Study-related labs, EKG, Ultrasound, DEXA bone scan, and study medication
- Compensation to \$900.00 for time and travel



### To possibly qualify for the study:

- Women, 20 years of age and older
- Must have a history of fibroid tumors of the uterus
- Periods must be heavy and occurring every 24-35 days

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## ENDOMETRIOSIS? TIRED OF THE PAIN? NO MORE SURGERY!!

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### Participants may receive all study-related:

- Exams and consultation with a board-certified ob-gyn
- Labs, bone scans, paps, ultrasounds at no cost

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## HAVE PSORIASIS?

A year long clinical trial for psoriasis allows all eligible participants to receive an investigational cream. If your psoriasis involves up to 20% of your body surface, you may be eligible. All participants will receive topical study medication (no placebo).

### TO POSSIBLY QUALIFY:

- 1) Must be male or female 18 years or older
- 2) 20% or less of body involvement with plaque psoriasis
- 3) Must have no allergies to Vitamin D or derivatives
- 4) No photo therapy, steroids, or methotrexate for at least 30 days

### QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS MAY RECEIVE STUDY-RELATED:

- 1) Exam and consultation with a board-certified dermatologist
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- 3) Compensation for time and travel



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made to look like bamboo, bone, or ivory) similar in size to dominos, arranged in suits: circles or buttons (dots), Chinese characters (craks), and bamboos (bams), plus dragons and winds, jokers and flowers. The colorful, engraved tiles are drawn and discarded, announced aloud — “one bam,” “two crak,” “four dot” — until a player completes a winning hand — a certain combination of tiles — and declares “Mah-jongg” (loose if not literal translation: “That’s it!”).

Well, that’s not all of it; this is the way “American” (or “Jewish”) mah-jongg is played. That combination is provided on the three-panel laminated cards studied at any game where Jewish women, young and old, play mah-jongg today. The rule cards, issued and updated annually by the National Mah Jongg League, arrive every April, as eagerly anticipated as fall fashions. They offer the year’s standard hands and winning combinations, organized by suits and status. (By comparison, in Chinese mah-jongg — also known as Ma Cheuk and still considered the national game of China — winning hands do not change.)

If you’re not Jewish or Chinese, what do you know from mah-jongg? The game has worked its way into the culture through films and television, but its insider nature leaves even those within the Jewish and Chinese cultures confused. Maybe you’re recalling Amy Tan’s *Joy Luck Club*, the book or the movie (1993). At least in that case, the sets matched: Chinese name, Chinese game, Chinese players. A few years before that film’s release, the very goyische Jessica Tandy impersonated a Southern Jewish mah-jongg-playing matron in *Driving Miss*

*Daisy* (1989). In the ’90s, TV’s assorted Jewish characters discussed mah-jongg among themselves, but unless you were Jewish or from New York, how could you make sense of George and Jerry’s joking about the game on *Seinfeld*? Or Fran Drescher’s Queens-nasal foursome playing mahj on *The Nanny*? Even diehard Woody Allen fans who’ve committed *Annie Hall* to memory might appropriate a punch line — “My mother locked herself in the bathroom and took an overdose of mah-jongg tiles” — without understanding the setup.

The “ancient” Chinese game of mah-jongg — “mah” means flax plant; “jongg” means sparrow — dates to the time of Confucius, say some legends. Historians claim the game a 19th-century invention once reserved for the ruling

classes and played only by men. When China became a republic, access to the game opened up, such that in the 1920s American oil executive Joseph Babcock, who became hooked on mah-jongg while in China, did his Yankee duty and pirated the game back home with him, translating the Chinese characters’ numerical values for Americans and setting off a game craze that crossed the country. Mah-jongg was played feverishly in the ’20s and ’30s, but the variety of rules and styles — as many as 21 — made it difficult for consistent play. In 1937, an enterprising group of German-Jewish women took out an ad in the *New York Times*, inviting interested players to meet. They formed the National Mah Jongg League, the arbiter of rules and regulations,

#### RESEARCH STUDIES

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the collector of dues and donations. (Mah-jongg is played many ways by many rules. In *The Mah-jongg Manyal*, published in 1923 by Henry Snyder, hands do not change annually as they do in Jewish-American mah-jongg; nor do they change in “military” mah-jongg, played by the Ohio Air Force base’s Wright-Patterson rules, written in the late ’40s.)

What started as a 32-member league now estimates membership at 200,000. Over its 65 years, the nonprofit National

Mah Jongg League has donated thousands of dollars to charities and cultivated a Jewish-dominated board of directors and membership (though non-Jewish groups and individuals also belong). In 2000, recognizing the Internet’s capacity to fertilize the game’s popularity, the organization set up a website. As a result, the game has resonated with a computer-conscious younger generation, whose all-hours online play has helped foster a growing trend among older play-

ers and new fanatics: mah-jongg marathons, tournaments, and cruises.

\* \* \*

Roberta and Steve Last sit at desks on opposite sides of their small travel office, Travel Wizard, in La Mesa. Our talk is periodically interrupted by a ringing phone, which cues one of them to pick up the call, while the other continues the conversation. Mah-jongg esoterica overlaps with airline reservations in the fluid exchange of long-married, practiced multitaskers. Both are

experienced mah-jongg players and partners in the tournament (and tourism) business; they’re used to playing the left-brain-right-brain symphony. Steve, a mathematician and practicing accountant, learned to play ten years ago; Roberta learned when she was ten years old.

“It’s summer in Brooklyn, and we don’t know what to do with ourselves. So my girlfriend’s mother says to us, ‘I’ll teach you a game.’ We continued to play on and off for years. But then

I stopped, and I didn’t play again until after I was married. It was a good way to get out at night; I left the kids with Daddy, and my girlfriends and I played at each other’s house.”

This isn’t much different from her mother’s generation, women who would have left the kids at home for a night out with the girls. “Except maybe she just walked down two floors or across the street...” Roberta says. “Whereas we get in the car and drive.”

I ask Roberta how she

picked up the game again. “It was a rainy Saturday night about ten years ago; we were going to go to the movies with another couple, and we thought, *No, let’s play a game instead. Let’s teach the husbands how to play.* At first, they don’t want to play mah-jongg; they think it’s a woman’s game...”

“...Even though,” Steve interrupts, “in the Orient it’s a man’s game...”

“So, we teach the husbands how to play — and, of course, they think they

## RESEARCH STUDIES



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know better than us — but we had a good time. When I heard about the tournaments, I thought it sounded like fun; it was going to be in Palm Springs, so I said to Steven, ‘Do you think we should go?’ Steven was the only man — all the women were thrilled. So, we go to the Palm Springs tournament in 1992, we have a wonderful time, and, of course, he gets a higher score than I do.”

“...And I won the session...”

“And he won the session! So all the women, when their husbands came to pick them up, they said, ‘Oh! He knows how to play; should we teach you how to play?’”

“We’ve only played together in three or four tournaments,” Steve explains, “and I think all four tournaments I won...”

“All right, so shut up.”

“How much did you win?” husband asks wife. “What’s your total dollar amount?”

Roberta waves Steve away and takes another call. While she talks about the price of a stateroom, he tries to explain the nuances of the game’s tactical maneuvering to a confused listener. “It plays like rummy, but you can call another dead.” I nod my head. “In another game, you may know what the other person is playing and know that they’re not going to make it, but you can’t call them dead.” I nod my head again, trying to place rummy. *Have I played rummy?* “When you call somebody dead, it gives you an advantage, because then you have more picks.” “Okay,” I say, as we leave rummy and move on to addition. “So if there’s 40 tiles left,” says Steve, now a math teacher at the chalkboard, “instead of getting one-quarter, you get one-third.” That

I understand. Sort of. “It’s more defensive than any other card game I can think of.” So much for a group of old ladies chatting while they toss tiles and nosh fruit.

Roberta hangs up the phone and tells me about the 1994 tournament in Newport Beach, when Marjorie Troum approached her and Steve to start a business. “The next thing we knew, we were partners.” Roberta admits it took some time for the tournaments to take hold. “Our smallest group was 10, and our biggest tournament on the cruise was 93. The first in Vegas was 48.” Vegas brings them in from all over, Roberta says; it’s been a big draw for years. “Connecticut, Florida, quite a bit; there’s a group from Arkansas that plays. With September 11, we had a few cancella-

tions, but not too many.” She launches into a story about meeting someone she baby-sat in Borough Park 30-odd years ago and then into another tale about two friends who meet again after 40 years. These impromptu reunions are not uncommon. “People talk about it on the internet: ‘Are you going to this tournament?’ ‘Are you going? I’ll meet you there!’ So you get to meet someone you’ve been playing online with for months. This year, we signed up 1000 total people for our seven tournaments. Our mailing list now is over 2000.”

When the National Mah Jongg League joined the internet game world two years ago, there were glitches. “It took 45 minutes to play one game,” Roberta reports. “An average game shouldn’t take

## RESEARCH STUDIES



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more than 10, 15 minutes.” Since that time, online play has been streamlined, and, as anticipated, the site has engaged a new audience: the “young and techno-savvy,” according to the November 2000 *New York Times* article. This merging of skills — “typing and talking, clicking and picking” — is a perfect match for mah-jongg’s sensibilities and for those of the players it attracts. The internet’s success is worldwide, encouraging all manner of play: Chinese or American, against human or computer, with friends from the old neighborhood or folks from the old country.

But Roberta insists that modern technology can’t take the place of the game she learned in a Brooklyn tenement. “You have a routine,” she says. “I play Tuesday nights and

have for at least ten years. We talk about the same things — ah, we had a terrible this...ah, you couldn’t believe what happened — it’s our venting time, our weekly support group.”

I ask Steve how it’s different for him. “Look, we’re married,” he says. “Do you wanna give us a divorce?”

Roberta rolls her eyes and picks up the phone.

“The tournament is more structured,” Steve continues. “There’s no crosstalk. But at the home games? Women are women...” If he had it his way, Steve would play more like the Asians, where the hands don’t change every year.

“This is why guys wear the same shoes, day after day,” Roberta tells me, noting the gender split. “And women say, ‘I can’t wear that again. I gotta change.’”

“Whaddya mean, ya gotta change?” protests Steve. “Why change?”

“Either way,” Roberta adds, “by the end of the year, I’ve memorized the card...”

“By the end of the month!” Steve says.

“The most important thing,” counters Roberta, “is that it makes people think. We get a lot of widows — it gives them something to look forward to. That’s where the cruises come in...”

“But,” Steve interjects, “instead of just a single person sitting down for lunch by herself...”

“She has her four friends to go with her,” Roberta completes the thought. “They’re not just going to some foreign port; they’re going with a group. It’s like you’re traveling with family.”

And, like family,

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For more information call Dr. Jennifer Sumner at (858) 334-4638

sometimes they can drive you crazy.

"These women!" Roberta says. "They'll go see the show on the cruise, then they'll go back and play a game. They're up till midnight, one o'clock, and up early for breakfast and back at it again."

Do they see a future in mah-jongg with the next generation? "The younger kids don't appreciate it as much now, but as they get older, and they want some time to be with other adults and sit down and have fun, that's when they'll appreciate it. Some younger people come on the cruises, usually a mother and daughter. Our daughter Andrea, who's 26, we've taught her how

to play...and she's teaching her husband."

With several mah-jongg-related businesses running concurrently, how do the Lasts stay interested in the game? Perhaps I underestimate the importance of competition. "Listen," Steve says, "we go under the same name online when we play. And the women who know us will ask, 'Roberta or Steve? Who's there?' I usually write back, 'It depends. If we win, it's Steve; if we lose, it's Roberta.'"

\* \* \*

Marjorie Troum drives down from Los Angeles one Friday a month to play mahj with a group of women in Fairbanks Ranch (this is the country

club Heidi spoke of at Trophy's; Heidi's mother, Sue, has played with Troum for years). On the morning we meet in the Golden Triangle, Troum has been stuck in traffic for two hours, but the minute the talk turns to tiles, she leaves all frustration behind.

Troum is the daughter of Dorothy Myerson, whose 1937 booklet "That's It!," considered the definitive instructional manual, set the standards for the National Mah Jongg League. In 1939, Myerson was hired to do mah-jongg demonstrations at Macy's department store in midtown Manhattan; this eventually led to a regular radio show and a Sunday-night slot in tele-

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## RESEARCH STUDIES

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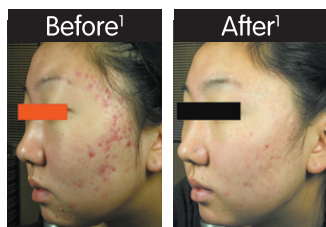
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vision's early years. "My mother was really ahead of her time," Troum tells me over coffee at Nordstrom's café in University Towne Centre. "She was doing a mail-order business for mah-jongg supplies in the '40s!" After Myerson's death in 1971, her daughter took over the business, supplying mah-jongg sets and other related items around world. (She also maintains an affiliation with the Officers Wives Club at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, and acts as the liaison between the National Mah Jongg League and San Diego mahj-playing groups.)

When Troum moved from New Jersey to Coronado in 1990, she brought her Mah-Jongg East tournaments with her. In 1993, she met Steve and Roberta Last, who spon-

sored their own tournaments. East and West met again when, at a Newport Beach tournament, Troum asked the couple, "Are you still looking for a partner?" Together they began promoting events, which have grown from 40 in 1993 to 100 in 2002. They also combine forces to organize and sponsor marathon cruises and 20-round tournaments. (The next Marjorie Troum Mah-Jongg Tournament West "Cruise, Schmooze & Mahj" is scheduled for January 26-February 2, 2003, departing from New Orleans to Mexican ports; March 12-14 is in Las Vegas at the Stardust; March 28-30, it's the Radisson Hotel in Newport Beach.)

"What is so compelling about this game?" She thinks a minute. "It's a challenge; you have to

think on your feet — or, rather, sitting down. It keeps you alert, and you can't be distracted; you have to focus. It may be the one time of the day when you can. And if you win, you're so happy — you might win only 25 cents, but you're so happy!"

A former kindergarten teacher and a mother of four, Troum is convinced that exposure is essential. "If there are young children in the household and they watch their parents play, they want to play. My granddaughter knows how to play." But in her case, the mah-jongg connection might have skipped a generation were it not for the internet. "Take my daughter. For years she wasn't interested in playing. But now she's hooked; she's on the computer sometimes four or five times a night.

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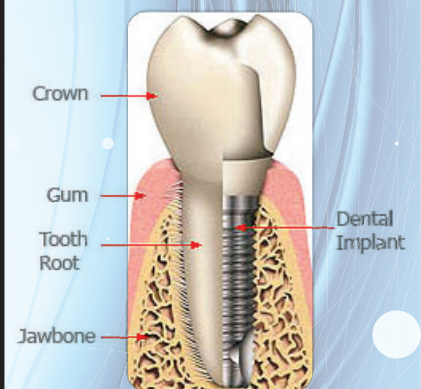


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The internet is fabulous. People are connecting all over the world. And they can meet each other at these tournaments." So far, Troum's not worried about being displaced by the internet. "I'm just thrilled to still be a part of it!" she says, as she hands me two mah-jongg-tile key chains, one of which I mail immediately to my mother.

\* \* \*

San Diego's Jewish community is sourced, like most of the local population, from transplants. So tracing the community's mah-jongg practice means returning to the American cities where Jews first congregated — New York, Chicago, Detroit, Miami, Los Angeles. It was in these inner-city enclaves — and later in the outlying suburban neighborhoods — that Jewish women learned mah-jongg, then taught their

friends and families. They watched the game flourish in the '40s and '50s, only to send those mahj sets packing when generations of urban Jews headed west. Many of those Eastern and Midwestern transplants retired to San Diego, where they craved community and yearned to start another game.

I am halfway up the stairs to the second floor of the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center when brewing coffee and layers of perfume point me to the senior center's mah-jongg game.

Five card tables full of women — many my mother's age, some younger — regard my entrance. Rita Kahn, the unofficial ambassador, waves me to her table, where I perch to watch this familiar game I know so little about. As I observe one woman

sweep tiles in an arc with the edge of her caddy, I sense something familial, like bread-kneading in a house of bakers. When another player stops by to introduce herself, she fiddles with the strap of my blue bra, which has poked out from under my matching top. As this familiar stranger tucks the strap back into place, I am struck by the lack of intrusiveness in her intimate gesture and the matter-of-fact way she grooms me — so second nature and maternal it could be my mother standing beside me. Strap secured, she pats me on the shoulder and moves on to another vantage point.

The game confuses me, no matter how much I observe the tiles, plucked and cupped to hide their elegant, engraved Chinese faces. The elaborate ritual of beginning — the mixing of the tiles (called "table swimming" by Chinese players); the dividing of the tiles into four two-tiered walls; the counting off of the requisite 13 tiles; the cross-table exchange of tiles known as "the Charleston" — all this before the first game begins. For practiced players, this do-si-do is swift and subtle, the movement almost dancelike in its give-and-take grace.

"You look familiar," says Sabina, the woman to Kahn's left. "You look like I should know you."

This is just how I feel about her and the rest of the room. Give or take a few years, some jewelry, and gradations of gray, these could be the same gals who played with my mother in Rancho Bernardo for 20 years. This same phenomenon would make it easier for my mother to move from the Midwest to the West Coast, from Northern California to Southern

California, where other Jewish women would not only play the same game but "look familiar."

"Don't make us sound old," says Sabina, who doesn't look up from her tiles as she rearranges suits and contemplates possible combinations. I ask how important mah-jongg has been to her. She recalls a game that lasted through New York City's blackout in the '70s. "We played with candles! Nothing was going to stop us..." Before long, Kahn, bedecked with mahj jewelry (tile earrings and a toothy bracelet) shouts "mah-jongg!" It's a banner win with a kitty of \$8.54.

"I'm here 4 years," says the redhead to Kahn's right. "And before that, I played for 20 years in Philadelphia." Trim and wry, she sweeps up the tiles at game's end; it's her set they're playing with today (players rotate sets; many are as old as I am). I find out later that the redhead is widowed only two weeks. "This is her first game since the loss," Kahn says, pointing out another function of the game: grief therapy. "It takes your mind off things," Kahn says, "and it keeps your mind agile. You have to pay attention to play on a decent level; sometimes you can't even really talk that much. And you don't need a partner; this is social but without having to have a mate."

Betty Pitlock, who is among the players today, is credited with starting the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center's Wednesday-afternoon game. She joined the center 18 years ago when she moved from New York to the University City area at her daughter's suggestion. "We were going to move near the 54th Street center, but my daughter said, 'No, Mom. This is the up-and-coming place.'" Four

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players used the children's art room once a week until Pitlock brought in enough people to upgrade to a bigger room; each new building brought new members, more hands, and more games. "Eventually, they gave me a certificate for bringing in the most members." Games begin at noon and run till 3:00 p.m., with attendance depending on who's playing with whom and how far they have to drive. "The original five women are still playing in this group, it must be 15 years now." When she was a new mother, Pitlock tells me, "You waited until your youngest child was old enough for school. Then you had a little more time and wanted to be sociable." Some of the talk would be about the children, and that hasn't changed. Mothers still talk about their kids, young ones or grown-ups. And now, with the advent of the internet, it's possible to mix the two. "You can call up your mother on the East Coast," Rita Kahn marvels, "and tell her when you're going to be online."

Kahn thinks the internet is one of the reasons more people in their 30s and 40s want to learn the game. To accommodate this group, she began offering a nighttime class at the community center last fall. The Tuesday-night class was organized for working women; the hope was that younger people might come. Most of the 25 folks that show up by 6:30 are at least 35. The big surprise — among the single and divorced and married women — are the two men.

Situated behind my own rack of bams and craks, jokers and dragons, I only half listen to Kahn's instruction and instead try to make sense of my tiles.

The suits. The characters. The sequences. The colors. When it's my turn to trade, I stall — which combinations should I try for? Which tiles should I keep? And on top of that, I should watch what my

neighbor picks too?

"Sue, discard."

"Yeah, okay," I answer, biting my lip. I throw out a tile — one I should have kept.

"See what happens when you don't listen?"

Sherrill says, snapping up my discard. When Kahn starts explaining the concept of "stealing" — during the Charleston exchange, when players pass tiles across and to the side and can opt to blindly

take tiles — Donna leans toward me and whispers, "Where there's 'stealing,' perhaps there's 'cheating'?" We laugh. She's as confused as I am.

But not everyone is. Andy, one of the two men

in the class, is in his mid-30s. Though he's Jewish, neither his mother nor grandmother played mah-jongg, but he did have a friend in high school whose mother played, "and I heard him com-

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plain about how long she would play and how much money she would lose." He was curious about the game but didn't pursue it till he heard about the class. I ask him why he thinks more men don't play. "I think it's mainly a cultural thing. Women tend not to play poker and men tend not to knit." He figures it has something to do with women not working when the game was first popular. "Being at home, mah-jongg was something they could play with other women." He doesn't seem to care whether he plays with men or women, though he admits the conversation might be different. Ultimately, he's most interested in the game: "I like the fact that it requires quite a bit of thought. The hands can be fairly complex, and depending on the circumstances it may be necessary to change the hand you are trying to go for in the middle of a game. As with many games, there is an element of luck, but skill is certainly very important."

Andy and the three women he plays with in class will go on to have a few private lessons with Kahn and then play every other Tuesday. But the foursome are too new at the game to be among the 32 players who signed up for the center's first mah-jongg tournament in December; maybe this year.

\* \* \*

When I ask my mother about her early mah-jongg memories, she, like most of the longtime players I speak to, culls anecdotes that she's affixed to the game the way barnacles are affixed to the hull of a ship.

"It was my entrée," my mother reminisces, as she pulls another foot of packing tape around the

edge of a cardboard box. It's the spring of 2001, and she's moving out of her Rancho Bernardo condo, where she's resided since 1978, to live near my eldest sister in Knoxville, Tennessee. Though this east Tennessee college town is not the first place you imagine to be a hotbed of Jewish life — let alone of mah-jongg — Knoxville, it turns out, has a thriving Jewish community, an active Conservative temple of 250 families, and plenty of women who want to learn mah-jongg. ("I can rattle off the names of 40 women in the synagogue who play now or want to learn," my sister Ellen reports. "My age, your age — even younger, in their 30s.") This will be the fourth time in her adult life that my mother will seek out, locate, attach to, and thrive in a weekly game. It has become her social ticket, and she's been pulling out that stub since she was a newlywed.

"Do you know I started going into labor with Jeff while playing mahj?" (Her firstborn son, my brother, turns 55 next month.) "And I think I finished the game!" At the time, my parents lived in a small town near Indianapolis, and like many young Jewish women new to a community, my mother made her contacts through the temple sisterhood. "At the beginning, I was just a substitute. Then I became a regular. I was 24; everyone was older than I was, probably in their 30s, and much more sophisticated. We played in the afternoons, once a week. And the luncheons they put on! Two women in particular always hosted the game...they were very competitive. They were both Austrian and had married brothers — I think they were Holocaust survivors. They

competed over who could fix the most elegant meal — and these were gourmet lunches, let me tell you."

Ten years and three children later, my parents headed west to Northern California and Marin County, where again my mother made mahj her connective tissue. "Through the temple I got in with a five-handed game — a betting game; every fourth hand someone would sit out. We met once a month — remember those Monday nights, Susie?"

I remember the clatter and the cakes. When I was young, monthly Monday mah-jongg night meant the good china, the big coffee urn, the carefully cut melon, and many desserts, including a pumpkin bundt cake with drooping dollops of cream-cheese frosting dotted with walnut halves. My wandering finger would be met with a quick potch in the tuchas ("Don't touch that cake, Susie!"), so I'd wait till they were bamming and crakking in the living room before I pilfered my piece.

My memories of those games are not unlike what author Hope Edelman (*Motherless Daughters*) calls "sensory images" in the 1998 film *Mah-Jongg: The Tiles That Bind*. The award-winning documentary, which has made the rounds of Jewish film festivals from San Diego to Boca Raton, chronicles the odd overlap of two cultures that forged this game as a centerpiece for Jewish female leisure life. The half-hour film mixes Chinese with American-Jewish play, the two cultures' scenes intercut and cued by musical contrast, Asian string plucking versus klezmer reed intoning.

As the movie's mah-jongg enthusiasts — many of them players for 30, 40,

50 years — explain their "addiction," it becomes clear how often the game has been a response to the times. As one woman notes about her early years of play, "The men were away at war; our social life was nil." They needed something to do with those weekend evenings that didn't involve subway rides into the city. These were mostly middle-class, stay-at-home mothers; the game was often the highlight of their week. Edelman speaks about the memory of her mother, captured inside the mah-jongg set resting on her lap. She opens the case on camera, breathing in the "plastic and perfume and cigarettes" that she associated with the game as a little girl. Though my mother worked throughout my childhood, as did most of the women she played with, the game's late hours — on a weekday, yet! — didn't exhaust her. Instead, mah-jongg entertained and engaged its players, energizing them. For several hours, everything was suspended but the tinkling of the tiles and the call of the craks.

When my mother retired five years ago, the number of weekly mah-jongg games increased. Many an evening I would call her in Rancho Bernardo only to be stopped mid-sentence. "We're just starting a game, Susie; I'll call you when it's over." It always surprised me when the phone rang after 11:00 p.m. (this, from a woman who often went to bed at 8:30) and my wide-awake mother kept her promise.

It might have been the tiles that kept her up. In *The Tiles That Bind* a Chinese woman talks about the pressure points between the thumb and index finger — digits used to turn mahj tiles — and



how, in Chinese medicine, they are thought to energize the brain. Another Chinese woman mentions that the sparrow, for which the game is named, is considered an intelligent bird, "and this is a game for intelligent people." When Hope Edelman talks about memories of her mother, who died when Edelman was 14, she speculates on the dearth of outside interests for a wife and mother in the early '60s. "I don't think there were many stimulating challenges for women like my mother. This game might have been a substitute for something more intellectual or academic." Edelman suggests that weekly mah-jongg games might have been her mother's only social gathering that didn't involve children.

But the children were watching and listening (and eating). Ask any Jewish man or woman, 25 to 65, about mah-jongg, and out pour the details of some stored-away memory, often fleshed out in five senses: The crashing of upended racks of tiles; the click-clacking of the polished ivory; the cool rectangles, smooth on one side, engraved on the other. The sound of female gossip and giggling, punctuated by bursts of "two crak," "one bam," "three dot." The smell of coffee and cigarettes and perfume — in my case, Shalimar, Albert Nippon, Tigris, and that green-bottled Emeraude Mrs. Kaldor always wore. Next to each player's rack of tiles: a plate of fruit, a napkin of cake crumbs, a small leather change purse whose contents of quarters and dimes, collected at evening's end, totaled a paltry sum that mattered little when compared to what it lent.

\* \* \*

"As a little girl my assignment was sticking the fancy toothpicks with the maraschino cherries into the pineapple chunks," Randy recalls. Originally from Brooklyn, Randy, 50, lives in La Jolla now but used to live in Rancho Bernardo. "I started a game 20 years ago, when I was in my 30s. We shared everything in that game — our simchas [celebrations] and our sorrows. It was an anchor; when everything around was changing, this stayed the same." The group played weekly, and though its members didn't socialize outside of the game, they remained loyal to the group for those many years. "When I moved to La Jolla, I knew that playing mahj would be a great way to meet new people." When she didn't find a game to join, Randy started one herself, by teaching. "They're catching on and getting faster and faster," she says of her students. "But it's not easy: one gal used to come with a bottle of aspirin." (Distressed by the difficulties of a new card's hands, one woman in New York told National Mah Jongg League president Ruth Unger that if she were looking for frustration, she would have stayed home with her husband.)

Randy's hope for mah-jongg's future is tentative. "I keep saying to the women at my games, 'We all have daughters; if we don't teach our children, this game is going to die.' I did teach it to my daughter, but it didn't really click. Now she lives in New York, and when she comes home, sometimes she plays with us. I hope she picks it up." I tell her to be patient; it could still happen. ■

— Sue Greenberg

First published in the Reader January 2, 2003

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## NEWS TICKER

continued from page 2

his girlfriend the next day and told her “to forget him and to throw all of his possessions away” and “he knew that one day he was going to kill someone from the Westside.”

Eva Knott

## Armed bandits target migrants in Imperial Valley

Firefight erupts between rival robbers

Armed attackers are taking aim at migrants crossing the border illegally near Ocotillo, according to a February 26 report from the U.S. Border Patrol. Ocotillo is located just east of San Diego County at the eastern base of the

Laguna Mountains.

The first reported incident occurred on February 16, when a group traveling toward the U.S./Mexico border was confronted by two masked men carrying high-powered rifles, who were in the process of robbing the migrants when a second collection of gunmen looking for victims arrived. A firefight broke out between the two groups, during which the migrants fled across the border, where they were subsequently arrested by Border Patrol agents. One of the bandits was allegedly killed during the gunfight.

The next day, eight migrants were assaulted by a trio of gunmen in nearly the same spot as the first.

After being held for several hours, the migrants claim, they overpowered the gunmen in a fight that left two of the hostage-takers dead and resulted in one of the would-be border-crossers being shot in the face. Taking a weapon from one of their attackers, the group again fled north across the border and dialed 911 for assistance. While the majority of the migrants was detained, the shooting victim was airlifted to a medical facility in Palm Springs.

“These unfortunate events highlight the inherent dangers of crossing the border illegally,” said chief patrol agent Carla L. Provost of El Centro in a release.

Dave Rice

## Spring cleaning for San Diego's public records

How expensive is storage space, anyway?

The City of San Diego is running out of space to store all those old emails — internal emails between staff and elected officials and correspondence from constituents. To remedy that, city officials have opted to purge any emails from city servers that were sent or received more than one year ago.

The reason: email retention is getting expensive, say city officials.

Open-government non-profit Californians Aware (Calaware) says this is against the law.

In a February 28 memo, Calaware's lead council Terry Francke delved into

the issue.

“Emails clearly fall within the definition of a public record. Further, city records are required to be retained for a minimum of two years. Destruction of public records may also be punished criminally.”

Dorian Hargrove

## Scott Barnett bows out of school-board race

Incumbent says he's done at SD Unified district

Scott Barnett, longtime political consultant, journalist, and onetime head of the GOP Lincoln Club, has decided not to seek reelection to the board of San Diego Unified School District.

He posted the announcement on Facebook Sunday, March 2:

“After much thought I have decided NOT to run for re-election to the school board.

“In trying to be a responsible and productive Board Member on behalf of the students, employees and taxpayers, I have been required to use much emotional, intellectual, and physically energy, which has interfered from meeting my personal, family and professional goals.

“I need to put my own life first again. These are not the only reasons for my decision NOT to run, but certainly the most important.

“30 years ago in April 1984 when I was elected to the Del Mar City Council at age 21, I started my odyssey of public service and community activism.

“Serving on the school board and working with many wonderful parent and community volunteers and so many dedicated staff has been a true inspiration and honor and a wonderful capstone to [the] last three decades.

“Today is not the time to recap my successes and failures, but to thank you for the opportunity to allow me to serve. While there is much great work and much reform still to be done, I am confident that Superintendent Cindy Marten will lead

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**Reader**



## CITY LIGHTS

us forward in improving the rigor of education for all of our students, and toward our goal of a quality school in every neighborhood."

In 2005, Barnett wrote here about the *Voice of San Diego* online news and opinion nonprofit operation cofounded by the late Neil Morgan.

During his term, Barnett has unsuccessfully argued against a sell-off of district-owned real estate.

*Matt Potter*

## On the run in Detroit

San Diegan owes bankrupt city \$11,000 in parking tickets

Detroit-area media are reporting that the bankrupt city is trying to collect \$82 million in unpaid parking tickets, including late fees and court costs.

The media list nine egregious offenders. One is Michelle Marlo-Klimes of San

## CITY LIGHTS

Diego, who reportedly owes Detroit more than \$11,000.

*Don Bauder*

## La Jolla seals win

They can now mate in peace

Seal-protection activists achieved their main goal on February 24 when the San Diego City Council voted 6-3 in favor of closing the La Jolla Children's Pool between December 15 and May 15.

The ruling, which accommodates the harbor seals' mating and "pupping" season, can only take effect if the California Coastal Commission issues a permit for the closure. The coastal commission has already stated in a memo that it favors seasonal closure as a solution for the controversy surrounding Children's Pool.

Opponents of the closure proffered a wide variety of solutions to the problem, but the majority acknowl-

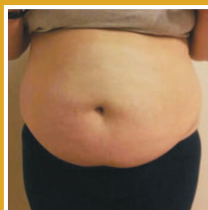
## CITY LIGHTS

edged the controversy required some solution. Many favored the "Life-guard Plan," which would see the beach more divided and monitored to encourage separation of beachgoers and seals. Some would prefer to see the Children's Pool restored to its original purpose of access for children and the disabled.

Ken Hunrichs, with the Friends of the Children's Pool, stressed that his group will continue to fight the closure. He said, "It's wrong, what they've done. There's protection in the trust, there's protection in the Constitution, there's protection in the coastal act to prohibit exactly what the city council did today.... We may challenge [the city council's ruling] in court, and we may have to go to the coastal commission."

*Ian Pike*

## HEALTH AND BEAUTY



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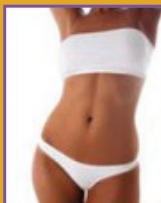
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**Michael Tachuk, M.D.,  
AACS, CACS, A4M**





# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 6

bring it to the U.S. for adoption. However, a Korean veterinarian was able to help the dog and get it back to decent health; an American military family stationed in Korea who fostered “Kobe” for three weeks ended up adopting him.

The collie rescuers’ Sue Baldwin said that her group received another email on February 4 from an animal shelter in Pohang, South Korea, about a starving and emaciated pure-bred collie taken into their shelter.

“ShinBi” was found on the streets weighing 37 pounds. Since he was so skinny, he was of no value to the meat markets, which is why he survived on the streets.

The rescue group decided they would spend the \$2000 raised for Kobe on ShinBi, to bring him to the U.S.

ShinBi will remain quarantined, by federal law, for the next 30 days before being available for adoption. He is staying in Baldwin’s home.

TREVOR HARRISON

## SOUTH PARK

### Woman in yoga pants attempts dognapping

Getaway thwarted at Grape Street park  
On February 19, what seemed to be an

attempted dognapping at Grape Street Dog Park was thwarted by park regulars.

The dog’s owner, who declined to have his name published, was sitting at a picnic table within the park when a young woman walked up, attached a leash to his small, white terrier mix, and told him, “I’m taking your dog and keeping her,” then hurried away. Witnesses say she took the dog directly to her car, which was parallel-parked for a “quick getaway” — facing the parking lot’s exit on Grape Street.

At that moment, a different dog-park regular arrived in the parking lot and, recognizing the terrier, blocked the suspected dognapper’s exit until the owner was able to retrieve his pet.

Witnesses describe the suspect, who was dressed in a knit cap and yoga attire, as being in her 30s, with brown hair, and driving a Honda with Oregon plates. When confronted, she claimed to have been concerned with the welfare of the dog in question, accusing the dog’s owner of negligence.

When the woman approached his dog and leashed it, the terrier’s owner said his first assumption was that she was “making a point” about not letting his dog wander off on its own. Instead, he watched in shock as she beelined for the exit. “When the girl reached the fence, I realized she wasn’t kidding,” he said. “I keep my dog on a leash at

all times now.”

A witness said the young woman claimed the dog could not be considered the man’s personal property because it was a living creature with its own wants and needs.

IAN ANDERSON

## ENCANTO

### And the trolleys will run on time in San Diego

#### Upgrade to provide better control

At approximately 6:00 a.m. on February 27, at the corner of Woodman and 69th streets, a project to deliver and set in place a new power substation had begun.

A massive crane had been erected to lift the substation off of the truck, and crews from the general contractor (Schimmick), Metropolitan Transit System, Siemens, SDG&E, office dogs, and other subcontractors were working together to get it in place.

According to an MTS superintendent/consultant, the power substation generates power to the trolley lines/cars and will replace the current substations at the Encanto and Massachusetts Street stops. This



New power substation will upgrade trolley lines that are 30 years old

will serve to upgrade the lines (which are 30 years old) and provide better control of the speed and traction of the lines and cars. The substation will also provide increased quality of monitoring the traffic signals and safety crossings.

The substation was built by Siemens in Fontana. SDG&E will have to complete trenching before lines can be laid and electrical service can be initiated.

Once in place, the system will undergo testing day and night through all periods of traffic to ensure that everything is operating correctly. SANDAG is overseeing the project and providing funds that come from a pool of various sources.

D. LAHR

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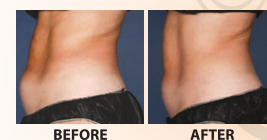
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# Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

## Thursday | 6

### PRINCESS PROJECT RUNWAY

A fashion event to provide free prom dresses and accessories to San Diego high school girls who cannot afford them. With live entertainment, music by DJ JoeMama, local craft beer and wine, a gourmet food menu, complimentary hors d'oeuvres and signature cocktails, and a silent auction with items donated by local businesses. \$25-\$30.

**WHEN:** 7 to 10 p.m.

**WHERE:** La Jolla Brewing Company, 7536 Fay Avenue, La Jolla. 858-456-6279; [princessprojectsd.org](http://princessprojectsd.org)

## Friday | 7

### LUMINOUS: LIGHT AND TRANSPARENCY ON PAPER

Opening reception for *Monotypes*, by Nancy Walter, and *Cyanotypes*, by Greg Brown. Working on paper, these two printmakers animate their work with the effects of light and transparency. The result is a stimulating mix of symbols, textures, images, and ideas.

**WHEN:** 5 to 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Civic Center Art Gallery, 505 S. Vulcan Avenue, Encinitas. 760-633-2600; [gmbcyanotype.com](http://gmbcyanotype.com)

## Saturday | 8

### KELLY VIVANCO: CURIOUS GARDENS

Featuring Vivanco's newest creations,

typically revolving around young, innocent girls, boys, and animals in playful and curious settings. Vivanco will be in attendance at the opening reception to meet and greet. Complimentary Stone beer and wine will be served.

**WHEN:** 6 to 10 p.m.

**WHERE:** ArtHatch, 317 E. Grand Avenue, Escondido. 760-781-5779; [kellyvivanco.com](http://kellyvivanco.com)

## Sunday | 9

### 19TH ANNUAL UGLY DOG CONTEST

Including ten categories: Ugliest Dog, Best St. Patty's Day Costume, Adult's Cutest Dog, Child's Cutest Dog, Dog Who Looks Most Like Its Owner, Best Trick, Cutest Puppy, Most Unusual Markings, Most Beautiful, and Most Handsome Male. Proceeds given to charity. \$6-\$12.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**WHERE:** Bates Nut Farm, 15954 Woods Valley Road, Valley Center. 760-749-3333; [uglydog-contest.org](http://uglydog-contest.org)



SATURDAY, MARCH 8: KELLY VIVANCO: CURIOUS GARDENS

## Monday | 10

### ITALIAN FORMAGGIO

*Buongiorno* from the land of the world's most popular cheese: Italy. Take a tasting tour around the country that modernized the production of cheese, with samples of the finest formaggio and complimentary Italian wine. \$50.

**WHEN:** 6 to 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Venissimo at Headquarters, 789 W. Harbor Drive, downtown. 619-358-9081; [venissimo.com](http://venissimo.com)

## Tuesday | 11

### BILLY CONNOLLY: THE MAN LIVE

Connolly is a standup comedian, actor, musician, TV presenter, and artist, hailed as the UK's most influential comedian of all

time, voted best comedian of all time by the UK's Channel 4 and included as one of *Huffington Post's* favorite UK comedians. \$32.50-\$52.50.

**WHEN:** 8 p.m.

**WHERE:** Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. 619-570-1100; [sandiegotheatres.org](http://sandiegotheatres.org)

## Wednesday | 12

### EBOOKMOBILE

The Digital Bookmobile National Tour showcases Escondido Public Library's free eBook download service. Readers can board the high-tech, 18-wheel tractor-trailer and learn how to download eBooks from the library through interactive demonstrations, high-definition instructional videos, and a gadget gallery.

**WHEN:** Noon to 6 p.m.

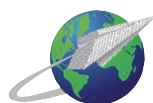
**WHERE:** Escondido Library, 239 South Kalmia Street, Escondido. 760-839-4839; [digitalbookmobile.com](http://digitalbookmobile.com)





# Travel & Getaways

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Ikalto, a 6th-century monastery in the country of Georgia

### Georgia (the country)

By Alice Diamond

Google “Georgia,” and you are much more likely to get recipes for peach pie than to learn about the unique ex-Soviet republic where wine was invented and a special language and culture survived a thousand years of foreign occupation. Today, it celebrates its links with Europe and America more than its association with the Orient.

In its capital city, Tbilisi, we saw something truly unique in the world: a major avenue named after George W. Bush!

This country of Georgia is a small swatch of land about the size of West Virginia (but with higher mountains!) at the far eastern end of the Black Sea, the bottom of Russia, and the top of Iran. Other neighbors include Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Chechnya. All in all, a dicey neighborhood (which is why they cozied up to George W.).

So, why go to Georgia? The country is definitely under-touristed. In our two weeks there, we were never even able to locate a map of Tbilisi. But just because the rest of the world hasn’t found it doesn’t mean that there aren’t some good reasons to visit.

Foremost on our list was the fabulous cuisine. Tasty, rich, and piquant, Georgian cuisine is the natural result of a fertile, mineral-rich landscape and a parade of interloping cultures trading or invading between the East and the West. Staunchly

proud of their culture, the Georgians have developed unique foods that are not available elsewhere. Think *khachapuri*, with oozy cheese enveloped in a yeast bread, 14 varieties to choose from, and each 50 cents or less (things were generally very cheap). Or yummy eggplant with walnut sauce. Or bean stew with a delicious corn muffin sitting on top. Instead of teaspoons of spices, Georgians are apt to add a fistful of coriander or basil and often use a blend of spices called *khmeli suneli* that is a complex, fragrant mixture of sour, grassy, and nutty flavors.

And the best place to sample the agricultural products is at their source. To do so, we traveled to the wine country of Kakheti in a spiffy 20-year-old Mercedes, powered by clean and economical compressed natural gas, which seems to be the fuel of choice here.

Under the gaze of the snowcapped Caucasus Mountains, we stopped at a number of monasteries — another reason to visit Georgia. One was Ikalto, established by Syrian missionaries in the 500s A.D. and the site for the next 1000 years of the only real higher-learning academy in the region. It was burned by Persians in 1616 but still contains the remains of three churches. But even more prominent than

the churches are the brothers’ wine vaults, which provided the perfect venue to learn how the Georgians produce this nectar. Many archaeologists believe Georgia to be the first to cultivate grapevines over 8000 years ago, and it is still a major source of domestic and export revenue.

Grapes are grown on every square inch of soil, and, it seemed, in the yard of every home — city and countryside alike.

Although about 400 varieties of grapes are grown, only about 38 are produced with any frequency. But that still leaves a lot of tasting to do! We did our tasting at the Gurabi Wine Tunnel complex, where we were ushered into a four-mile-long Soviet tunnel in the mountains that used to house heavy-duty missiles and tanks to protect the southern flank of the USSR. Abandoned in the 1990s, it was recently repurposed when it was discovered that it was the perfect temperature (about 55 degrees) for storing wine.

Later that night, we partook of one of the highlights of the trip: a many-course banquet called a *supra*. In between each course, our wine glasses were refilled and the *tamada* offered toasts, starting with general tributes and becoming more and more specific as the evening wore on, with an elegance that evoked the finest of poetry. The final toast was to “everything else we forgot to mention.”

Food, wine, and monasteries are definite reasons to make a visit, but we



The spread at a traditional Georgian supra

were surprised to find yet another reason: distinctive new public buildings. This was particularly unexpected, since the country seems quite poor and so many of the old buildings were sorely in need of restoration. Although the people have little money, the government has quite a lot. That’s because Georgia has the only pipeline route out of the huge Caspian Sea’s oil patch not going through Russia or Iran.

One of the things they’ve used the funds for is reforming the police force away from the corrupt practices it had fallen into. Almost all existing police were fired, pay was raised, and new police stations were built in exotic, futuristic designs. The huge glass expanses symbolize how nothing should happen in back rooms and that the police are there to help the public, not harass it.

Get yourself to Georgia and you’ll find that the people are proud, enterprising, good-humored, and high-spirited. What’s more, guests are considered blessings.

## Other Adventures



**nazevedo:** This image was taken at the top of Rocher de Naye, a portion of the Alps in Switzerland.



**pvanbaale:** Hidden mountain — Kualoa Ranch, Oahu Hawaii



**amisquez:** Wormsloe State Historic Site, Savannah, Georgia



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## ROAM-O-RAMA

San Diego Outdoors with the Museum Canyoneers

### ELEPHANT TREE TRAIL – ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK

Hike to a rare plant once thought to be the only one in the county

**Distance from downtown San Diego:** About 103 miles. Allow 2 hours and 15 minutes driving time (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park). From SR-163N, exit onto I-8E. Take SR-79N/Japantul Valley Rd. (Descanso), turning left, toward Julian, at the end of the ramp. After just under 3 miles, turn left to follow SR-79N to SR78. Turn east on SR78, away from Julian, and drive 33.6 miles to Split Mountain Rd. and turn right/south. Follow Split Mountain Rd. for 6 miles and turn right/west onto the signed dirt road leading to the trailhead, about 1 mile, and park.

**Hiking length:** A 1.1-mile loop. Allow about an hour. **Difficulty:** Easy walk with less than 100 feet gain/loss of elevation. No facilities. The well-marked trail is in a rocky and sandy wash. No dogs allowed on the trail.



A yellowish paper-like shedding bark, copper-colored upper branches, and green leaves are characteristic of the elephant tree.



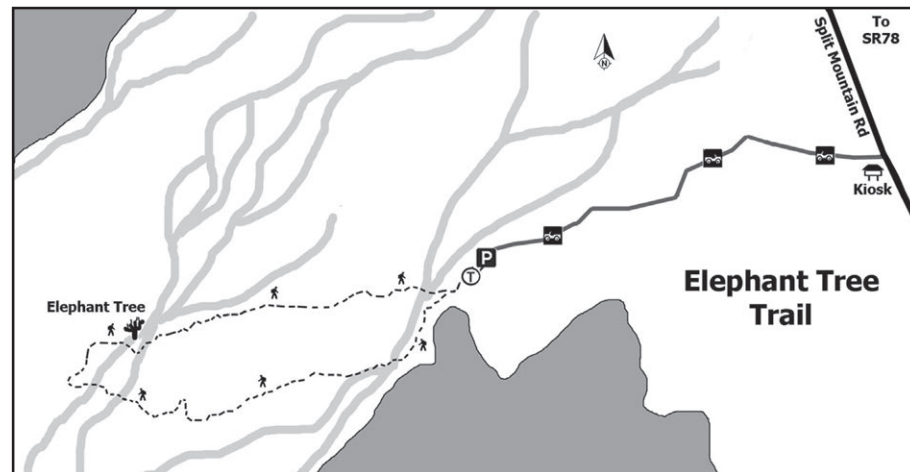
The swollen trunk led to this plant being called an elephant tree.

The elephant tree (*Bursera microphylla*) is rarely found in the United States. It is found in the Gila Range of Arizona and, more commonly, in Baja California and Sonora, Mexico. For many years it was thought not to exist at all in the United States. The first sighting in the Colorado Desert was made in 1911, but its exact location remained a

mystery until an elephant tree hunt occurred in 1937 and representatives from the San Diego Natural History Museum and the state park officially recorded this site. Since that time, other stands have been found in the Santa Rosa Mountains near Clark Dry Lake, Indian and Bow Willow canyon areas, Bisnaga Alta Wash, Fish Creek Mountains, and

In-Ko-Pah Gorge. (See the “Roam-O-Rama” column for Bow Willow to Mountain Palm Springs for a hike to Torote Bowl, where about 15 elephant trees can be found.)

The tree is usually found in rocky areas and on slopes. The common name derives from its swollen trunk, which stores water and has the resemblance of an elephant’s thick, massive leg. It stands 6–10 feet tall and can reach heights of 20–30 feet. The tree has low spreading branches, a yellowish paper-like shedding bark, copper-colored upper branches, green leaves, white flowers, purple fruit, and exudes a pinkish/red resin. It has a strong pungent smell reminiscent of turpentine, pine needles, and tangerines and is in the same family as myrrh and frankincense of the Middle East. It had the same sacred and special medicinal value to Native Americans as myrrh and frankincense had to the early Arabic



and Judaic cultures who also found it economically important as a source of incense and perfume. In Mexico it is known as *torote*, from the Spanish verb *torcer*, “to twist” — referring to its gnarled branches.

The trail is well-marked and has 13 numbered posts that relate to a free interpretive nature trail guide available at the turnout to Elephant Tree Trail from Split Mountain Road or at the park’s visitor center. The guide is a good way to learn about common desert plants and strategies they have to survive in the desert. For those interested in annual wildflowers, this is the first place to check each season, as annuals will flower at the lower and hotter elevations first.

The trail has changed from previous years due to flash-flooding in

the wash. There is now only one tree on this trail, and it is actually a shorter hike now than it was previously. Large piled rocks and boulders on the sides and in the wash testify to the force of running water and its ability to reshape trails that are in washes. At about the half-mile point, note the many downed ocotillos that were toppled over in a flash-flood. Also look to the northwest for a tall tree that stands out on the side of the wash. That is the lone elephant tree found on this hike a little further at mile 0.65. The tree is large, standing almost 15 feet in height. Other plants that will be noted on this hike include creosote, burrobush, desert lavender, cheesebush, ocotillo, indigo,

smoke trees, acacia, and cholla. The trail continues to loop around the wash, rejoining almost at the trailhead at signpost number 2.

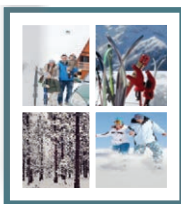
Since this is a short hike and a long distance to drive, it could be combined with one or two other short hikes by Tamarisk Grove, off SR-78, that appeared in this column last year. See Cactus Loop (2/21/2013) and Yaqui Well (2/28/2013).

Canyoneers are San Diego Natural History Museum volunteers trained to lead interpretive nature walks that teach appreciation for the great outdoors. For a schedule of free public hikes, refer to the San Diego Natural History Museum website.

Find more Roam-O-Rama columns online at [SDReader.com/roam](http://SDReader.com/roam)

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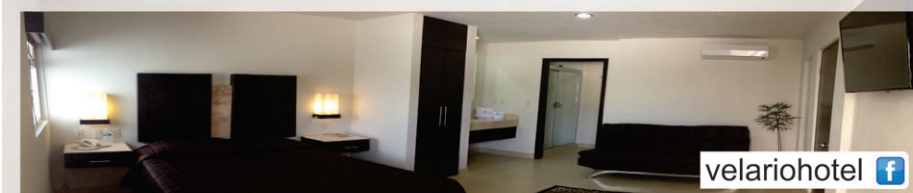
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Blue titles indicate sponsored events. To place a sponsored listing, call 619-235-8200.

### ART

**#U Can't Cage Color** Explosive art event featuring award-winning artists. Barbara Preston + Diane Hattula join forces in a thought-provoking and entertaining color riot. Food and drinks will round out the experience. Saturday, March 8, 5:30pm; **free**. Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 East Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

**Aesthetics & Authenticity** Aesthetics & Authenticity presents different perspectives on the authenticity of place and how art, design, and culture play a significant and important role in the infrastructure of our cities and regions. Each of the seven conversations and sessions will demonstrate how intentional planning and implementation for art and culture on a civic scale has a positive impact on how we live and how we experience our communities. The San Diego Airport Authority has made an intentional effort to integrate art into its day-to-day operations. Friday, March 7, 5:30pm; Saturday, March 8, 9am; Sunday, March 9, 9am; \$65. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

**Art Reception & Open House** Join local artists in a meet-and-greet reception while learning about your La Jolla community center. Several of the talented Allied Artists Association artists currently displaying at the center will be present to discuss their art or answer questions. Jackie Zucker and Valerie Grischy are the month's featured artists. Light refreshments will be provided. Saturday, March 8, 1pm; **free**. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

**Biggest Gallery Walk in San Diego** March at NTC means Malashock Dance, exhibitions of Creative Madness, and celebrating Women's History Month. Enjoy Friday Night Liberty with two free performances from Malashock Dance, hands-on art making with local printmaker Laurie Kmen, new exhibitions from the Watercolor Society, and visit numerous galleries and meet artist in their studios. See new works celebrating the Latino Film Festival at La Onda Arte Latino where unique works from Baja artists will inspire you to decorate. The Women's Museum of California has three big exhibitions celebrating Women's History Month. Friday, March 7, 5pm; **free**. NTC at Liberty Station Arts and Culture District, 2640 Historic Decatur Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

**Boombboxes, Boots, and Femmes Art Show** Celebrating National Women's History

Month with music you would proudly bump through your old school boombox, boots, femmes, and gentlemen that support the ladies and arts. Bid on original art, take a spin, and tip the cup up while you indulge a craft cocktail. Artists: rawdss, Claudia Maestre, Travis Crosby, Mandy Eglseider, Michelle Guerrero, Gabriela Rubio. Music: Cali Cam, Ricky Gutz, DJ Costanza, DJ Canvas. Thursday, March 6, 8pm; **free**. 21 and up. El Dorado Cocktail Lounge, 1030 Broadway. (EAST VILLAGE)

**Janine Free: Opening Reception** From abstract to documentary, a French street photographer presents images taken in cities of Europe and the United States. The show features a series of mannequins taken for the past six years in store windows. Those photographs seem collaged, but they show the reflections off the glass that we see every day as we walk by the city

streets. Through March 17. Saturday, March 8, 12pm; **free**. Gallery 21 in Spanish Village Art Center, 1770 Village Place. (BALBOA PARK)

**Luminous: Light and Transparency on Paper** Opening reception for MONOTYPES by Nancy Walter and CYANOTYPES by Greg Brown. Working on paper, these two printmakers animate their work with the effects of light and transparency, each artist finding a distinct voice. The result is a stimulating mix of symbols, textures, images, and ideas. Exhibit runs through April 16. Two printmakers met last year at an evening event at the Encinitas Library. Nancy Walter overheard Greg Brown talking about CYANOTYPES and asked if he would teach her how to make them. In exchange she offered to teach him how to make MONOTYPES, her specialty. They struck a deal, and an instant friendship was formed.



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## Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

Over several months they taught each other their respective print-making processes and found that sharing, co-creating, and connecting through printmaking energized their work. An experienced printer can get exquisitely detailed photo prints using negative transparencies, but with objects set on the paper, freer compositions, and varying light conditions, there are always surprises. The resulting images can be delicate, floating, mysterious, or other-worldly — impossible to create in any other medium. Friday, March 7, 5pm; **free**. Civic Center Art Gallery, 505 S. Vulcan Avenue. (ENCINITAS)

**Museum of the Living Artist Reception** Featuring John Brodie and Dani Dodge. Also juried and awarded artwork from “Outstanding Visual Artists” of the region. Friday, March 7, 6pm; \$3. San Diego Art Institute: Museum of the Living Artist, 1439 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**Steven Quarty, Romance of the Ages** A romantic at heart, Steven Quarty embraces the special moments in life through his oil paintings, looking to bring out the romantic in us all. Experience Quarty's work, which he describes as “a sense of remembrance, of quiet reflection, and fresh surprises...” Info: 800-599-7111 or [pr@ecgallery.com](mailto:pr@ecgallery.com). Friday, March 7, 6pm; Saturday, March 8, 6pm; Sunday, March 9, 12pm; **free**. Exclusive Collections Gaslamp Quarter, 437 Market Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

## BOOK SIGNINGS

**ChakraKey: A Key for Humanity** ChakraKey opens an amazing door to the intricate connections between the chakras, the rainbow,

the prism, the music scale, and the Jewish menorah. Free signed book for the first ten people. Saturday, March 8, 6pm; **free**. SoulScape Book Store, 765 S. Coast Hwy 101. (ENCINITAS)

**Local Author Susan Union** Susan Union will discuss her book *Rode to Death*. Saturday, March 8, 1pm; **free**. Cardiff-by-the-Sea Library, 2081 Newcastle Avenue. (CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA)

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Photography Bootcamp: DSLR 101** In this intensive one-day workshop, professional photographer Daniel Solomon will teach you the ins and outs of your DSLR camera. Venture off “Auto” mode and into the wild and wonderful world of manual settings to have full control of your photography and get the most out of your camera. Saturday, March 8, 10am; \$99. NTC at Liberty Station: Barracks 15, Studio 103, 2750 Historic Decatur Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

**San Diego Watercolor Society First Friday** Light refreshments and music. Juror: Nancy Oleska. Theme: “Creative Madness.” Friday, March 7, 5pm; **free**. NTC at Liberty Station Arts and Culture District, 2640 Historic Decatur Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

**Tree Steward Training** An initial one-day training provides an overview of tree benefits, biology, identification, selection, planting, care, and advocacy for the community forest. Instructors are local tree-care professionals. Saturday, March 8, 8:30am; \$5-\$25. Girl Scout Council Headquarters, 1231 Upas Street. (HILLCREST)

## COMEDY

**Full Throttle Comedy** A pedal to the metal ride of the nation's top stand up comics. Originally a staple

## Rhyme & Verse My Niece A poem by Krista Lukas

Born on the first day of spring the first year of the millennium. Imitator of waitresses and magicians; unpredictable thrower of tantrums; connoisseur of Gummy Bears, vanilla yogurt, and orange juice with calcium; disliker of onions; wearer of snowsuits, heart-shaped sunglasses, and undone braids; speaker of nonsensical phrases; expert snorter; constant storyteller; voracious imaginer of the impossible: backyard roller coasters, airplanes in the living room. *Oh, these are my taxes*, she says when asked about papers brought home from preschool one day. Moderate taker of naps in the backseats of cars; mess-maker of any room in her path; blue-eyed, fair-haired angel quick-to-turn-miserable scowler; tough-footed sprinter on beaches and lawns; climber of slides; blower of bubbles in bathtubs and swimming pools; granddaughter, great-granddaughter, cousin, and big sister; turner into her mother's shoulder, turner into her mother's leg;

of the New York comedy scene, the show has been selling out venues across Southern California. Each show features today's premiere comedic talent from HBO, Comedy Central, and Showtime. Hosted by national touring college favorite Michael Quu (MTV and Spike TV). Sunday, March 9, 8pm; \$12. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Risk!: True Tales Boldly Told RISK!**, a live show and podcast hosted by Kevin Allison, is the show where people tell true stories they never thought they'd dare to share. The RISK! podcast recently surpassed its ten-millionth download and has a robust and ever-growing fanbase around the globe. People like Sarah Silverman, Margaret Cho, Marc Maron, Michael Ian Black, Adam McKay, and Lisa Lampanelli as well as regular folks from around the world have told their true life stories. Saturday, March

8, 8pm; \$20. 18 and up. Finest City Improv, 4250 Louisiana Street. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

**TJ Miller** TJ Miller is quickly becoming one of the most sought-after young comedians and actors in the comedy world. He has been named one of Variety's “Top 10 Comics to Watch,” as well as one of Entertainment Weekly's “Next Big Things in Comedy.” Miller will soon be seen starring in the upcoming Fox comedy series *The Goodwin Games* opposite Becki Newton and Scott Foley. Thursday, March 6, 8pm; Friday, March 7, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, March 8, 7:30pm and 9pm. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**The Taxonomy of Atheists, Believers, and Preachers** Sam Singleton, Atheist Evangelist, makes his third appearance in as many years at the Joyce Beers Uptown Community Center. This will be the first San Diego perfor-

requent requester of big tickles and little tickles; answerer of telephones real and pretend; self-appointed CEO of seating arrangements at all tables; drawer of a line in the sand around beach toys and her brother and me. *Hey, guys, she says, this is our property line, okay?*



A former elementary-school teacher, Krista Lukas is now a Chancellor's Distinguished Fellow and a Gluck Fellow at the University of California, Riverside, where she is pursuing her MFA in Creative Writing. Her poems have been broadcast on *The Writer's Almanac* and previously published in *The Best American Poetry 2006*, *Creative Writer's Handbook* (5th edition), *New Poets of the American West*, and in literary journals including *Rattle*, *5 AM*, and *New Millennium Writings*. “My Niece” appears in her recent collection *Fans of My Unconscious*, published by Black Rock Press, and is reprinted by permission.

Find more poetry online at [SDreader.com/poetry](http://SDreader.com/poetry)

mance of his one-man show, “Cats, Sheep, and Goats: the Taxonomy of Atheists, Believers and Preachers.” Since 2007, Sam Singleton, Atheist's Evangelist has appeared in more than a hundred cities across the U.S. and Canada, regularly playing to packed houses. His other shows are: “Patriarchs and Penises,” “Too Big for God,” and “If the Ocean Was Whiskey and God Was a Duck.” San Diego's Humanist Association is sponsoring the event. Thursday, March 6, 8pm; \$10-\$15. Joyce Beers Uptown Community Center, 3900 Vermont Street. (HILLCREST)

**Tony Calabrese and Mark Christopher Lawrence** Tony Calabrese and Mark Christopher Lawrence are two of SOCAL's funniest comedians. Plus Taylor Tomlinson, Jennifer Congerbaum, and Maria Herman perform to benefit CHD. \$20. Call 619-993-3402 for tickets. Thursday, March 6, 8pm;

Comedy Store, 916 Pearl Street. (LA JOLLA)

**Zoltan and Imo Brewer** Comedy in Ocean Beach. Friday, March 7, 6pm; \$5. 21 and up. Winstons, 1921 Bacon Street. (OCEAN BEACH)

## DANCE

**Argentine Tango with Colette** Learn Tango now! Take a first free class Monday, March 10 at 7pm or Wednesday, March 12 at 7pm (or any Monday or Wednesday at 7pm thereafter) at Dance Place San Diego. No need for a partner. We will introduce you to the passion and magic of Tango. Visit [tangoewithcolette.com](http://tangoewithcolette.com) and call today: 514-726-5567. 2650 Truxtun Road, Studio #106. (POINT LOMA)

**Renaissance Faire Dancing Class** The Playford Plodders meet every Thursday to learn and practice English Country Dance

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## DISCUSSION GROUPS

**Simone de Beauvoir's The Second Sex** Book discussion. Sunday, March 9, 2pm; **free**. 18 and up. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

## FOOD & DRINK

**An Urban Winery & Wedding Festival** Wines, wine and cheese pairings, salad shakers, dessert shots, gourmet foods, live cooking shows, gifts for brides, wedding cakes, VIP carpet photos, and many prizes including a honeymoon cruise. Sunday, March 9, 10am; **free**-\$7.21 and up. San Diego Wine

and Culinary Center, 200 Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

### Cooking Class: Authentic Pizza

Have you ever wanted to learn how to make pizza in the authentic style from the renowned city of Napoli? How about a tasty sfincione from Sicily or focaccia from Liguria? Here is your perfect opportunity! Pizzachef Brian and chef Accursio will guide you through each step, starting with making the dough from scratch. Each student will take home extra dough to show off their pizza-making skills that evening at home. The fun starts at 10:30am at Solare with an Italian-style coffee of your choice and a pastry. Italian wine is served for students interested in cooking with wine. Limit of ten. Contact us for details. Saturday, March 15, 10:30am. Solare Ristorante Lounge, 2820 Roosevelt Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

**2nd Saturday w/New Belgium Brewing** Hey ho. New Belgium, one of Americas most fun and eco-friendly breweries, visits us

and we have a plethora of amazing beers including a special collaboration beer we are brewing with Pat Murfin (if it is ready). There is no better brewery showcase than 2nd Saturday and having New Belgium apart of it again is spectacular. The list is outstanding and rocking hard with mega-sour variations. Can't understate how good this beer list is! Cask: Rampant Imperial IPA. Saturday, March 8, noon. Hamilton's Tavern, 1521 30th Street. (GOLDEN HILL)

**Cherry Blossom Festival** The Japanese Friendship Garden of San Diego presents its 9th annual cherry blossom festival. Enjoy 150 cherry trees in bloom. See cultural entertainment and demos. Taste authentic Japanese street foods and drinks including a beer/sake garden sponsored by Asahi, Gekkeikan Sake, and Stone Brewery. Try fun crafts and kids activities. Shop unique gifts and plants. Saturday, March 8, 10am; \$5-\$6. Japanese

Friendship Garden, Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

## FOR KIDS

**Miracle League of San Diego Opening Day** The Miracle League of San Diego provides children with special needs the opportunity to play baseball in an organized league at two locations in San Diego County: Engel Family Field (a Little Padres Park in San Dieguito Park) and Green Field at Coronado High School. Spring 2014 season begins with Opening Day. Registration closes January 31. Info: 858-964-2222; [info@miracleleagueofsandiego.org](mailto:info@miracleleagueofsandiego.org). Saturday, March 8, 10am; **free**. San Dieguito County Park, 1628 Lomas Santa Fe Drive. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

**Nightingale Music School** Nightingale Music will visit NCM to introduce children to a variety of music types. From traditional

nursery songs to rock-n-roll with percussion instruments, the experience is designed to enhance learning and share the magical world of music with children. Ages 4 and under. Friday, March 7, 10:30am; New Children's Museum, 200 W. Island Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

**Target Free Second Sunday** Enjoy NCM for free, thanks to Target. All ages. Sunday, March 9, 12pm; New Children's Museum, 200 W. Island Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

## LECTURES

**The Architecture of the Future of Mankind** Join us for installment 1.2.1 of the Library South Series: "The Architecture of Future Mankind: How People and Technology are Shaping Cities." Francesco Lipari and Mark Muckenheim will discuss the theories behind the Beijing Cityvision Competition. The competition

presents three scenarios for the future of cities shaped by technology: evolution, involution, or extinction. The Library South Series is a more intimate offshoot of the main lecture series meant to foster a one-to-one dynamic and promote critical thinking through discussion. Friday, March 7, 6:30pm; **free**. Woodbury University School of Architecture, 2212 Main Street. (BARRIO LOGAN)

**LIFE at MiraCosta College Lectures** 1pm: "The Mysterious Easter Island" with Teri Sowell, Ph. D, UCSD faculty. Learn more about one of the most fascinating cultures in the South Pacific, including the mysteries behind the iconic stone giants that dominate Easter Island's landscape. 2:30pm: "Space Exploration" with Lyford Rome, NASA/JPL Ambassador. The Kepler Mission is a NASA Discovery Program launched in March 2009 for detecting potentially life-supporting planets around other stars in our galaxy. All of the planets detected so far

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# SHEEP AND GOATS

## I ANSWERED THE CALL

### Christ the King Lutheran Church

**Contact:** 1620 S. Stage Coach Lane, Fallbrook  
760-728-325; ctkfb.org

**Membership:** 1200

**Pastor:** Mark Johnson

**Age:** 46

**Born:** Minneapolis, MI

**Formation:** Lutheran Bible Institute, Anaheim;  
Concordia University, Irvine; Lutheran Seminary,  
St. Paul

**Years Ordained:** 17

**San Diego Reader:** What is your favorite sub-  
ject on which to preach?

**Pastor Mark Johnson:** It would have to be the  
simple message of God's grace, God's mercy in  
Christ Jesus. That's the heart of the gospel and  
has made me a follower and believer in Jesus.

**SDR:** What's your main  
concern as a member of the  
clergy?

**PJ:** As human beings, we are  
not centered in our relation-  
ship with God. Either God is  
not at all a part of our lives  
or just a peripheral part of  
our lives. God created us  
to be centered on him and  
that's where true life comes  
from. So, I hope my prayer  
for the people I speak to is  
that I draw them out and  
they stay centered in their  
relationship with God and  
with Christ Jesus.

**SDR:** Why did you become  
a minister?

**PJ:** I never wanted to, but the  
more I got to know the Lord  
and spent time in his work,  
the more I felt the call in my

heart that that was where the  
Lord was leading me. Now,  
looking back on it, I can't  
see myself doing anything  
else, but at the time — I was  
a young adult — that was not  
the direction I was planning  
to go. I was looking at com-  
puter science or meteorology  
even at one point. But God  
has a sense of humor in how  
he works.

**SDR:** Why Lutheranism?

**PJ:** I grew up in a Lutheran  
home, so it's my heritage and  
foundation. But in studying  
both in Bible school and  
college, I identified with the  
story of Martin Luther, who  
had a rebirth in his spiritual  
life when he got to know the  
scriptures. I identified with  
that rebirth myself and came

into a place where I got to  
know God's amazing love  
and amazing word through  
his mercy.

**SDR:** What is the mission of  
your church?

**PJ:** Our mission is simply  
to be and make disciples of  
Jesus Christ. First, we must  
be disciples, know Jesus and  
his words. We also want to  
help others to know Jesus by  
reaching out in both spiritual  
and physical ways, especially  
to the poor, the oppressed,  
and those in bad situations.

**SDR:** Where is the strangest  
place you've found God?

**PJ:** In my own spiritual walk,  
what drew me to God and his  
work, I wrestled with anxiety  
and fear. In wrestling with  
these things, I was drawn to



Pastor Mark Johnson says the more  
he "got to know the Lord and spent  
time in his work, the more [he] felt  
the call in [his] heart."

a place where my confidence  
was not in my surroundings  
and circumstances, but in  
God, who does not change.  
It continues to be a process  
in which I'm drawn close to  
God in times of trouble.

**SDR:** Where do you go when

you die?

**PJ:** Jesus said he came so that  
we might have life, eternal  
life, but he also said that  
eternal life is an invitation  
we have as human beings.  
I think everyone will have  
an afterlife, but only those  
who have embraced the life  
God wants us to have in this  
life go to heaven. He invites  
everyone to that life, but we  
don't necessarily have to go  
there. On the other hand,  
I don't believe God sends  
anyone to hell; I believe we  
go there because we refuse  
to receive what God wants  
for us.

— Joseph O'Brien

Find more Sheep and Goats columns  
at SDRReader.com/worship/

by other projects are giant plan-  
ets. Kepler is poised to find planets  
30 to 600 times less massive than  
Jupiter. Is there life on other plan-  
ets? Friday, March 7, 1pm; **free.** 18  
and up. MiraCosta College, One  
Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

**Palomar College Night Jazz  
Band** This 90-minute presenta-  
tions lets the audience in on great  
conversations and live perfor-  
mances by Southern California

musicians. Listen to jazz, learn  
about jazz, and talk about jazz: part  
performance and part conversation,  
each session lets the audience head  
backstage to take five in the green  
room. Palomar College boasts two  
17-piece jazz ensembles for day-  
time and nighttime students. Night  
Ensemble director Paul Kurokawa  
has toured the world playing trump-  
pet and singing at famous locales  
including Carnegie Hall. Satur-

day, March 8, 4pm; **free.** Schul-  
man Auditorium at Carlsbad City  
Library, 1775 Dove Lane. (CARLSBAD)

**Why Did our Ancestors Leave  
a Nice Place Like the Pale?** In  
1880, 80% of the European Jewish  
population lived in Poland and the  
Pale of Jewish Settlement in western  
Russia. We all know of the pogroms  
(organized violence) and mass exo-  
dus to points west over the next  
generation. Hal Bookbinder will

describe the 120 years of the Pale,  
from its formation in the late 18th  
Century to its dissolution during  
the First World War. This his-  
tory will provide some context to  
those of Jewish ancestry who lived  
in the Pale, and their decision to  
leave everything they had known to  
make new lives the West. Sunday,  
March 9, 1pm; **free.** Lawrence Fam-  
ily Jewish Community Center, 4126  
Executive Drive. (LA JOLLA)

## OUTDOORS

### Go Skydiving This Weekend!

Free video of your tandem skydive  
this Sunday for people who read  
the San Diego Reader. Just tear out  
our half page ad in this week's issue  
and bring it with you. Skydive San  
Diego is San Diego's largest and  
oldest operation. Scenic views of

the ocean, downtown skyline, the  
mountains, and more. Gift certi-  
ficates are available and make great  
presents — assuming they want the  
experience of a lifetime! Must be 18  
years of age and weigh less than 230  
pounds: Visit [skydivesandiego.com](http://skydivesandiego.com)  
for details or call 888-391-0251.  
Saturday, March 8, 8am; Sunday,  
March 9, 8am; Skydive San Diego,  
13531 Otay Lakes Road. (JAMUL)

## \$15

Special price for listings of  
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of all - go to [SDReader.com](http://SDReader.com)/SheepAds and place your  
ad automatically any time of  
day or night.

### TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM Silent Auction and Fundraiser

Items from San Diego's top  
attractions and restaurants  
are being offered. Founded  
in 1958, Temple Beth  
Shalom of Chula Vista is  
the cornerstone of Jewish  
community and culture in  
south San Diego County.  
Take this opportunity to  
support our continued mis-  
sion of providing a home to  
all Jews and those who seek  
knowledge of the Jewish  
way of life. Sunday, March  
16, 4-7 pm.  
CHULA VISTA  
208 Madrona Street  
(619) 420-6040

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF SAN DIEGUITO Karen Drucker

March 8th at 7:30 pm. Join  
us for an inspiration evening  
of music and laughter as  
Karen Drucker weaves her  
magic spell. To order tickets  
go to [kdruckerconcert314.eventbrite.com](http://kdruckerconcert314.eventbrite.com). Send  
questions to Vicky at  
[suun.events@gmail.com](mailto:suun.events@gmail.com)  
SOLANA BEACH  
1036 Solana Drive  
(858) 755-9225

### COLLEGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH SDSU Choirs: Spring Choral Concert

SDSU's Chamber Choir  
and Aztec Choir, under the  
direction of Patrick Walders,  
and three local high school  
choirs, come together for an  
inspiring concert of choral  
literature. Saturday,  
March 8, 7:30-9:30 pm.  
COLLEGE AREA  
4747 College Avenue  
(619) 287-4747

### 1ST SPIRITUALIST CHURCH First Spiritualist Church



Friday, March 7, Meditation  
and Message Circle 6:45-  
9 pm. Sunday Service,  
March 9: Meditation/Auric  
Healings: 10 am. Lecture  
Service/Messages: 11 am  
Guest Speaker: Margrit  
Spear. Workshop on  
"EFT Tapping" with Erica  
Belisario: 1:30-3:30 pm  
Monday, March 10: Spiritual  
Healing Class: 6:30-8:30 pm  
Monday, March 10:  
Metaphysical Monday:  
6:30-8:30 pm. Friday,  
March 14: Full Moon  
Meditation: 7-9pm. [www.1st-spiritualistchurch.org](http://www.1st-spiritualistchurch.org)  
CITY HEIGHTS  
3777 42nd Street  
(619) 284-4646

### GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH Gethsemane

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tional liturgy. Good music.  
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Sunday: 8 am Contemplative  
Communion; 9:30 am  
Spirited traditional. [www.gethsemanesd.org](http://www.gethsemanesd.org) (858)  
277-6572  
SERRA MESA  
2696 Melbourne Drive  
(858) 277-6572

### PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Christian Vocation

Lenten Worship Services  
Ash Wednesday Mar 5-7 pm  
Wednesdays 7 pm. Holy  
Week Worship  
Palm Sunday Apr 13. 9 am  
April 14, 15, 16, 12 pm  
Maundy - Thursday - Apr 17,  
7 pm. Good Friday - Apr 18,  
7 pm. Easter Vigil - Apr 19, 7  
pm. Easter Worship 9:30 am  
[www.princeofpeacecd.net](http://www.princeofpeacecd.net).  
ALLIED GARDENS  
6801 Easton Court  
(619) 583-1436

### SANTO NINO CATHOLIC CHURCH All accepted as they are and where they are without judgment.



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faith community rooted  
in Catholic spirituality and  
traditions where the Catholic  
faith is preserved and prac-  
ticed with honesty, integrity,  
and inclusiveness.  
[Americancatholicchurch.org](http://Americancatholicchurch.org)  
St. John the Beloved  
Cathedral: Catholic Mass  
every Sunday at 11:30 am.  
HILLCREST  
3900 Cleveland Ave  
(619) 295-1489

Santo Nino Catholic Church:  
Catholic Mass every Sunday  
at 9:00 am.  
EL CAJON  
374 N. Magnolia Ave.  
(619) 354-6466

### ST. JOHN BOSCO MISSION SSPX Catholic Traditional Latin Mass



St. John Bosco Mission  
SSPX. Fr. Thomas Hufford  
Sunday Mass: 4pm,  
Confessions: 3:30pm.  
(858) 433-0353 (call for  
proper attire)  
[stjohnboscomission@  
hotmail.com](mailto:stjohnboscomission@hotmail.com), [www.sspcx.org](http://www.sspcx.org).  
Instaurare Omnia in Christo.  
To the greater glory of God!  
POINT LOMA  
2881 Roosevelt Road

### CHULA VISTA CHURCH OF CHRIST Celebrate Recovery

Christ centered recovery  
from hurts, habits, and  
hang-ups. Tuesdays,  
6:30-9:30 pm.  
CHULA VISTA  
470 L Street  
(619) 422-7747

### CCNV CHURCH AWANA Club CCNV Church Awana Clubs

AWANA Club: Christ centered  
learning through lessons,  
games, and team building  
activities. Tuesday nights  
6:45-8:30 pm. Children age  
2-18 welcome. Hablamos  
espanol.  
SPRING VALLEY  
9140 Akard St.  
Spring Valley, CA 91977  
(619) 662-0389

### UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF LA MESA Forgiveness Journey

The United Church of Christ  
of La Mesa presents a spe-  
cial Lenten program: a four-  
week study of the transfor-  
mative power of God's grace  
in our journey in, with, and  
for forgiveness and, on the  
fifth week, an opportunity to  
walk the labyrinth, a circular,  
unicursal, winding route to a  
center anyone willing to take  
the journey can find.  
On Wednesday March 12,  
19, and 26 and April 2.  
LA MESA  
5940 Kelton Avenue  
(619) 464-1519

### TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM Passover Music of the Holocaust

Temple Beth Shalom of  
Chula Vista will host to Yale  
Strom, violinist, historian,  
and author. Mr. Strom will  
share anecdotes and per-  
form Passover music sung  
and chanted by Jews of the  
Holocaust. The event will be  
a part of Shabbat Services,  
with Oneg Shabbat after-  
wards in the social hall.  
Friday, April 4, 7:30-9 pm.  
CHULA VISTA  
208 Madrona Street  
(619) 420-6040

### HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH Cajon Valley Jamboree

A large, festive, annual com-  
munity gathering in the heart  
of El Cajon. The Jamboree is  
filled with local merchants,  
live music, auctions, raffles,  
games, rides, food, and  
more. An event for the whole  
family. Friday, May 16, 5-10  
pm. Saturday, May 17, 9  
am-10 pm. Sunday, May 18,  
9 am-5 pm.  
EL CAJON  
405 Ballard Street  
(619) 444-9425



**Introduction to Wildlife Tracking** Join knowledgeable SDTT instructor for informal “dirt-time” lessons in the art of wildlife tracking. All experience levels welcome. Learn to identify the tracks and scat of coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, deer, and other wildlife in our area. No reservation necessary. Saturday, March 8, 8am; **free**. Los Peñasquitos Ranch Adobe, 12122 Canyonside Park Drive. (RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS)

**San Diego Challenge** Challenge Nation is coming to San Diego. Participate in an urban adventure race, “Amazing Race” style. Teams of two or more dash around the city solving clues, exploring new parts of the city and compete for a chance to participate in the National Championship race in Las Vegas this November. Sunday, March 9, 2pm; \$35-\$55. Jolt’n Joe’s, 379 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**19th Annual Ugly Dog Contest** Including ten categories: Ugliest Dog, Best St. Patty’s Day Costume, Adult’s Cutest Dog, Child’s Cutest Dog, Dog Who Looks Most Like Its Owner, Best Trick, Cutest Puppy, Most Unusual Markings, Most Beautiful, Most Handsome Male. All proceeds are given to charity. Sunday, March 9, 11am; \$6-\$12. Bates Nut Farm, 15954 Woods Valley Road. (VALLEY CENTER)

**Carnevale 2014** Join us for a masquerade ball in celebration of carnevale. We will have appetizers, a no-host bar, and music and dancing with DJ Bakspin. Saturday, March 8, 7pm; \$10-\$15. Convivio, 2157 India Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

**Celebremos la Recuperación** Acompáñanos en este curso en donde aprenderás como te puedes

recuperar de heridas pasadas, malos hábitos, y de relaciones destructivas. Thursday, March 6, 7pm; **free**. CCNV Church, 9140 Akard Street.

**Celtic Music Festival** St. Patrick’s Day party aboard the Berkeley Ferryboat. Featuring live performances by Raggle Taggle & Jackstraws. Entry includes: Two stages of music, Irish step dancers, corned beef & cabbage (6:30pm-9:30pm). Full bar. Benefits the Maritime Museum. Pre-sale \$25; \$30 at the door. Tickets online at *celtic-con.com*. Monday, March 17, 6pm-11pm. The Maritime Museum/Berkeley Ferry Boat, 1492 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

**Civil War Re-Enactment** Visions In Time Foundation, along with the Vista Antique Gas & Steam Museum, is producing their 14th annual spring Civil War Re-Enactment at the museum. A full-scale camp of historians, entertainers, food vendors, merchants, and hundreds of Civil War re-enactors will converge upon The Antique Gas & Steam Museum. The re-enactment will recreate the era of the American Civil War, featuring real-live battle scenes complete with a battery of authentic period cannons. The two-day event will offer something for everyone, including historical tours of the museum’s

extensive collection of antique equipment and grounds, period music, battle scenes, Civil War arts & crafts vendors, and an assortment of food and drink. Saturday, March 8, 10am; Sunday, March 9, 10am; **free**-\$15. Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, 2040 North Santa Fe Avenue. (VISTA)

**Go Green & Get Lucky, Ages 40-60ish** Simply The Best Singles, an upscale organization for singles looking for relationships, marriages, and more, offers a dance/mixer with a DJ who will rock the house with ’80s to current dance music, icebreakers, psychic readings, photographers, and prizes. Dress in green and join 200+ upscale singles. \$15 prepay; \$20 door. Self-parking \$5; valet \$10. Saturday, March 15, 7:30pm to 11:30pm. Del Mar Marriott, 11966 El Camino Real. Sign up at 818-577-687 or *simplythebestsingles.com*. (DEL MAR)

**Healthy Living Open House at Bastyr University Clinic** Tour, taste, and explore what our new San Diego teaching clinic has to offer at this free community gathering. Learn about natural medicine at Bastyr University California’s newly expanded teaching clinic, Bastyr University Clinic. Tours of the renovated clinic and main

campus; healthy cooking demonstrations in the Teaching Kitchen/Nutrition Lab; health screenings; discussion sessions and presentations by faculty experts; and light refreshments. Saturday, March 8, 12pm; **free**. Bastyr University California, 4106 Sorrento Valley Boulevard. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

**Higher Brain Living Presentation/Demonstration** Create lasting positive change, lose fear and worry, gain clarity, focus, and joy by changing the physiology of your brain...and it’s guaranteed! Check out our website and get additional info, testimonials, and tickets for this free event: *higher-brainlivingmv.com*. Wednesday, March 12, 7pm. AWAKEN Higher Brain Living Center, 2831 Camino Del Rio South #308. (MISSION VALLEY)

**Looking for the Next Don Draper** Have you got what it takes to be the next superstar? Join The MARCC Academy and develop your competitive skills. Apprentice-style classes in marketing, advertising, research copy, and content writing are starting soon. For information: *themarccacademy.com*. Call for appointment today! 619-795-4509. Thursday, March 6, 1pm; Marcc Academy, 330 A Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**MakerPlace Two-Year Anniversary Open House** The free all-day event, celebrating the workshop’s two years of operation, will include instructor demonstrations, meet and greets with members, tours of the facilities, special membership pricing, and lunch. Attendees are invited to view a special hydro bot challenge where participating students from various San Diego County high schools will compete in a timed hydro bots construction and presentation. Saturday, March 8, 10am; **free**. MakerPlace, 1022 W. Morena Bl., Suite H. (LINDA VISTA)

**Order of the Good Death** Caitlin Doughty, the hilarious Los Angeles mortician comedian, will share her irreverent observations about American’s attitudes toward death, stories from the mortuary, unusual ideas about burials, and more. Presented by the Hemlock Society of San Diego. Info: 619-233-4418. Sunday, March 16, 1:30-3pm. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

**Powerhouse Park Cleanup** San Diego Coastkeeper hosts a beach and street cleanup in Del Mar. Powerhouse Park is a great place to play at the park while overlooking the beautiful Del Mar Beach. Meet on the grass next to the Powerhouse Park Community Center. Saturday,

March 8, 9am; Powerhouse Park, 1600 Coast Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

**The Spirit of Hatred and Vengeance** The SDSU Criminal Justice Student Association is hosting a screening of *Carl Panzram: The Spirit of Hatred and Vengeance* at the new Student Union. A 50-minute Q&A with director John Borowski and other professionals will follow. March 13, 5:30pm and March 14, 6:30pm. \$3 for SDSU students; \$5 for the public. San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

## SPORTS & FITNESS

**BlackLight Active Yoga** The first Friday of every month is an active yoga flow class to black lights and glow in the dark fun. We even provide glow gear. Practicing yoga under hundreds of glow stars is amazing! Wear white to glow even more! Make the start to the week-end even better with a yoga glow release of your week (60 minutes, barefoot, and glowing!) Friday, March 7, 7:30pm; \$5-\$10. 18 and up. Carlsbad Village Yoga and Fitness 2801-B Roosevelt Street. (CARLSBAD)

If you suffer from hurts, habits or hang-ups please come and join us at the Chula Vista Church of Christ.

WHAT: Celebrate Recovery Meetings  
WHEN: Tuesdays 6:30pm – 8:30pm  
WHERE: 470 L St, Chula Vista, CA



### ST. LUKE’S LUTHERAN CHURCH FASTING TIME now until Easter

So, give something up and think about what Christ has given up for you. Wednesday Soup Suppers 5:30 pm, Service at 6:30 pm until Holy Week. Palm Sunday, April 13 cantata, “Tapestry of the Passion,” 9 am, Maunday Thursday, April 17, 7 pm, Good Friday, April 18, 7 pm Easter, April, 20, 9 am and 11 am. LA MESA 5150 Wilson Street (619) 463-6633

### LAKESIDE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH The Ugandan Children’s Choir

Sunday, March 9, 4:00 pm. LAKESIDE 9908 Channel Road (619) 443-1021

### MISSIONGATHERING CHRISTIAN CHURCH Transforming Missional Annual Network Gathering

We’re crafting this special weekend to bring together pastors and activists, artists and theologians to work through the challenges we are facing and emerge together with solutions, training, and inspiration. Keynotes by: Joerg Rieger – Deconstructing Church, Empire Toward Deep Solidarity. Alexia Salvatierra – Faith Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World Pamela Wilhelms – Living Systems for Change Paul Engler – Organizing Models for Change. Celia Alario - Spiritual Activism. Gareth Higgins – A New Story Makes A New World. Thursday, March 27, 5 pm. NORTH PARK 3090 Polk Avenue (619) 624-9335

### CCNV CHURCH Celebremos la Recuperación



Acompáñanos en este curso en donde aprenderás como te puedes recuperar de heridas pasadas, malos hábitos y de relaciones destructivas. Costo: Gratis Cada Jueves de 7-9pm SPRING VALLEY 9140 Akard St. Spring Valley, CA 91977 (619) 662-0389

### SEASIDE CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING Easter Celebration & Egg Hunt

With musical artist Karl Anthony and his hilarious and passionate performance along with an inspiring choir, brass band, and our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Services are at 6 am (featuring release of doves and fol-

lowed by a pancake breakfast), 9am, and 11am. Youth services are available at 9 .am and 11am. The Easter Egg hunt begins at noon. ENCINITAS 1613 Lake Drive (760) 753-5786

### LA JOLLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Sacra/Profana: Vocal Vanguard part 2

IlIn the second part of the Vocal Vanguard series (part 1 takes place January 12 at the Athenaeum Music & Arts Library), Sacra/Profana celebrates the modern generation, exploring an eclectic array of compositional styles and highlighting past winners of the Annual Composition Contest. Sunday, March 23, 4 pm. LA JOLLA 7715 Draper Avenue (858) 454-0713



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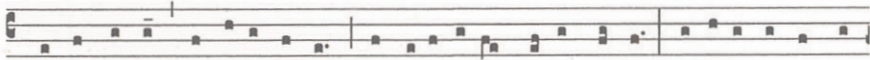


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## Gregorian Chant Mass



Pa-ter noster, qui es in cae-lis: sancti-fi-cé-tur nomen tu-um; advé-ni-at regnum  
Our Father who art is heaven, hallowed be thine name, Thy kingdom



4 pm on the second Sunday of every month

▪ Sunday, March 9, 4:00 pm.

Choir and congregational singing of Gregorian Chant, sacred polyphony, and hymns.

### Our Lady of the Rosary Church

State and Date Streets (Little Italy), Downtown San Diego



# ART

SUBJECT/OBJECT

## Life underwater

Scott McGee's photography exhibition, a collection of dive and dry land photography called *Adventures in a Cafe*, opens at Vinaka Cafe in Carlsbad (300 Carlsbad Village Drive #211) with a reception on March 9 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. McGee's collected images depict life beneath the waves of Southern California and Baja.

"A lot of people have no idea what's out there,"

says McGee of the lush environment that he's been exploring since his youth as a scuba diver in San Diego. The reefs, kelp forest, and near-shore canyons within sight of the local coastline host a diverse array



Scott McGee in his dive gear

of marine life and underwater structure that most San Diegans don't get to

see. Getting to share the amazing things that he sees beneath the waves is McGee's main motivation in staging the show.

Apart from wildlife photography, McGee likes to photograph divers in the water and on the beaches, inserting a human element into an image of raw nature.

He hopes to raise people's awareness of ocean ecology. It can be difficult for people to sympathize with something that's hidden from view, and McGee believes that seeing the underwater world captured in its beauty will raise awareness of issues that threaten the vibrancy of our coastal seas. A recent *Reader* story on La Jolla

Cove's sea-lion population demonstrates, by the exuberant

they can see and experience, like the sea lions at the cove. The



Dance of the Sea Lions

responses from its readers, that people identify more strongly with an issue

health of our kelp forests and underwater reefs, on the other hand, is more

secret, partly because those environments aren't easy to see.

In part, the closeness to real-world political concerns gives *Adventures in a Cafe* a sense of topical relevance. Certain beaches in San Diego are threatened with closure due to the clumsy intersection of laws. Ideas about sustainable fisheries have influenced local businesses and the minds of consumers alike. There's no doubt that *Blackfish* caused a stir.

Life underwater may be hidden from view, but it's all around us, all the time. McGee invites people to come and take a look without having to get wet. ■

—Ian Pike

Find more Art Seen at [SDReader.com/art](http://SDReader.com/art)

## GEM FAIRE

GemFaire.com

**March 14, 15, 16**

Del Mar Fairgrounds  
(Bing Crosby Hall, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar)

SHOW HOURS:

FRI 12-6

SAT 10-6

SUN 10-5

Admission \$7 weekend pass

MORE INFO:  
503.252.8300  
[info@gemfaire.com](mailto:info@gemfaire.com)

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# MORE CHANCES TO WIN!

[sdreader.com/contests](http://sdreader.com/contests)

**Win a Fat Reduction & Beauty Package**

Enter to win a Liposonix treatment for non-surgical fat removal, 5 laser hair removal sessions and a microdermabrasion facial.

Enter by Wednesday, March 12th at 1PM.

**Win Tickets to See Rhys Darby**

Enter to win 4 tickets to see comedian Rhys Darby at the Belly Up.

Enter by Monday, March 17th at 1PM.

**Win a VIP Comedy Night**

Enter to win 4 front row center VIP tickets to see The Amazing Johnathan, a bucket of ice cold beer, and a meet & greet.

Enter by Tuesday, March 18th at 1PM.

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# New school

*“This place is like the Subway of sushi. It’s your choice, and it’s way quick.”*

**T**he Revolution? It started here. Like, who needs sushi chefs when you can be your own sushi chef?

Michael Broder and Jennifer Duarte, two San Diego locals, came up with the idea for a self-service, invent-your-own sushi joint that turns all sushi’s formalities upside-down.

Sounds kinda good to me. Truth is, I’m intimidated by sushi. I don’t know enough. You sit there at a sushi bar gazing at lists of stuff you vaguely recognize as fishy, and you try like hell not to utter the only two words you know, the words that will drive any self-respecting sushi chef crazy: “Uh, California roll, please.”

So, the revolution? I first noticed it downtown at Sixth and C. I saw that Submarina, the sandwich place, had closed. Brown paper had gone up behind the office dog windows and a new sign was already on the wall outside: “Sushi Freak.”

I wandered in and found this guy César laying mosaic tile up on the back wall.

“It’s going to be like a self-service sushi bar,” he says. “They already have a place on Linda Vista Road. It’s doing great.”

So, on the Green Line trolley, off at Morena/Linda Vista, a quick Tarahumara trot up through the parking lot to this li'l triangular strip mall, and — banzai! There’s the sign and a catch-phrase: “For the Luv of Sushi.”

You somehow get the vibe from that one little line.

It’s quite a narrow place with the counter and kitchen down the left-hand side and a bunch of tables on the right.

I join a clump of people just inside the door, all looking up at a big menu beside the counter.

Gal ahead of me steps up. “I’ll have the spicy tuna and the sumo, and could you put some...”

She goes along the counter and starts pointing to food items displayed behind glass.

The sushi chef is putting bright yellow stuff — fish eggs, probably — then orange stuff, salmon? — on top of black seaweed on top of rice, then adds what looks like sautéed green onion, and then rolls it all up. He starts a second one with big scoops of avocado, adds some batter-fried shrimp, and ends up with raw fish laid right on top of the roll.

“I like creating my own,” the gal, Alicia says. “Here you can do it. That’s what’s so brilliant. It kind of empowers you. Main thing is the sushi chefs here don’t get judgmental. It’s stress-free sushi!”

So, my turn’s coming up. Menu has direct instructions. 1. Select your wrapper (seaweed, \$3.95, or soy, \$4.95). 2. Pick your protein. Cooked items include teriyaki chicken, \$1.95; coconut shrimp, \$1.95; krab mix, \$1.95; freshwater eel, \$3; raw items include salmon, spicy tuna, yellowtail (all \$2.50). 3. Choose your fillings (2 free, additional items, 50 cents each) Items include daikon sprouts, cream cheese, avocado, spring mix, asparagus, jalapeño). 4. Top & Sauce. \$1 toppings include tempura crunch and tobiko (flying fish roe); \$2.95 items include krab mix and raw fish. You also get free sauces like unagi (eel), creamy wasabi, ponzu.

So, two things. There’s plenty here; and you could run up a tab real easy.

Of course they have “old school” rolls, like, yes, the California (\$5.95), Philadelphia (the one with salmon, avo, cream cheese, \$6.50), or “new school” rolls like the Snap Dragon (\$9.95).

Actually, the Snap Dragon is what this other guy has. It’s a snake of rice filled with eel and red snapper and the black eggs of the flying fish on top, plus a chunk of squid salad, some ginger, cucumber, and a bowl of miso soup, all on a curved triangular plate. Cool.

The guy, Emilio, says it all cost him about \$14.

Meanwhile, my turn.



**Tin, one of the rollers, helped me make up my mind.**

Tin, the sushi chef is waiting. D’uh...

So, okay, decision Number 1: the wrap. I pick seaweed. That’s \$3.95.

Number two: pick your protein. I go for crispy shrimp tempura, \$1.95

Number three: two free fillings: cream cheese and — hey, Brave New World, right? Mandarin oranges on top.

Tin has it all put together — rolled and turned into a half-circle of sushi filled with cream cheese and crispy shrimp and wearing these orange clown hats, eight pieces — in two minutes. Plus, teriyaki and wasabi-soy I mixed in a little bucket, with the ginger-cucumber side. I pay \$6.37, including tax. And it’s a pretty tasty combo, if I do say so myself.

“That’s the thing,” says Emilio, munching his Snap Dragon at the next table. “When you do it yourself, you learn so much more. And pretty soon you become an expert. This place is like the Subway of sushi. It’s your choice, and it’s way quick. Cassandra and I have been coming in since they opened.”

He says the whole sushi explosion is a bit of a generational thing. “Like, I can’t get my dad to come in. When he was young, seafood was



**The black spots on Bedford’s personally designed, \$6 sushi roll are sesame seeds.**



**Snap Dragon roll with squid salad and miso soup.**

the cheap thing. Free, if you fished off the pier. Now seafood’s expensive, kinda chic with this Asian presentation, and chicken is the cheap thing. But Dad still sees it the old way.”

So far they have had three rolls, two Sapporo beers, and a bottle of sake, and their damage is still under \$40.

“We might have two more beers,” says Emilio. “Heck, they’re only two bucks apiece.”

Sapporo beer at \$2? Dang! Now I’ve got to come back.

The downtown Sushi Freak is due to open about now. ■

(@SDReader\_EdBed)

**The Place:** Sushi Freak, 5175 Linda Vista road, suite 105, 619-296-2500

**Prices:** Create your own sushi roll: \$6 up; “old school” rolls, like California (\$5.95), Snap Dragon (krab mix, avo, eel sauce), \$9.95; “new school” rolls include Mango Tango (krab mix, mango, cucumber, spring mix, \$6.95), Pink Cadillac (eel, shrimp, avo), \$8.95; “kitchen” dishes include Teriyaki Solo (teriyaki chicken on rice) \$5.95; udon noodle soup with fish cake, \$6.50, \$8.50 with shrimp tempura or teriyaki chicken

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# Primal image

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## Civilized BBQ

2302 El Cajon Boulevard — When the short-lived branch of the Barbecue Pit on University Avenue closed, North Park remained without 'cue for a good while, until BBQ 81 opened up with the promise of ribs and tri-tip on El Cajon Boulevard.

When all is said and done, BBQ 81 makes a bid to own the "mesquite grill" category of barbecue. The big, smoky grills behind the restaurant impart good flavor to the ribs and tri-tip, but the end product doesn't quite measure up against Southern-style pit barbecue that's been smoked for hours. The tri-tip remains very good because the grill can create flavorful roast beef.

One vexing issue is that BBQ 81 uses baby-back ribs.

In part, the popularity of baby back ribs (which are cut from the ribs near the spine of a small hog) is due to the insanely popular jingle from a certain fast-casual restaurant, which isn't even a barbecue joint. It's not entirely undeserved, since the back ribs are more tender and easier to cook than spare ribs (which are cut from the belly side of the rib cage). Back ribs can yield a more consistently tasty product, especially under sub-optimal barbecue conditions. The problem is that spare ribs have more potential flavor and, while they represent a bigger challenge to the pit master, they yield a more delectable finished product when done correctly.

Baby backs tend to be more expensive, and, on BBQ 81's menu, they're really the only item

that's overpriced.

The petite bones of meat in a rack of baby backs represent a more civilized kind of barbecue; a barbecue that doesn't want to see you gnawing at bones for the last shreds of meat; a barbecue clean enough for 'N Sync.

But barbecue is cooking at the edge of civilization, and the neat package of baby-back ribs doesn't fit the primal image.

by Ian Pike

## FEAST!

## Cheezers' market

A certain La Jolla resident/presidential candidate made the wrong kind of headlines a couple years ago when he suggested not enough Americans have the entrepreneurial spirit required to borrow 20 grand from their parents to start a business. Now, I don't say so to trudge on anybody — rather to point out how much said spirit it takes to succeed in post-recession America for people without a blank check stapled to their birth certificate.

Even south of Nautilus, \$20K isn't considered enough seed money to start a proper restaurant, but over the past several years, young upstart chefs have found cheaper means of getting their businesses up and running — namely, food

trucks. But even food carts can be cost-prohibitive when you haven't the means to borrow the means to get started in an industry considered one of the world's riskiest investments.

Probably the cheapest way to establish a food-service brand may be found at your weekly farmers' market. For 35 bucks, anyone with a shade structure, folding table, and portable griddle gets a built-in clientele of foodies who've just gotten

that's overpriced.



Baby back ribs may be tidy and flavorful, but they don't match the primal spirit of barbecue.



Grilled cheese is everybody's favorite at some point in their lives.

their salivary glands worked up sampling strawberries and filling their produce bags with kale. If not a recipe for success, it's at least a recipe for opportunity.

I found one of the lowest-cost businesses I've ever seen at the Saturday farmers' market in Golden Hill. Searching for something cheap and filling, I came across a sign *literally* drawn in marker on strung-together paper plates: Mad Munch.

Mad Munch offers a singular specialty: grilled-cheese sandwiches, which they inexplicably refer to as "Cheezers."

These cheezers build on the grilled-cheese premise by coming up with wacky names and hearty toppings. So, you get the breakfast Cock-a-Doodle-Dude, which features eggs and bacon, or the Bat Out of Hell, topped by mashed potatoes and — have you guessed it yet? — meatloaf.

Yes, it's probably the sort of idea that springs up when a bunch of Obecians sitting on their couches around 4:30 start to think about what they're going to eat while deciding what to eat for dinner. And when it happens to be Wednesday, you'll also find them making cheezers at the O.B. farmers' market.

Nobody's handing out Michelin stars for farmers' market booths, and this isn't one of those stories where the diamond-in-the-rough food-stuff is going to change your life. It *might* alter the course of your afternoon, depending on how

your stomach responds to dairy. These are basically grilled cheeses with bells and whistles, and if anything the "Mad Munchers'" greatest innovation is the offer to slice your cheezer into dippable slices when you order a side of tomato soup.

I opted for the Bat Out of hell, if only to see how well mashed potatoes succeeded in sandwich format. Honestly, it just tasted like filler and reminded me I haven't made it to the

gym in far too long.

But I have to admire the effort and the intent. Mitt might never hold up this sort of outfit as a relatable role model for young people looking to make their mark in an increasingly tough marketplace, but I, for one, would love to see the man turn up one day to find out what being a go-getter in America means for those born with plastic spoons in their mouths.

by Ian Anderson

## Katsudon mission

1790 W Washington Street — I spent a disproportionate number of my high school days eating katsu from a small, family-owned restaurant just outside the gate of a military base on Okinawa. Attempts to replicate the experience in San Diego have largely failed. Even when I can find it on a menu, something usually seems to get in the way, and that thing is usually sushi.

I mean, how do you consciously choose to eat a fried pork cutlet when a dozen varieties of fresh fish may be ordered instead?

So, I go to Yoshino's. I've driven past it for years and pretty much the entire time a banner out front has declared, "Now Serving Sushi." I can't say how long it's been since "now," but the place is supposed to have been there for decades, so for all I know they strung it up on day two.

Nevertheless, I've often assumed this was first

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## Calendar RESTAURANT

and foremost a traditional Japanese restaurant that added sushi to its menu back when eating raw fish first caught on state-side. Therefore, I could safely focus on the *katsu* and not feel as though I were greatly missing out on the fish.

I grabbed a booth and opened the menu, pausing just long enough to appreciate how typically Japanese the place is — not some cartoonish TGI Fridays take on Japanese, with all kinds of kitschy *kawaii* decorations, but simple and understated, a family-style spot with just enough *shoji* to represent.

As anticipated, the menu did feature plenty of typical non-sushi dishes, including *tonkatsu*, the deep-fried pork cutlet I craved. Better yet, they offered *katsudon* (*cot-sued-own*), which is what you get when you put *tonkatsu* on a bowl of rice with fried egg. For reasons I shouldn't have to point out, this makes it better.

The high-school nostalgia would not be complete without asking for an ice-cold Sapporo to accompany the pork, whereas the know-better adult

version of myself ordered a seaweed salad to at least present the illusion of healthy eating.

The *kastudon* arrived, and it sure doesn't look pretty. But that didn't stop me from wolfing it down. As I ate in silence, I finally began to notice some of the conversations around me. On one side, a couple of local fishermen talked shop. Behind me, a Japanese couple spoke in their native language. Pretty much everybody around me would seem to have a qualified opinion about good places to eat raw fish, and here they were.

So, for dessert, it would have to be sushi. I was too far into my meal to get too adventurous with *uni*, or the *shishamo* on special. Instead, I opted for my usual baseline nigiri, yellowtail and salmon.

I know salmon's not supposed to be an authentic sushi order, but until it stops tasting great, I'm going to keep ordering it. This one tasted great. The yellowtail gave me at least a little sushi cred, having just a sliver of scales left on to add some oily nuance. Both fish were tender and delicate, and however much it reawakened fond memories, I couldn't help wishing I'd skipped Yoshino's *katsu*. Next time, I'm going to

get deeper into the sushi.

by Ian Anderson

### New York water in Coronado pizza

1206 Orange Avenue — "It's a huge expense financially and environmentally it's a disaster, but nine out of ten people prefer it," says David Spatafore, owner of two Village Pizzerias in Coronado.

The "it" he is referring to is the decision to make all the pizzas using only water that he's had shipped from New York, something he's been doing shortly after opening the first pizzeria on Orange Avenue in 2002.

"The whole thing started when I was talking with the kitchen manager and two other employees about the pizza, bialys, and bagels from New York," says Spatafore, a lifelong resident of Coronado. "They said the baked goods were better there because of the water."

In order to — pardon the pun — test the waters, Spatafore asked an employee with relatives in New York to send out some water from the Big Apple for a taste test.

"We did a blind taste test and nine out of ten people

picked the pizza made with New York water," Spatafore says. "I don't know how to explain the difference. Maybe it had an earthier crust, with more crunch."

In an effort to make more dough, Spatafore started having gallons of water shipped to him from New York.

Since the opening of the second Village Pizzeria in Ferry Landing in 2007, Spatafore estimates he purchases more than 3000 gallons of New York City water per year. It breaks down to about 48 gallons a week during the slower months and up to 90 gallons a week during the peak summer season.

"The shipping is quite a nightmare and is ridiculously expensive," Spatafore admits "We've arranged for the water to be uploaded from New York to Ontario by train for storage, and we receive shipments as needed."

Whether it's the water or the real estate, Village Pizzeria's pies aren't cheap. Prices range from \$9.99 for a 10-inch cheese pizza up to \$49.99 for a 28-inch pie with multiple ingredients.

But, to paraphrase Cervantes, the proof of the pizza may be in the eating.

Pizza is a subjective thing, but Village Pizzeria does have a nicely crispy crust that goes especially well with their roasted-veggie pizza called the Hippie; and the New Yorker, a delicious blend of salami, sausage, red pepper, and garlic.

The dough is also used to great effect in the garlic knots and the Zeppoli, which is deep-fried pieces of dough covered with powdered sugar and served with caramel and chocolate sauces for dipping.

Because Coronado gets a decent chunk of San Diego's tourist dollar, it could be argued that Spatafore is making the pizzas better than is necessary.

Of course, make that argument to Spatafore at your own risk.

"The biggest insult anyone could make to me is to call it a tourist trap," he says. "There are tourists here, but they're the whipped cream of Coronado. You can't build a business on them alone."

by Patrick Henderson

### Cohns' coastal tavern

800 Seacoast Avenue — The Cohn restaurant empire has

seen more successes than setbacks in recent memory, and landing the restaurant spot at Imperial Beach's Pier South Resort fits smartly into the former category. SEA180 — so named for its 180-degree view of the pier, the surf, and the Coronados off the coast of Imperial Beach — opened in December, well before the multimillion-dollar hotel accommodated a single guest. Now, the hotel is open for business and the restaurant has had the chance to work out the kinks beforehand, which seems like a savvy business decision from the local restaurant juggernauts behind SEA180.

In brief, it looks beautiful inside, and the view will not disappoint, particularly as the sun dips below the horizon. The big, open, and fully beachy vibe keeps up with the "coastal tavern" theme. The place does not come off as having pretensions toward fine dining.

The menu stays on point describing dishes, sparing us most unnecessary adjectives. The listed ingredients for any given dish raise appetites high, but the effect isn't pure smoke and mirrors. SEA180's food delivers, for the most part, what it promises.

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Stone-crab potstickers bulge with ample crab and crispy swiss chard line the plate. "Burnt orange sauce" could easily be oversweet but isn't.

Rather than being a cheesy wasteland, faro 'n' cheese surrounds kernels of boiled grain in a light, albeit very buttery, sauce for a reserved rethinking of mac 'n' cheese dishes. It's not exciting, but that doesn't make it good.

"Grilled Romaine hearts" misleads some with language. What sounds as if it should be an attractive plating of whole lettuce "finished Cardini style" simply isn't. It's a much more typical Caesar salad, though not a bad one by any stretch. Ample dressing and above-average anchovies elevate the salad to sufficient heights.

"Huevos diablos truffled duck eggs" sounds exotic but is really just a plate of deviled eggs incorporating the earthy burst of truffles in an attempt to buy loyalty...which completely succeeds despite the puny size of the "duck" eggs. It's not the eggs (which could just as easily be from chickens) but the frisée salad soaked in truffle oil that gives the dish its charm. Who knew truffles were the secret to making dull, bitter, choking frisée look like a champion vegetable?

If SEA180 has a weakness, it's the overzealous, yet somehow ineffective, service provided by a bevy of waiters trained to obviously corporate standards. People like to harsh on Cohn restaurants, citing claims of perceived imperialism and the stench of corporate restaurant style, but there's little to hold against the group's newest offering. Not in terms of cuisine, at least. The price of entry gets steep. Expect to pay \$50+ per person for dinner and two drinks, but the sum feels justified when the checks are totaled and the appetites are satisfied.

Imperial Beach finally has a restaurant worth driving for.  
*by Ian Pike*

### Best wurst place to take your pup

3805 Fifth Avenue — When a restaurant describes itself as having "a new dining concept based on the ancient art of sausage making," a lot of thoughts pass through my head, but two words that don't leap to mind are "dog friendly."

So, when a friend tipped me to the idea dogs were allowed,



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# Calendar RESTAURANT

not just on the patio but actually inside Salt & Cleaver, I doubted it enough to call ahead.

"Oh, we're very dog friendly," said the girl who answered the phone, "come on by."

Don't need to tell me twice. I leashed up my dog, Loki, and we braved the midday traffic and parking nightmare otherwise known as central Hillcrest in search of locally made sausage.

On a typical sunny day, the large sliding garage doors on either side of the entrance would be open to the patio seating, so the concept of inside or outside might be up for grabs. Since we showed up on a drizzly afternoon, they remained shut. The patio still looked pretty inviting, but I still wanted to see how they responded to having a dog saunter in.

Pretty well, it turns out. The bartender offered to produce a water bowl, and a couple of other patrons came over to pet Loki, who responded with her usual crowd-pleasing tricks.

On the downside, there weren't many tables offering enough space for a dog of any reputable size to lie down beneath. It's not a huge negative, but I definitely prefer being able to keep my pup under the table

and out of the way of foot traffic. At Salt & Cleaver, with restrooms on one side of the bar and the kitchen door on the other, someone's always walking by, wherever you happen to sit.

Of course, any dog will make room when your server brings out a plate of Nürnberg bratwurst. An authentic, German Nürnberg typically run the size of a breakfast sausage. Here, it's scaled up about 800 percent to fill out a grilled bun. This actually makes them hard to compare to the real thing, which is arguably the most popular wurst in all of Bavaria. It tasted great, though, so I'm going to call it close enough for San Diego, in competition with the brats of Ocean Beach's Kaiserhof, and the grill-your-own links of Siesel's/Iowa Meat Farms.

Of course, here you get the benefit of local craft brews on draught. I didn't try any on this midweek afternoon — Loki and I had further adventures ahead that day — but I did appreciate that one tap at least was given over to a German beer, the world's oldest brewery, Weihenstephaner — an obviously ideal sausage pairing.

As for being dog friendly, sitting inside will do on a rainy day when options run slim, but I get the feeling my dog would rather be on that patio, taking advantage of Fifth Avenue's always-rewarding people-watching

opportunities.

by Ian Anderson

## Duck egg: cure for happy hour blues?

326 Broadway — I swear. If I see the word "curated" one more time I'm gonna scream. "Curated," "hand-crafted" "flights" of booze, food, you name it... The hand-wringing pretentiousness has swept like a virus through the menus of the world.

This time I'm sitting at the bar of the Grant Grill, here among the massive columns, wood-paneled walls, and the baby grand pianos of the U.S. Grant Hotel, reading the "hand-written" menu about the history of the famous watering hole.

"Through this journal we present what is the latest chapter in a curated experience that spans over ten decades."

Uh, curated experience?

I'm hoping they'll curate some deals I can afford here. Even the appetizers ("small plates") go from, like, \$14 to \$18. (Okay, they have one at \$8. Truffle fries.) Because this is the land of expense-account Johnnies. On my right I've got a bunch of doctors at a convention on heart health and weight loss, by the sound of it. And on my left, a clutch of reps from eHarmony.

But the good news is, yes, they do have a happy hour (Sundays

to Thursdays, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.). And it's on now. Deal is half price on each of the six small-plate items.

They have fried calamari (\$14), charcuterie plate (\$18), Niman Ranch beef sliders (\$18), crispy duck egg (\$14), grilled flatbread with chicken and goat cheese (\$14), and the eight-buck truffle fries.

So, right now, cut all those prices in half. Good deal. Sliders are the kind of obvious ones. But...what was that about "crispy duck egg"? Bruce, the very suave barman, says not that many people choose this one. "It's a pity, because it has carnaroli rice, charred onions, pancetta, and bouillon. So, it's tasty. And when you get it, you break open the egg and its yolk oozes over everything. It's quite a performance."

Huh. And all that for \$7.50, happy-hour price. I decide to go for it. And, boy, it's a heckuva dish. Bruce brings it and, yes, looks a little small, like a crater lake that's shrunk down into the crater.

But turns out there's plenty. The crispy duck egg sits on this creamy moat that's bobbing with raisins and pancetta, and when you puncture it, golden lava oozes out all over. So cool, and so-o tasty.

But the kicker comes when I ask if they have any bread to help mop everything up. The gal from

the kitchen says it could take a couple of minutes, but when she returns she has this magnificent round focaccia bread in its own metal pan. The bread's cut into six steaming hot wedges, and it comes with a nice big chunk of unsalted butter. "We bake it every morning," she says.

And it's free, but you have to ask for it.

Bottom line: now we're talking a pretty decent, belly-bulging meal. All for \$7.50.

Yes, I paid another \$6 for a Green Flash Double Stout. But I waddle outta there fat and happy.

Back to nuts and twigs tomorrow. Perhaps they'll have a curated flight of hand-crafted salads at lunchtime.

by Ed Bedford

## Good butchery

9040 Campo Road — Part of the Valley Farm BBQ Stand's charm is its lack of ambiance. The place is nothing but a shack in a grocery-store parking lot with a few patio tables for "seating." Hulking smokers lurk behind the unremarkable building, belching the occasional cloud of promising woodsmoke into the air. Yet somehow, even with the sun down and a chill in the air, the barbecue stand remains a welcoming place.

It looks and feels like a fond memory, as though some old-timer should be telling a story that begins, "Well, it sure don't look like much, but that little stand has some mighty fine 'cue!"

Or maybe it's just the humility. "Some of the best smoked and grilled meats in San Diego," says the Valley Farm Market website. That's right, they claim to have *some*, not *all*, of the best meats. How's that for a little good, country sensibility?

And it is some of the best, for sure. The tri-tip is phenomenal. Valley Farm Market is known for

good butchery, and they send some of the nicest meats out for smoking. Getting a deep, smoky flavor into beef that's still served medium to medium-rare is no mean feat!

The pulled pork also commands respect. Tender and flavorful, it wants only for a sharper sauce than the stand's house brew, which is very sweet and better used in moderation.

Pro tip: Valley Farm's beans are okay, but lack kick. Splash a healthy dose of that sweet barbecue sauce into the beans and they become mighty fine.

Someone gets a little overzealous with the crutch when it comes time to cook the ribs, and Valley Farm's aren't as bark-some as they could or should be. Even so, the dry rub and smoker put plenty of great flavor into the meaty, almost country-cut spare ribs.

Best of all, it's *cheap*. A \$12.99 sampler plate is enough food to feed two regular humans, and every other combo and sandwich plate is under ten bones. They take credit cards, even though it doesn't look like they would. It makes you want to celebrate by marching straight into the market, buying a jug of Ole Smoky Peach Moonshine, and passing that sucker around like it's real country and not just Spring Valley.

by Ian Pike

## Surplus tofu houses

4229 Convoy Street — It's probably best to make something clear up front: I am not reviewing the popular Convoy Street restaurant Tofu House. I visited a different establishment named Convoy Tofu House.

Okay, they're both on Convoy, both Korean, and each has the dubious judgment to think the word *tofu* is appetizing.

Anyway, plain-old Tofu House is the one next to O'Brien's Pub.

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This one — Convoy Tofu House — is on the east side of the street, south of Balboa. I'd call it easy to miss, except it's got a three-story sign that towers over all the adjacent shopping strips.

Each tofu house is named for the dish *sundubu jjigae* or — as the menu kindly points out in English — soft tofu stew. I'm rarely a fan of tofu on its own merits; I usually see it as a paltry meat substitute that, improperly prepared, offers all the charm of eating a cosmetic sponge.

Nevertheless, if it's worth naming multiple restaurants after, I figure there must be something I'm missing.

Certainly that something's not the decor, which gave a bit of a cafeteria vibe. A *shoji* screen in one corner separates it from the sushi counter next door, and another corner had been taped over with a sheet of brown plastic. I'm assuming renovations, either recent or scheduled for the near future.

None of this stopped the place from being at capacity, by the way. A number of families lined up at long tables, sharing short ribs and eating from steaming stone pots while a couple sporting events played on wall-mounted TVs.

It didn't take long to be seated by the friendly staff, though service came a bit slower with the rush. The *banchan* tasted all right, though I might have been distracted that my drink was served in a short glass with a long straw.

I guess I wasn't entirely enjoying myself until the tofu stew arrived. The stew comes in a surprising number of varieties, including tuna, wonton, and vegetable. I went with the kimchi

option at \$9, which adds ground pork and mushrooms to the mix.

It's served at a boil, possibly just so you get the pleasure of cracking a raw egg into it and watching it cook. I'm not even sure it matters whether you stir it in or just let it poach.

I was more taken by the tofu, anyway; it was like eating half melted noodles in a rich, spiced-to-taste broth. This is not the soy curd of stir-fries, wraps, and salads. As an added bonus, this particular tofu stew may double as the best way to eat both tofu and kimchi.

When it comes to being a tofu house, this Convoy one might not look like a winner, but it's sure earned the right to hang that big sign up over Kearny Mesa.

by Ian Anderson

### Cheap Buds, saintly salads

1055 Fifth Avenue — Will somebody please tell me where there is a better happy-hour deal than here at the House of Blues' Crossroads Bar? Two-dollar pints of Bud Light! Five-buck quesadillas. Free live music!

So, okay, the standard menu food ain't the cheapest. New York Strip's 30 bucks, French-dip sandwich goes for \$15.99, jambalaya with chicken's near enough to a Jackson. But then Brock the bar guy points out the special HH menu that starts off at \$5 for corn bread with maple butter, jalapeño peppers, and cheese. Also, and this may be the best deal, the Crossroads Quesadilla, \$5 with cheeses, poblano chilies, red peppers, onions, salsa.

Also good: chicken tenders

for \$6, two tacos (your choice of blackened chicken or "char grilled citrus marinated" steak) in corn tortillas with Cotija cheese and avocado lime cream, \$6. Two pork sliders are \$6, too, and chicken wings go for \$7. So there's quite a choice for *poco dinero*.

But, I ain't giving up on the quest for a 200-pound waistline (3.2 pounds away!), so I order a salad. Problem: none on the HH menu. They go from \$9 to \$17.

Blackened shrimp salad's \$16.99, Caesar's \$9.99, but \$4 to add if you want chicken on top, or \$5 for steak or shrimp adds.

The two cheapest are the wedge and the House of Blues salad, \$8.99. The House of Blues one has "field greens," red and yellow tomatoes, spicy pecans, and feta cheese crumbles with a vinaigrette.

I go for that, mainly to try the yellow tomatoes.

And, really, okay, no protein like chicken, whatever, but this is a feta-savory, pecan-sweet, totally filling *ensalada*. How filling? I have to go and order a second \$2 Bud Light to help it down.

Like Humphreys Backstage, the live music at Crossroads is a fantastic plus that you don't have to pay no cover for. I come out, ears ringing, \$13.71 poorer.

But you've got to time it right. The trick is, get here about 6:30, grab a couple of Buds, and be settled into the Laitno-goth atmosphere they've got going around the walls, in time for the 7:00 show. Once the live music ramps up at the little stage, you feel, well, hot and cool at the same time.

Local bands on Wednesdays.

by Ed Bedford



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**Elephants in the room.** “After splitting ways with our old label,” says Hills Like Elephants frontman Sean Davenport, “we were told, even though it was them saying they didn’t want to work with us, that we were ‘in breach of contract’ if we put out another

Casbah, “All attendees will get a copy of the EP just for coming out,” says Davenport of the show, an all-local bill that includes Wild Wild Wets, Boy King, and Jimmy Ruelas. “The name *Bedroom Colonies* is a reference to how and where we made the EP. It’s a

Davenport founded the group in 2011, just as his previous band Gun Runner was splitting up. Their debut album *The Endless Charade*, which earned them a Best New Artist trophy at the 2012 San Diego Music Awards, was followed last year by *Feral Flocks*. A nationwide support tour kicked off at the annual SXSW music fest in Austin, Texas, but Davenport says the band’s best gigs tend to happen at home.

“Our best local show is kind of a toss-up. We had a really good time playing Boy King’s CD release a while ago at the Casbah, but I think it’s tied with our last show at Soda Bar on New Year’s, opening for Scarlet Symphony.”

As for drive-to downers, “The worst show was at the Constellation Room up in Santa Ana, or wherever the hell it is. People were showing up, the audience had a great vibe, and due to a scheduling conflict, our set got cut short and the soundman turned our mics off in the middle of a set...we drove two hours to play for maybe 15 minutes. “The sound guy told us that was our problem.”

— Jay Allen Sanford

### Rancho Shampoo.

Amid playing with Mexicali hardcore outfit Los Nuevos Maevans (actually just some dudes Milli Vanilli-ing a pre-recorded ’80s punk playlist — seriously), Guillermo

Estrada went on a spirit quest and re-invented himself as flute-toting techno-shaman Rancho Shampoo. The cosmic mischief-maker dropped his

mockumentary, “Panocha: Cerro Sangrado,” explores the tongue-in-cheek mythology of the small Tecate mount, which is crisscrossed by an access

cular chants, Estrada produces historical video documentaries, having studied the field at the Autonomous University of Baja California.

“There are too many melodies for the heart,” Shampoo says, “but few that thrill the soul and the spirit. That is why we gather Rancho Shampoo y La Indian Gold Orchestra.”

Do the trance dance at the Bancroft on March 9 with Habits, Batwings, Prayers, Late Nite Howl, and a DJ set from Hot Nerds. Also, March 12 with Vampire Slayer, Schem, Machino, Al-B, and Mnstrpsy.

— Chad Deal



Flute-toting techno shaman Estrada conjures Rancho Shampoo.

debut *El Vuelo del Golondrino* LP (“The Flight of the Baby Swallow”) last May.

Joint-released by Mexicali label Indian Gold Records and Tijuana’s Static Discos, the album conjures a cyberpunk peyote powwow at the behest of La Indian Gold Orchestra — Rancho Shampoo’s backing supergroup of Baja experimentalists from projects such as Fax, Maniqui Lazer, Trillones, Letters From Readers, and punk-rock prankster Julian Gonzalez of Los Nuevos Maevans (itself named after a Mexican brand of shampoo).

“It was on one of my trips to purgatory that I could begin to make music with the flute, which I inherited from my ancestors,” Rancho Shampoo says during our interview over Facebook message.

An 11-minute YouTube

road, crowned with radio towers, and cut short to the north by a rusty border fence.

“Cerro Sangrado is a Tower of Babel in the cosmos which is situated in Baja California,” explains Shampoo, now a resident of El Cajon. “That is why I’m going. Because there, all the souls are released to the Cosmos and those souls return to the Cerro like a boomerang.”

Donning a long-haired wig, a ceremonial staff, and mysterious vernacular, Rancho Shampoo has created an elaborate persona of living performance art, not unlike Kumaré or Ziggy Stardust before him. But when he’s not summoning psilocybin soundtracks of flute, field recordings, hypnotic drums, faraway saxophone, primal post-punk bass lines, and cir-

**Aural gravy.** “We’re releasing digital formats of defunct San Diego bands, to bring their music back to life,” says Stephanie Rose, production manager at Aural Gravy Records. “We’ll be releasing one album per week, beginning in March, and so far we’re slated to take it through the end of May, with more bands being added.” The label will drop one album per Throwback Thursday, priced at \$3 for the first week and then \$5, beginning March 6 with the first of several albums by the Modlins, followed by the entire Hotel St. George catalogue.

Asked if bands were worried about lowball pricing devaluing their own merchandise, Rose says, “Not at all. Since their initial releases,

(continued on page 60)

# the inside track blurt

full-length. Since the band has no intention of stopping, we decided to keep putting out music anyways.... We’ve been sitting on these [songs] for a while, so we are going to start

compilation of home recordings that we did out of Greg [Theilmann]’s room.”

Recorded, mixed, and mastered by band guitarist/keyboardist Theilmann, the



Hills Like Elephants back to DIY after “splitting ways” with label.

putting out EPs.”

That’s why their upcoming *Bedroom Colonies* EP is subtitled *Volume 1*; it’s just a sampling of tunes originally intended as a full album. For the March 8 release gig at the

EP features new drummer Michael Hams, who replaces Juan Carlos Ortiz. Says Davenport, “We’re screen-pressing these ourselves and packaging them in a DIY limited edition sort of deal.”

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record sales have tapered off, so right now the bands only have something to gain." As for how the label will profit, "We're putting out entire



Modlins get Aural Gravy treatment, with first of weekly releases beginning March 6.

catalogs for artists who are no longer together releasing new material.... By releasing the records in digital format, we don't incur major up-front costs. The records were paid for long ago, so anything we bring in, no matter how small, amounts to a profit."

The label wholesales new releases on their website for \$8, and, "At shows, we provide interested people with CDs on a donation basis. We'll give out a record for a penny, if it comes down to it. But most people end up giving us five to ten bucks. The record stores

and online outlets can charge what they wish, but we get about \$6 to \$8 back from them on the average."

Founded by David Miano in late 2010, Aural Gravy has released new local music from the Very, New Kinetics, Kelsea Little, the Peripherals, and, most recently, Miano's band

Cut (formerly known as PostCrush), with two releases already nominated for San Diego Music Awards. According to Rose, "So far, our best-selling releases have been our last two, Kelsea Little's *Personal Myth* and the Peripherals' *Declarations*."

Miano has a volunteer staff of between four and ten people ("depending on how much help is needed at any given time")

who take care of production, publicity, and college-radio promotion. "The website has a music store that offers not only the music of Aural Gravy artists, but also the music and merch of any other San Diego artists who want another outlet for sales."

— Jay Allen Sanford

**Sex Pistols salute.** The Super Bowl halftime show got close to punk with the once-revolutionary Red Hot Chili Peppers. The founder of local Sex Pistols salute Rotten Johnnies maintains that all

## OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: BALBOA PARK

JAY ALLEN SANFORD



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threatening rock eventually becomes safe.

"If enough time passes, the edge wears off anything," says singer Dan Neighbors. "In 1964, parents didn't want their daughters to go to Rolling Stones shows. Now Mick Jagger is knighted. Anarchy becomes gentrified."

Neighbors was in an all-original, straight-ahead rock project called Shaft, which played at the Casbah and at now-closed clubs such as Bodie's, Velvet, and the Spirit during their 1990-'95 life-span. "We opened for the Dragons many times. Rocket From the Crypt and Lucy's Fur Coat were hot then."

But he was different from his Shaft bandmates. "They were waiting on tables just so they could quit at any time

and go on tour. I was just in it for fun. I never wanted to make a career of it."

Neighbors, 43, started teaching at Granite Hills High School while still in Shaft. He's



Neighbors: "We don't spit...and we don't head-butt puppies."

still there.

But he's also playing again, launching the Rotten Johnnies last year with three Guitar Center employees.

"We all grew up loving punk, even though we are of wildly different ages." Guitar-

ist Zippy Zimmerman is 50, bassist Tony Hayse is 28, and drummer Jerrica Ojeda is 25.

Don't expect any "filth and fury"/safety-pin costume shtick.

"We think it's possible to have the energy and excitement of punk without dressing up," Neighbors told the *Reader*. "We take the music part very seriously. But, no, we don't spit on people and we don't head-butt puppies."

Neighbors says he's never heard of another Sex Pistols salute. "The Sex Pistols aren't usually a band that pops to mind when people think of obvious choices for tribute bands. We thought this could be our niche. Along with the Ramones, they started the whole punk movement. We

actually played with local Ramones band Hey! Ho! Let's Go! a couple months ago.

They were great. Those guys are a full tribute with wigs, leather jackets, sunglasses."

I asked Neighbors what the late Joey Ramone or Johnny Rotten might say about their local imitators.

"Joey would appreciate Hey! Ho! Let's Go! because they are spot-on and he was such a mellow guy. Johnny would probably call us a bunch of bloody wankers because he calls everybody that. But I would have to say he'd have to give us a grudging nod for our musicianship."

The Rotten Johnnies appear April 19 at Shakedown.

— Ken Leighton

Find Blurt online at [SDReader.com/blurt](http://SDReader.com/blurt)

### CONTRIBUTORS

Chad Deal, Dave Good, Dorian Hargrove, Mary Leary, Ken Leighton, Bart Mendoza, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 5  
**PAPA • AVID DANCER CHAMP**

THURSDAY • MARCH 6  
**PIG PEN THEATRE CO. THE TRAGIC THRILLS**

SATURDAY • MARCH 8  
CD RELEASE SHOW -  
**HILLS LIKE ELEPHANTS WILD WILD WETS BOY KING • JIMMY RUELES**

SUNDAY • MARCH 9  
**RUSSIAN CIRCLES HELMS ALEE • KEN MODE**

MONDAY • MARCH 10  
**GHETTO BLASTER APE MACHINE LORD HOWLER**

TUESDAY • MARCH 11  
ANOTHER ZEKE PRODUCTION -  
**DEMONS OVER EASY PARADE OF HORRIBLES**

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# club crawler

## This Week In Music

### Thursday 6

From Oakland, producer-musician Matthew Melton (ex-Bare Wires) and his latest "lo-fi-glam-garage-pop" project **Warm Soda** pour their sticky goodness on the Hideout stage Thursday night. Warm Soda's 2013 set, *Someone for You*, arcs from the Sweet to the Strokes (check out lead single "Reaction"), according to *Brooklyn Vegan*, which rated that record a year-end fave. This month's upcoming collection, *Young Restless Hearts*, due to drop March 11, is one of the *Vegan's* most anticipated records of the year. They're the experts. Burger band **Peach Kelly Pop** will open the show with their branded "minimalist bubblegum." Peach Kelly's Allie Hanlon says her White Wires offshoot is "more of a mutiny than a side project," comparing Peach Kelly's joy-bop to her full-time band's incendiary garage-punk. The Hideout, by the way, is the ex-Void, -Eleven, -Radio Room, in case you missed that bit of local music news.... If you miss the door to that deliciousity, the self-described "gender outlaw" **J.D. Samson** and her electro-agit-pop feminist group



CASKET GIRLS AT THE HIDEOUT

### Friday 7

At the House of Blues on Friday night, from Anderson, Indiana, pop-punk four-piece the **Ataris** jack in with their 2003 big-label *Billboard* So Long, Astoria.

They'll play the platter from front to back, including their hit cover of Eagle Don Henley's "Boys of Summer." Someone had to beat that track up, and the Ataris did it without prejudice. Catch up with Atari guitarist John Collura and his take on the band's reunion in this week's "Of Note" interview. **Authority Zero**, **Drag the River**, and **Versus the World** set it up.... This year's Graveface Records roadshow (produced by Ryan Graveface of Black Moth Super Rainbow) finds the Hideout and features Savannah's spook-pop siblings the **Casket Girls**, who are touring in support of this year's *True Love Kills the Fairy Tale*. **Stargazer Lillies**, **Dott**, and **Dreamend** are also on the bill, meaning

"electronic sound-shaper" Graveface will be onstage shaping sound all night long.... Else: from Salem, Oregon, earnest indie-rockers **Typhoon** hit the Irenic with **Phox** and **Line & Circle**...Til-Two dials in that squall of '70s guitar rock **Radio Moscow** after **Golden Void**, the **Freeks** (Fu Manchu), and **Rising Sun**, all of whom will perform before a Mad Alchemy liquid light show....desert-pop locals the **Donkeys** clop into Soda Bar after Drag City duo

**New Bums** (that's acid-folkies Ben Chasny and Donovan Quinn).

### Saturday 8

San Diego psychonauts Blackfeet Braves took off for L.A. a couple years back and return as **Mystic Braves** to play Soda Bar Saturday night. The Mystics specialize in mid-'60s organ-backed reverbers and easy-listening roundelays. The new collection, available at [mysticbraves.com](http://mysticbraves.com), is very recommendable for fans of the brand, but it lacks the punched-up variety of similar acts such as Allah-Las and Blank Tapes. It's a little...little. Stillandall, with like-minded locals **Amerikan Bear** and **Muscle Beech** opening the show, it's a teeming triple bill on the City Heights stage.... **Hills Like Elephants**

have split with their label and retreated to home base to record a series of EPs that sort of circumvents their agreement not to release a full-length record. Read Jay Allen Sanford's interview with Elephants head Sean Davenport in this week's Blurt for more on the story. They'll play a CD-release thing at Casbah behind the first in the series, appropriately titled *Bedroom Colonies Volume I*. This is a big-time locals-only bill with **Boy King**, **Wild Wild Wets**, and **Jimmy Ruelas** opening the show....

Northa town, Kalamazoo quintet **Greensky Bluegrass** play Belly Up. They haven't released anything fresh since 2011's notable *Handguns*, but record-making isn't really their deal. The jam-grass act are high-country festival faves — built for the stage...speaking of high country, up in Ramona, that nasty six-string slinger **Smokin' Joe Kubek** lights up the Ramona Mainstage. The Texas bluesman has a got a new Delta Groove disc out with Bnois King called *Road Dog's Life*. I'm listening to it as I type, and it is some tasty rainy-Sunday blues, babies.



TACOCAT AT SODA BAR

**Decapitation** hit Porter's Pub...while up at the Belly Up, L.A. big band **Vaud & the Villains** play-act their cajun cabaret *Every Saint Has a Past and Every Sinner Has a Future*.

### Monday 10

Seattle garage-pop act **Tacocat** ("Go-Gos meets the Monkees. Kurt meets Courtney.") and lo-fi locals **Teenage Burritos** split a delicious-sounding bill at Soda Bar. I haven't tasted much of the music, but I do love me some late-night Mexican num-nums, which that neighborhood is full of, soooo.... Utterwise: art-damaged punks **Ghetto Blaster** plug in at Casbah... while punk-damaged artist **Mary Ocher's** at Bar Pink. Ms. Ocher's from Moscow and her family name is Mariya Ocheretianskaya. Not sure why she changed *that* piece of poetry. Anywhey, her FarmersOnly profile says she's "liking the Patti Smith and working frequently with the King Kahn." I'm down.

### Sunday 9

From Chicago, heady-metal trio **Russian Circles** spin into Casbah Sunday night. The post-rock instrumentalists are touring in support of last year's critical hit *Memorial*, a record that out-explodes Explosions in the Sky, pummels the Fucking Champs, and gives Godspeed a run for their plucked artsy nuance. Spend the seven-plus minutes with "1777" and hear all your favorite post-rock touchstones propped up to die at the hands of these technical wizards. And there in lies the rub: a touch too technical, and leave my Mogwai alone! With **Helms Alee** and **Ken Mode** opening the show, this one's a solid noggin' nodder. Don't forget your ear plugs.... Other mentionables'd be Portland experimental-pop band **Rare Monk** at Bar Pink behind their modest, mousy new seven-inch "Splice"/"Sleep Attack" ... and another Northwest notable, **Mirah** (a K Records player who's worked with Phil Elvrum's Microphones and Thao Nguyen), who will be at the Loft at UCSD. She's touring in support of this year's *Changing Light*, a set that finds the often odd-pop player in Cat Power's cat box...across campus at the U, local death-grind dudes **Cattle**



MIRAH AT THE LOFT

### Tuesday 11

SanFran strings band **Kronos Quartet** takes the stage at UCSD's Mandeville Auditorium Tuesday night. I don't know what they're bringing these days, but I've heard these contemporaries light UP some classic rock — Television, Bob Dylan, Hendrix!

### Wednesday 12

Another classical *fah-reak*, **Yo-Yo Ma**, will be throwing down at Copley Symphony Hall on Wednesday. The master cellist has 75 recordings to his credit and 15 Grammy awards. Not too shabby. And dude likes to party after a show, so mind his tweets if you want to hang.... And there's an Indian Gold Records showcase at Casbah, as borderland bands **Fax**, **Machino**, **Vampire Slayer**, **Al-B**, **Schem**, and **Rancho Shampoo** bring the Mexicali sound to the Middletown mainstay. Chad Deal turned us on to Rancho Shampoo's primordial ooze in this week's Blurt section, and I'll have a clip up on the Crawler podcast, so go get some!

— Barnaby Monk

Find Club Crawler online at [SDReader.com/club-crawler](http://SDReader.com/club-crawler), now with an audio podcast that includes music clips



WARM SODA AT THE HIDEOUT

**Men** (ex-Le Tigre) will be at Bar Pink behind this year's well-received *Labor*. They are a political dance band that hit back quick when Russian female punk band Pussy Riot was jailed in 2012, by releasing protest track "Let Them Out or Let Me In." Give a listen to *Labor* lead single "All the Way Thru" for what's in store at the North Park bar.... Best of the rest: you got a variety show with "theater-folk" big band **PigPen Theatre Co.** at Casbah...that big bowl granola **Railroad Earth** will roll into House of Blues behind this year's *Last of the Outlaws* (which apparently lists to "progressive bluegrass"?!)...while just up the Fifth Avenue hill, **Crooked Rulers**, **Bearcubbin** (Portland), and **Machines Learning** fill an indie-eclectic bill at Tin Can Ale House.



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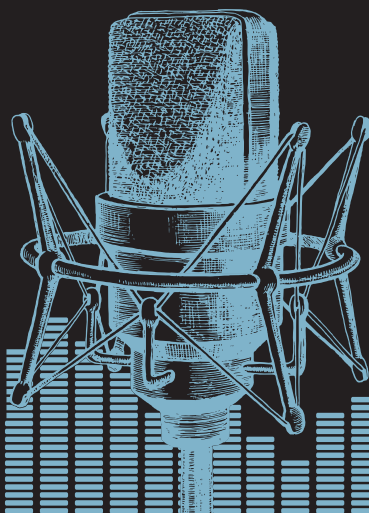
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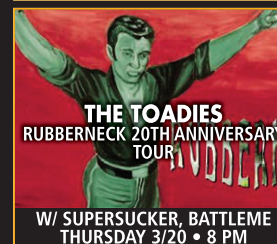
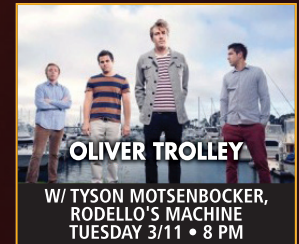


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7/19 Don Carlos • 9/9 Dan Hicks and The Hot Licks

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3/7 Atomic Groove Happy Hour  
3/23 Rhys Darby of  
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- Seated Show  
3/25 Delta Rae  
Presented by KPRI  
3/26 Ambrosia  
3/27 Lettuce  
3/28 One Drop  
3/29 Strung Out  
3/30 Leftover Salmon  
4/1 The Mavericks  
- SOLD OUT!!!  
4/2 VNV Nation  
4/3 Big Head Todd and  
the Monsters  
4/4 Big Head Todd and the  
Monsters - SOLD OUT!!!  
4/5 The Black Lips - Casbah  
Presents  
4/6 Rome

4/7 Abba Mania  
4/9 Foster the People  
- SOLD OUT!!!  
4/11 & 12 Super Diamond  
4/14 Cage the Elephant  
w/ Juliette Lewis  
- SOLD OUT!!!  
4/15 Mogwai  
4/16 Bonobo  
4/17 Bombay Bicycle Club  
4/18 The Green  
- CHANGED, now 5/29  
4/19 Caravan Palace - Casbah  
Presents  
4/20 40 oz to Freedom  
4/22 The Infamous  
Stringdusters  
4/24 Sarah Jarosz -  
seated show  
4/26 Nicki Bluhm and  
the Gramblers  
w/ JD McPherson  
4/27 Trampled by Turtles

4/28 & 29 O.A.R.  
5/2 Tokyo Police Club  
5/4 MarchFourth  
Marching Band  
5/8 The Old 97's  
5/9 Johnny Clegg  
5/11 Steel Pulse  
5/14 Stephen Marley  
5/16 Nahko and Medicine  
for the People  
5/22 The Marshall Tucker Band  
5/23 Chris Robinson  
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5/25 Suzanne Vega  
6/12 Les Claypool's Duo  
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6/13 Pato Banton  
6/20 Cultura Profética  
6/22 The Milk Carton Kids  
6/29 World Party  
8/5 Third World

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You can submit a listing, download mp3s, watch videos, subscribe to event alerts, get directions, and find more information about these shows online at [SDReader.com/music](http://SDReader.com/music). Blue headlines indicate sponsored listings.

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

**207 Nightclub:**  
*Friday*, 9pm — KRS-One. \$20.  
*Saturday*, 8pm — DJ Fresh One, Ayah Mara, DJ Will Hernandez.

**710 Beach Club:**  
*Thursday*, 8pm — Rock Out Karaoke.  
*Friday*, 9pm — Dazed & Confused. \$7.  
*Saturday*, 8pm — Irie Fuse, Ras Indio, Aloha Radio. \$5.  
*Sunday*, 8pm — Gripin and Twenty7. \$15.

**98 Bottles:**  
*Friday*, 5pm — Sidewalk Chalk, the Ian Patrick Trio. \$10-\$13.  
*Friday*, 7pm & 9pm — The Lee Koch Trio and Salty Suites. \$17-\$20.  
*Saturday*, 8pm — Trio de Janeiro & Allison Adams Tucker. \$12-\$15.

**AMSDconcerts:**  
*Sunday*, 7:30pm — Willy Porter.

**Alchemy:**  
*Tuesday*, 9pm — Songwriter Showcase: Mason James.

**ArtLab:**  
*Thursday*, 7:30pm — Yale Strom & Hot P'Stromi.

**Athenaeum Music and Arts Library:**

*Thursday*, 7pm — Nite Owls Launch Party. \$10-\$12.  
*Friday*, 7:30pm — Songwriters Night.  
*Friday*, 7:30pm — Acoustic Evenings with Jefferson Jay. \$12-\$17.

**Athenaeum School of the Arts Studio:**  
*Friday*, 7:30pm — Fresh Sound: Nicole Mitchell, Sun Dial. \$15-\$10.

**Bancroft:**  
*Saturday*, 7pm — Action Andy & the Hi-Tones, Phantoms.  
*Sunday*, 8pm — Habits, Batwings, Prayers, Late Nite Howl.

**Bar Dynamite:**  
*Friday*, 9pm — 24K Gold.

**Bar Pink:**  
*Thursday*, 8pm — JD Samson & Men and Mystery Cave. \$6-\$8.  
*Friday*, 9pm — First Friday with DJ Artistic.  
*Saturday*, 9pm — MilkCrates: DJs Mikey Face & Angie.  
*Sunday*, 9pm — Rare Monk.  
*Monday*, 9pm — Mary Ocher and DJ @Large.  
*Tuesday*, 8pm — Kodiak, Gloomsday, the Nformals.

**Barleymash:**  
*Thursday*, 9pm — DJ Mikey Beats.

**Beaumont's:**  
*Thursday*, 7:30pm — Mike Myrdal.  
*Friday*, 9pm — Scratch. **Free.**  
*Saturday*, 9pm — Honey Rock.

**Belly Up:**  
*Thursday*, 5:30pm — Pine Mountain Logs and Austin Burns.

!

NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

**"I got a call from the band's manager," guitarist John Collura tells the Reader.** "I'd been out of the band for, what, six years? He said, 'What do you think about getting the band back together?'" The result is that for the first time in a decade the original Ataris agreed to get back together for one tour. Bonus if you're a fan of *So Long*, Astoria. That's what they plan to perform at each stop along the way, start to finish. Chances are you've heard the radio hits off the career-defining album: "So Long Astoria," "The Saddest Song," and a cover of Don Henley's "Boys of Summer." Collura says that from the time of the manager's phone call to booking shows, it took a year to hammer out the details. "It would

have been the ten-year anniversary of the record," he says in explanation of why they elected to tour behind it again. He laughs. "Instead, we'll be doing it during year 11."

The Ataris started in 1996. Their brand of post-punk power-pop was an instant winner on Warped Tours. It still sounds fresh; the beauty of power-pop is that it never gets old. When the original lineup parted company in 2004, Collura started a new band. "It's called Morning District. We're finally gonna release some music on Bandcamp." He also built himself a recording studio. "It was a great way to transition out of many years with a touring band." He lives an hour outside of Manhattan in Orange County, New York.

As for what the future holds, Collura says he just wants to get through the tour and see what happens. Might the Ataris record something new in his studio? "If they do, I'll give



THE ATARIS

them a discount." Authority Zero, Drag the River, and Versus the World also perform.

**THE ATARIS: House of Blues, Friday, March 7, 6:30 p.m. 619-299-2583. \$20 advance/\$23 at the door (all ages, under 18 with an adult)**

Find more Of Note columns online at [SDReader.com/note](http://SDReader.com/note)

*Friday*, 8pm — Karl Denson's Tiny Universe.  
*Saturday*, 8pm — Greensky Bluegrass. \$18-\$32.  
*Sunday*, 8pm — Vaud & the Villains. \$15-\$27.  
*Tuesday*, 8pm — Oliver Trolley and Tyson Motsenbocker.  
*Wednesday*, 8pm — Paul Cannon, Lee Coulter, Luke Williams. \$12-\$21.

**Bird Rock Coffee Roasters:**  
*Saturday*, 10am — Robin Henkel. **Free.**

**Black Cat Bar:**  
*Saturday*, 9pm — The Amalgamated and Hard Fall Hearts.

**Boar Cross'n:**  
*Thursday*, 8pm — Freako Suave.  
*Friday*, 8pm — Club Musae.  
*Saturday*, 8pm — Sterling Sylver.

**Brick by Brick:**  
*Saturday*, 8pm — The Untouchables. \$12-\$15.

**California Center for the Arts, Escondido:**  
*Sunday*, 3pm — Civic Youth Orchestra: Around the World. \$10-\$20.

**Carmel Valley Library:**  
*Wednesday*, 7pm — Patrick Berrogain. **Free.**

**Casbah:**  
*Thursday*, 8pm — Pigpen Theatre Co.  
*Friday*, 8pm — Blouse and Dum Dum Girls.  
*Saturday*, 8pm — Hills Like Elephants, Wild Wild Wets, Boy King.  
*Sunday*, 8pm — Russian Circles, Helms Alee, Ken Mode.  
*Monday*, 8pm — Ghetto Blaster, Ape Machine, Lord Howler. \$6.  
*Wednesday*, 8pm — Fax, Machino, Vamoire Slayer, Al-B. \$7.

**Chico Club:**  
*Thursday*, 8pm, *Friday*, 8pm — DJ Harvest.  
*Saturday*, 8pm — Kalamity Wayne and City Slickers Blues.  
*Sunday*, 8pm — DJ Harvest.

**Ché Café:**  
*Tuesday*, 7pm — Windmill of Corpses and Tabor Mountain. \$5.

**College Avenue Baptist Church:**  
*Saturday*, 7:30pm — SDSU Choirs: Spring Choral Concert. **Free.**

**Congregational Church of La Jolla:**  
*Thursday*, 7:30pm — Mari Black. \$15-\$20.

**Coyote Bar & Grill:**  
*Thursday*, 6pm — Chasing Norman.  
*Friday*, 6pm — The Brokers Band.  
*Saturday*, 6pm — Bill Magee.  
*Sunday*, 2pm — Half Moon Portrait. **Free.**  
*Sunday*, 6pm — Too Rude For Sunday.  
*Wednesday*, 6pm — Northstar.

**Dick's Last Resort:**  
*Friday*, 8pm — Flock of '80s. **Free.**  
*Saturday*, 8pm — House Rockin' Blues. **Free.**

**Dirk's Niteclub:**  
*Friday*, 8:30pm — Nemesis.  
*Saturday*, 7pm — Zone 4.

**Dizzy's:**  
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*Saturday*, 8pm — Sinne Eeg and the Peter Sprague Trio. \$15.

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MONDAY | APRIL 28 | METAL

**LOUDNESS**



SATURDAY | MAY 3 | ROCK

**WISHBONE ASH**

MON | MAY 12:

PAGANFEST AMERICA 2014

SAT | MAY 24:

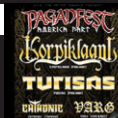
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**El Dorado Cocktail Lounge:**  
Wednesday, 8pm — The Tighen Up.

**Griffin:**  
Friday, 8pm — SemiPrecious Weapons.

**House of Blues:**  
Thursday, 8:30pm — Railroad Earth.  
Friday, 8pm — Ataris, Authority Zero, Drag the River.  
Saturday, 8pm — Shpongole and Desert Dwellers. \$20-\$60.  
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Neck Deep, Knuckle Puck, Light Years.

**Kensington Club:**  
Thursday, 8pm — Diatribe, Social Spit, Mala Salud.  
Friday, 8pm — Squirrely Arts and Syn: Server.

**Martinis Above Fourth:**  
Thursday, 8pm — Dennis McNeil. \$20.  
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Leigh Scarritt: Stars of the Future. \$20.

**Merrow:**  
Friday, 8pm — Suicide Chords, Sensory Station, Saul.  
Saturday, 8pm — Mink.

**Numb3rs:**  
Friday, 10pm — Ladies First. \$5.

**Office:**  
Thursday, 8pm — Tropicoso.  
Sunday, 8pm — Uptown Top Ranking.  
Monday, 8pm — Dub Dynamite.

**Pala Events Center:**  
Saturday, 7:30pm — The Dramatics and Rose Royce.

**Prohibition:**  
Thursday, 8pm — Piano Joe & the Wheelers.  
Friday, 8pm — Jon Ji & the Moonshiners.  
Saturday, 8pm — Lady Dottie.

**Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:**  
Friday, 8pm — Tony MacAlpine and RDG Band.  
Saturday, 8pm — Smokin' Joe Kubek feat. Bnois King.

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Hot Nerds (DJ set)  
Batwings  
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EVERYONE'S A CRITIC

**Wig Out at Jagbags**  
**Stephen Malkmus & the Jicks**  
By Gerardo Perez Torres

California native Stephen Malkmus has added a deep-cut notch to his indie-rock belt with the release of *Wig Out at Jagbags*.

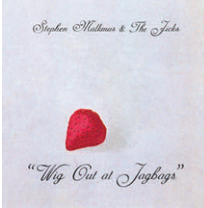
*Jagbags* is SM's sixth release with the Jicks and it reveals a certain comfort level with its laidback, catchy tracks.

Opener "Planetary Notion" kicks off the 12-song set with wailing guitars and off-beat drumming played into a comfort jam and then broken

up with a screaming guitar solo. On "Rumble at the Rainbo," Malkmus begins "Come and join us in this punk-rock tomb," which describes the nostalgic mood of the collection, reconfirmed when he quips, "We are returning, returning to our roots/ No new material, just cowboy boots... No one here has changed, and no one ever will." "Lariat" reads like a tossed-off afterthought from an aging rock star, as "Chartjunk" is a comical homage to Piston point guard Brandon Jennings.

Throughout the album, the Jicks show their experience with mellow-yet-engaging instrumentation and bright songs that are a breath of fresh alt-pop air. *Jagbags* is a win for any listener longing for the lo-fi, fuzz-guitar riffs and free-form lyrics that Malkmus made a name with at the beginning of his 22-year career.

Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks will perform on March 29 at the Casbah.



Bright songs are a breath of fresh alt-pop air

Music Reviews from Our Readers

**Blue Öyster Cult takes no prisoners**  
By Andrew Perez

*Thud! Thud!* Monstrous footsteps echo throughout the room. "Oh no, can it be," singer Eric Bloom's voice quivers. "Rising out of the Pacific Ocean, he lurches his way toward San Diego!" The footsteps grow louder as a monstrous roar pierces the air. Cheers and screams erupt from the rapt audience as their horror and anticipation grow too much to handle. "Who is it?" Bloom asks. Unable to keep their

shit together the crowd screams in ecstasy, "Godzilla!" and all hell breaks loose — Blue Öyster Cult

has arrived at Sycuan Casino and they aren't taking any prisoners. The quartet, which has been active for more than 40 years, went on to play crowd pleasers "Burnin' for You" and "The Golden Age of Leather," which had all the audience members raising their cans of beer on high to salute the rock gods.

Those starving for face-melting solos were rewarded as every song ended up turning into a seven-minute jam session. Closing with the hit "(Don't Fear) the Reaper," these rockers proved that they've still got it.

**Concert:** Blue Öyster Cult  
**Date:** January 31  
**Venue:** Sycuan Casino  
**Seats:** section A, row F



A salute to the rock gods!

Up to \$100 for your concert review, \$25 for your CD review. Submit at [SDReader.com/critic](http://SDReader.com/critic)

CLASSICAL MUSIC

**An Afternoon of Harp Music**  
This concert, free to the public, is dedicated to San Diego Harpist JoAnn Dickinson Ford. Local Harpists Elena Mashkovtseva and Tasha Smith Godinez will perform both duo and solo harp repertoire. Saturday, March 8, 4pm; **free.** Liberty Hall Theater at Paradise Village, 2700 E. 4th Street.

UPCOMING SHOWS

**710 Beach Club:** 710 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844.  
March 13 — Rock Out Karaoke.  
March 14 — Black Salt Tone, Sono Vero, City Reef.  
**Bar Pink:** 3829 30th St., North Park, 619-564-7194.  
March 13 — Light Thieves and Smoke Season.  
March 14 — Euphoria Brass Band.  
March 15 — Neon Beat.

**Belly Up:** 143 South Cedros Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-8140.  
March 13 — El Ten Eleven.  
March 14 — Common Sense.  
March 15 — Tommy Castro & the Painkillers.  
**The Casbah:** 2501 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-232-4355.  
March 13 — This Will Destroy You, Silent Land Time Machine.  
March 14 — Larry & His Flask and Scott H. Biram.

**The Coyote Bar & Grill:** 300 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, 760-729-4695.  
March 13 — Ecophonic.  
March 14 — Slower.  
March 15 — More Sol.

**El Camino II:** 2400 India St., Little Italy.  
March 13 — Fesway Wings & Claws.

**El Dorado Cocktail Lounge:** 1030 Broadway, East Village, 619-237-0550.  
March 19, March 26 — The Tighen Up.

**Hard Rock Hotel:** 207 Fifth Ave., Downtown San Diego, 866-751-7625.  
March 15 — Dante's Boneyard.

**House of Blues:** 1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-299-2583.  
March 13 — The Glenn Thomas

Band.  
March 14 — Umphrey's McGee.  
March 15 — Tainted Love.  
**Humphreys by the Bay:** 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577.  
April 4 — Willie Nelson, Lukas Nelson & P.O.T.R.  
April 5 — The Cult.  
April 6 — Rob Thomas.

**Infinity at Pala Casino:** 11154 Highway 76, Pala, 877-946-7252.  
March 14, March 15, March 16 — Rockin' Elvis Fest.

**The Kava Lounge:** 2812 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-543-0933.  
March 13 — Noise Pollution with Jef Phillips.  
March 14 — S.H.A.F.T. with Blackass Ringleader.  
March 15 — Boogie Invasion.

**Martinis Above Fourth:** 3940 Fourth Avenue #200, Hillcrest, 619-400-4500.  
March 13 — An Evening with Coco Peru.

**The Merrow:** 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7372.  
March 14 — Kitten with a Whip.  
March 15 — SD Union.  
March 20 — DJ Axle.

**Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:** 626 Main St., March 15 — Metal Church.

<b>THU 3/6</b> <b>NICOLE ATKINS</b> ARC IRIS DAVEY HORNE	<b>MON 3/10</b> <b>TACOCAT</b> TEENAGE BURRITOS HEATWARMER • DJ ROBBIE BUTLER
<b>FRI 3/7</b> <b>THE DONKEYS</b> NEW BUMS AWAHNICH	<b>TUE 3/11</b> <b>BOONDOCK BROTHERS</b> SETBACK CITY BROTHERS AT LARGE
<b>SAT 3/8</b> <b>MYSTIC BRAVES</b> AMERIKAN BEAR MUSCLE BEECH	<b>WED 3/12</b> <b>MOHAVISOUL</b> CHRISTINE SAKO STACY COLE
<b>SUN 3/9</b> <b>SCALE THE SUMMIT</b> + <b>THE OCEAN</b> THE ATLAS MOTH SILVER SNAKES	<b>THU 3/13</b> <b>PURLING HISS</b> TAR HALOS • MARQUAY
	<b>FRI 3/14</b> <b>THE GODS OF SCIENCE</b> THE BEAUTIFUL VIEW DEAD SATELLITES
	<b>SAT 3/15</b> <b>SODA PANTS</b> NEW CALIFORNIA SUN THE GIFT MACHINE • PAUL WOLFE
	<b>SUN 3/16</b> <b>FAR-OUT FANGTOOTH</b> HONG KONG FUZZ FLASH HITS

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### THE ATARIS

SO LONG ASTORIA REUNION TOUR

AUTHORITY ZERO / DRAG THE RIVER / VERSUS THE WORLD

MARCH 7 | ALL AGES

### FROM INDIAN LAKES

THE AMERICAN SCENE / GENEVA PINA / NAÏVE THIEVES

MARCH 7 | 5TH AVENUE SIDE STAGE | ALL AGES

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### THE BRAND NEW SPHONGLETRON 3.0

DESERT DWELLERS

MARCH 8 | 21+

### NECK DEEP

KNUCKLE PUNK / LIGHT YEARS / LAST CALL HOME / CUT YOUR LOSSES

MARCH 11 | 5TH AVENUE SIDE STAGE | ALL AGES

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COWBOY ANGELS / PLOOK / TERRY MATUSUOKA / THE HARPER  
BULLY BLINDERS / SPACESHAG / GLENN THOMAS BAND AND MORE

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### Riviera Supper Club &

**Turquoise Room:** 7777

University Ave., La Mesa, 619-

713-6777.

March 14 — Sure Fire Soul

Ensemble.

### Second Wind (San Carlos):

8515 Navajo Rd., San Carlos,

619-465-1730.

April 3 — Collage Menage.

**Seven Grand:** 3054 University

Ave., North Park, 619-269-3819.

March 13 — The Parmesans and

Erik Canzona.

March 14 — Lexington Field.

March 15 — Soul Organization.

**The Shakedown Bar:** 3048

Midway Dr., Midway District,

619-487-0373.

March 14 — The Fooks.

March 15 — Iron Maidens.

**Side Bar:** 536 Market St.,

Downtown San Diego, 619-696-

0946.

March 19 — DJ Scooter.

### Sleep Train Amphitheatre:

2050 Entertainment Circle,

Chula Vista, 619-671-3600.

March 22 — Kings of Leon and

Local Natives.

**Soma:** 3350 Sports Arena Bl.,

Midway District, 619-226-7662.

March 15 — We Are the In

Crowd, William Beckett.

**Spin Nightclub:** 2028 Hancock

St., Midway District, 619-294-

9590.

March 15 — Mega Tek, Dynamq,

King Bonafide, Full Watts.

**Sycuan Casino:** 5469 Casino

Way, El Cajon, 619-445-6002.

March 13 — Glenn Miller

Orchestra.

March 15 — Ronnie Milsap.

April 4 — Polo Polo.

**Til-Two:** 4746 El Cajon Bl., City

Heights, 619-516-4746.

March 15 — Iron Chic, Dan

Padilla, Caskitt.

March 20 — Lecherous Gaze and

Dirty Fences.

March 23 — Japan Nite.

**The Tin Can:** 1863 Fifth Ave.,

Bankers Hill, 619-955-8525.

March 19 — Solander.

**Tower 13:** 2633 S. Coast Hwy.

101, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, 760-

635-1200.

March 13 — Fuse n' Rock.

March 22 — Sara Petite & the

Sugar Daddies.

**The Tower Bar:** 4757

University Ave., City Heights,

619-284-0158.

March 14 — Qui.

**Valley View Casino:** 16300

Nyemii Pass Rd., Valley Center,

866-843-9946.

March 15 — Fuzzy Rankins Blues

Band.

**Valley View Casino Center:**

3500 Sports Arena Bl., Midway

District, 619-224-4171.

March 16 — Tool and Failure.

**Wave House:** 3125 Ocean

Front Walk, Mission Beach, 858-

228-9283.

March 17 — St. Patrick's Day:

Brady Spear & Beefam.

**Winstons:** 1921 Bacon St.,

Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.

March 14 — Natural Vibrations,

Sandollar, Krooked Treez.

March 15 — Natural Vibrations,

Simmer Down, Dirty Rice.

March 16, March 23 — Jose

Sinatra hosts OB-oke.



## TJ MILLER

March 6-8



## MICHAEL CHE

March 13-15



## THE AMAZING JOHNATHAN

March 20-22



## STEVE RANNAZZISI

March 27-29



## MATT BRAUNGER

April 3-5



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# Happy Hour Guide 2014

## Nobody knows Happy Hour in San Diego like Ed Bedford

*The man has been chasing cheap chomps and chugs around San Diego (and telling you all about it) for over 20 years. Ed, we raise our discounted-drink glasses to you.*

### 1887 On the Bay

1701 Strand Way, 619-435-0155

#### CORONADO

This place is where Stevie Wonder, the *Breaking Bad* crew, and Marilyn Monroe have all hung out. Also, it's been around even longer than its neighbor, the Hotel Del. The great thing: At Happy Hour you can usually see yachts swooping past your Crew's Lounge window. HH cocktails, \$7, good selection of wines at \$6, beers start at \$3.50. HH food's limited, but good. Asparagus soup, \$5, six oysters, \$9, ribs, \$8, prime rib sandwich, \$12. Great sunset rendezvous unchanged since, well, 1887. Happy Hour: 4-6pm daily, and all night Thursday.

### The Joint

4902 Newport Avenue, 619-222-8772

#### OCEAN BEACH

Cozy, buzzy atmosphere. Menu's not all cheap (burger \$14, rib eye \$17) so be sure

to hit HH. Menu includes great tapas, but try sushi; with names such as "Dr. Eel Good" they can't be bad. Salmon skin roll (\$5.50) is lush, savory, sweet, gingery, with caviar eggs popping in your mouth. Also try the Joint (soft shell crab, avo) normally \$13, \$6 HH, or the O'Beef (with seared filet mignon on top). "Sushi chefs'd freak at some of this stuff," says Big John, the owner. Best HH grog deal: jar-size glass of "One Cup" Ozeki sake, \$5.50. Cocktails vary. Beers from \$4. Happy Hour: 2-6pm daily; 4-11pm Mondays

### Grant Grill

In the U.S. Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway, 619-744-2077

#### DOWNTOWN

Dress up for this hangout of judges, politicians, conventioners, old-money rich, and the famous. Albert Einstein dined here, as have FDR and 12 other presidents. But the HH is surprising. Like, half price on their six small-plate items: Fried calamari \$7, charcuterie plate \$9, beef sliders \$9, crispy duck egg \$7.50, grilled flatbread with chicken and goat cheese \$7, truffle fries, \$4. My choice: duck egg. Break it and it floods the surrounding can-

arolli rice, charred onions, pancetta. But ask for bread. Big steaming-hot focaccia will turn up. Perfect for mopping up operations. And, free. Grog? Beers like

## Chasing cheap chomps and chugs around San Diego

Green Flash Double Stout, \$6. House wines \$6. Cocktails \$6. Happy Hour: 4-7pm Sunday-Thursday.

## Humphrey's Backstage Live

2241 Shelter Island Drive, 619-224-3577

#### SHELTER ISLAND

Behind the massive curved Hawaiian prow is one heckuva deal. Happy Hour brings pretty cheap dishes like the Greek salad (\$5.50), really decent draft-beer prices (\$2 for a Bud, \$3 for a local brew like Stone IPA), a great view of the yacht harbor at La Playa, and if you hang on after seven, good bands playing for no cover and a dance floor to rock your date. And if you keep it simple you can be in and out of this swanky place for under \$10. Sunsets included. Happy Hour: 5-7pm daily.





## Hexagone

495 Laurel Street, 619-236-0467

### BANKERS HILL

At this very French Hexagone (named after the shape of France), they keep it simple. All HH dishes cost \$7. Frog legs Provençales, snails, baked brie and apple, moules marinières, fried artichokes, the cheese plate, seven bucks. But the kicker is you can also get half-size versions of regular entrées like steak frites or coq au vin (\$10 instead of \$20) or sea bass (\$13 instead of \$26). Beers are \$3.50, house wines \$5, cocktails \$6. Just be careful to stay on-message because the regular entrées average \$25. Happy Hour: 3:30-7pm daily.

### The Field

544 Fifth Avenue, 619-232-9840

### GASLAMP

For looks, this is about as real as it gets. The



Crostini Florentina at Primavera

owners collected all the Irish paraphernalia that's crammed in here, from plows to blacksmith's bellows. Happy Hour is generously long and includes corned beef and cabbage croquettes (\$5), lamb sliders (\$2.75 each), and, my favorite, the sausage rolls ("Irish sausage wrapped in puff

pastry," \$5.50). The pastry is incredibly light, like a croissant, and the honey mustard dip is perfect. A 20oz pint of Guinness costs \$5.50, house wines \$4, well cocktails \$3.50. Fridays, they have a free buffet of, say, wings, from 5 till 6:30pm.

### Primavera

932 Orange Avenue,  
619-435-0454

### CORONADO

Condoleezza Rice eats here. PGA bigwigs eat here. So, yes, tiny Primavera's not for the faint of wallet. But even they have a Happy Hour. Most HH items are between \$8 and \$13. Mac and cheese

is \$7, steamed clams are \$13, bacon-wrapped scallops go for \$12. Best surprise: Crostini Florentina (\$10). They're "toast points smothered in goat cheese and topped with filet mignon, spinach, and porcini mushrooms." Totally delish, surprisingly filling. Glass of New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc costs \$6. All drinks are \$3 off during HH. Not the cheapest, but if it's good enough for Condi... Happy Hour: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm

### Romesco Mediterranean Bistro

4246 Bonita Road, 619-475-8627

### BONITA

This restaurant is our nearest window to the Baja-Med locavore phenomenon. Lots of HH choices, and every one interesting, even the three short-rib sliders, not much more than

a buck each. The ahi tostada (\$5.85) is a beautiful combo of spinach leaves, tuna, peppers, avo, and cream, drizzling down to the corn tostada. All-time fave: *lengua en pipian* (tongue in pumpkin-seed sauce) in an iron *cazuelita*. What's great: owner Javier Plascencia is making it up as he goes along. HH wines include Guadalupe Valley Merlot, earthy, tasty, \$5. Dollar off beers, \$2 off wines, \$6 margaritas, \$7 house martini. Happy Hour: 3-7pm Tuesday to Saturday, all day Sunday.

### Cosmopolitan Hotel & Restaurant

2660 Calhoun Street (in the plaza),  
619-297-1874

### OLD TOWN

Yes, it's in the eye of the tourist storm, but the Cosmopolitan, the old Casa de Bandini, has a truly beautiful patio and

# Half OFF Lobster!

(Buy one lobster get the second one half off, can have multiple/table)

"El Nuevo Puerto Nuevo's 1.5-lb. and 2.25-lb. lobsters are bringing in folks from all over San Diego". Dining & Entertainment Coordination Wolfgang D.Verkoaik  
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Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-10pm • Friday-Sunday 10am-1:30am



Happy Hour deals that make it easy to soak up the atmosphere without getting soaked. Like, \$3 draft beers, half-price wines, \$4.50 cocktails, \$4 fish tacos, \$6 burgers and fries. Among \$5 HH appetizers, the mushroom, artichoke, and spinach bowl is a great dipper, and the steamed mussels go on forever. Do this at dusk so you can settle in to the courtyard and talk with employees about the ghosts they've felt, the chairs they have seen moving. Happy Hour: 4-6pm Monday-Friday

### Croce's Park West

2760 Fifth Avenue, #100,  
619-233-4355

#### BANKERS HILL

Croce's is reborn a mile up Fifth, after being ousted from the Gaslamp. Their HH menu has just two serious dishes: ancho agave glazed chicken dru-

mettes with a blue-cheese dressing (\$7 for 6 pieces, \$11 for 12 pieces), and Jamaican jerk baby-back ribs with a creamy polenta and mango/papaya mint salsa (\$8). This is the dish. The ribs are tender and a nice contrast to the fruit-laden salsa. Also great: HH draft beers are all \$3, for quality offerings like Lost Abbey's Lost and Found, Acoustic Ales' Mad Dub. And specialty cocktails are all \$6. This Happy Hour feels like a keeper: 4-6pm and 10pm-closing

—ED BEDFORD

### Ian Pike's beachtastic Happy Hour spectacular 2014

#### Sea 180

800 Seacoast Avenue,  
619-631-4949

#### IMPERIAL BEACH

The view from this bar

is so good, it makes IB worth driving to. Happy Hour, which fills the gap between lunch and dinner service, runs 2:30-5:00pm every day. There are half-price cocktails from the tiki-esque menu, the same deal for wines by the glass, and small plates starting at \$5. Sit inside or out. It doesn't matter. You'll still get a great view

of the IB pier and the not-so-distant distant Coronado Islands.

### Raglan Public House

1851 Beacon Street, 619-794-2304

#### OCEAN BEACH

Raglan breaks with a tradition shared by many theme bars of being lame. Maybe it's the delicious lamb burgers, but instead

of kitschy, the New Zealand-themed bar and grill manages to come off as a solid neighborhood joint. Happy Hour, which the bar skips on holidays, is Monday-Friday, 3-6, and the deal is simple: half-off munchies and select drinks. Try the Shandy, a beer "cocktail," if you want to keep the alcohol consumption moderate,

for whatever reason. If not, trust in the power of the tap list. It's a burger place, after all.

### OB Noodle House

2218 Cable Street, 619-450-6868

#### OCEAN BEACH

It doesn't have the very best pho in town, but it's close! Moreover, the Noodle House is a dark-horse contender for "best noodle shop" just because it has a better location than anywhere else that plays in the same league of tastiness. Also, it turns out that chamoy-flavored sake and Belgian beer go very well with noodle soup. Half-price beer from 3-6, discounts on sake infusions and beer pitchers. Slurp slurp.

*Brandon Hernández adds:*

Of all the Happy Hours in town, this is probably the best for a beer hound like me. And we're not talking typical Asian macro-lager garbage. There's a



Taco Tuesday at California Kebab and Beer Garden



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# JOIN US FOR SOME DARN GOOD HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS

3-6pm MAR 5th-14th  
////////////////////

**\$3** Lucky  
Bastard Ale

»»»»» OR «««««  
**MAKE IT A COMBO**

**\$10** LBS Burger  
+ LBS Ale  
For A Limited Time Only!

Regular Happy Hour at Lucky Bastard Saloon: 3-6pm M-F,  
1/2 off pizza, \$3 select beers & well drinks



reason this place has a line out the door come 3pm. Owner Steve Yeng is a beer nerd's hero, going to great lengths to get specialty suds offerings ranging from sours and Belgian trappist ales to triple IPAs and imperial stouts. Sweetening the daily deal, he even throws in select brews for just \$2 per pint. That leaves plenty of dough for a warming bowl of pho or whole sizzling fish.

### Pacific Beach Ale House

721 Grand Avenue, 858-581-2337

#### PACIFIC BEACH

That roof. Those beers. The surprisingly tasty food. PB Ale House looks for all the world like it should be a bogus tourist trap for luring unwitting Minnesotans into wasting money, but four out of five displaced uptown hipsters agree, the Ale House is legit! Let's

just say it doesn't suck to sit on the rooftop patio. They have dollar oysters Wednesday, prime rib on Fridays, and Happy Hour every weekday from 3-6. It's not the fanciest HH, but \$3 drafts, wine, and well drinks get the job done!

### California Kebab and Beer Garden

4150 Mission Boulevard,  
858-270-5222

#### PACIFIC BEACH

Nobody really knows why a glut of kebab shops opened up all over San Diego in recent years. Perhaps a secret society of London and Berlin ex-pats longing for the kebab shops of their youth instigated a ploy to turn Americans on to the joy of the Anatolian burrito. Either way, Cali-Kebab is definitely the only kebabery with its own in-house microbrewery, Amplified Ale Works.



Brussels sprouts at Counterpoint

Weekday Happy Hour runs Monday through Thursday, 3-6, with half-price on most beers and most shared plates. To keep things rolling, daily specials start up around the end of Happy Hour.

Tuesday has \$10 pitchers and \$3 kebab tacos, Wednesday is \$5 stein night, and Thursday has \$4 pints with an Amplified Ale Works beer koozie.

### Surfside Sushi

4527 Mission Boulevard,  
858-273-2979

#### PACIFIC BEACH

It's hard to beat the allure of cold beer and hot sake. Surfside's daily Happy Hour, from 5 until 7:30

or 8 (depending on the day and, apparently, the management's whims), means discounted sushi rolls and \$1 sake with the purchase of a beer. Feel free to pig out on mayonnaise-covered rolls, but more careful sushi eaters may go for the 16-piece "chef's recommendations," which gets toro, uni, Spanish mackerel, live shrimp, clam, and yellowtail for a reasonable \$38.

### Thrusters Lounge

4633 Mission Boulevard,  
858-483-6336

#### PACIFIC BEACH

Whomp out at the quintessential beach bar and save a bit of loot at the same time during "happy as sh!t hour" Monday to Thursday 5-9, and Friday 5-10, with \$3 well drinks and beers. Thrusters has daily specials, too, like \$1.50/\$2.50 drafts on Mondays and Wednes-

**COYOTE UGLY SALOON**

**DAILY FROM 4PM - 7PM**

**HAPPY HOUR**

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# \$2 Reader Happy Hour Week

It's the happiest week of the year!  
Stop by any participating restaurant March 5th-14th  
to try a signature drink for just \$2!



**LAGRAN TAPA**  
La Gran Tapa  
\$2 Sangria or Pirate Grog

**bluefoot**  
bar & lounge  
Bluefoot Bar & Lounge  
\$2 Sapporo

**PROUD MARY'S**  
SOUTHERN  
BAR & GRILL  
Proud Mary's  
\$2 Bourbon Slushie

**SOLAR & E**  
RISTORANTE ITALIANO BAR LOUNGE  
Solare  
\$2 Sicilian Tommy Gun

**CAFE - BAR EUROPA**  
THE TURQUOISE  
Cafe Bar Europa, The Turquoise  
\$2 Sangria or Pirate Grog

**DiMille's**  
Italian Restaurant  
Dimille's  
\$2 Sangria Calabrese

**Kous Kous**  
Moroccan Bistro & Lounge  
Kous Kous  
\$2 Moroccan Kiss

**LUCKY BASTARD**  
SALOON  
Lucky Bastard  
\$2 Lucky Bastard Ale

**HOUSE OF BLUES**  
Crossroads at House of Blues  
\$2 Bud Light

**Bar Pink**  
COCKTAIL LOUNGE  
Bar Pink  
\$2 Shots of Cream Peach/Strawberry

**Martinis**  
above fourth  
table + stage  
Martinis Above Fourth  
\$2 Key Lime Pie Martini

**COYOTE UGLY**  
SALOON  
Coyote Ugly  
\$2 Coyote Ugly Whiskey

**TOWER 13**  
Cardiff Beach Bar @ Tower 13  
\$2 Frozen Strawberry Daiquiri

**710**  
BEACH CLUB  
710 Beach Club  
\$2 Sex on the Beach

**Giorgino's**  
Giorgino's  
\$2 Red Tail

**Nunu's**  
Nunu's  
\$2 All Craft Bottled Beers

**Brewski's**  
Brewski's Bar & Arcade  
\$2 Margaritas

**splash**  
wine lounge & bistro  
Splash Wine Lounge and Bistro  
\$2 Rose Sangria

**CALI COMFORT BBQ**  
Cali Comfort BBQ  
\$2 Sobieski Vodka

**SOCIETE**  
BREWING COMPANY  
Societe Brewing Co.  
\$2 "The Pugilist" Dry Irish Stout

**SHOGUN**  
Shogun  
\$2 Assorted Shots and Sapporo

**Sevilla**  
\$2 Craft Sangria Flights

**Vinavanti**  
Vinavanti Urban Winery  
\$2 "Cinq Horas" Wine

& more!

**La Bella**  
Pizza Garden  
Since 1955  
La Bella Cafe  
\$2 Red Trolley

**Bamboo**  
Lounge  
Bamboo Lounge  
\$2 Bourbon and Coke

**T-Deli**  
Eat Well, Drink Healthy.  
T-Deli  
\$2 First Long Island Tea

**Twisted Manzanita**  
Ales & Spirits  
\$2 Iron Mountain IPA

**PUERTO NUEVO**  
El Nuevo Puerto Nuevo  
\$2 Specialty Margaritas & ALL Beers

**Aqui es**  
Texcoco  
Aqui Es Texcoco  
\$2 Pulque & All Beers

**Benchmark**  
Brewing Co.  
\$2 Brown Ale

**Dood's Food's**  
\$2 Jameson Shot

[sdreader.com/hhw](http://sdreader.com/hhw)

Try them all and let us know on Facebook  
(facebook.com/sdreader) or Instagram (@SanDiegoReader)  
which one you liked best using #ReaderHappyHour!



days, and other ways to get good and liquored up just a block away from the sand. Don't be a tool "buying bottle service with your rent money." Do enjoy occasional dub-step and dancing. Don't get in a fight. Do get rad.

## Latitude 32

5019 Cass Street, 858-273-0501

### PACIFIC BEACH

Part of this bar's charm is the random sports playing on the array of TVs when the regular stick-and-ball games aren't on. It's probably the only PB beach bar that has ever showed the Criterium du Dauphine (a cycling race.) The cheesesteak subs at Alex's Brown Bag (attached to the bar) are downright salivatory, but the cheesesteak-covered fries are even better. Lat's also gets bonus points for starting Happy Hour at 11am every weekday, running it until 6, and letting

it go all the way to 9 on Tuesdays. They'd be mad if we posted the details here. It's a neighborhood place. They want you to go find out yourself. Respect that, and you'll like it here.

## Cusp

7955 La Jolla Shores Drive,  
858-551-3620

### LA JOLLA

Sitting at the top of the Hotel La Jolla, gazing out to where the ocean drops off into Scripps Canyon, sipping a cold drink... what could be nicer? A little restraint works wonders, and barmeister Nate Howell is a student of booze history. The bar at Cusp actually bothers to make classic cocktails properly, rather than overdoing it with syrups and bitters to the point of farce. Happy Hour daily from 4-7 includes \$5 bar bites, \$7 cocktails, and \$5 wine and beer.



## 50-peso cagaumas at Tahiti Felix's

## George's at the Cove

1250 Prospect Street,  
858-454-4244

### LA JOLLA

This place has a sunset

clock right on the website. That's how important the view is. George's may seem far too fine for your champagne tastes and beer budget, but you

can actually afford to go here. Sit at George's Bar or the Ocean Terrace during Monday to Friday Happy Hour from 3:30-6:30 with \$7 cocktails, \$7 wine, and \$4 beers. They also run daily specials — Throwback Thursday, whatever that is, anyone? Go find out. Stay for Thursday's all night Happy Hour. See. George's isn't out of reach.

-IAN PIKE

## Chad Deal deals details

on 10 of his favorite San Diego (and Tijuana) Happy Hours

## The Brigantine

9350 Fuerte Drive, 619-465-1935

### LA MESA

Landlocked pirates, beware! The Brigantine — a micro-chain that touts more seafood specials than one's sextant can fathom — finds true north during Happy Hours from 4pm to close

on Sundays and Mondays, and 4 to 7pm from Tuesday through Saturday. Here's the booty: \$1 off draft pints, wells, select wines, and a \$4.75 house margarita (which just kinda sucks, real talk). Stick with the discount beer and supplement as needed with \$2.75 fish tacos, \$4 clam chowder, \$1.50 oysters on the half-shell, and a boatload of other snack specials. Better yet: Taco Tuesdays, featuring \$1 off select tacos. Of course, one would fare well simply cutting to the chase with \$2.75 pepper vodka oyster shooters.

## South Park Abbey

1946 Fern Street, 619-696-0096

### SOUTH PARK

Attention, sports fans! It doesn't matter your game, South Park Abbey has 36 taps of super-select beer (seriously, you've never heard of

# CAFE-BAR EUROPA

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## Celebrating Reader Happy Hour Week

March 5th to March 14th

Open to Close

**\$2 Sangria** **\$2 Pirate Grog**

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# HAPPY HOUR

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\*Top Shelf Crafts do not apply



at least half of these) to accompany five-buck burgers (coming from a burger dude, yes, they rule) every weekday from open 'til 5pm. Check it out. All day Monday (rejoice!) and 3 to 7pm Tuesday through Friday, take \$3 wells and pints and buck-fitty 8-ounce tasters. Sporting men like ourselves like to live on the edge, so try your luck with the daily \$3 pint, which — along with everything else — sends 3 percent of proceeds to your choice of the Abbey's-endorsed foundations.

## Yard House

1023 Fourth Avenue,  
619-233-9273

### GASLAMP

Okay, the Yard House is a nationwide franchise, but make no mistake. This isn't Applebee's. The Gaslamp tap house offers over 130 brews, including more than a few San Diego favorites. In the name of science, let's indulge the fact that a yard of beer is approximately 1.4 liters (i.e., a rite of passage). Anyhow, you won't find the classic bulb-ended yard glass at this tap house, but, from Monday through Fri-

day, 3 to 6pm and Sunday through Wednesday from 10pm to close, you can take domestic pints at \$3.75, crafts and imports from \$4.25 to \$6.75, half-yards from \$7.50 to \$10.50, wells for around \$4.50, plus a heap of half-off appetizers.

## The Merrow

1271 University Avenue,  
619-299-7372

### HILLCREST

Yep, the former Ruby Room now goes by a name that 99 percent of us will mispronounce upon entry (it's "mur-OH," after the Gaelic mermaid, so

ya know). Happiness runs weekdays from 5 to 8pm, with \$3 wells, \$1 off their many and magnificent drafts (16 crafts), and \$5 beer flights. But the true treasure is Ryan Roots Cocktale Confessionals (Thursday through Sunday and Mondays after 9) when the mixology you receive is dependant upon the best erotic tale you can tell. Anticipate John Waters and Jodorowsky on the screen as you jockey for a drink with parables of the peen. If you're just getting your feet wet with the drink, ask Mr. Roots to sur-

prise you. You won't be disappointed.

## The Bancroft

9143 Campo Road, 619-469-2337  
SPRING VALLEY

It's hard not to appreciate what the Bancroft has done. In a space that looks like a scene cut from *Back to the Future Part III*, a handful of hardcore kids have turned a foreboding Spring Valley dive into a raucous nightlife venue and all-day (6am to 2am) pub. So! From 3 to 7pm every day, you get \$2.75 wells, \$2 Tecate bottles, and \$3 Heinekens. Of course, un-Happy Hours

are just as good, as owner Rob Logic regularly has free crockpot snacks by the door and perpetual punk-rock tall boys (PBR, Schlitz, Colt 45) at four bucks a pop. Breakfast boozers will appreciate the San Diego Sunrise or a Sunday Bloody Mary Sunday, both five bucks.

## Elbow Room

5225 Kearny Villa Road,  
858-874-3526

### KEARNY MESA

Kearny Mesa and the surrounding areas (hello, Mira Mesa) have become the de facto home to San Diego's craft-beer lumi-



## Daily Specials

### Tuesday

50% off Bottles of Wine

### Wednesday

\$6 Martinis

### Thursday

50% off All Dinner Pizza

# HAPPY HOUR

**Tue-Sat 3:00-6:30pm**

**Sunday 3:00-6:30pm**

**Lounge • Patios • Pet Friendly**

# SOLARE

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**NEW Craft Cocktail & Beer  
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**\$5 Tapas**  
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**\$1 NIGIRI**  
**\$2 HAND ROLLS**  
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**Plus**  
**Signature Rolls**  
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 Starting at \$4.95

**Happy Hour**  
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offers not valid with any other offer or coupon

**SHOGUN**

**San Diego**

5451 Kearny Villa Rd., San Diego, CA 92123

858-560-7399

naries thanks to ample warehouse space and lax zoning regulations. So what better place to sample America's Finest than this mesa alehouse, which highlights 20 taps on the hoppier side of San Diego with happy time running Monday through Friday from 3 to 7pm. Take a buck off all drafts, bottles, and food or come on the weekend from open to 7pm for wells at \$2.75, any draft for 3 bucks, and a dollar off all food. Super discount wings every Monday from 5 to 8.

#### 7th Ave. Pub

711 University Avenue,  
 619-294-2800

#### HILLCREST

Surprise! San Diego's most selective sommeliers have been heading south to ole Meh-hee-koh to find the finest wines to stock their bars, and, believe it or not, it's taking off, *con gusto!* Head to the entry room of Whole Foods in Hillcrest from Monday through Friday from 4 to 7pm or Saturday from noon to 3pm for \$5 food specials created by Tijuana chef Martin San Roman of Tour de France and Rincon San Roman fame. Pair it with

a glass of Valle de Guadalupe wine (the largest selection of Baja vintages north of the border) for \$5 during Happy Hour, or munch some daily specials that include burgers, sushi, and fish & chips.

#### Tahiti Felix's Tattoo Shop and Tiki Bar

8379 Calle Septima, 664-638-1192

#### TIJUANA

Sure, you know Tijuana: Zona Norte, Playas, Revu — but hidden behind a bamboo façade on Septima and Negrete lies a wonderland of anachronistic culture that will shake the very foundations of your concept of this strange bordertown. Enter Chino, your dedicated Argentinian tattoo artist and bartender who offers: Hungover Sundays with a caguama (40 oz.) of beer at 50 pesos (\$3.80) and Bloody Marys at 35 (\$2.65); Crappy Tuesdays (50-peso caguamas); Classy Wednesdays (tiki drinks 2-for-1); Tropical Cumbia Thursdays (50-peso caguamas and the special of the day); and Sailor Jerry Fridays, when the sailor's ink sinks (tattoos!) for 50 bucks apiece and tiki drinks are 40 pesos.



**White Geisha at Cafe Japengo**

#### Wang's North Park

3029 University Avenue,  
 619-291-7500

#### NORTH PARK

This Palm Springs transplant melds Asian fusion with traditional Chinese cuisine in a deep-east glamorous (if not cavernous) dining room. You know the place:

where the now-iconic 50-foot pink-and-purple cartoon dinosaur — painted by Madsteez — stomps along University Avenue's historic JCPenney building. Crunch into Good Fortune Hour 'til 7 daily for \$4 wells, \$6 large martinis, \$4 red or white wine, \$4 drafts, \$4 domestic bottles, and \$5 import bottles. Nibble happy with \$3 edamame hummus and wonton chips, \$3 veggie spring rolls, \$4 cream-cheese wontons, \$5 salt & pepper shrimp, \$4.50 dumplings, \$5 jalapeño calamari, \$4 beef skewers, and \$3 edamame bowl. Invoke Tiki Tuesdays for \$5 rum and punch cocktails and \$8 pupu platters.

#### The Salty Frog

992 Palm Avenue, 619-429-3764

#### IMPERIAL BEACH

Imperial Beach can be a perplexing sector to navigate, but between the dirty dives and thugish caverns, there exists

## BREWSKIS BAR & arcade

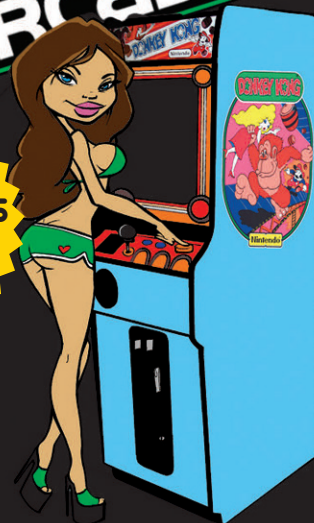
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**\$2**  
**MARGARITAS**  
 FOR READER  
 HAPPY HOUR  
 WEEK

**HAPPY HOUR 4PM-10PM**  
**MON BUY ONE GET ONE 1/2 OFF DRINKS**  
**TUES \$1 TACOS, \$3 CORONA & DOS XX,**  
**\$5 PATRON SHOTS**  
**WED \$4 VODKA ROCKSTARS**  
**THUR \$4 JACK & COKE**  
**FRI \$4 FIREBALL**  
**SAT \$4 JAGER BOMBS**  
**SUN \$1 OFF ALL BEERS DRAFT & BOTTLES**



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a sanctuary of spirits and suds where, every day from 4 to 8pm, you can guzzle wells and imported bottles for an easy \$3.50. If you're lucky, a local band like Whiskey Circle will be playing on a Tuesday, when the bartender will flip a coin and, if heads is up, you take your grog for 25 cents. Herald the dawn with an Avod-kalypse Sunday, when 4 bucks grants access to the Bloody Mary bar of every hangover's dreams, including Ballast Point mix, celery, okra pickles, horseradish, Tajin, pickled beets, several hot sauces, cucumbers, olives, and everything else you could possibly imagine.

— CHAD DEAL

## Where the diva gets happy

### Counterpoint

830 25th Street, 619-564-6722  
GOLDEN HILL

Counterpoint is a perfect destination for that right-after-work stop-by for a quick few drinks on the cheap, with the welcoming option of staying and lingering while sharing scrumptious plates from the starters section of the menu (such as the duck puppies, mac & cheese, and spicy brussels sprouts). From 5 to 6pm every weekday, you can choose from a short list of wines and drafts for only \$3 each. Aside from the attractive drink deal, one major thing that makes up for this short, actual-hour-long happy hour during the week is that on Saturdays and Sundays, that happy "hour" is expanded from noon to 6pm.

### Donovan's Steakhouse

570 K Street, 619-237-9700

DOWNTOWN

The martinis are a more

reasonable \$9 instead of the usual \$15, glasses of wine start at \$7, and the 4 to 6pm Happy Hour is every day (a nice bonus for those of us who like to get the party started early on Saturday nights), but it's not just the drink deals that have the most appeal at Donovan's. It's also the *free food*. And we're not talking pretzels and nuts here, but fresh prime-steak sandwiches and mini filet burritos, for real, at no charge. All that, and the bites are as delicious as you'd expect from a steakhouse king — sautéed peppers, onions, and cheese on the steak sandwiches, and delectable meat and sour cream in the simple but satisfying burritos.

### Marine Room

2000 Spindrift Drive,

866-644-2351

LA JOLLA

The Marine Room doesn't

just have an "ocean view" — it's situated right on the shore, where waves lap against the sand, sometimes all the way up to the giant windows of the dining room. A big romantic dinner here can be expensive, but a drink or two and some bites at the bar proffer the same gorgeous views at a slightly more casual fraction of the price. Every day (except for Saturday) from 4 to 6pm, you can stroll into the lounge and order Dan's Daily Drink, a well cocktail, or a glass of Lisa's select wine for \$8 each. All appetizers, devised by one of the best chefs in town, are a flat \$10 (marked down from up to \$18).

### The Prado at Balboa Park

1549 El Prado, 619-557-9441

BALBOA PARK

The only thing better than one Happy Hour is

two Happy Hours! At the Prado, you can get happy on Tuesday through Friday from either 4 to 6pm or 8 to 10pm. Or both, if you're extra adventurous — there's plenty to do in Balboa Park in the two-hour gap between fun times. During the 8pm Happy Hours — and on Saturdays — the lounge features live music. Let's talk bevies: for just \$4.50, you have your choice of well drinks, the house margarita, draft pale ale, white or red wine, and, my favorite, the Prado Mule. Happy Hour bites range from \$4 to \$7.50, all of them perfect snacks for your sips.

### Bamboo Lounge

1475 University Avenue,

619-291-8221

HILLCREST

The garden patio at Bamboo Lounge is a zen-tastic place to gather with friends. It's a tiny oasis

hidden within the Hillcrest hubbub, replete with bamboo trees and water features. From 4 to 7pm Tuesday through Saturday, share a bottle of wine at half off, or specialty shots for only \$3 each, as well as \$4 well drinks and \$5 glasses of sangria. As for food, you can get street tacos (3 for \$7), crab-and-cream cheese wontons (5 for \$6), grilled-cheese panini with dipping sauces (for \$5), and a whole lot more. Check for additional daily specials.

### Finch's Bistro and Wine Bar

7644 Girard Avenue,

858-456-4056

LA JOLLA

Sample from an eclectic selection of wine from around the world at \$2 off per glass between 3 and 6pm every day at this charming bistro nestled between two shops in La



Amazing, Authentic  
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Jolla. The bar has a Parisian feel, but the owners are from South Africa, and their well-traveled palates are reflected on the Happy Hour menu. Try small plates, such as Baja shrimp and mushroom pâté (\$8 each) or share plates, which include avocado fritters, stuffed squash blossoms, and ahi poke wontons (\$10 to \$18). Your taste buds will feel like they've flown first class.

### Solace and the Moonlight Lounge

25 East E Street, 760-753-2433

#### ENCINITAS

Oyster lovers won't be able to resist the \$1.50 oysters served Monday through Friday from 3 to 6pm at the seafood-centric Solace in Encinitas. The drink specials change with the seasons, but the prices are consistently low. For \$6, you

can choose between the daily selection of white, red, and sparkling wines. Specialty cocktails, such as the Moscow mule or wine and whiskey punch, start at \$5. Drafts of local craft beer are made available starting at \$2.50. If you're not into oysters, you might want to opt for the warm cheddar-and-chive biscuits (5 for \$4) or steamed black mussels (\$8.50). Or go with friends and try it all.

### The 3rd Corner Wine Shop and Bistro

2265 Bacon Street, 619-223-2700

#### OCEAN BEACH

897 S. Coast Hwy, 760-942-2104

#### ENCINITAS

At this wine shop and bistro, you can relax from 3 to 6pm Tuesday through Friday in a comfy-casual seat with a view of rows of wide-ranging wine bottles offered at retail prices. Enjoy local draft



"Milanese Apertivo" at Monello

beers (\$3 each), house red or white wine or red or white sangria (\$4 per glass) and well cocktails or martinis (\$5 each). The Happy Hour menu (also available late night, from 10pm to 1am) offers some snacks and several entrée-style dishes (such as the beef Bolognese, burger, mac confit, and mussels) for \$10 each. Just be sure not to leave without sampling the fresh bread and butter.

### The Oceanaire Seafood Room

400 J Street, 619-858-2277

#### DOWNTOWN

Oceanaire is another local treasure that offers two Happy Hours — deals at the bar are available between 5 and 6pm, and then again from 9pm to close (8pm to close on Sundays). The bar is always packed, and everyone seems friendly and agreeable when it comes to sharing the space. Discounted drink

options are more extensive here: choose from four bottles of beer at \$4 each, six types of wine at \$5 each, two \$6 specialty drinks, and five \$7 specialty martinis. Once you have a drink in hand, you can begin deciding what to get from the dozen or so fantastic food options (e.g., fish tacos, truffle fries, oysters, filet mignon sliders) priced at only \$5 to \$7.

### Davanti Enoteca

1655 India Street, 619-237-9696

#### LITTLE ITALY

If you're not looking for a bar scene so much as a chill place to share a few drinks and snacks while catching up with a friend, this is the place. For after-work post-gaming, heart-to-heart talks, or a romantic prelude to an evening, sit on the patio, beneath the olive tree and sparkly lights, and enjoy a Davanti spritz, well drink,

or Moretti draft for \$5, or a classic martini or glass of house red or white wine for \$6 between 4 and 6pm. Snacks for sharing range from chicken liver pâté (\$4) to shrimp, calamari, and oyster fritto misto (\$9).

— BARBARELLA

### Reader new guy Patrick Henderson

*refused to be left out of the Happy Hour fun*

### Casa De Pico

5500 Grossmont Center Drive,

619-463-3267

#### LA MESA

The bar is loud and hopping, even on seemingly off nights. Beers are \$1 off normal prices but each \$4.50 margarita (served blended or on the rocks), gets you a small paper plate for free appetizers. The goodies are ever-changing and range from chips and salsa to flautas

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or the most lip-smacking chicken drumettes I've ever had. The chef braises them in the broth used for the chicken tortilla soup.

### BO-beau Kitchen + Garden

8384 La Mesa Boulevard,  
619-337-3445

#### LA MESA

The term "Happy Hour" is taken literally at this newly hatched bistro in La Mesa's village. It goes from 4:30 to 5:30, mainly because the place gets packed for dinner during normal Happy Hour times. (La Mesans eat early.) During the 60-minute Happy Hour, diners get half off on select items, such as fried-chicken sliders and roasted jalapeño deviled eggs (highly recommended). Drink specials usually revolve around one wine, one beer, and a specialty cocktail invented that day, such as the "Peach Press," a combination of Ciroc peach vodka, Sprite, and soda water. The restaurant's signature cocktail, the La Mesa Lemonade, costs \$10 during Happy Hour, but you get to take home a BO-beau-branded mug.

### Saltbox

1047 Fifth Avenue, 619-515-3003

#### GASLAMP

This dark but cozy bar is like the film noir movie of my dreams — if Sam Spade were a foodie. The cocktails — usually \$12 and worth every penny — are half off between 4-7pm. The Cinnners 'N' Sage (gin, cinnamon syrup, pineapple, lime, and sage) tastes like a glorious Santa Ana day put into a cocktail. The fried pickles are crunchy, and the San Diego poutine (carnitas, fries, salsa roja, jack and manchego cheeses) is a sublime creation that respects the

region's culinary flavor and the community's ability to adapt outside ideas.

### Bali Hai

2230 Shelter Island Drive,  
619-222-1181

#### POINT LOMA

This tiki culture landmark practically invented Asian fusion cuisine when it opened in 1955. It has a great view of San Diego Bay and, most important, the strongest drinks in town. *Seriously*. Happy Hour starts at 3pm, when the super-strong mai tais cost only \$5. The price goes up with each passing hour. Bali Hai sells its signature coconut shrimp for \$9 during Happy Hour, a \$6 discount, while the Island Beef Skewers and Wasabi Fries are also discounted. If you want the true tropical vibe, go on Tuesday nights when Desi Relator plays Hawaiian music on acoustic guitar from 4-7pm.

### Cafe Japengo

8960 University Center Lane,  
858-450-3355

#### UTC/LA JOLLA

Considering head sushi chef Gerry Warner is internationally respected, Cafe Japengo's sushi prices during Happy Hour are pretty damn good, starting at at \$3.50 for a California Roll to \$7 for his Hawaiian Roll. The hours are 4:30 to 7pm Monday through Friday and all night on Saturday, when the bar offers a huge Kobe beef burger for \$18, including a draft beer. The best Happy Hour dish (and one of the best in the city) is the curry-dusted calamari, served with glass noodles, and a seaweed salad in a Thai-lime vinaigrette. Specialty cocktails like the Burning Sun (Absolut Mandarin with jalapeño syrup and fruit juices) and the White Geisha (Coconut rum with lemongrass and

lime syrup) are strong, but don't necessarily complement the delicious food as well as the great beer or wine menu.

### RA Sushi

474 Broadway, 619-321-0021

#### GASLAMP

A good Happy Hour has good cheap food, and good cheap drinks. RA Sushi has those and something extra: more women than men — an 8-to-1 ratio on one recent Monday night. Specialty rolls on sale range in price for \$2.75 for edamame to \$7.75 for the signature Viva Las Vegas Roll (almost a 50 percent discount). Happy Hour lasts from 3-7pm Monday through Saturday, and on Sundays from 8pm to midnight, and there's a DJ. The cocktails include a variety of margarita and saketinis, but the Umami Punch, made with Southern Comfort, Amaretto, Disaronno, sake, and tropical juices goes best with the sushi.

### Herringbone

7837 Herschel Avenue,  
858-459-0221

#### LA JOLLA

This place gets pretty crowded during Happy Hours, and with good reason: Between 4-6pm, oysters are \$1. The Happy Hour menu also includes risotto balls, mussels in white wine, and the best brussels sprouts in the city. Each night features a particular booze that has been infused with a complementary flavor. Thursdays and Fridays have music, usually a guy on piano or acoustic guitar.

### Searsucker

611 Fifth Avenue, 619-233-7327

#### GASLAMP

Brian Malarkey's flagship restaurant in the Gaslamp is a bargain in many ways, especially if you love fried pickles, which are only



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\$1 between 5:30-7pm. Housemade beer nuts are \$2. Other goodies include brown butter fries and farm-bird lollipops served with hot sauce and blue-cheese fondue. (Malarkey's menus can be precious at times, so if you're confused, that's his variation on chicken wings.) The flagship cocktail at Searsucker (and my favorite in San Diego) combines Pimm's liqueur with bruised basil, pressed lemon, and pickled carrot. The perfect hot-weather drink.

### Puesto at the Headquarters

789 W. Harbor Drive,  
619-233-8880

#### MARINA DISTRICT

This newly opened restaurant near Seaport Village is already a Happy Hour staple between 3-6pm, thanks to excellent tacos, such as the filet mignon and lobster, and mezcal cocktails

bordering on brilliant (and only \$6 on Mondays). The La Verdad, made with cactus juice, comes highly recommended. Usually tacos come in a three-for-\$11 order, but they're \$2 on Tuesdays. Non-drinkers should come on Thursday when the bar makes fresh *aguas frescas*. For an extra fee, alcohol can be added. On Fridays, the Mexican Firing Squad, made with reposado tequila, lime, house-made grenadine, and Angostura bitters is only \$6. People expecting a combination plate will be disappointed. This is not a beans-and-rice type of place.

### Blind Burro

639 J Street, 619-795-7880

#### EAST VILLAGE

East Village is still trying to figure out whether its a tourist attraction or an actual neighborhood, but the Blind Burro manages to feel like a comfy

neighborhood bar despite only being open a year. If you're not drinking beer, the margaritas are strong, and the white hot sangria, which has a slight amount of jalapeño, is the drink to get here during Happy Hour when it's \$6 (a \$3 discount). It pairs very well with the Happy Hour specialty, the \$7 yellowtail fish collar. The fish collar is a meaty part of fish favored by foodies and chefs but ignored by the masses because its tiny bones don't make it user-friendly. Blind Burro puts a sweet, smoky glaze on it and it's one of the best Happy Hour dishes available anywhere. Another good bet are the bacon-wrapped roasted jalapeño peppers, only \$4 between 4-7pm Mondays thru Friday.

— PATRICK HENDERSON

### Before he was @sdbeernews,

he was @offdutyfoodie —

*#brandonhernandez loves good food and drink. Though he's happy to pay full price for either, he still loves a bargain, which makes #happyhour his favorite hour.*

### The Hake

1250 Prospect Street, Suite B10,  
858-454-1637

#### LA JOLLA

Sequestered below street level on Prospect, this seafood enclave has a broad assortment of mezcal, some of which find its way into tasty signature cocktails like the Oaxacan Old Fashioned — smoky mezcal, tequila, agave nectar, and mole bitters — offered for \$3 less than usual during Happy Hour (4-7pm and 9pm to close every day) offered along with incredible tuna tostadas, avocado tacos, and serrano ham croquettes (all under \$7). Throw in the fact they're doing their darndest to up

their beer game and the future of early-evening imbibing looks bright, indeed.

### The High Dive

1801 Morena Boulevard,  
619-275.0460

#### BAY PARK

Daily specials like Wednesday's assortment of \$6 pizzas or the delicious protein-netted web of bacon-studded blue cheese adorning a plate of crisp french fries is enough to get me to this comforting Bay Park hub, but I love the fact that local beers — of which there is a vast assortment from outstanding operations like AleSmith, Ballast Point, and Coronado Brewing Company — are two bucks less (3-6pm, Monday-Friday) than the rest of the board. Plus, from a super-friendly front of the house to the al fresco patio at the back of the house, the place is

built to be easygoing and low pressure, just what Happy Hour is all about.

### Karl Strauss Brewery & Restaurant

9675 Scranton Road,  
858-587-2739

#### SORRENTO MESA

For half a decade, every one of my and my colleagues' promotions, new job offers, or other vocational accomplishments was celebrated at this brewery-owned eatery's outdoor patio, looking out upon a gorgeous Japanese garden and waterscape. But it was the quality beer, including cask-conditioned "firkin" offerings rolled out every Thursday at 6pm, and discounted-yet-decadent Happy Hour appetizers including fried calamari with chili aioli, spice-dusted fries, and a massive nacho stack (3-6pm, Monday-Friday) that

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made Uncle Karl's business 'hood respire a welcoming after-work hang. (Note: closed for remodeling until Easter.)

## La Jolla Strip Club

4282 Esplanade Court,  
858-450-1400

### UTC

The only "strip club" I hit with any regularity (or at all, for that matter), this one's a bit under the radar. (And for those not familiar with its play-on-words handle, it's one of those places where you grill up your own steak. Get it?). The fact it's buried in a part of town saturated with slightly more affordable dining options and across the street from a mall (a distance few shoppers are willing to traverse unless they see the word SALE), makes it easier to grab a pool table and enjoy a few rounds of eight-ball along with \$4 draft beers.

Eats like sliders, lobster mac 'n' cheese, and my personal vice — nachos — are ripe for the taking at \$7 (3-7pm, Monday-Friday, and 5-7pm Saturdays).

## Monello

750 West Fir Street, 619-501-0030

### LITTLE ITALY

This Little Italy haunt invites guests to "drink like an Italian." So, what does that mean? In Monello's case, the purchase of a drink or cocktail (including several made using exceptional house-made sweet vermouth from noted mix-mistress Jen Queen) acts as a passport to complementary small-plate offerings from chef Fabrizio during what he refers to as "Milanese Apertivo" (4-7pm, daily). Those edibles vary by day, but expect takes on traditional Italian street food like cheese- and meat-

stuffed piadine and fried cauliflower, the likes of which owners Valentina DiPietro and Guido Nistri love so much that they opened this venue to celebrate them.

## Nicky Rottens Bar & Burger Joint

560 Fifth Avenue, 619-702-8068

### DOWNTOWN

The gargantuan burgers and perfectly crispy yet tender fries at this Italian mobster-themed Gaslamp spot are as delicious as they are filling, which keeps me coming back regularly, especially during Padres season. (Most years, it's one of the few bright spots of the 162-game bummer.) Half-priced appetizers and \$4 pints (including modest, but quality craft offerings) during Happy Hour (3-6pm Monday-Friday, and 9am-12pm Saturday-Sunday) up the appeal, game day or otherwise.

Bonus: On Mondays, Friars fans can toast victory or drown their sorrows at bargain rates during reverse Happy Hour (9pm to close).

## Rock Bottom

8980 Villa La Jolla Drive,  
858-450-9277

### LA JOLLA

I spent much of my mid-20s shooting pool with my buds and sharing pitchers of this brewpub's Ragtop Red Ale and extremely affordable appetizers. That was way before the space was taken over by accomplished brewer Marty Mendiola, who has earned high-profile awards for his beers over the past half-decade. The pool tables are still there, the beer is even better, and the Happy Hour pricing (4-7pm, Monday-Friday) has remained well within my budget, making it both easy and rewarding for me to take

a trip back in time while indulging in modern upgrades.

## San Diego Brewing Company

10450 Friars Road, 619-284-2739

### GRANTVILLE

This place remains one of my favorite local traditions. Many are the Wednesdays when my drinking buddies and I would show up early at this 20-year Grantville mainstay for Happy Hour (4-6pm, Monday-Friday) and bide our time, shooting the breeze over \$3 house beers like Grantville Gold and Old Town Nut Brown Ale, while waiting for the stroke of seven when the kitchen raised the drumsticks on meaty 50-cent wings. There's a different brewer manning the tanks, and ownership recently remodeled, opening the place up and spreading out seating. But the same

discounts, wings, and happy energy remain to keep me returning.

## Seasons 52

At the Headquarters, 789 West Harbor Drive, 619-702-0052

### MARINA DISTRICT

When I hit wine-centric spots, I'm looking for variety. Man cannot live on a singular house chardonnay. This wine-and-health focused chain gets it, and its Flights and Flatbread deal provides it. It's available daily, and though it's not actually a Happy Hour deal, it falls in line with one, and you should know about it. Fifteen bucks (or \$20 for premium wines coming in at over 90 points) yields a shareable plank of thin, nicely topped lavash crust, tasters of three different vinos, plus a full pour of one's favorite of the trio, or as I call it, a complete evening.

— BRANDON HERNÁNDEZ

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# HAPPY HOUR

You can submit a listing or find more information about these establishments online at [SDReader.com/drinks](http://SDReader.com/drinks)

## ALLIED GARDENS

**San Diego Brewing Company:** Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$3 select house & domestic beers, house wine, well drinks. 1/2-off appetizers.

## ALPINE

**Donato's Italian Restaurant:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$3 glass Bud Light, \$6 pitcher; \$3.50 house wine.

## BALBOA PARK

**The Prado Restaurant:** Tuesday-Thursday, 4-6pm, 8-10pm: \$4.50 wells, wine, draft ale, margaritas, selected appetizers. Friday-Saturday, 4-6pm, 8-11pm: \$4.50 wells, wine, draft ale, margaritas, selected appetizers.

## BANKERS HILL

**Bertrand at Mister A's:** Monday-Friday, 2:30-6pm: \$5 wells, \$6 wine, \$10 specialty drinks, \$4 local brews. \$7 select menu items. Bar or patio only.

**The Tin Can:** Daily, 4-8pm: \$1 off drinks.

## BAY PARK

**Tio Leo's:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$3 domestic & Mexican pints; \$4 house margaritas, wells; \$5 street tacos, TJ hot dogs, carne asada fries, buffalo chicken tacos & more.

## BONITA

**Casa Bella:** Monday-Wednesday, 4-10pm: Half-off bottles of wine with purchase of two entrées.

## CARLSBAD

**The Alley:** Daily, 11am-7pm: \$2.75 wells, domestics.

**On the Tracks Brewery and Tasting Room:** Thursday, 5-7pm: Ladies, \$3 pints.

## CARMEL MOUNTAIN

**Conway's Irish Pub:** Daily, 10am-8pm: \$2.75 domestic drafts and bottles; \$2.75 and \$3.75 wells.

## CARMEL VALLEY

**Tio Leo's:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$3 domestic & Mexican pints; \$4 house margaritas, wells; \$5 street tacos, TJ hot

## BEER NEWS

BY BRANDON HERNÁNDEZ

### Meet Social Jack's Craft Brewing Company, a tribute to a fallen friend

So, this guy walks into a bar, University Heights' **Small Bar**, (4628 Park Boulevard, *University Heights*) to be exact, orders a beer, and promptly has it snatched up by a young woman who takes a sip and correctly identifies its contents as Lindemans Framboise. That young woman was Victoria Yakovleva, a member of the quality-control team at San Diego's **Ballast Point Brewing & Spirits**. The male component of the story was Jeff Rambo, who at the time was a relative craft-beer newbie but has since grown into the type of beerophile so passionate, he's building his own brewery, Social

Jack's Craft Brewing Company (961 Laurel Street, *Little Italy*).

Named for Small Bar's communal seating and the connections that come from such forced socialization, the business was dreamt up by Jeff, Victoria, and their mutual friend and business partner Davin Richmond. Originally, the trio planned to get the brewery going within a five-year time period. But then, their projected "brains" for the project, Victoria, passed away suddenly. The experience opened her friends' eyes to how short life is, prompting them to pound their vague idea into a 23-page business plan and begin amassing funding for the operation. Five months later, they have their space and are working hard to get it up and running by summer.

Working off a five-barrel system, Jeff and Davin will initially do all the brewing. Obsessed by a creative bent to craft beers similar to the self-proclaimed "off-centered ales" of Delaware's popular **Dogfish Head Craft Brewery**, they aim to take stylistic risks and experiment often. Already, they have tap space reserved with a number of bars and restaurants in the Gaslamp Quarter. Part of the early appeal of Social Jack's is its owners' ambition to brew beers to match the feel and offerings at the business' accounts.

As for the company's year-round house beers, Jeff and Davin are working on refining a coffee-infused sweet stout described as "**Noble**

spectrum is an American pale ale brewed with grapefruit, agave, honey, coriander, and sea salt going by the working title of "Circus Freak."

In addition to the brewing component, the duo will run a second business out of their space called Brewed Local, offering tours beginning and ending at Social Jack's, with trips to other breweries in between. The goal is to educate tour participants on the San Diego brewing community versus simply the beer that binds its members. Tours will run on weekends, and space will be allotted at Social Jack's for serving partner brewing companies' beers on tap and in bottles, as well as collaborative

events with those businesses. It's another social facet of the business, which is fitting, considering that if Small Bar hadn't been packed the night Jeff and Victoria met, this business may never have materialized. ■

For more breaking craft beer news, follow San Diego Beer News on Twitter (@SDBeerNews) or keep up on Facebook.



Social Jack Craft Brewing Company's Davin Richmond, Jeff Rambo, and Celia "Cece" Canez

**Ale Works'** Naughty Sauce (a blonde stout) and **AleSmith's** Speedway Stout (a coffee-infused imperial stout) hooking up and having a love child that gets raised by a bourbon barrel-aged porter that bottle-feeds it maple syrup." The duo hopes to make this a permanent collaboration with North Park's **Coffee & Tea Collective**. Off-centered, indeed. On the tamer end of the

dogs, carne asada fries, buffalo chicken tacos & more.

**Twenty/20 Grill & Wine Bar:** Daily, 3-6pm: \$2 off specialty cocktails, \$4 well drinks, draft beers, \$6 sangria, 1/2 off tapas.

## CHULA VISTA

**Achiote Restaurant:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$1 beer, \$3.99 margaritas.

**Spin City Lounge:** Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 7-10pm: \$2 wells, \$3 margaritas.

## CITY HEIGHTS

**The Hideout:** Monday-Saturday, 5-8pm: \$1 off pints. Sunday, All night: \$3 drafts.

**Nate's Garden Grill:** Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$1 off all beer & wine.

**Til-Two:** Daily, 4-7pm: \$3 wells and imported drafts.

**The Tower Bar:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$3 wells and import drafts.

## CLAIREMONT

**Blarney Stone Pub:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$.50 off all drinks.

## COLLEGE AREA

**Bridges Bar & Grill:** Monday-Saturday, Open-7pm: \$3 Bud Light, domestic pints, well cocktails, house

wines; \$4 craft pints, import pints; \$5 premium craft pints; \$2 off specialty cocktails. Sunday, Open-close: \$3 Bud Light, domestic pints, well cocktails, house wines; \$4 craft pints, import pints; \$5 premium craft pints; \$2 off specialty cocktails.

## CORONADO

**Coronado Firehouse:** Monday-Friday, 11:30am-6pm: \$1 off drafts, \$3 wells, \$4 house wines. 3-6pm: 1/2-off all appetizers.

## DEL MAR

**Cafe Secret:** Wednesday, all day: 1/2-off bottle of wine. All night: Buy one ceviche, second one 1/2 price.

**Mia Francesca:** Wednesday, 3-10pm: Wine Wednesdays; 1/2-off any bottle of wine priced \$75 and under. No corkage fee.

## DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

**House of Blues:** Daily, 4-7pm: \$2 domestic drafts, \$3 wines, \$3 wells, \$4 martinis. Killer happy hour menu.

**Magnolia Tap & Kitchen:** Daily, 3-7pm: \$4 Local Drafts, \$4 Wells, \$6 Wine + Specialty Cocktails.

**Paco's Way at La Gran Tapa:** Daily, 4-7pm: \$3 craft beers, \$4 cask wines & sangrias. \$3 & \$4 tapas, free tapitas at the bar.

**Patrick's Gaslamp Pub:** Monday-Friday, 10am-8pm; 11pm-close: \$3.25 domestic drafts, \$2.75 domestic bottles, \$3.50 well drinks. Saturday-Sunday, 10am-8pm: \$3.25 domestic drafts, \$2.75 domestic bottles, \$3.50 well drinks.

**Sevilla:** Daily, Open-7pm: \$4 well drinks, domestic and draft beer, house red and white wine. Tapas, flatbread and platter specials.

**The Shout House:** Tuesday, 7pm-close: \$3 Karl Strauss bottle, \$5 Smirnoff drinks, \$3 fish tacos. No cover. Wednesday, 7pm-close: \$3 domestic bottled beer, \$3 fish tacos. No cover. Thursday, 7pm-close: \$3 Miller Lite draft, \$5 Red Bull bomb shot, \$12 Miller High Life bucket. No cover with college ID or current military ID. Friday, 5-7pm: 1/2-off all Appetizers, 1/2-off all Drinks. Saturday, 6pm-close: \$15 Hurricanes/\$12 refills, \$8 big-ass beer/\$6 refills. Sunday, 7pm-close: \$3 Bud drafts, \$3 shot special, \$4 wells. \$1 off appetizers(except fries).

**The Stage Rock Bar & Grill:** Daily, 5-8pm: 1/2-off all wells, beer, wine.

**Time Out Sports Tavern:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: Discounted Appetizers, \$3 Domestic Beer, \$4.50 Craft Beer, \$4 Wells, \$3.50 House Wine, \$2 Jello Shots. Saturday-Sunday, 3-7pm: Discounted Appetizers, \$3 Domes-

tic Beer, \$4.50 Craft Beer, \$4 Wells, \$3.50 House Wine, \$2 Jello Shots. 8:30-10:30pm: \$3.50 House Wine, \$4 Wells, \$5 Shots, \$8 Jumbo Pretzel + Beer, \$3 Carne Asada Tacos (w/ \$10 purchase).

**Yard House:** Monday-Wednesday, 3-6pm and 10pm-Close: Select half-priced appetizers and pizzas, featured beverage selections. Thursday, 3-6pm: Select half-priced appetizers and pizzas, featured beverage selections. Friday, 3-6pm, Select half-priced appetizers and pizzas, featured beverage selections. Saturday, 10pm-Close: Select half-priced appetizers and pizzas, featured beverage selections. Sunday, 10pm-Close: Select half-priced appetizers and pizzas, featured beverage selections.

## EAST VILLAGE

**Monkey Paw:** Daily, 5-8pm: \$1 off local draughts and drinks.

## EASTLAKE

**Chili's:** Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 3pm-close: \$1 off drafts, discounted margaritas. Discounted nachos, fried cheese. Friday, 3-7pm: \$1 off drafts, discounted margaritas. Discounted nachos, fried cheese.

## EL CAJON

**Black Angus Steakhouse:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$3.50 select bottles,

select 16 oz. draft, all well drinks. \$4.50 margaritas, martinis, select wines. \$3.50 onion rings, three-cheese garlic bread. \$4.50 potato skins, fried zucchini, chicken tenders. \$5.50 wings, grilled artichoke, steak quesadilla, shrimp cocktail.

## ENCINITAS

**Firenze:** Daily, 4:30-6:30pm: \$2 off all wines by the glass, \$2 off all cocktails, \$1 off all beer.

**Thirty Three North Bar:** Monday-Friday, 2-7pm, 10pm-2am: \$1 off draft beer, \$3 off pitcher, \$2 off wine.

## ESCONDIDO

**Escondido Sports Pub:** Daily, 6am-8pm: \$2.50 domestic bottles/drafts, wells; \$3 well pints; \$4.50 tall domestic drafts.

## FALLBROOK

**Aqua Terra:** Monday-Tuesday, 4-6pm: happy hour specials. Wednesday-Sunday, 4-6pm: happy hour specials; sushi happy hour: 1/2 off select rolls.

## GOLDEN HILL

**Turf Supper Club:** Friday-Sunday, noon-4pm: \$1 off beer/wine/spirits. \$5 burger, chicken sandwich, hot links + chips.

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**Tio Leo's:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$3 domestic & Mexican pints; \$4 house margaritas, wells; \$5 street tacos, TJ hot dogs, carne asada fries, buffalo chicken tacos & more.

## HARBOR ISLAND

**C-Level:** Monday-Friday, 3:30-5:30pm: \$4 brews, \$5 specialty drinks, \$5 appetizers.

## HILLCREST

**Busalacchi's A Modo Mio:** Monday, 4-6:30pm. 1/2 off bottles of wine. Tuesday, Friday-Sunday, 4-6:30pm: Drink specials. Wednesday, 4-6:30pm. All martinis 1/2 off. Thursday, 4-6:30pm: Drink specials. Live music.

**Martinis Above Fourth:** Monday-Thursday, 4-6pm. Everything discounted! \$6 Svedka Martinis, \$2 off any food/drink item \$10 or less \$3 off any food/drink item over \$10.

**The Merrow:** Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 5pm to 8pm: \$5 Flight of Craft Beers, \$3 Wells, \$1 Off Craft Beer Drafts Tuesday, 5pm to 8pm: \$5 Flight of Craft Beers, \$3 Wells, \$1 Off Craft Beer Drafts.

**Wine Steals:** Tuesday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$5 for any cask wine, \$4 draft beers. \$2 off all 30 wines by the glass. Discounted food items. Saturday-Sunday, 11am-4pm: \$5 mimosa pints.

## IMPERIAL BEACH

**The Salty Frog:** Daily, 4-8pm: \$3.50 wells, imported bottles.

## JAMUL

**Brody's Burgers & Beer:** Monday-Friday, Monday-Friday, 3-6pm, \$2 off drafts, \$1 off potato sides.

## KEARNY MESA

**Elbow Room:** Monday-Friday, 3pm-7pm: \$1-off all drinks, drafts, bottles, Chico's Fish Taco \$1.75, Garlic Cheese Bread \$1.95, Loaded Tater Tots \$4.95, Jalapeno Poppers \$4.95, TJ Street Taco Pork \$1.50, Mac & Cheese \$4.95, Elbowroom Kettle Chips \$2.95, Sweet & Spicy Meatballs \$4.95, Onion Rings \$4.95, Nachos \$4.95, Potato Skins \$4.95, Cheeseburger & Fries \$4.95. Saturday, 10am-6pm: Well Drinks \$2.50, Any Draft Beer \$2.50, Happy Hour menu. Sunday, 9am-6pm: Well Drinks \$2.50, Any Draft Beer \$2.50, Happy Hour menu.

**Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada:** Daily, 4pm

to 7pm- \$3 draft pint, \$4.25 premium well, \$3.00 Famous Bourbon Slushies. Happy Hour specials all for \$5.00 each: Chicken & Waffles, Frito Pie, Shakin Bacon Tater Tots, Jambalaya & Red Beans, Spicy Shrimp, Proud Mary's Southern, Mac & Cheese, Chicken a Fried Asparagus, Fried Pickles, Shrimp & Crab Bon-Bons, Fried Pickles, & Chili

## KENSINGTON

**Clem's Tap House:** Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$2 off all beer and wine flights.

## LA JOLLA

**Su Casa:** Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: \$3.25 mug or Bud Lite draft, \$3.50 house wine glass, \$4.50 margarita, single well drinks. 1/2-off select appetizers.

**Whisknadle:** Daily, 3-7pm: \$8 cocktails, \$25 pitchers of sangria, 25% off all bottles of wine. \$4 tapas(bar/lounge only).

## LA MESA

**Mr. G's Tavern:** Monday-Friday, Noon-7pm: \$3.50 wells; \$3.25 domestic pints; \$4.25 premium pints.

## LAKESIDE

**Coo Coo Club:** Monday-Friday, 6-8pm: \$2.75 wells, domestic bottles, drafts.

## LEMON GROVE

**Dirk's Niteclub:** Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm: \$5.00 off all drinks \$4.50 or less. Sunday, 6am-2pm: \$1 off bloody marys.

## LINDA VISTA

**Bull's Smokin' BBQ:** Daily, 2-6pm: \$3 pints; \$9 Bud & Coors Light pitch-



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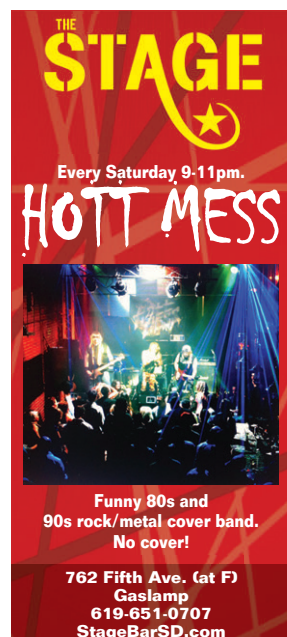


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# HAPPY HOUR

ers; \$2.50 bottled beer, \$2 PBR, \$12 select pitchers. \$2 pulled pork or beef brisket sliders, \$4.95 1/2-sandwich & side, \$3.95 pulled pork fries.

## LITTLE ITALY

**Puerto la Boca:** *Monday-Saturday*, 4:30-7:30pm: \$3 house wine, \$3.50 drafts, wells, \$6 house martini. 30% off appetizers. *Sunday*, All Day: \$3 house wine, \$3.50 drafts, wells, \$6 house martini. 30% off appetizers.

## MIDWAY DISTRICT

**Brazil by the Bay Restaurant and Sports Bar:** *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$2.50 drafts, \$8 pitchers, \$2.50 French fries, \$4.50 chicken wings.

## MIRA MESA

**Callahan's Pub & Brewery:** *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$3 select house beer, select domestic drafts, well drinks, house wine. \$1 off appetizers.

## MIRAMAR

**Brewski's Bar:** *Monday*, 4-10pm: Buy One Get One 1/2 Off Drinks *Tuesday*, 4-10pm: \$1 Tacos, \$4 Corona &

Dos XX, \$5 Patron Shots *Wednesday*, 4-10pm: \$4 Vodka Rockstars *Thursday*, 4-10pm: \$4 Jack & Coke *Friday*, 4-10pm: \$4 Fireball *Saturday*, 4-10pm: \$4 Jager Bombs *Sunday*, 4-10pm: \$1 Off All Beers Draft, Bottles & Tall Cans Starts at 10am During Football Season

**The Filling Station:** *Monday*, 11:30am-7pm: \$4 margaritas, \$4 Mexican beers. *Tuesday*, 11:30am-7pm: \$3 kamikazes, \$3 domestic drafts. *Wednesday*, 11:30am-7pm: \$5 stilletes, \$4 pink lemon drops, \$3 cosmos. *Thursday*, 11:30am-7pm: \$2.75 wells, domestic beers. *Friday*, 11:30am-7pm: \$4 bartender shots. *Saturday*, 11:30am-7pm: \$4 white Russians. *Sunday*, 11:30am-7pm: \$3 bloody marys.

## MISSION BEACH

**Barefoot Bar and Grill:** *Monday-Thursday*, 3-6pm: \$5 cocktails and \$4 beers on tap for SD locals only. All draft beers are San Diego and California craft brews.

## MISSION HILLS

**The Aero Club:** *Daily*, 2-7pm: \$50¢ off beer, wells, and calls.

**Starlite:** *Monday-Saturday*, 5-7pm: \$4 drafts, wells, \$1 off other drinks. Snack specials.

## MISSION VALLEY

**Dave & Buster's:** *Monday-Thursday*, 4:30-7pm, 10pm-close: 1/2 price cocktails, beer specials, 1/2 off selected appetizers. *Friday*, 4:30-7pm: 1/2 price

cocktails, beer specials, 1/2 off selected appetizers. *Sunday*, 10pm-close: 1/2 price cocktails, beer specials, 1/2 off selected appetizers.

**Postcards American Bistro:** *Tuesday-Saturday*, 5-7pm: \$4 drafts, wells, house wine. 20% off food. Daily specials.

**Randy Jones All American Sports Grill:** *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: \$4.50 well drinks, \$1.50 off pints of beer, \$1.50 off wine by the glass, \$2.50 off appetizers.

## NATIONAL CITY

**Pier 32 Waterfront Grill:** *Friday*, 3pm-sunset: \$2 domestic beer, \$3 import and local beer, \$5 house wine, mimosas, bloody marys.

## NESTOR

**Baja Oyster Bar:** *Monday-Thursday*, All day: \$.99 fish tacos. 3-6pm: Two-for-one domestic bottle, discounted special roll.

## NORMAL HEIGHTS

**Proprietor's Reserve Wine Pub:** *Saturday-Sunday*, Noon-4pm: Half-off all open wines.

**Rosie O'Grady's:** *Daily*, 4-7pm: \$2.50 wells, domestic beers. \$3.50 Jager shots.

## NORTH PARK

**Bar Pink:** *Monday-Friday*, 4-8pm: \$1 off drafts and calls. \$1 off Heineken.

**Imig's Kitchen and Bar:** *Monday-Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday-Sunday*, 4:30-6:30pm: \$2 off wine, \$4 beers, \$4 well cocktails. *Wednesday*, 4:30-6:30pm: \$2 off wine, \$4 beers, \$4 well cocktails. 1/2-price wine bottles. *Friday*, All Night: \$2 off wine, \$4 beers, \$4 well cocktails.

**Lips Restaurant:** *Sunday*, all night: Industry Night, \$3.50 wells, \$5.50 calls, 25% off entrées & appetizers. Must show employee ID or pay stub.

**Sabuku Sushi:** *Daily*, 4-6pm; \$5 Shiso Craze, \$5 Buku Bites, \$5 Buku Nachos, \$7 Twice Baked Mussels, \$8 Seared Ahi Tacos. \$5 Large 20+oz Asahi or Sapporo, \$5 Rock Sake's, \$7 All cocktails & wines (by the glass).

## OCEAN BEACH

**Mother's Saloon:** *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: \$1 off craft drafts, \$2 domestic drafts, \$2.75 well drinks. 1/2-off appetizers. *Sunday*, 4-8pm (during live music): \$1 chicken tenders, \$2 pork sliders, \$5 tater tots.

**Ocean Beach Kabob:** *Daily*, 2pm-6pm. 50% off all beers. \$2 Dos Equis all day!

## OCEANSIDE

**Davina's Cabo Grill:** *Daily*, 4-7pm: 2-for-1 drink specials. Food specials.

**Firewater Saloon:** *Monday-Friday*, 3:30-6:30pm; 10pm-midnight: \$5 Jäger bombs, Long Islands, Jameson. \$2 off all pitchers, \$1 off drafts & wells.

**Tremont Street Bar & Grill:** *Monday-Friday*, 4-5pm: 1/2 price well drinks, beers, wine, and appetizers. \$1 tacos & cheesy garlic bread.

## OLD TOWN

**Old Town Mexican Café:** *Monday, Wednesday-Friday*, 3-7pm, 10pm-close: 1/2-off well drinks & selected appetizers. *Tuesday*, 3-7pm, 10pm-close: 1/2-off well drinks & selected appetizers. Taco Tuesday all day!

**Sushi Tadokoro:** *Daily*, 5-6:30pm: half-off all draft beers (Sapporo, Kirin, Asahi); 1/2-off hot sake. \$2 edamame, \$3 gyoza.

## PACIFIC BEACH

**Big Kahuna's:** *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: \$2.50 beer, wine.

**Sinbad Café:** *Daily*, 11am-8pm: \$1.50 domestic drafts, \$2.50 craft drafts, \$4.50 appetizers, \$12 hookahs/\$10 hookah refills.

**Tony Roma's:** *Monday*, 4-6pm: \$3 Bud Light & Shock Top pints, \$4 premium draft beer pints, \$3 well drinks & well wines, \$3 house margaritas & Long Island ice teas. 1/2-off all appetizers. (happy hour at bar only) *Tuesday-Friday*, 3-7pm: \$3 Bud Light & Shock Top pints, \$4 premium draft beer pints, \$3 well drinks & well wines, \$3 house margaritas & Long Island ice teas. 1/2-off all appetizers. (happy hour at bar only) *Saturday-Sunday*, 1-4pm: \$3 Bud Light & Shock Top pints, \$4 premium draft beer pints, \$3 well drinks & well wines, \$3 house margaritas & Long Island ice teas. 1/2-off all appetizers. (happy hour at bar only)

**The Turquoise Café-Bar Europa:** *Daily*, 4-7pm & after 10pm: \$3 artisan draft beers, \$4 wines & sangria. \$3 & \$4 tapas.

## POINT LOMA

**Humphreys Backstage Music Club:** *Daily*, 5-7pm: 1/2-off select drinks & menu items (excludes holiday/concert nights).

**Solare Ristorante Lounge:** *Tuesday-Saturday*, 3-6:30pm: \$5 tapas, \$3 beer, \$5 select wine, \$6 select cocktails and wells. (bar & side lounge only) *Sunday*, 4:30-7pm: \$5 tapas, \$3 beer, \$5 select wine, \$6 select cocktails and wells. (bar & side lounge only)

## POWAY

**The Beach Grass Poway:** *Daily*, 4-7pm: \$2.50 drafts, \$3.50 microbrews, \$4 select wines. \$5 appetizers: panko-crusted calamari, tempura avocado, veggies and hummus, more.

## RAMONA

**Boll Weevil Restaurant:** *Monday-Friday*, 3-5pm: \$2 off all pitchers.

## RANCHO BERNARDO

**Capri Blu:** *Daily*, 3-7pm: 1/2-price drafts, wells, discounted bar-menu food.

## RANCHO PENASQUITOS

**Deli Stop Sports Pub:** *Daily*, 4-7pm: \$1 off all beer; \$3 Corona or glass of wine. \$1 off all appetizers.

## RANCHO SAN DIEGO

**Press Box Sports Lounge:** *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm, 10pm-close: 1/2-off appetizers, \$1 off drafts, house wine, and wells.

## RANCHO SANTA FE

**Delicias:** *Monday-Friday*, 4-6pm: \$4 draft beers and well drinks. \$5 red and white house wine. \$8 margaritas. Food specials.

## SCRIPPS RANCH

**La Bastide:** *Monday-Friday*, 4-6pm: \$6 drink specials, \$7 appetizer specials.

## SERRA MESA

**Thai Pepper Cuisine:** *Monday-Friday*, 3-5pm: Free Thai Iced-tea or Thai iced-coffee with every purchase.

## SHELTER ISLAND

**Humphreys Backstage Music Club:** *Daily*, 5-7pm: 1/2-off select drinks & menu items (excludes holiday/concert nights).

## SOLANA BEACH

**The Saddle Bar:** *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: \$1 off drinks and drafts.

## SORRENTO VALLEY

**Karl Strauss Brewing Company:** *Monday-Thursday*, 3-6pm: \$4 pints, flights, house wine, and well drinks. \$5 wings, hummus, calamari, chili lime sweet potato fries and spinach dip.

## SOUTH PARK

**Hamilton's Tavern:** *Daily*, 5-8pm: \$1 off local drafts.

## UCSD

**Porter's Pub at UCSD:** *Daily*, 11am-7pm \$3 Menu; 4pm-7pm \$1 off all beer.

## UNIVERSITY CITY

**Apollonia Greek Bistro:** *Daily*, 3:30-6:30pm: \$2.50 bottled beers, \$3.50 wine by the glass, \$3.50 Ouzo Aperitif.

**Michael's Lounge in the Hyatt Regency:** *Daily*, 5-7pm: \$4 drafts and well cocktails.

## UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

**Small Bar:** *Daily*, 5-8pm: \$1 off local draughts and drinks.

## VALLEY CENTER

**Casa Reveles Mexican & Seafood Restaurant:** *Monday-Friday*, 2-6pm: \$2 domestic. \$3 imports, wells. Discounted appetizers.

## VISTA

**Chili Coast Burgers:** *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: \$.50-.75 off tap beer.

**Vista Entertainment Center:** *Monday-Wednesday, Friday*, 11am-6pm: \$2 pints, house shots; \$2.50 domestic bottles; \$3.50 wells; \$9 pitchers. *Thursday*, 11am-6pm, 9pm-close: \$2 pints, house shots; \$2.50 domestic bottles; \$3.50 wells; \$9 pitchers.

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3/10 - Mary Ocher  
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# Truth fall

*They have trod the proscribed path: college, marriage, no beer-drinking in the front yard.*

**B**efore I can talk about Lisa D'Amour's blazing comedy-drama *Detroit*, I should say a few words about lawns.

In drought-plagued Southern California, a healthy lawn's an eyesore, a waste of precious water. In the Midwest it's the opposite. Your lawn — and the bigger, the better — says who and where you are. A bounding span of weedless green, kept trim by one of John Deere's vehicles — the bigger, the better — and you're on the fast-track of the middle class. You handle economic duties, provide for family, etc., and have time to manicure a mini football field.

A few years back, a friend moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and rented a house with a lengthy lawn. When a neighbor introduced herself, she spooked and begged my friend not to be like the former residents. "They just let their lawn run wild!"

The playwright chose *Detroit* for her title because the name evokes "a particular anxiety": Detroit "is a symbol...of the American Dream drying up." But the first stage direction says the locale is "not necessarily Detroit." Could be Cleveland, Madison, whatever. And she says Ben and Mary were raised "somewhere inland, Kansas City, maybe Denver." The nonchalance is curious. No

big whup. Whatever.

But this, in a way, is how Ben and Mary have lived. They have trod the proscribed path: college, marriage, no beer-drinking in the front yard. Whenever a doubt nagged, they dismissed it with "whatever." Numbing alcohol and internet

addiction kept doubts at bay. But when Kenny and Sharon move in next door — wild-eyed, tattooed, and carefully treading up the 12

steps — Ben and Mary's "whatevers" come home to roost.

Kenny and Sharon met in rehab. Or was it before? Whatever. They rode "that glossy motorcade of substances" and now combat it in different ways, says Sharon: "He's all, 'I'm trying to be proactive,' and I'm all, 'Today sucked.'" Though starting from scratch, both have jobs; unlike Ben, recently laid off, and Mary, soon to be. After five weeks, Mary notices no changes to Kenny and Sharon's weedy yard: "Not even a single FERN. You've made no effort."

The playwright is quite specific about one thing: the adjoining homes are in a once-thriving "first-ring" suburb, which is now a no-person's land between foreclosure and "starter house" gentrification — a space, in effect, of uncertainty.

## THEATER

JEFF SMITH



*Lisa D'Amour's surreal backyard fable, *Detroit*, escalates into a frenzied Bacchanalia.*

**Detroit**, by Lisa D'Amour

**San Diego Repertory Theatre**, 79 Horton Plaza, downtown

**Directed by Sam Woodhouse**; cast: Lisel Gorell-Getz, Summer Spiro, Jeffrey Jones, Steve Gunderson, Robert Benedetti; scenic and lighting designs, D. Martyn Bookwalter; costumes, Jeannie Galioto; sound design and composer, Kevin Anthenil; projections, Victoria Petrovich; choreographer, Brian Bose

**Playing through March 16**; Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Matinee Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-544-1000. sdrep.org

Dionysus was the god of the grape, among other things. At a backyard party, the suburban quartet evokes the god of Bud Light. The "beer-wasted" par-tay metamorphoses into a ritual out

of Greek drama. It's a "truth fall," says Sharon, "a healing ritual." It looks more like mania, but when Ben and Mary fall, their free-spirited, off-the-wagon neighbors are there to catch them.

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**"CRITIC'S CHOICE!"**  
-UT-San Diego

**"A HOOT!"**  
-San Diego Reader

**The Foreigner**

**HORTON GRAND THEATRE**  
444 FOURTH AVE, IN THE GASLAMP

**LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE**

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# Calendar THEATER

The playwright said *Detroit* feels like a “surreal fable.” Though quite good in many ways, San Diego Rep’s production doesn’t always sustain that balance. Director Sam Woodhouse has tweaked some scenes for comic effects. But the humor often glosses over the rabid desperation, as when Sharon craves her crack pipe and gets a laugh — or when Kenny admits to a lack of hope, and it comes as a surprise.

D. Martyn Bookwalter’s set solves a major problem: how to put two very different backyards on the same stage? Simple: use a turntable and Jekyll becomes Hyde. *Detroit* has a running visual theme: things and people are accident-prone, as if the world itself were breaking down. The set functions quite well here: at once sturdy and fragile and, in the end, flammable.

Bookwalter’s lighting, however, overstates contrasts. And it implies a judgment when he bombards Kenny and Sharon’s backyard with a red aura so obviously satanic it looks cartoony.

Though at times oversized, the performances always impress. Lisel Gorrell-Getz unpeels Mary’s defenses with arias of angst. Summer Spiro makes antsy Sharon a der-vish on speed. Jeffrey Jones’s Kenny taps into the play’s darker reaches to good effect. And Steve Gunderson shines as Ben, a nerdy phoenix whose true self emerges from the ashes of the old.

*Detroit* was a finalist for the 2011 Pulitzer Prize. The playwright takes a no-holds-barred look at economic hardship. She also makes a choice that feels a bit odd: most of the exposition comes in the final scene and wraps the play in a veneer of forced nostalgia. On the plus side, the legendary Robert Benedetti (dean of Cal Arts; chairman of Yale’s acting program) makes the revelations matter.

The denouement follows the Rep’s best scene. What starts as a backyard party, with everyone wanting to “unfurrow,” escalates into an

impromptu ritual of leaping and dancing. Then it escalates again. And again into a frenzied Bacchanalia that banishes all inhibitions. The quartet, so to speak, just let their lawns run wild. ■

## THEATER LISTINGS

*Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.*

### Across Worlds: A Tale of Two Lives of Adventure

Performance chronicles the story of two adventurous lives: an American mountain climber and a Lost Boy of Sudan. This multimedia, living-documentary event uses storytelling, music (live and recorded), photography, and video. CARLSBAD VILLAGE THEATRE, 2822 STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-720-2460. 8PM SATURDAY.

### Antigone

The Old Globe/USD Graduate Theatre Program presents Sophocles’s tragedy of civil disobedience. Antigone will bury her brother, no matter if it costs her life. Ray Chambers directs. UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, 5998 ALCALÁ PARK, USD. 619-260-4600. 7:30PM THURSDAY.

### Anything Goes

The great Cole Porter musical’s been called fluff and silly, but it’s about escape, from restrictions and the manic woes of the Depression. And when you sail on the *S.S. American* with Reno Sweeney, Moonface Martin, and Billy Crocker, the score will abolish woes as long as the ship’s afloat, and maybe even longer. The Welk Resort production, ably directed and choreographed by Ray Limon, is a slow starter. But once Natalie Lucci (Reno), Shaun Leslie Sands (Moonface), and Joshua Carr (Billy) sing “Friendship,” they take charge and the ship sails smoothly after that. In particular, Lucci’s renditions of “I Get a Kick Out of You” and “Blow, Gabriel, Blow” are quite good. And the big production number, “Anything Goes,” with 26 tap shoes clacking away, is worth the price of admission. *Worth a try.* WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 1PM THURSDAYS, 8PM THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS, 1PM SUNDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 23.

### Baby, the Musical

Featuring Liz Callaway who earned a Tony nomination for her role as Lizzie Fields. *Baby* tells the story of three couples, each newly expecting a child, that have different but familiar reactions. Lizzie and Danny are university juniors who have just moved in together. Athletic Pam and her husband, Nick, a sports instructor, have had some trouble

## SCHOOL PLAYS

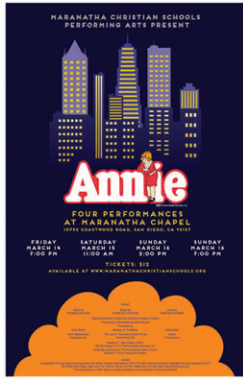
### THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER, THE MUSICAL

MAR. 8 2PM & 7PM, MAR. 9 2PM STAR THEATRE

### ALICE IN WONDERLAND JR.

MAR. 21 7PM, MAR. 22 2PM & 7PM, MAR. 23 2PM, MAR. 28 7PM, MAR. 29 2PM & 7PM, MAR. 30 2PM ENCORE! THEATER

### ANNIE



MAR. 14 7PM, MAR. 15 11AM, MAR. 16 2PM & 7PM MARANATHA CHAPEL

### CHICAGO THE MUSICAL

MAR. 21 7PM, MAR. 22 7PM, MAR. 28 7PM, MAR. 29 7PM CLAIREMONT HIGH SCHOOL

### CINDERELLA

MAR. 8 3PM & 7PM POWAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

### GUYS AND DOLLS

MAR. 27, MAR. 28, MAR. 29 RANCHO BERNARDO HIGH SCHOOL

### HOT MIKADO

MAR. 6 2:30PM, MAR. 7 7PM, MAR. 8 2PM & 7PM SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

### THE PRODUCERS

MAR. 21 7PM, MAR. 22 7PM, MAR. 23 2PM, MAR. 28 7PM, MAR. 29 7PM, MAR. 30 2PM EL CAMINO HIGH SCHOOL

### SENIOR DANCE PRODUCTION

MAR. 20 7PM, MAR. 21 7PM, MAR. 22 7PM MOXIE THEATRE

### SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL

MAR. 8 2PM & 7PM, MAR. 9 4:30PM ESCONDIDO CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

### SHREK THE MUSICAL

MAR. 7 7PM, MAR. 8 7PM, MAR. 8 2PM, MAR. 9 2PM, MAR. 14 7PM, MAR. 15 2PM & 7PM, MAR. 16 2PM KASSEBAUM THEATRE AT MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL

### STEEL MAGNOLIAS

MAR. 6 7PM, MAR. 7 7PM, MAR. 8 7PM SAN DIEGUITO ACADEMY CLAYTON E. LIGGETT THEATER

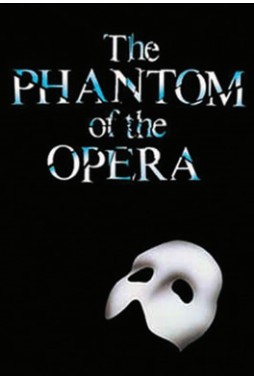
### THE SOUND OF MUSIC

MAR. 7 7PM, MAR. 8 2PM & 7PM PACIFIC BEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL

### THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE

MAR. 18 6PM, MAR. 19 6PM, MAR. 20 6PM, MAR. 21 6PM, MAR. 22 NOON & 6PM THURGOOD MARSHALL MIDDLE SCHOOL

### THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA



MAR. 6 6PM, MAR. 7 6PM PATRICK HENRY HIGH SCHOOL

### WEST SIDE STORY

MAR. 6 7PM, MAR. 7 7PM, MAR. 8 2PM & 7PM, MAR. 9 2PM LYCEUM THEATRE

### THE WIZARD OF OZ

MAR. 8 8PM, MAR. 9 1PM & 4:30PM, MAR. 13 7PM, MAR. 15 8PM, MAR. 16 1PM & 4:30PM DAVID AND DOROTHEA GARFIELD THEATRE

To list a school play, go to [sdreader.com/events/submit](http://sdreader.com/events/submit) and select *School Plays* as the category.

conceiving. Arlene, already the mother of three grown daughters, is unsure of what to do, contemplating abortion while her husband Alan is thrilled with the thought of a new baby. Throughout the show, these characters experience the emotional stresses and triumphs, the desperate lows and the comic highs, that accompany the anticipation and arrival of a baby. AUDITORIUM AT THE SCRIPPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, 10640 JOHN JAY HOPKINS DR., LA JOLLA. 858-626-2000. 7:30PM SATURDAY.

### Blithe Spirit

Moonlight Stage Productions opens its winter season at the Avo with Noel Coward’s most celebrated

comedy. Madame Arcati is far from the quack spirit-medium people claim. Ask Charles Condomine, the ghost of whose first wife comes in from the ethereal. Eric Bishop directs. AVO PLAYHOUSE, 303 MAIN ST., VISTA. 760-724-2110. 7:30PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 9.

**Boys and Girls**  
Diversionary Theatre stages Tom Donaghy’s “chaotic comedy” about two couples attempting to “pull away from their wild pasts” to “tackle the challenges of adulthood.” Shana Wride directs. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-220-

## AUDITIONS

### Hairspray the Musical

NEW VINTAGE CHURCH  
1300 S. Juniper St., Escondido  
STAR Repertory Theatre’s Kid’s Theatre Academy announces their upcoming production. Callbacks: March 29, 10am to 4pm. Performances: June 26 to 29, California Center for the Arts. Preparation: One-minute song CD/Tape/iPod (music only), recent photo, all forms. Production fee: \$250 (\$200 STAR members). Payable at audition. Appointment: [auditions@STARrepertorytheatre.com](mailto:auditions@STARrepertorytheatre.com) or 760-751-3035. Auditions: MAR. 25 & 27 5PM

### Moonlight Stage Productions: Season Call



MOONLIGHT AMPHITHEATRE IN BREngle TERRACE PARK  
1200 Vale Terrace, Vista  
Seeking actors for 2014 summer season: *Spamalot*, *Disney’s Mary Poppins*, *My Fair Lady*, *Catch Me If You Can*. Prepare in the style for the show you are auditioning for. All scores will be provided. Email Maureen Stroud at [moonlight@cityofvista.com](mailto:moonlight@cityofvista.com) for appointment. Auditions: MAR. 25 5PM

### Romeo and Juliet

CORONADO PLAYHOUSE  
1835 Strand Way, Coronado  
Coronado Playhouse presents William Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare’s timeless story of two families divided by hate and two young lovers joined by fate. Prepare 1-2 minute monologue (verse or prose) from any Shakespeare play. Bring a resume and headshot if available. Callbacks: Wednesday, April 16, 6pm Performances: June 27 to July 20, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 2pm. (No performance July 4.) Info: [tphaine@cox.net](mailto:tphaine@cox.net). Auditions: APR. 14 & 15 7PM

### Things My Mother Taught Me

BROADWAY THEATRE  
340 E. Broadway, Vista  
By Katherine Disavino; director Randall Hickman. Bring a one-minute comic monologue. Runs April 18 through May 11, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30pm and Saturdays and Sundays at 1pm Info: [broadwayvista@gmail.com](mailto:broadwayvista@gmail.com). Auditions: MAR. 10 7PM

0097. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 23.

### Dancin' in the Street

The Ira Aldridge Repertory Players present a “soulful celebration of Soul Music,” conceived by Calvin Manson and Eric Overstreet, who co-direct. Among the artists celebrated: Sam and Dave, Aretha, the Temptations, James Brown, Al

### Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

SAN MARCOS COMMUNITY CENTER  
3 Civic Center Dr., San Marcos  
The City of San Marcos Theatre West invites youth ages 7 to 17 to audition for the musical. Sing a one-minute excerpt from a song of your choice. Bring an instrumental CD if desired, as well as a school photo and a short list of experiences you have had speaking, singing, or dancing in front of a group. Beginners welcome. Performance dates: April 24, 25, 26, 27. Auditions: MAR. 31 5PM

### The Wiz

VISIONARY PERFORMANCE SPACE  
7202 El Cajon Bl., North Park  
Registration is required before auditioning. Info: 619-269-1540. Tuesday, March 4: Music/vocal auditions 4pm to 6:30pm. Prepare a vocal selection of your choosing. While any song is allowed, Motown and R&B songs are closer to the style of the music in the show. Thursday, March 6: Dance auditions 4pm. Saturday, March 8: Callbacks. Directed by Heather Pauley. Auditions: MAR. 6 4PM

### The Old Globe's 2014 Summer Shakespeare Intensive



OLD GLOBE THEATRE  
1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park  
Auditions for The Old Globe’s 2014 Summer Shakespeare Intensive for San Diego County high school students. The four-week program is a unique opportunity for high school actors and actresses to refine their skills as performers in a professional setting. The Intensive will take place on Saturday, July 19 and on weekdays from July 21 through August 18. The program will culminate with a public performance of two Shakespeare plays in the outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre on Monday, August 18. The program cost is \$700 with a limited number of need-based scholarships available. Auditions are by appointment only: [globelearning@theoldglobe.org](http://globelearning@theoldglobe.org). Auditions: MAR. 15 & 16

### Writer's Block: A Festival of One-Act Plays

RANCHO BERNARDO HIGH SCHOOL  
13010 Paseo Lucido, Rancho Bernardo  
Performances May 15 and 16. Auditions: APR. 2

To add your audition to our listings, go to [sdreader.com/events/submit](http://sdreader.com/events/submit) and select *Auditions* as the category.

Green, Whitney, and more. EDUCATIONAL CULTURAL COMPLEX, 4343 OCEAN VIEW BL., MOUNTAIN VIEW. 619-527-5256. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2:30PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 23.

### Detroit

Reviewed this week. **Critic’s Pick** SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DI-



EGO. 619-544-1000. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 16.

#### Far Away Cry and Edgar & Annabel

Ion Theatre presents one act plays by Caryl Churchill (a glimpse into a dystopian future) and Sam Holcroft (the man playing Marianne's husband has been "recast"). Linda Libby, Craig Noel Actor of the Year for 2013, makes her directorial debut.

ION THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVE., HILLCREST. 619-600-5020. 4PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 29.

#### Pal Joey

SDSU Theatre presents Rodgers and Hart's popular musical about Joey Evans, a manipulative small-time nightclub performer who has an affair with the wealthy, middle-aged, and married Vera Simpson. Songs include: "I Could Write a Book" and "Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered."

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY, 5500 CAMPANILE DR., SDSU. 619-594-5200. 7:30PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 9.

#### The Fairy Tale Gang: Or, Life in the Not So Enchanted Forest

GB Productions' annual melodrama features fairytale characters trying to find love and riches in the forest. NORTH PARK VAUDEVILLE AND CANDY SHOPPE, 2031 EL CAJON BL., NORTH PARK. 619-220-8663. 7PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 30.

#### The Foreigner

The late Larry Shue was irrepressibly funny. Even his stage directions evoke laughter. So does Lamb's Players production. Geno Carr is excellent as Charlie Baker, nondescript Brit with a fear of talk (so he pretends not to at a fishing lodge in rural Georgia). Carr walks a tightrope between hamming and dramatic credibility. Along with Kevin Hafso-Koppman, a kick as the supposedly daffy Ellard Simms, Carr does full justice to Shue's set pieces: mirror-miming breakfast, learning English. Though some in the cast nudge toward the shrill in their deliveries, for the most part they perform, rightly, as if each were a foreigner to the others. For all of its silliness, *Foreigner's* tricky to stage, since it combines goofy antics with a cameo by the KKK of Tillman County. As long as Shue's good-natured charm holds sway, one can almost feel convinced that the gaggle of xenophobes in white sheets will never pay the lodge a return visit. *Worth a try.*

LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 9.

#### The Gin Game

TalenttoAmuse presents D.L. Coburn's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama. Fonsia Dorsey wins every hand at gin rummy. Her amazing run, however, may lead to a greater loss. Steven A. Murdock directs. 619-940-6813.

10TH AVE THEATRE, 930 10TH AVE, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 4PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 16.

#### The School for Lies

It's hard to believe that director Andrew Paul made his local debut at the North Coast Rep. He has cast

David Ives's literate crowd-pleaser to perfection. The author of *Venus in Fur* felt that Moliere's comic masterpiece, *The Misanthrope* wasn't funny enough. So he overhauled it, combining rhymed couplets with contemporary slang and basement-level vulgarity. As foppish suitors snip at her heels, Celimene mourns her husband lost at sea. Enter a man in black. He's Frank, literally, with a species of Tourette syndrome ("I have this kink," he confesses, "I'll tell you what I really think"). What follows is a comic feast for eyes and ears, thanks to Paul's direction, an all-star cast, and top flight design work to match. The North Coast Rep should extend this show long after the cows come home! Superb performances by Richard Baird (Frank) and Jessica John (Celimene) alone demand a longer run. **Critic's Pick.**

NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 23.

#### A Streetkid Named Desire

Technomania Circus presents Fox Colton new street opera, "the sordid tale of a haunted New Orleans brothel, a hunchback, and the magic hobo who promises to make his dreams come true." Colton directs.

VICTORY THEATRE, 2558 IMPERIAL AVE., GRANT HILL. 619-236-1971. 8PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 8.

#### Timon of Athens

As part of its Classical Reading Series, the North Coast Repertory Theatre presents an adaptation of Shakespeare and Thomas Middleton's dark drama. Benjamin Cole directs.

NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 7:30PM MONDAY.

#### The Trip's Macbeth

The Trip, a new theater company in San Diego, creates "contemporary productions in unconventional spaces." For the Scottish play, director Tom Dugdale has chosen a "refurbished-yet-raw barracks space" at Liberty Station, where the company will "bring Shakespeare's great tragedy down to earth!" NTC LIBERTY STATION, BARRACKS 2, 2790 TRUXTUN ROAD 8PM FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS, & SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 16.

#### The Who and the What

Ayad Akhtar's sitcom-drama is worth seeing even though the end-



### Daffy comedy The Foreigner visits Lamb's Players Theatre through March 9.

ing sweeps burning issues under the rug. Zarina believes in "who" a person is, not in their "what" (culturally determined attributes). She's a feminist Muslim, but they don't define her, in her mind at least. They do in her strict father's, though. And when she writes a "gender politics" book about who the real Mohammed was, and marries a white man who converted to Islam, the family clashes. The ending favors the "who" of the theme, and wipes out all the nagging "whats" with two catch-all announcements. The playwright frames different scenes with melodrama, psychological thriller, and other genres from popular culture. Under Kimberly Senior's faithful

direction, the four person cast keeps the comedy going, though at times at the expense of the pain. *Worth a try.*

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 9.

#### The Winter's Tale

The Old Globe's staging has some arresting images, and some capable performances, but overall it's

a relentless, heavy-handed take on one of the Bard's masterpieces. In a fit of rage, King Leontes destroys everything he holds dear. Sixteen years later, a mystical healing restores almost everything. Director Barry Edelstein resets the play to today. The choice reduces the King's sphere of influence, and Billy Campbell's uneven performance makes him a psychotic CEO. It doesn't help that a melodramatic piano's stabbing flurries give the piece a soap-operatic tone (and make many of

Campbell's choices draw laughs). A majority of the cast pushes emotions full bore (and some, like Paul Kandel's grotesque Autolycus, push even harder) as if the way to play Shakespeare is to turn up the volume and ram an intricate, nuanced play home.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 16.

## CRITIC'S CHOICE!

"The Winter's Tale thaws the heart with magic! Artistic director Barry Edelstein has enlisted actors who bring refreshing clarity."

Charles McNulty, Los Angeles Times



## THE WINTER'S TALE

By William Shakespeare  
Original Music by Michael Torke  
Directed by Barry Edelstein

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# Staring contest

**G**odfrey Reggio uses precisely 74 shots to tell his story. With only four behind me and 70 left to go, the film's thesis was already stated and its conclusion long foregone. Do I grab a coffee refill in the lobby and hunker down or head straight to the parking garage?

Walking out is seldom an option, and when my right to make an early exit is exercised, it's generally during something I never should have stepped into to begin with. Reggio, purveyor of fine coffee-table movies that he is (*Powaqqatsi*, *Koyaanisqatsi*), is an acquired taste I have yet to acquire. His documentaries are the stuff domed IMAXes are made for, not multiplex art houses.

*Visitors* intercuts black-and-white, dialog-free, unbroken, close-up 'Scope long-takes of faces — with allegorical inserts of abandoned amusement parks, disjointed hands moving a computer mouse (or is it close-up magic?), enough accelerated clouds to make one time-lapse into

a coma, and children as credulous symbols of hope.

It's *Paranormal Activity* for eggheads, a staring contest during which my eyes practically bled from focusing on so many fixed images for such long periods. The camera takes aren't the only thing Reggio sustains. Wait until you get a load of the great lengths he goes to state the obvious.

Wouldn't the point be better taken in a story that unified people as opposed to the cold, splintering effects of a clinical drill? At least he had the wherewithal to use a tripod.

According to this highfalutin' technical exercise, since humanity spends so much of its time staring into a computer screen, why not turn things around and situate an audience inside a laptop and force them to look out. Why would anyone disrespect a viewer enough to want to trap them inside a computer for 87 minutes?

Reggio should have cut it down to seven minutes and allowed his

## MOVIES



**Visitors: "Please, God, let me receive a 'Featured Human' credit."**

Film Tech 101 class to lounge in the brilliance, not clog art-house arteries with its pretense. What one critic referred to as "a tedious Rorschach test" has forever cemented a black spot in my heart as, quite simply, one of the worst movies ever made.

— Scott Marks

### EARL STIFF'S OSCAR RECAP

From the opening strains of "Hooray for Hollywood," viewers knew they were in for something wonderfully original when Alan Degenerate took to the stage of the Raymond & Dottie Chandler Pavilion to host last night's Oscar giveaway.

This reporter was on the beat at Hollywood and Highland, covering the show live off the big screen inside a jam-packed Mal's Drive-In. (My press credentials must have been lost in the mail.)

Sadly, I saw only one of this year's nine Best Picture nominees, and the



Reader

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IN SELECT THEATRES MARCH 14



only reason I saw *Omaha* was based on Junie Squabb's recent spread in *FHM*.

*Wall Street Wolf* looked like filth and *Americans Hustled* looked like imitation filth. She was another attempt by Spiked Jones to prove to the world that he, not ex-wife, Sophie Ford Cupola, directed *Lost in Transition*. I tried watching *Gravitas*, but the stereophonic effects brought on motion sickness and the cardboard glasses gave me a headache in my ass. I guess now I'll have to see *12 Years Enslaved*, even though the preview attraction makes it looks like *Schneider's List* for the blacks.

Were those Oscar-shaped condoms flanking the presenters?

Was that really Lorna Minnelli in attendance all duded-up in a shimmering electric-blue ensemble? Since when did Sy Devour put in a line of off-the-rack *quinceañera* gowns? Why didn't they let her sing the tribute to her momma instead of Pinko? For those of you too young to remember, Lorna is the daughter of the late, great Beverly Garland. Just ask her! Lorna never looked lovelier. The older she gets, the more she resembles her equally dead father, Sid Loft.

In the precious and few department, Gabouree Sybian, looking ravishing in purple, yucked it up alongside beanpole Anna Schmendrick. I smell the makings of next year's Melinda McCartney & Sandy Bollocks! "Anna, come take care of mama."

How many cutaways did we have to endure of pornographer Martin Scorsese and Mrs. Helen Howard Scorsese, she the one sporting the perpetual hangdog look? They should have parked the little spaghetti-twirler in the last row. Who can see over his eyebrows? And what kind of *gumar* never once cracks a smile on the night her husband could — but didn't HA! HA! — take home an Oscar? She's on the arm of the hottest piece of man-ass in the room and from the look on Helen's face, you'd think her colon was about to burst. Don't let the green-eyed monster rear its ugly head, Helen! Marty's fling with Minnelli happened decades ago when the coke was doing the thinking for him. You know what you should do, honey? Try a little more smiling and a little less frowning and maybe you won't have so many telephones thrown in your general direction! And I wish I had in my wallet what He purportedly spent on tootski for the flight back to Little Italy!

Perry Tyler onstage at the Oscars?! Shouldn't he be taking drink orders or parking cars?

Chipmunk Junie Squabb — the one woman I'd bang harder than a screen door in a Nebraska tornado, were my wife to let go of the leash for

just one night — looked positively Munchkin-like in her Emerald City Green Jerry Maren designer original.

There are 15 cuts in *Gravitas*. What's with the best editing award?

*The Butler* did it to Sid. How fitting that Mr. Pibbs himself, Sid Porter, the man who signed such Hollywood milestones as *Let's Do It Again*, *Hanky Panky*, and *Ghost Dad*, was on stage at the Agfa Theatre to hand out the Best Direction award. Thank goodness he was able to rely on lanky Angie Jolly as his walking stick.

I didn't know Prof. Irwin Corey was still alive...oh, that's Bill Murray.

Wasn't it nice of Jesus Leto — who was kind enough to thank Alan DeGeneres before acknowledging anyone who actually worked on the film — to bring Kevin Space's mother as his date?

Pretty ballsy of lesbian Degenerate to crack wise about Jonas Hall's prosthetic wand in *Wall Street Wolf*. "You showed us something we haven't seen in a long time," quipped the penis-allergic talk-show host. She must not have seen *Bad Grandpa*, a film, which by the way, was robbed in the Best Makeup category! How did they ever get 63-year-old Jackson Nicoll to look so young?

Jim Cary imitating Bruce Darn — the first time the comic has made this reporter laugh in over a decade. Not so funny was the Disney-centric animated tribute he introduced. What gives, doc?

Feral Williams and the Crosby Kids were robbed by that *Frigid* wasteland!

Funniest line of the night: movie-star wannabe Degenerate referring to Woody McConnaughy as "My co-star from ED-TV."

As smashing as Degenerate looked modeling this year's Siegfried and Roy collection, I actually missed Seth MacFarland.

According to Facebooks friend John Schlitz, "Judging by the numbed look on Kim Novack's face, it's highly appropriate that she announced *Frozen* as Best Animated Feature."

"Where do you get your balls big enough to call this pizza? Get that f@&ing toast with catsup and yellow cheese away from me. Give it to Hill. He'll eat anything. Now that you should see!"

Why did they playing the theme from *To Kill a Hummingbird* as walk-on music for Bradley Copper? And since when does Morris Jarre do commercial endorsements for Sprint?

Who did John Stamos fellate to get a seat in this full house?

The studio's gamble on unknown Lupino Morong'O paid off as the Kenyan-American actress took home this year's Haing S. Nor award for Best

Supporting Actress. She is the only actress on record to appear in an *Airport* sequel before bad career decisions forced her to cash in on her trophy.

I can understand overlooking Jonathan Winter in the parade of the dead; a little of his mental-patient routine went a long way. But Eleanor Parker? Was I the only one who wanted her to press a Luger to Junie Andrew's temple and fire in *The Sound of Mucous*? And who will ever forget Sophie Cantero, the old lady twice surprised by Frank Fane in *The Oscar*? Someone deserves to be shot for this heinous oversight.

Oscar?! They should award the gentlemen who came up with a new way to overturn cars the Noble Piece Prize.

How much did it cost Harvey to buy this year's Best Doc award? Good work! I was 20 seconds away from boredom during *The Act of Killing Time*. Too confusing!

Kate Blankett gave a better performance last night than she did imitating Gene Rowlands in *Jasmine Blew*. Why didn't the haughty clothes hanger thank Mia Furlough for her Golden Globes promotional boost? I happen to agree with Mia. Woodrow Alan married one daughter and molested another. Blankett didn't deserve to win!

According to the little woman, Eugenia Stiff, "Somewhere between *Laugh-In* and laff lines, Goldie Hahn's gold got scraped off and was replaced by rubber tin." She also quipped, "A facially upholstered Betth Meddler treated her anthem, "You Are the Gas From Out My Ass," as if it were a command performance for the Pope." Why no sequel to *Four the Boys*? WHY? WHY? WHY?

Finally, from Mrs. Stiff, "Merle Street preening at every mug-ham chance from her front aisle seat. Jack Nicklauson did that schtick better."

— Earl Stiff

## MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Scott Marks, Matthew Lickona, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at [SDReader.com/movies](http://SDReader.com/movies).

**12 Years a Slave** — Hollywood continues to pay reparations for *Gone With the Wind* with this elegiac adaptation of Solomon Northrup's autobiographical saga of a free black man forced into bondage for a dozen years. They might just as well have named it *The Passion of the Slave*. Chiwetel Ejiofor suffers well under the immutable tongue and whip lashings of Paul Giamatti, Paul Dano, and Michael Fassbender, all playing scenery consuming variations on animalistic crackers we've come to despise in much better surroundings. (Say what you will, your money would be better spent renting *Mandingo* and *Beloved*.) In its own saintly manner, it's as exploitative as anything critics accused *Django Unchained* of being, minus Tarantino's eye for idiosyncrasy and sense of humor. After correctly likening the film's torture porn quotient to that of a *Saw* sequel, a colleague asked, "Who would want to see this movie?" Answer: Every voting member of the Academy. Steve McQueen (*Shame*) directed. 2013. — S.M. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

**2014 Oscar Nominated Animation Shorts** — For once, Pixar is out of the picture — *The Blue Umbrella* was almost (but not quite) as dire as the feature that followed it (*Monsters University*). That clears the field for...Disney? Sigh. Look, if you've seen *Frozen* (and by this point, what parent hasn't?), then you know all about the Mouse House's tribute to its founding Mouse, *Get a Horse*. At least it has the guts to attempt some innovation as it plunges into the past. Also innovative: *Possessions*, a brightly-colored bit of modern folklore about a fix-it man who takes shelter in a storage shed during a storm and has a series of encounters with the stuff that's stored there. The mix of 2D and 3D gives the feeling of paper theater sets — limitation transformed into fitting aesthetic. Also included: *Feral*, a trippy, gray, shimmering story about a wild boy's adventures in civilization; *Mr. Hublot*, a piece of sweet steampunk about the risks and rewards of pet ownership, and *Room on the Broom*, an overlong, understuffed animated children's book that can't escape its source material. 2014. — M.L. ★★ (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

**2014 Oscar Nominated Documentary Shorts** — This year's lineup includes brief looks at a digger of art caves, a meeting between a Neo-Nazi and the gay he once went after, an attempt at peaceful regime change in Yemen, a terminally ill prisoner and the volunteers at his hospice, and tips on living a long and happy life from "the world's oldest pianist and Holocaust survivor." 2014. (LANDMARK KEN)

**2014 Oscar Nominated Live Action Shorts** — Another Oscar season, another opportunity to wonder aloud why it is that, in this age of supposedly dwindling attention spans, there has not been an explosion of interest in the short-film form. The live-action slate features a trio of heartrending horrors: *It Wasn't Me* (child soldiers in Africa), *Helium* (terminally ill child), and *Just Before Losing Everything* (wife beating). The last takes the most artful approach, focusing on the mundane complications involved in pulling out of a bad situation before it gets any worse — and without interference from the man who shares your life. The other two are over-the-top brutal (with a dollop of present-day hope to thin your curdled blood) and outrageously sentimental, respectively. Comic relief comes in two flavors: British black and nasty (*The Voorman Problem*) and Finnish sweet and simple (*Do I Have to Take Care of Everything?*). Every entry has this in common: a willingness to "go there." 2014. — M.L. ★★ (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

**3 Days to Kill** — No one will ever write a book titled *The McG Touch*, particularly one based on the time he killed directing this movie. Here's another Luc Besson production that appears to have been sitting on a shelf in the Cannon Film vault since 1977. Who better than McG (*Charlie's Angels*, *Terminator Salvation*) to pick up the battered baton of clumsy "hacktion" directors Michael Winner or J. Lee Thompson? Get ready for a shell casing blast of movie cliches, terrible performances (Amber Heard had better keep her looks if she plans on pursuing a career in "acting"), and dopey dialog. Co-writer Besson basically acknowledges these faults and the film is oddly that much better for it. Nowhere near the water-mark set by Besson's previous successes *District B13* and *Taken*; call it unabashed nostalgia, when it comes time to compile the list of 2014's guiltiest pleasures, this will rank high at the top. 2014 — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

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WASHINGTON POST

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Calendar

MOVIES

**300: Rise of an Empire** — Zack Snyder, who has made a couple of comic-book movies of his own (*300*, *Watchmen*), wrote the script for this, perhaps his most comic-book movie to date. Some clarification is, of course, in order: “comic book” here indicates: a complete detachment from the actual constraints of physical reality (cascading sheets of blood, pitch that burns like napalm and explodes like thermite, slave-driven warships that handle like racing boats, and of course, women as strong as men fully twice their size); reams of expository narration like you might see in a box in the upper left-hand corner of a comic-book panel, complemented by laughably portentous and/or stupid dialogue (“ROCKS!”); adolescent sexuality (sex as combat in which harder = better, a veritable orgy of abs), and a developmentally stunted delight in rape and gore. Beyond that, it’s a stormy CGI tribute to anti-Muslim sentiment. Why do the Persians attack the Greeks? Because they are annoyed by the idea of Greek freedom and democracy. How do the Persians take out Greek ships? Suicide bombers. Etc., ad nauseam. 2014. — M.L. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

**American Hustle** — A heaping helping of period pleasure from director David O.

Russell. Irving Rosenfeld (a gutty Christian Bale, resplendent in combover and ascot) is a ’70s Jay Gatsby without the class anxiety, a man comfortable with the notion that everybody is, like him, working the con — getting along by lying about themselves (and often, *to* themselves). And of course, he’s got a Daisy Buchanan in Sydney Prosser (Amy Adams, acting her heart out), his partner in love and hustling. But even a happy Gatsby may run afoul of a bully afflicted with overweening ambition and delusions of superiority — in this case, Bradley Cooper’s FBI agent, who ropes the pair into helping him go after bigger game. And then there’s the Other Woman (Jennifer Lawrence), the sexy blonde who’s only half as dumb as she looks. There’s a suitably twisty plot, but the point here is the people. It’s a bit overlong and overmuch, but it’s still a helluva party. 2013. — M.L. ★★ ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

**Bethlehem** — Terrorism and counter-terrorism, agents and double agents, set amid the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. 2013. (LANDMARK LA JOLLA VILLAGE)

**Blue Jasmine** — In *Annie Hall*, Woody Allen wrote a zingy throwaway line ridiculing a saliva dribbling, shopping bag-schlepping lunatic who wanders screaming into a cafeteria. We mock the things we are to be. Thirty-six years (and just as many films) later finds him crafting an entire feature around a more upscale version of the babbling bedlamite. We join the ever-

exceptional Cate Blanchett, a once wealthy socialite in mid-comeuppance, forced to move in with her working class sister (Sally Potter). Woody squanders much of his time paying cross-tribute to Tennessee Williams and John Cassavetes (*A Streetcar Under the Influence?*), resulting in a finished product that has little to show for itself save for a healthy contempt for rich Republicans. Character introductions are accompanied by five minutes of expository dialogue, and for a man with as many films to his credit as Allen, the filmmaker’s ability to artlessly incorporate a flashback structure hasn’t changed one iota since *Take the Money and Run*. 2013. — S.M. ★ (READING GASLAMP)

**Dallas Buyers Club** — Matthew McConaughey plays a bag-of-bones, good ol’ boy piece of sex-addled trailer trash who has the misfortune to bang the wrong (female) intravenous drug-user (HIV+) in the wrong way (sans condom) in the wrong place (darkest Texas) at the wrong time (the panicked, unmedicated ’80s). Suddenly, he’s cast out among those he hates, and overdosing on the only medicine out there (AZT), which nearly kills him. (The bastards at Big Pharma and the FDA, eager to cash in on the AIDS panic, are running human trials.) Eventually, he heads south of the border to visit a disgraced doctor who knows what’s good for him. And what’s good for Ron is good for his fellow sufferers, including Rayon, a junkie trans woman played with mesmerizing commitment by Jared Leto. So

our hero starts peddling meds and making bank, and learns to love along the way. Naturally, the authorities object. With Jennifer Garner. 2013. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

**Gravity** — An illustrated existential crisis. Or, a survival story in which nearly every exterior event carries interior significance. Either way, it’s gripping. The story is simple: an astronaut (a smooth-faced Sandra Bullock), cut loose from her spiritual moorings by a freak accident, is cut loose from her physical moorings by another freak accident. Now, just a hair’s breadth from the cold embrace of the Big Nothing, she must struggle to find her way back to life. Also, earth. Director Alfonso Cuaron isn’t shy about deploying Christian tropes — her journey back to life begins only after fellow astronaut George Clooney lays down his life for her and tells her how to be saved — to the point where it’s fair to ask whether they’re tropes at all. The camera does an enormous amount of the work here — now watching Bullock as she spins helplessly through space, now holding steady on her while the universe turns with her at its center, now slipping inside her helmet to watch the whirling maelstrom from her untethered point of view. 2013. — M.L. ★★ ★ (READING CARMEL MOUNTAIN; READING GASLAMP)

**If You Build It** — Friendly, moving documentary from Patrick Creadon (*Wordplay*)

that follows Matthew and Emily, a couple of designer-builders (who are also a couple), as they implement a design-and-build program at a high school in poverty-stricken Bertie County, North Carolina. The film probes politely into the personal lives of the students (many of whom don’t much care for school), the life of the county, and Matt’s history with the dangers of charity-based architecture, and also documents the students’ projects, from cornhole boards to chicken coops to an honest-to-goodness farmers’ market. There are odd gaps for a film so focused on the details of getting things done: why was the school superintendent who recruited Matthew and Emily suspended? Why exactly was the couple denied funding by the school board? How did they live without a salary? But what does make it onto the screen is happy and sad and amazing and dreamy in just the way you might expect a story involving high-school kids learning about Buckminster Fuller to be. 2014. — M.L. ★★ (LANDMARK KEN)

**In Secret (Therese)** — A morality tale of curdled love and corrosive guilt that works, because the morality arises from within — within the characters, within their dealings with each other, within the dim, desperate world they inhabit. Everyone comes in for a measure of sympathy (though sometimes, it’s measured out with a heavy hand), and that’s what makes the ultimate verdict so painful. Young Therese is dropped off at her aunt’s in 19th-century

Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL

CLAIREMONT

**Reading Town Square**  
4665 Clairemont Drive (800-326-3264 #2722)  
**12 Years a Slave** (R) Fri-Sat (10:50, 1:50) 4:40, 7:30, 10:30 Sun (10:50, 1:50) 4:40, 7:30, 10:20; **3 Days to Kill** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 4:20, 7:05, 9:35; **300: Rise of an Empire** (R) Fri-Sat (10:25, 12:50, 2:30, 3:15) 5:45, 7:45, 8:30, 11:00 Sun (10:25, 12:50, 2:30, 3:15) 5:45, 7:45, 8:15, 10:45; **300: Rise of an Empire 3D** (R) Fri-Sun (11:20, 12:05, 1:45) 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 9:30, 10:15; **American Hustle** (R) Fri-Sun (10:40, 1:30) 4:30, 7:35, 10:20; **Bolshoi Ballet: Lost Illusions** (Not Rated) Fri-Sat; **Dallas Buyers Club** (R) Fri-Sun 7:10, 9:40; **Frozen** (PG) Fri-Sun (10:35, 1:00, 3:30) 5:55; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman** (PG) Fri-Sat (10:30, 12:50, 3:10) 4:45, 5:45, 8:25, 9:50, 10:50 Sun (10:30, 12:50, 3:10) 4:45, 5:45, 8:25, 9:50, 10:45; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun (11:50, 2:10) 7:25; **Non-Stop** (PG-13) Fri-Sat (10:45, 1:45) 4:25, 7:20, 8:20, 9:45, 10:45 Sun (10:45, 1:45) 4:25, 7:20, 8:20, 9:45, 10:40; **Philomena** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:15, 12:25, 2:35) 4:50; **Son of God** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:15, 1:10) 4:05, 7:00, 9:55; **The Lego Movie** (PG) Fri-Sun (10:20, 11:20, 12:40, 1:40, 3:00) 5:20, 7:40, 10:05; **The Monuments Men** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:55, 1:35) 4:35, 7:15, 9:50

CORONADO

**Vintage Village Theater**  
820 Orange Avenue (619-437-6161)  
**300: Rise of an Empire** (R) Fri (2:45) 5:45, 8:30 Sat-Sun (12:00) 2:45, 5:45, 8:30; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman** (PG) Fri (2:45) 5:45, 8:30 Sat-Sun (12:00) 2:45, 5:45, 8:30; **Non-Stop** (PG-13) Fri (2:45) 5:45, 8:30 Sat-Sun (12:00) 2:45, 5:45, 8:30

DOWNTOWN

**Reading Gaslamp**  
701 Fifth Avenue (800-326-3264 #2709)  
**20 Feet from Stardom** (PG-13) Fri (1:00) 5:55, 9:45 Sat (1:00) 5:55, 9:55 Sun (1:00) 5:55, 9:10; **3 Days to Kill** (PG-13) Fri (1:00) 4:25, 7:15, 10:00 Sat-Sun (11:40, 1:50) 4:25,

7:15, 10:00; **About Last Night** (R) Fri-Sun (12:05, 2:35) 4:55, 7:20, 9:40; **American Hustle** (R) Fri-Sun (12:25, 3:25) 6:25, 9:25; **August: Osage County** (R) Fri-Sun (11:30, 2:10) 4:45, 7:40, 10:20; **Blue Jasmine** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:45, 1:10, 3:25) 5:45, 8:00, 10:30; **Gravity 3D** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:45, 12:55, 3:05) 5:15, 7:45, 10:05; **Her** (R) Fri-Sun (11:15, 2:00) 4:50, 7:35, 10:15; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman** (PG) Fri-Sun (10:55, 1:15, 3:35) 5:50, 8:10, 10:25; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun (11:50, 2:15) 4:35, 7:05, 9:35; **Non-Stop** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:40, 11:40, 1:05, 2:05, 3:30) 4:30, 7:10, 8:10, 9:30, 10:35; **The Great Beauty (La Grande Bellezza)** (Not Rated) Fri-Sun (12:15, 3:15) 6:15, 9:15; **The Monuments Men** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:20, 1:55) 4:40, 7:30, 10:10; **The Wolf of Wall Street** (R) Fri-Sun (10:50, 2:40) 6:10, 9:45; **Walking the Camino: Six Ways to Santiago** (Not Rated) Fri (11:00, 3:00) 5:00, 7:00 Sat (11:00, 3:00) 5:35, 7:50 Sun (11:00, 3:00) 5:00, 7:00

**Regal Horton Plaza**  
Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)  
**12 Years a Slave** (R) Fri-Sun 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:50; **300: Rise of an Empire** (R) Fri-Sun 2:00, 7:45; **300: Rise of an Empire 3D** (R) Fri (1:15, 4:15, 5:00) 7:00, 9:45, 10:15 Sat-Sun (1:15, 4:15) 5:00, 7:00, 9:45, 10:15; **Pompeii** (PG-13) Fri 4:45, 10:05 Sat 10:05pm Sun 4:45, 10:05; **Pompeii 3D** (PG-13) Fri (1:45) 7:30 Sat (1:45pm) Sun (1:45) 7:30; **RoboCop** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 12:50, 3:35, 6:30, 9:20; **Son of God** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00; **Starting Over Again** (Not Rated) Fri-Sun 1:00, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30; **The Lego Movie** (PG) Fri-Sun 7:15, 9:40; **The Lego Movie in 3D** (PG) Fri (1:30, 4:30) Sat-Sun (1:30) 4:30; **Toe to Toe: Canelo vs. Angulo** (PG-13) Sat 6:00pm

KENSINGTON

**Landmark Ken**  
4061 Adams Avenue (619-283-3227)  
**If You Build It** (NR) Fri – Thu: (5:00), 7:15, 9:25; **Oscar Nominated Short Films 2014: Documentary** (NR) **Part One**, Academy Award\* Winner, Fri - Sun: (2:30); **The Room (R) Audience Participation Show**, Sat: 12:00 Midnight, Discount Shows at Landmark’s Ken Cinema Indicated in Brackets “ ( ) ”; **Generation War, Part One** (NR) Opens Friday, March 14; **Generation War, Part Two** (NR) Opens Friday, March 14; **The Rocky Horror Picture Show** (R) with

“Crazed Imaginations” Shadow Cast, Plays Saturday, March 15

LA JOLLA

**AMC La Jolla**  
8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (888-262-4386)  
Call theater for program information.

**Landmark La Jolla Village**  
8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (858-453-7622)  
**12 Years A Slave** (R) Academy Award\* Winner, Fri, Mon - Thu: (4:00), 7:00, 9:50, Sat & Sun: (10:00), 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; **Dallas Buyers Club** (R) Academy Award\* Winner, Fri, Mon - Thu: (1:40), 7:20, 9:45, Sat & Sun: (10:40), 1:40, 7:20, 9:45; **Omar** (NR) Fri - Sun: (1:00), 4:40, Mon - Thu: (1:00), (4:40); **Beth-lehem** (NR) Fri: (1:50), 4:50, 7:05, 10:00, Sat & Sun: (10:50), 1:50, 4:50, 7:05, 10:00, Mon - Thu: (1:50), (4:50), 7:05, 10:00; **The Great Beauty (La Grande Bellezza)** (NR) Academy Award\* Winner, Fri: (1:20), 4:20, Sat & Sun: (10:20), 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, Mon - Thu: (1:20), (4:20), 7:10, Discount Shows at Landmark’s La Jolla Cinemas Indicated in Brackets “ ( ) ”; **Elaine Stritch: Just Shoot Me** (NR) Opens Friday, March 14; **The Face Of Love** (PG-13) Opens Friday, March 14

MISSION VALLEY

**AMC Fashion Valley**  
7037 Friars Road (888-262-4386)  
Call theater for program information.

**AMC Mission Valley**  
1640 Camino Del Rio North (888-262-4386)  
**12 Years a Slave** (R) Fri-Sun 10:05, 1:10, 4:15, 7:20, 10:40; **3 Days to Kill** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 2:30, 5:10, 7:55, 10:45; **300: Rise of an Empire** (R) Fri-Sun 12:55, 5:15, 6:45, 8:00, 9:30; **300: Rise of an Empire 3D** (R) Fri-Sat 10:10, 12:00, 2:45, 3:45, 5:45, 8:30, 11:10 Sun 10:10, 12:00, 2:45, 3:45, 5:45, 8:30, 7:30, 10:15; **About Last Night** (R) Fri-Sun 10:40, 1:20, 4:05, 6:55, 9:45; **Anchorman 2: Supersized** (R) Fri-Sun 10:05, 1:35, 10:45; **Frozen** (PG) Fri-Sun 10:35, 1:30, 4:25, 7:25, 10:20; **Gravity 3D** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 8:00, 10:30; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman** (PG) Fri-Sun 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 9:35; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman 3D** (PG) Fri 10:45, 1:15, 3:40, 6:15, 8:45 Sat 10:45, 1:15, 3:40 Sun 10:45, 1:15, 3:40, 6:15, 8:45; **Non-Stop** (PG-13) Fri-Sat 10:20, 11:20, 1:05, 2:05, 4:00, 4:55, 6:50, 7:45, 9:40,

10:35, 11:15 Sun 10:20, 11:20, 1:05, 2:05, 4:00, 4:55, 6:50, 7:45, 9:40, 10:35; **Pompeii** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 2:05, 7:15; **Pompeii 3D** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 11:25, 4:40, 9:50; **RoboCop** (PG-13) Fri-Sat 11:05, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10, 11:10 Sun 11:05, 2:10, 5:10, 8:10; **Son of God** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 11:15, 6:00 Fri-Sun 10:15, 7:05, 10:25 Fri-Sun 2:30, 9:20; **The Lego Movie** (PG) Fri-Sat 11:40, 2:35, 5:20, 8:05, 10:50 Sun 11:40, 2:35, 5:20, 8:05, 10:40; **The Lego Movie in 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30, 4:10; **The Monuments Men** (PG-13) Fri-Sat 11:00, 2:10, 5:15, 8:20, 11:15 Sun 11:00, 2:10, 5:15, 8:20; **The Wolf of Wall Street** (R) Fri-Sun 10:30, 2:20, 6:10, 10:00; **Toe to Toe: Canelo vs. Angulo** (PG-13) Sat 6:00pm

SAN DIEGO

**ArcLight La Jolla**  
4425 La Jolla Village Drive Suite H60 (858-768-7770)  
**Back to the Future** (PG) Sun 5:00pm

**Digital Gym Cinema**  
2921 El Cajon Boulevard ((619) 230-1938)  
**Jewish Cardinal, (Der jüdische Kardinal) The** (Not Rated) Fri 12:45pm Sat 3:00pm Sun 12:45pm

**San Diego Natural History Museum - Kaplan Theater**  
1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)  
Call theater for program information.

**UltraStar Mission Valley**  
7510 Hazard Center Dr #100 (619-685-2841)  
Call theater for program information.

UPTOWN

**Landmark Hillcrest**  
3965 Fifth Avenue (619-298-2904)  
**The Wind Rises** (PG-13) ENGLISH DUBBED, Fri - Thu: (1:20), 7:00; **The Wind Rises** (PG-13) ENGLISH SUBTITLED, Fri, Mon - Thu: (4:10), 9:50, Sat & Sun: (10:30), 4:10, 9:50; **Dallas Buyers Club** (R) Academy Award\* Winner, Fri - Sun: (1:30), 4:20, 7:10, 9:20, Mon - Wed: (1:30), (4:20), 7:10, 9:20, Thu: (1:30), (4:20), 7:10, 9:20; **Oscar Nominated Short Films 2014: Animated** (NR) Fri, Mon - Thu: 9:55, Sat & Sun: (10:50), 9:55; **Visitors** (NR) Fri: (1:50), 4:40, 7:30, 9:40, Sat & Sun: (11:10), 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 9:40, Mon - Thu: (1:50), (4:40), 7:30, 9:40; **Philomena** (PG-13) Fri: (1:40), 4:30, 6:50, Sat & Sun: (11:00), 1:40, 4:30, 6:50, Mon - Wed: (1:40), (4:30), 6:50, Thu: (1:40), (4:30);

**Oscar Nominated Short Films 2014: Live Action** (NR) Fri, Mon - Thu: 9:30, Sat & Sun: (10:40), 9:30; **Tim’s Vermeer** (PG-13) Fri: (2:00), 4:50, 7:20, Mon - Thu: (2:00), (4:50), 7:20; **The Grand Budapest Hotel** (R) Thu: 8:00, 10:15, Discount Shows at Landmark’s La Jolla Cinemas Indicated in Brackets “ ( ) ”; **The Grand Budapest Hotel** (R) Opens Friday, March 14; **Stranger By The Lake** (NR) Opens Friday, March 14

**Reuben H. Fleet Science Center**  
1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)  
**Alaska: Spirit of the Wild** (Not Rated) Fri-Sat 2:00pm Sun 2:00, 6:00; **Journey to the South Pacific** (G) Fri 1:00, 3:00, 5:00 Sat-Sun 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00; **Myers of the Unseen World** (Not Rated) Fri-Sun 12:00, 4:00; **Rolling Stones at the Max** (Not Rated) Sat 6:00pm

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

**Regal Parkway Plaza**  
405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)  
Call theater for program information

LA MESA

**Reading Grossmont**  
5500 Grossmont Center Drive (800-326-3264 #2710)  
**12 Years a Slave** (R) Fri-Sun (10:40, 1:35) 4:30, 7:25, 10:25; **3 Days to Kill** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 10:40pm; **300: Rise of an Empire** (R) Fri-Sun (10:20, 12:45, 1:30, 3:10) 5:35, 6:20, 8:00, 10:20, 11:05; **300: Rise of an Empire 3D** (R) Fri-Sun (11:05, 11:50, 2:15, 3:55) 4:40, 7:05, 8:45, 9:30; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman** (PG) Fri-Sun (10:45, 11:45, 1:10, 3:35) 4:35, 5:55, 7:00, 8:20; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun (2:10) 9:20; **Non-Stop** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:35, 1:00, 3:25) 5:50, 8:20, 10:45; **Son of God** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:30, 1:40) 4:45, 7:45, 10:40; **The Lego Movie** (PG) Fri-Sun (10:50, 1:05, 3:20) 5:40, 7:55, 10:10; **The Monuments Men** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:55, 2:35) 5:15, 7:55, 10:35

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

**Regal Rancho San Diego**  
2951 Jamacha Road (800-326-3264)  
Call theater for program information.



France by her a nèer-do-well father, and finds herself cast in the role of “guardian angel” to her sickly cousin Camille — even to the point of sharing his bed. When she grows up and Dad dies, Aunt Mom gets the brilliant idea of having the cousins share the bed again, this time as husband and wife — it keeps everyone (and their money) so close. Small wonder she has thoughts of straying — and worse. (“Everything is lust and murder,” intones a pudgy inspector over Thursday-night dominoes.) The men (Oscar Isaac, Tom Felton) do good work here, but the great struggle is between Jessica Lange and Elizabeth Olsen as mother and daughter-in-law, as sun and moon, fierce energy and reflected, mournful beauty. 2014. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

**Jewish Cardinal (Der jüdische Kardinal)** — When one critic is a Jew and the other is a Catholic, how do you decide who reviews a film called *The Jewish Cardinal*? We’re still arguing about it. Review forthcoming! (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

**The Lego Movie** — LEGO, which has insinuated itself into movie franchise after movie franchise via the video game backdoor, now makes its move to subsume them all into a big-screen pop-culture juggernaut. They even took over the Bible! Resistance is futile. (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

**Mr. Peabody & Sherman** — Hey, look, it’s a cartoon you sort of remember as being charming and almost smart! Will those be the first two words that come to mind after you’ve seen the big-screen “re-imagining”? Only time will tell! Well, that and the review, which is forthcoming. (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

**Nebraska** — Will Forte plays along with his demented dad Bruce Dern’s false notion that Dern has won first prize in the Publisher’s Clearinghouse sweepstakes and joins the old man on a road trip from Montana to Nebraska to claim the million dollars. The subject matter should appeal to the *On Golden Pond* crowd; meanwhile, director Alexander Payne banks on outmoded black-and-white cinematography to reel in the hipsters. Payne is not a skilled enough filmmaker to manage the neat trick of simultaneously embracing and ridiculing his depthless midwesterners, and much of the film is colored by condescension. Worth seeing, if only as a reminder of both Dern’s ability to command a character and, more importantly, his long absence from feature parts, an absence we can probably blame on Hollywood ageism. Awards voters had best pencil in June Squibb, whose hammy one-note performance as Dern’s fusspot spouse is bound to be to their liking. With Bob Odenkirk and Stacey Keach. 2013. — S.M. ★★ (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA; LAND-MARK HILLCREST; READING CARMEL MOUNTAIN)

**Non-Stop** — How do you know it’s a Liam Neeson action film? Simple: there’s a picture of his daughter taped beneath the sun visor of his car. Neeson stars as booze-soaked flying cop who begins receiving midair death texts from a fellow passenger. While no fictional relative of Neeson was hurt during the making of this picture, there is a surrogate daughter on board to provide sickeningly unwarranted pathos. Fun at the start, but after about 40 minutes, all logic is sucked from the cabin quicker than Gert Frobe’s climactic exit from *Goldfinger*. Book a first class seat for George Kennedy, throw in a few more C-list stars, and they could just as well have and called it *Airport ‘14*. And who says that movies aren’t educational? It will cost you \$11.50 to learn how to get around smoke detectors next time you need to grab a mid-flight butt. 2014. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

**Pompeii** — Here’s what you know about the Italian city of Pompeii: it was buried in ash when a nearby volcano erupted with sudden fury in 79 AD. If you’re plunking down \$12 to watch a volcano erupt and destroy a city — first via earthquake, then via flaming boulder bombardment, then via tidal wave, and finally via superheated ash cloud — then you’ll get that. But all that meaningless, computer-generated, natural-disaster carnage gets tedious, and quickly. What’s much, much more fun is what comes before. You got yer enslaved

“savage” (Kit Harrington, fit and fresh as a daisy) who’s more civilized than his imperial overlords, gladiating his way across the Roman Empire. You got yer forbidden love across class lines set against the backdrop of spectacular disaster. You got yer political maneuvering, dominated by a dirty Roman senator (Kiefer Sutherland, having the time of his life) who’s got his eye on the same girl as our hero. You even got yer arena combat narrated by Greek chorus! And hell if director Paul W.S. Anderson doesn’t serve up some actually interesting overhead shots of the doomed city pre-destruction. With all this goodness, who needs a script or a compelling lead? 2014. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

**The Princess Bride** — Rob Reiner, who’s said to have been wanting to make a movie of the William Goldman novel for many more years than he’d actually been a moviemaker, is not at this point a good enough director to cover up for a not good enough idea: he’s still tied too tightly to the TV sitcom sensibility (acquired no doubt in his years as an actor on *All in the Family*), all the way down to the clunking closeup of whoever happens to be talking at the moment. In fairness he does seem to keep on trying to do something a little different, only he is doing something less different here than he seems to think. The possibilities of the tongue-in-cheek swashbuckling adventure have been pretty thoroughly mapped out in such things as, coming

forwards in time, *The Great Race*, Richard Lester’s *The Three* (and *Four*) *Musketeers*, Richard Quine’s *The Prisoner of Zenda*, *Flash Gordon*, and the Indiana Jones films. And the Errol Flynn-Douglas Fairbanks prototypes never had their tongues far from their cheeks in the first place. But forget all that now; if you possibly can, as you are guided again to The Shrieking Eels and The Cliffs of Insanity and The Fire Swamp, with its St. Bernard-sized rats, and The Pit of Despair and so on (only the names are different), to be regaled not so much by the actual spectacle of any of these sights as by the choking facetiousness of your tour-guide. This attitude of indulgent superiority is evidently supposed to coat the thing with a layer of “adulthood.” And for a second coat into the bargain, there is a present-day framing device whereby a horribly made-up and costumed grand-dad (Peter Falk) “reads” the story we are seeing to a precocious sitcom kid in his sickbed: a soft-sell pitch for literature (the television of yore) that had been done before, and better, in *The Neverending Story*. Winks and eye-rolls notwithstanding, however, *The Princess Bride* remains obstinately a movie for children. There is no harm in that. But there is not a lot else in it either. With Cary Elwes, Robin Wright, Mandy Patinkin, Chris Sarandon. 1987. ★ (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA)

**Ride Along** — The appeal of Ice Cube (*Trespass*, *Three Kings*) as an action star

## SANTEE

### Santee Drive In

10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)  
Call theater for program information.

## SOUTH BAY

### CHULA VISTA

#### AMC Palm Promenade

770 Dennery Road (888-262-4386)  
Call theater for program information.

#### Regal Rancho Del Rey

1025 Tierra del Rey (off East H Street) (619-216-4707)  
**300: Rise of an Empire 3D** (R) Fri (11:55, 2:30) 5:05, 7:45, 10:25; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman** (PG) Fri (11:55) 3:50, 6:30, 9:00; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman 3D** (PG) Fri (12:35) 4:25, 7:00, 9:30

#### UltraStar Chula Vista

Broadway (between H and I) (619-338-4214)  
Call theater for program information.

## EASTLAKE

#### AMC Otay Ranch

Eastlake Parkway (at Olympic) (888-262-4386)  
Call theater for program information.

## IMPERIAL BEACH

### South Bay Drive In

2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)  
Call theater for program information.

## NATIONAL CITY

#### AMC Plaza Bonita

3030 Plaza Bonita Road (888-262-4386)  
Call theater for program information.

## NORTH INLAND

## BONSALL

#### Digiplex River Village

River Village Shopping Center - 5256 Mission Road (760-945-8784)

**300: Rise of an Empire** (R) Fri-Sat (11:00) 1:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45 Sun (11:00) 1:30, 4:00, 7:00; **Toe to Toe: Canelo vs. Angulo** (PG-13) Sat 6:00pm

## CARMEL MOUNTAIN

### Reading Carmel Mountain

11620 Carmel Mountain Road (800-326-3264 #2704)

**12 Years a Slave** (R) Fri-Sat (10:55, 1:45) 4:30, 7:35, 10:20 Sun (10:55, 1:45) 4:30, 7:35; **300: Rise of an Empire** (R) Fri-Sat (10:45, 1:00, 3:15) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun (10:45, 1:00, 3:15) 5:30, 8:00; **American Hustle** (R) Fri-Sat (10:50, 1:35) 4:20, 7:15, 10:10 Sun (10:50, 1:35) 4:45, 7:15; **Bolshoi Ballet: Lost Illusions** (Not Rated) Fri-Sat; **Frozen** (PG) Fri-Sat (11:30, 2:15) 4:45, 7:10, 9:30 Sun (11:30, 2:15) 4:45, 7:10; **Gravity** (PG-13) Fri-Sat (11:00, 1:15, 3:25) 5:45, 7:50, 10:05 Sun (11:00, 1:15, 3:25) 5:45, 7:50; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman** (PG) Fri-Sat (10:35, 12:50, 3:10) 5:25, 7:40, 9:55 Sun (10:35, 12:50, 3:10) 5:25, 7:40; **Nebraska** (R) Fri-Sat (11:20, 2:05) 4:40, 7:25, 10:00 Sun (11:20, 2:05) 4:40, 7:25; **Non-Stop** (PG-13) Fri-Sat (11:15, 2:00) 4:30, 7:00, 9:40 Sun (11:15, 2:00) 4:30, 7:00; **Philomena** (PG-13) Fri-Sat (11:05, 1:10, 3:30) 5:40, 7:45, 9:50 Sun (11:05, 1:10, 3:30) 5:40, 7:45; **Son of God** (PG-13) Fri-Sat (10:40, 1:40) 4:35, 7:30, 10:25 Sun (10:40, 1:40) 4:35, 7:30; **The Lego Movie** (PG) Fri-Sat (10:30, 12:55, 3:20) 5:35, 7:55, 10:15 Sun (10:30, 12:55, 3:20) 5:35, 7:55; **The Monuments Men** (PG-13) Fri-Sat (11:10, 1:50) 4:25, 7:05, 9:35 Sun (11:10, 1:50) 4:25, 7:05

## ESCONDIDO

#### Regal Escondido

350 West Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)  
**300: Rise of an Empire** (R) Fri 2:40, 8:00; **300: Rise of an Empire 3D** (R) Fri (12:00) 5:20, 10:40; **300: Rise of an Empire An IMAX 3D Experience** (R) Fri 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman** (PG) Fri 12:15, 1:15, 3:50, 7:15, 9:50; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman 3D** (PG) Fri (2:50, 5:25) 8:00, 10:35

## MIRA MESA

#### Regal Mira Mesa

10733 Westview Parkway (800-326-3264)  
**300: Rise of an Empire** (R) Fri (11:30) 7:45, 10:45 Fri 3:15, 6:15; **300: Rise of an Empire 3D** (R) Fri 12:15, 9:00 Fri 2:15, 5:00; **300: Rise of an Empire An IMAX 3D Experience** (R) Fri 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00; **Chicago** (PG-13) Sun 2:00pm; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman** (PG) Fri (11:00) 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman**

**3D** (PG) Fri (11:50) 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30; **Toe to Toe: Canelo vs. Angulo** (PG-13) Sat 6:00pm

## POWAY

#### Digiplex Poway

13475 Poway Rd ((858) 679-3887)  
**3 Days to Kill** (PG-13) Fri-Sat (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:45, 10:30 Sun (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:45; **300: Rise of an Empire** (R) Fri-Sat (12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 Sun (12:30, 3:00) 5:30, 8:00; **300: Rise of an Empire 3D** (R) Fri-Sat 7:00, 9:30 Sun 7:00pm; **Gulaab Gang** (Not Rated) Fri (11:00) 4:45, 9:30 Sat 4:30pm Sun (11:00) 5:00; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman** (PG) Fri-Sat (11:00, 1:30, 4:00) 6:45, 9:15 Sun (11:00, 1:30, 4:00) 6:45; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun (11:45, 2:30) 4:45; **Non-Stop** (PG-13) Fri-Sat (11:15, 1:45) 4:15, 7:00, 10:00 Sun (11:15, 1:45) 4:15, 7:00; **Queen (Hindi)** (Not Rated) Fri (2:00) 10:00 Sat (1:45) 7:15 Sun (11:00) 8:00; **Son of God** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:00, 2:15) 5:15, 8:30; **The Lego Movie** (PG) Fri (11:30, 2:00, 3:15) 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 Sat (11:30, 2:00, 3:15) 4:30, 7:15, 8:15, 9:45 Sun (11:30, 2:00, 3:15) 4:30, 7:15, 8:15; **The Lego Movie in 3D** (PG) Fri (12:45) 5:45 Sat 5:45pm Sun (12:45) 5:45; **The Monuments Men** (PG-13) Fri-Sat (11:15, 2:00) 4:45, 7:30, 10:15 Sun (11:15, 2:00) 4:45, 7:30; **Total Chaos (Aman Ki Aasha)** (Total Siyapaa) (Not Rated) Fri 7:30pm Sat (11:00) 10:00 Sun (2:00pm)

## SAN MARCOS

#### Regal San Marcos

1180 W. San Marcos Boulevard (at Old California Walk) (800-326-3264)  
**300: Rise of an Empire** (R) Fri (11:00) 4:30; **300: Rise of an Empire 3D** (R) Fri (11:30, 1:45, 2:15) 5:00, 7:15, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman** (PG) Fri-Sun (11:00) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun (11:30, 2:10) 4:50, 7:30, 10:10; **Toe to Toe: Canelo vs. Angulo** (PG-13) Sat 6:00pm

## TEMECULA

#### Digiplex Temecula Tower Cinemas

27531 Ynez Rd

## VISTA

### Krikorian Vista Village

Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive (760-945-7469)  
Call theater for program information.

## NORTH COASTAL

## CARLSBAD

#### Cinépolis La Costa

6941 El Camino Real (760-603-8638)  
**3 Days to Kill** (PG-13) Fri-Sat 12:00, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30, 11:15 Sun 12:00, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30; **300: Rise of an Empire** (R) Fri-Sat 12:30, 5:15, 11:45 Sun 12:30, 5:15; **300: Rise of an Empire 3D** (R) Fri-Sat 2:45, 8:00, 10:45 Sun 2:45, 8:00; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman** (PG) Fri-Sat 2:00, 7:00, 11:45 Sun 2:00, 7:00; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun 11:30, 4:30, 9:30; **Non-Stop** (PG-13) Fri-Sat 11:15, 3:00, 6:00, 8:45, 11:30 Sun 11:15, 3:00, 6:00, 8:45; **The Lego Movie** (PG) Fri-Sun 11:00, 1:30, 6:45; **The Lego Movie in 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun 4:00, 9:15; **The Monuments Men** (PG-13) Fri-Sat 11:45, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45 Sun 11:45, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45

#### Moviemax Plaza Camino Real

2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469)  
Call theater for program information.

## DEL MAR

#### Cinépolis Del Mar

12905 El Camino Real (858-794-4045)  
**300: Rise of an Empire** (R) Fri-Sat 3:00, 10:00, 11:45 Sun 3:00, 10:00; **300: Rise of an Empire 3D** (R) Fri-Sun 11:15, 5:00, 7:30; **American Hustle** (R) Fri-Sat 11:15, 1:45, 6:00, 8:00, 11:00 Sun 11:15, 1:45, 6:00, 8:00; **Lone Survivor** (R) Fri-Sat 12:15, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15, 11:15 Sun 12:15, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman** (PG) Fri-Sun 12:00, 4:30, 8:45; **Mr. Peabody & Sherman 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun 2:15, 6:30; **Non-Stop** (PG-13) Fri-Sat 12:30, 2:00, 5:45, 8:30, 11:15 Sun 12:30, 2:00, 5:45, 8:30; **Pompeii** (PG-13) Fri-Sat 11:45pm Fri-Sun 2:30, 7:15; **Pompeii 3D** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 11:30, 4:45, 9:45; **The Lego Movie** (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30, 4:00, 6:45; **The Lego Movie in 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun 11:00, 9:15; **The Monuments Men** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 11:45, 3:15, 5:15, 9:00 Fri-Sat 11:00pm



# Calendar

## MOVIES

began to thaw somewhere around the time of *Torque* and the two *Are We Disinterested Yet?* kidpics. *Drive Along* is enough to put the freeze on any man's career, preferably that belonging to Mr. Cube's co-star, chatterbox Kevin Hart. To prove himself worthy of marrying Detective Cube's sister, an excitable high school security guard/avid gamer (Hart) spends a day in the passenger seat of his future-brother-in-law's cop car fielding every dirty call on the docket. Hard-to-take Hart gets off one audience busting line; the rest of his improv-babble is ferociously unfunny. Comatose Cube's phonetic dialog transcription could land him a role in an upcoming David Mamet production. Even once storied director Tim Story (*Barbershop*) can't whip anything fresh into this beat up buddy picture. Wait for television. 2014. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

**RoboCop** — A tough Detroit cop (Joel Kinnaman) gets blown to bits, and the best of those bits get stuck inside a heavily armed robot. Personal crises and ethical complications ensue, as do some remarkably intense (for a PG-13 film) gun battles. Director Jose Padilha (*Elite Squad: The Enemy Within*) brings his talent for smart, complicated actioners to Hollywood, and

puts on a hell of a show. He slips from media to marketing to militarism to mechanical miracles with ease, because, of course, they're all strands of the same web, with a poisonous CEO (a casual, amoral Michael Keaton) and his terrifying art collection at its center. The not-so-secret star here is Gary Oldman, perfect as a scientist who wants to do great things, who understands that he needs massive corporate funding to do them, and who tries to preserve humanity (his own and his creation's) even as he fiddles with it. With a game Samuel L. Jackson. 2014. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

**Saving Mr. Banks** — Walt Disney spent over 20 years of his life struggling to bring author P. L. Travers's *Mary Poppins* to the screen. As if the story behind the making of Uncle Walt's greatest commercial success didn't provide enough fodder to craft a compelling narrative, screenwriters Kelly Marcel and Sue Smith squander half of director John Lee Hancock's film in dreary flashback, serving up a beanpole backstory concerning Travers's alcoholic father who died of consumption. Live-action Disney by any other name. Emma Thompson's cartoonish take on the fussy Ms. Travers proves one must be Cruella to be kind, and Tom Hanks is probably the only actor in America the studio would trust in the role of venerated showman. Worth it for production designer Michael Corenblith's

spot-on recreation of the Disney empire in the early '60s and B. J. Novak and Jason Schwartzman's whimsical performances as the "Poppins" pair of songwriting siblings, Richard and Robert Sherman. 2013. — S.M. ★★ (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA)

**Son of God** — Scowly Roman Governor Pontius Pilate just wants to oversee Jerusalem without any fuss from the Jewish rabble. Politic High Priest Caiaphas just wants to host the Passover crowds without anyone sparking a riot/crackdown. And handsome Messiah Jesus? He just wants to change the world, one miracle at a time. (The miracle is very much the message; the story wanders from one wonderwork to another for an hour and a quarter; then it hits the Passion and picks up a little structure and drama.) There are hints of interest here: the Last Disciple, exiled on an island after all his fellows have been killed. A Pharisee who can't stand Jesus' loosey-goosey preaching but can't help following him around. Pride of place for Mary Magdalene, the first witness to the Resurrection. But they're all buried under blunted, affirming re-writes of Scripture, the Savior's blinding white smile, and a barrage of British accents. 2014. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

**That Awkward Moment** — Who says "dick jokes" have lost their power to appall and amuse? Zac Efron, Michael B.

Jordan, and Miles Teller star as a pack of lusty himbos in this better-than-average (and Apatow) raunch carnival. The title references that point in any "boy's night out" sex comedy where Loyal She inquires in what direction the relationship is heading only to have Swingin' He set his latest catch free and head to the nearest watering hole to cut loose a new filly from the herd. It's Teller's show; virtually every line that passes from his snarky grin is a gem. For a refreshing change, first time writer-director Tom Gormican presents a trio of well-rounded secondary female characters played to perfection by Imogen Poots, Addison Timlin, and, in a revelatory turn, Mackenzie Davis. Those inclined to turn their noses up at a running gag involving Teller constantly stinking up Efron's bathroom will want to think twice before entering. I laughed harder with each subsequent flush. 2014. — S.M. ★★ (AMC FASHION VALLEY; AMC MISSION VALLEY; REGAL RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

**Tim's Vermeer** — Teller directs a talkie while Penn — the other half of the comedy/magic duo — narrates and stars in this documentary account of inventor and video game designer Tim Jenison and the device he concocted to replicate the elusive technique that Dutch Master Johannes Vermeer devised to paint with light. Similar to an old time animator's Rotoscope, Jenison's mirrored gadget helps

the artist "trace" his subjects with a near-photographic precision. The very rich Jenison puddle-jumps his Lear Jet around the globe, boning up on everything from the manner in which Vermeer mixed his paint to grinding a lens to fit his homemade Camera Obscura. Jenison's *The Music Lesson* is a bolder and far more impressive act of artistic mimicry than Teller's original. The endless array of talking heads, filmed in choking closeup, must be the director's way of enacting revenge for all his years spent in silent servitude. 2013. — S.M. ★★ (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

**Visitors** — Reviewed this issue. — S.M. ● (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

**Walking the Camino: Six Ways to Santiago** — The Camino de Santiago is a Christian pilgrim trail that stretches across Spain for 500 miles and ends at the reputed tomb of the apostle James. Back when it was a pagan pilgrim trail, it continued on to a stretch of beach known as "the End of the World." Today, the pagans and pilgrims walk side by side; the "six ways" of the title refers to six walkers with varied intentions and expectations. The journey, while frequently meditative, is not quite a retreat: shared life with fellow travelers winds up feeling integral to the modern-day pilgrimage. And despite the pastoral vistas, it's not transcendent in the way that aesthetic experience can be. Rather, the Camino provides our subjects with a shift in perspective, a slowing down, a break from the necessity of doing anything but walking, and a chance, in the words of one pilgrim, to leave behind "the need to be something other than what I am." Director Lydia Smith makes the most of their experiences and epiphanies. 2014. ★★ (READING GASLAMP)

**The Wind Rises (Kazetachinu)** — File under: animation complication. You see what happens when you start admiring the work of someone from another culture? You see? Suddenly, you're forced to confront his admiration for the beautiful work of his countrymen, which work produced machines that brought great suffering to *your* countrymen. If you're having trouble separating the artistic output of say, Woody Allen or Roman Polanski from their actual personal selves, how are you gonna handle a story about the crazy dreamer who designed the Zero fighter plane? (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

**The Wolf of Wall Street** — Martin Scorsese's latest, most outrageous essay on common denominators living the life of upscale, drug-enhanced, and power-infested businessmen to the manner born. Set to the tune of the Master's metronome camera moves, protagonist and unrepentant jerk Jordan Belfort's (Leonardo DiCaprio) first day on the job in a strip-mall penny-stock shithole finds him delivering a master class on how to "sell garbage to garbage men." The energy level in this scene and in Belfort's hilarious third-act, time-released Qualude crawl suggests the work of a director in his early 30s, not that of a man who just turned 71. Belfort is Scorsese's ultimate surrogate auteur, an evangelical trafficker in power, preaching moxie to his ductile minions. But film remains a collaborative medium, and it would have been nice if screenwriter Terrence Winter hadn't written any scenes whose only purpose was to suck up to the director. Actor-wise, it's Leo's show, and the script calls for the actor to dominate every scene, leaving the supporting cast little to do but bounce off him. It's the weakest entry in Scorsese's cocaine trilogy — which began with *Goodfellas* and *Casino* — but running third in that company is no mean feat. 2013. — S.M. ★★★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

# FILM FESTIVALS

### CENTRAL LIBRARY

**American Freethought** Freethinkers fought for free speech, women's rights, separation of church and state, and above all, liberty. Roderick Bradford's documentary explores the history of secularism and censorship in America. San Diego writer/producer/director Roderick Bradford will be present for a discussion and Q & A after the film. **Monday, March 10, 6:30pm**

**The Squid and the Whale** Noah Baumbach's jabbing, witty black comedy blends humor and sadness as it explores the fallout on 16-year-old Walt (Jesse Eisenberg) and 12-year-old Frank (Owen Kline), caught in the fray of an acrimonious divorce between their literary parents (Jeff Daniels, Laura Linney). A discussion will follow the screening. This is the first in a series of four films and discussions: "Surviving Life's Transitions" with Dr. Monika-Maria Grace, a clinical psychologist, ordained minister, and the author of *Reel Fulfillment: Transforming Your Life Through Movies*. **Sunday, March 16, 2:00pm**

**My Tiny Universe** Crackling performances and witty dialogue fuel the frenzied action in this acerbic satire of life in Tinseltown. Fate, in the form of a lost cell phone, brings together a washed-up actor (Andy Comeau), a sleazy A-list producer (John Heard), his disgruntled wife (Lesley Ann Warren), and pregnant mistress (Debi Mazar). (92 minutes) **Monday, March 17, 6:30pm**

**A Box Full of Rocks: The El Cajon Years of Lester Bangs** Documentary by Raul Sandelin. Grossmont College instructor Raul Sandelin chronicles the early life and times of Lester Bangs, "the great gonzo journalist, gutter poet, and romantic visionary of rock criticism." Best known for his writings in *Rolling Stone*, *Cream*, and *Village Voice*, Bangs was also played by Phillip Seymour Hoffman in the film *Almost Famous*. Director Raul Sandelin will be present for a discussion and Q & A after the film. **Monday, March 24, 6:30pm**

### CINEMA UNDER THE STARS

**12 Years a Slave** A searing account of an unbreakable soul and the dynamics of slavery. Steve McQueen's piercing adaptation of Solomon Northup's 19th-century memoir follows over a decade in the life of a free black man from New York, kidnapped and sold into slavery in Louisiana. Stars Chiwetel Ejofor, Brad Pitt, Alfre Woodard, Benedict Cumberbatch. (134 minutes) **Friday, March 7, 8:00pm, Saturday, March 8, 8:00pm**

**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** Jennifer Lawrence ignites the flame in this rousing

pop-culture spectacle. Lawrence returns as Katniss whose defiance has revolution brewing in the districts. President Snow (Donald Sutherland) and his snake-ish sidekick (Philip Seymour Hoffman) try to stem the rising fury by devising a new version of the Games. (146 minutes) **Friday, March 14, 8:00pm, Saturday, March 15, 8:00pm**

**American Hustle** David O. Russell's shaggy, funny shell game is an homage to dreamers and schemers. The shifting motivations of a small-time scam artist (Christian Bale), a phony English noblewoman (Amy Adams), and a reckless FBI hothead (Bradley Cooper) play havoc with an FBI sting. (129 minutes) **Friday, March 21, 8:00pm, Saturday, March 22, 8:00pm**

### DIGIPLEX MISSION VALLEY



**San Diego Latino Film Festival** Expect comedies of all kinds, including wacky, hilarious, and off-beat variations of classic stories such as recent Colombian box office hit *El Paseo 2* with John Leguizamo, Spain's ensemble comedy *Una Pistola en Cada Mano* with Ricardo Darin (*The Secret of Their Eyes*, 2009), and *200 Cartas*, a bilingual U.S. romantic comedy starring Jaime Camil (*Pulling Strings*, 2013). Runs March 13 to 23. The All Access Festival Pass, which includes over 150 programs, costs \$200 and the Film Pass offering entrance to 11 films is \$100. **Thursday, March 13, 12:00pm**

### LA PALOMA

**Crispin Hellion Glover** Actor, legend of contemporary cinema, and filmmaker Crispin Glover. Since 2005 Glover has toured the world presenting in-person screenings of his acclaimed feature films *It Is Fine! EVERYTHING IS FINE!* and *What Is It?* — surreal and visionary works — to sold-out audiences. The films, which are only shown personally by the director, are also accompanied by a live performance, making each screening a unique experience. **Friday, March 7, 7:00pm, Saturday, March 8, 7:00pm**

### MISSION VALLEY LIBRARY

**You Will Be My Son** Gilles Legrand heats a simmering father-son rivalry in his taut tale of

a brilliant but arrogant owner of an esteemed vineyard (Niels Arestrup) at war with his feeble son eager to inherit the business. Familial acrimony ferments in this full-bodied psychological thriller. 102 min. Discussion to follow. **Wednesday, March 26, 6:00pm**

### MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS

**The Entertainers** The award-winning feature documentary about six piano players striving to win the World Championship of Old-Time Piano (mostly ragtime). Then stay to see four of the stars of the film perform live rag-time piano after the film, as well as answer your questions. **Thursday, March 13, 7:00pm**

### PEARL

**Dive-In Theatre** A weekly "cinema social" combining eclectic film choices, along with food and drink. Steeped in mid-century design, the Dive-In takes place at the poolside lounge and outdoor theater. Films are projected onto a 10' x 13' foot projection screen with full sound, overlooking the hotel's vintage, oyster-shaped swimming pool. **Wednesday, March 12, 8:00pm, Wednesday, March 19, 8:00pm, Wednesday, March 26, 8:00pm**

### POINT LOMA LIBRARY

**About Time** Love at first sight needs a second chance. Richard Curtis's time traveling bit of magical realism features Domhnall Gleeson as Tim, a geeky lawler-in-training- clumsy in matters of the heart — who inherited a genetic quirk for time travel. Rachel McAdams becomes the object of Tim's romantic affections. With Bill Nighy. (122 minutes) **Sunday, March 9, 2:00pm**

**Closed Circuit** Welcome to the surveillance state. A slick, tasty slice of British paranoia soaked in conspiracy. A high-profile terrorism case unexpectedly binds together two ex-lovers (Eric Bana, Rebecca hall) on the defense team - testing the limits of their loyalties and placing them on opposite sides of the secrecy divide. Co-stars Jim Broadbent. (96 minutes) **Tuesday, March 11, 6:00pm**

**Nebraska** Alexander Payne's wistful road odyssey to the lost frontiers of a bygone America. This cinematic ode to the quixotic dreams of a prickly old man stars Bruce Dern as a cranky old coot who hits the road with his son (Will Forte) in a quest for a slice of dignity and a bogus sweepstakes prize. With June Squibb and Stacy Keach. (114 minutes) **Tuesday, March 18, 6:00pm**

**Inside Llewyn Davis** The Coen Brothers unleash their sideways riff on the early 1960's music scene. This deadpan time capsule is a

love letter to the absurdities of being an artist as it offers a week in the life of a struggling folk singer (Oscar Isaacs) in 1961 Manhattan. Co-starring Carey Mulligan. (104 minutes) **Tuesday, March 25, 6:00pm**

### SDSU, STUDENT UNION

**Movie Screening of Carl Panzram** The SDSU Criminal Justice Student Association is hosting a screening of Carl Panzram: The Spirit of Hatred and Vengeance at the new Student Union. A 50 minute Q&A with Director John Borowski and other professionals to follow. March 13, 5:30pm and March 14, 6:30pm. \$3 for SDSU students, \$5 for the public. **Thursday, March 13, 5:30pm, Friday, March 14, 6:30pm**

### SCRIPPS MIRAMAR RANCH LIBRARY

**Film Forum: Black Pond** With its sharp dialogue and clever construction, the film follows a British family whose mundane existence is spun into disarray when they are accused of murder after a guest dies at their dinner table. A heaping helping of oddball lunacy. 2011. 83 minutes. Not rated. **Wednesday, March 19, 7:00pm**

**Cold Souls** A frustrated New York actor (Paul Giamatti) decides to lighten the burden of his existential agony by having his soul removed and frozen in storage. Complications ensue. David Strathairn and Emily Watson are also featured in this philosophical fantasia. Discussion after film. (97 minutes) **Wednesday, March 19, 7:00pm**

### UCSD FACULTY CLUB



**Va' Pensiero** A right-wing extremist kills Sam Modu and Diop Mor and wounds other Senegalese men as they work among the stands of the market in Piazza Dalmazia, Florence. Among them are Mor Sougou and Cheik Mbeng who, for the first time in this film, retell the events of that day. This film takes on the straight-forward yet difficult task of bringing to the light an often well hidden reality. **Sunday, March 9, 3:00pm**



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**CAREGIVERS/COMPANIONS.** Home care agency has immediate openings for compassionate and experienced Caregivers in East County and South Bay areas to include Chula Vista, Pine Valley, Campo, Descanso, Alpine and Julian. Must have 2+ years healthcare experience, valid CA driver's license and reliable transportation. TB test and background check required. Visiting Angels, 619-987-4910.

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San Diego, CA 92108 or email to [humanresources@kseus.com](mailto:humanresources@kseus.com)

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**JOB FAIR: SUMMER JOBS IN ALASKA** Petersburg Fisheries, a division of Icicle Seafoods, Inc., is now hiring Seafood Processors to work our summer salmon season in Petersburg, Alaska. Come to our San Diego Recruiting Event

at South Metro Career Center, 4389 Imperial Avenue, San Diego, CA 92113. March 18, 9am-3pm, March 19, 1-6pm, and March 21, 9am-12 noon. Apply online at [www.hookedonfish.com](http://www.hookedonfish.com) before the event to be interviewed. We hope to see you there!

### Donate Plasma, Save Lives Earn Up To \$400/ Month

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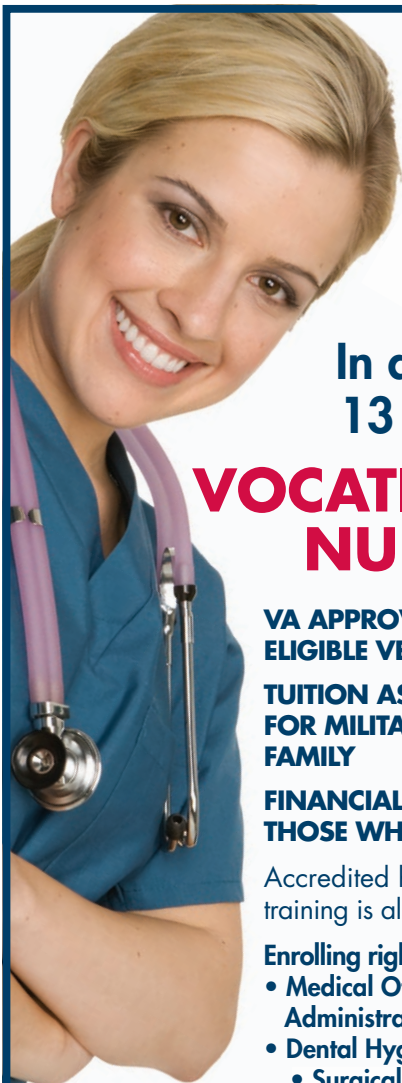
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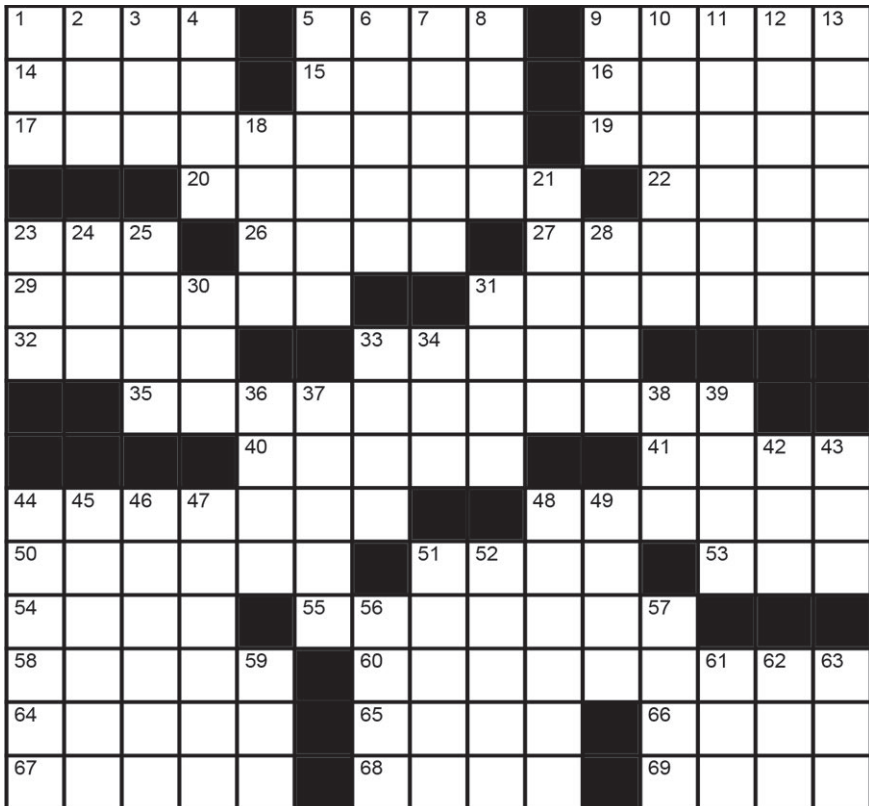
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## RULES OF THE GAME

1) Submit your completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online each week to [SDReader.com/puzzle](http://SDReader.com/puzzle). But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.  
2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.  
3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!  
4) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489**; or mailed to *Reader* Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803; or delivered to our **new** location, 2323 Broadway in Golden Hill; or scanned and e-mailed to [puzzles@sdreader.com](mailto:puzzles@sdreader.com). Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

And now for the really small print:

- 1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
- 2) Late entries will not be considered.
- 3) We will draw 10 names from weekly puzzle winners; no clever words or limericks required.
- 4) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
- 5) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

## Across

1. Per diem worker
5. Do
9. Merry refrain
14. Actress Rooney
15. Anne Frank's father
16. Be bratty
17. Wee
19. Words before hint or line
20. Cocoa ingredient?
22. Liter or meter
23. Veiled words?
26. Emperor after Claudius
27. Big cheese in TV comedy?
29. #41 whose son was #43
31. Unsportsmanlike action
32. Actress Kunis
33. "Basketball Wives" network
35. New Wave band that appeared on "The Gong Show" in 1976
40. Perfectly fine
41. Purchases from the iTunes Store
44. Ace
48. Triangular sail
50. Make stand out
51. Kennedy Center event
53. Zero
54. Sykora of the NHL
55. Dazes
58. "Zorba the Greek" setting
60. "Piece of cake!"
64. When dinner may be served
65. Street \_\_\_\_
66. Buffalo's lake

## Down

67. "Soap" family
68. Company with toy trucks
69. TV anchor Brockman of "The Simpsons"
1. "I did NOT need to hear that!"
2. Have something
3. Miss after marriage
4. Shells out
5. Rattlesnake, at times
6. Web-footed mammal
7. "\_\_\_\_ big deal!"
8. Four-time Indy winner
9. Smidgen
10. Fritz the Cat's creator
11. Hard-to-hum, say
12. "High Sierra" actress
13. "This Is 40" director
18. Recycling containers
21. Rice-\_\_\_\_
23. Watson's creator
24. It makes MADD mad and SADD sad
25. City founded by King Harald III
28. Wilson of "The Internship"
30. Japanese "yes"
31. "See for yourself!"
33. Electrical measure
34. "Girls" network
36. Casual denials
37. Lip \_\_\_\_
38. Gangster's gun
39. Shop door sign

## SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

PINS POE TENNIS  
AREA RRR AVAUNT  
LADY GAGA BISTRO  
OEDS JOECOOL  
AMANDA CUR AIME  
LARAS WIP ARLES  
OWAR ERRING  
URBANDICTIONARY  
CUTLET ISEE  
BANJO EER OCTAL  
OMOO ITS GSHARP  
TORNADO YOLO  
TRISTE NAPOLEON  
LATOYA NPR AXLE  
ELENA S ESO SODA

42. Nascar Hall of Fame architect
43. Broadcast from Rockefeller Ctr.
44. One who digs your jive
45. Don's code
46. American Lung Assn. recommendation
47. Airman's assignment
48. Actors Christopher and Harold
49. Org. that turned 50 in 2008
51. "Six Degrees of Separation" playwright
52. Church recesses
56. \_\_\_\_ support
57. Go after
59. George Strait's "All My \_\_\_\_ Live in Texas"
61. Exist
62. Sloth, e.g.
63. "On the other hand ..."

## SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: [www.SDReader.com/puzzle](http://www.SDReader.com/puzzle). The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the "comments" feature, you must be a registered site member.

## THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk from the Thursday your name appears in print to the following Thursday at p.m.

- Mary Arana, Encinitas, 9.
- Martha Awdziejewicz, Clairemont, 9.
- L. Barling, El Cajon, 9.
- Evelyn Bowser, Hillcrest, 9.
- Johanna Barry, Pine Valley, 8.

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\$250 & up motel weekly rates. Full kitchens, cable TV, furnished. Santa Clara Motel. 839 Santa Clara Place, San Diego, 92109. 858-488-1193.

**OCEAN BEACH, \$1495.**  
2BD+1BA large apartment, Sunset Cliffs. One block to beach! Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, parking, laundry. Small, quiet, gated complex. No pets. 4736 Point Loma Avenue #9. Agent, 619-232-6811.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1100.**  
1BD+1BA. North PB. Newly remodeled, well maintained unit. Quiet. Ceiling fans, microwave, dishwasher, laundry, reserved parking. No pets. Available now. 619-279-0031.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1225.**  
1BD, unit with two private patios in North Pacific Beach. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. Coin laundry. One block to Tourmaline Surf Park. No pets. Available 3/23/14. 760 Sapphire Street. Del Sol Property Management, broker. [www.delsolpm.com](http://www.delsolpm.com). 858-270-2071.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1245.**  
1BD, large upstairs West facing remodeled unit in North Pacific Beach. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave. Coin laundry. Parking. Lush shared courtyard. Near shopping and restaurants. No pets. Available 4/1/14. 1552-1/2 Diamond Street. Del Sol Property Management, broker. [www.delsolpm.com](http://www.delsolpm.com). 858-270-2071.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1250.**  
1BD+1BA. Available now! 1536 Moorland Drive #7. [www.AMGSD.com](http://www.AMGSD.com). 619-295-1165.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1250.**  
2BD+1BA. Quiet, gated entrance. Ceiling fans, laundry, off-street parking, pool. Building well maintained. No pets. Available now. 619-279-0031, [akarnazes@yahoo.com](mailto:akarnazes@yahoo.com).

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1500.**  
2BD+2-BA, apartment with balcony. Two parking spaces. Laundry on site. 2053-1 Garnet Ave. 858-272-9547.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1595.**  
2BD+1.5BA, completely remodeled apartment in the heart of Pacific Beach. Patio. Two parking spaces (right behind the apartment). 1827-B Missouri Street. 858-272-9547.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1645.**  
2BD+2BA, upstairs condo in East Pacific Beach. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. Washer/ dryer in unit. Deck and balcony. Wood floors and carpet. Garage with opener. Easy freeway access. Small pet OK with extra deposit. Available 4/5/14. 4615 Pico Street. Del Sol Property Management, broker. [www.delsolpm.com](http://www.delsolpm.com). 858-270-2071.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1700.**  
2BD+2BA upper level apartment. Hardwood floors and carpet. Shared roof deck/ patio. Off-street parking. On-site laundry. No pets. 1455 Garnet St. 858-270-4492 x203.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$1700.**  
2BD+1BA apartment 3 blocks to beach! Assigned off- street parking. On-site laundry. No pets. 1050 Hornblend. 858-270-4492 x203.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$2300.**  
3BD+2BA upstairs apartment. Off-street parking. Laundry on site. No pets. Available February! 4451 Haines Street. Chris, 858-270-4492 x203 or [CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com](mailto:CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com).

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$2400.**  
3BD+1.5BA, remodeled house in North Pacific Beach. Kitchen has granite countertops, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. Laundry hookups. Shared lawn area. Parking. Three blocks to ocean! Cat OK with extra deposit. Available 3/25/14. 979 Loring Street. Del Sol Property Management, broker. [www.delsolpm.com](http://www.delsolpm.com). 858-270-2071.

**PACIFIC BEACH, \$2500.**  
3BD+3BA townhouse with 3- car garage. Fireplace, washer/ dryer, patio, deck. Clean, fresh paint. No pets. 1853 Grand Avenue. [CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com](mailto:CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com) or 858-270-4492 x203.

**POINT LOMA, \$1300.**  
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**POINT LOMA, \$1700.**  
2BD+1BA at Sunset Cliffs. Steps to ocean. Ocean view. Hardwood floors. Garage included. Pets OK. 4831 Orchard Avenue. 619-222-6020.

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# Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

10 winners a week!

## THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:

### RULES OF THE GAME

1) Submit completed puzzle of any difficulty level (Easy, Medium, Hard or Evil) to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online at [SDReader.com/puzzle](http://SDReader.com/puzzle). But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.

2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name. Clearly mark the puzzle that you want to enter this week by crossing off the other completed puzzles. All puzzles that are cut into pieces will be disqualified.

3) We will draw 10 names from weekly puzzle winners; no clever words or limericks required.

4) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!

5) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489**; or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803; or delivered to our **new** location, 2323 Broadway in Golden Hill; or scanned and e-mailed to [Sudoku@sdreader.com](mailto:Sudoku@sdreader.com). Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

6) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.

7) Late entries will not be considered.

8) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.

9) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

### EASY:

		1				6	9	
3							7	1
	2			3	1		4	
9	1	4	8		2	5		7
8								6
5		6	1		3	4	2	8
	9		3	1			6	
1	8							2
	4	3				1		

### HARD:

			6				7	4
3						9		
5	4			7	1			
		7			5	3		
9		5				6		8
		8	4			5		
			1	9			3	2
		2						1
1	8				2			

### MEDIUM:

	9		3		8	1		7
				4				
6		4				8		9
				3	4	6		
7			1		5			4
		3	8	2				
9		7				4		8
				8				
4		8	2		3		5	

### EVIL:

9							8	
7	2		3					
	8		7	4			6	
				6	1			2
		8				1		
1			9	7				
	7			9	4		1	
				6		2	8	
	5							9

## SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

### EASY:

4	8	7	6	5	1	2	9	3
6	3	2	7	9	4	1	5	8
1	9	5	8	3	2	4	6	7
2	6	9	4	7	3	5	8	1
5	7	1	9	6	8	3	4	2
8	4	3	2	1	5	6	7	9
7	5	6	3	2	9	8	1	4
3	1	4	5	8	7	9	2	6
9	2	8	1	4	6	7	3	5

### MEDIUM:

7	8	4	2	6	1	3	5	9
9	3	6	5	7	8	2	4	1
5	2	1	4	3	9	7	8	6
6	9	7	3	4	5	8	1	2
2	4	8	1	9	7	5	6	3
1	5	3	8	2	6	4	9	7
8	7	5	9	1	3	6	2	4
3	1	2	6	5	4	9	7	8
4	6	9	7	8	2	1	3	5

### HARD:

2	3	6	1	7	5	4	9	8
9	8	1	4	3	6	2	5	7
5	4	7	2	8	9	1	3	6
8	1	9	5	2	3	6	7	4
7	5	4	8	6	1	9	2	3
6	2	3	9	4	7	5	8	1
4	6	8	7	9	2	3	1	5
3	9	5	6	1	8	7	4	2
1	7	2	3	5	4	8	6	9

### EVIL:

1	7	2	3	6	8	9	5	4
9	4	5	7	1	2	8	6	3
3	6	8	5	9	4	7	2	1
2	9	4	8	7	3	6	1	5
7	5	3	6	2	1	4	8	9
8	1	6	4	5	9	3	7	2
5	2	7	9	3	6	1	4	8
4	3	1	2	8	7	5	9	6
6	8	9	1	4	5	2	3	7

## SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: [www.SDReader.com/puzzle](http://www.SDReader.com/puzzle). The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the "comments" feature, you must be a registered site member.

## THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk from the Thursday your name appears in print to the following Thursday at 5 p.m.

- Bliss Beedle, Encinitas, 9.
- Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 9.
- Patrick Driscoll, Santee, 9.
- Joe Arbusto, Rancho Penasquitos, 8.
- Tom Burgeson, San Diego, 8.

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### Downtown

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#### DOWNTOWN, \$486-625.

Clean rooms, very comfortable, convenient location. Historic building near C Street Trolley. Choice of common or private bathrooms. Utilities included. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator. Southern Hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B. 619-239-3808.

#### DOWNTOWN, \$795.

Studio. Upstairs, kitchenette, all utilities included! Laundry, street parking. No pets. Near Balboa Park. 1758 6th Avenue. Available now! Agent, 619-298-7724.

#### DOWNTOWN, \$805 & UP.

Cortez Hill. Limited access building, charming, quiet, residential neighborhood. Utilities paid, on-site laundry. No pets. 619-299-8746.

#### DOWNTOWN.

From \$125 weekly. Las Flores Hotel. Small, quiet. Four-week minimum. Color TV with basic cable. Refrigerator in most rooms. Secure. 619-235-6820.

#### DOWNTOWN.

Studio. Fully furnished studios with utilities included. Rates start at \$165/week. Free wireless Internet and exercise room. Baltic Inn: 521 6th Avenue. 619-237-0687. www.affordablehousingsd.com.

#### DOWNTOWN.

From \$199 weekly. Studio. Premier location. Furnished, full baths. Award-winning buildings. 24-hour staff, gyms, laundry rooms, sun decks. Free wireless Internet. Island Inn: 202 Island Avenue (Second/Island), 619-232-4138. J Street Inn: 222 J Street, 619-696-6922. www.affordablehousingsd.com.

#### DOWNTOWN.

Starting at \$175 weekly. Furnished rooms. Beautiful building, new. Refrigerator, microwave, TV, cable. 920 Beech Street. Call 619-234-1952.

### Downtown, \$560+. Furnished Studios!

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### East County

#### EL CAJON, \$1000.

2BD+1BA apartments, 1 and 2 stories. Amenities. Pool, park-like grounds with lots of open space, laundry on premises, parking. Near town, shops, bus. 743 South Magnolia Avenue. 619-579-0174 or 619-464-1818.

#### EL CAJON, \$1250.

2BD+2BA Upstairs Apt home! Completely remodeled. New granite counters, cabinets, carpet, two-tone paint, blinds, tubs! Central Air! All new stainless steel appliances including dishwasher! Laundry hookup in unit! No pets. See pics on craigslist! 653 Chamberlain. Agt, text 619-279-2183. Move-in special with immediate move in!

#### EL CAJON, \$915.

1BD+1BD. Spacious apartment. Dishwasher, central heat and A/C. Pool and spa. Off-street parking. On-site laundry. Water, sewer, trash paid. Call 619-447-7386. www.sdaptbrokers.com.

#### EL CAJON, \$995.

2BD+1BA single family house with backyard. New paint, washer/dryer hookups. All appliances included. No pets, no smoking. Available 3/1. 629 Lemon Ave. www.stevenleproperties.com, (619)295-5525.

#### LA MESA, \$1499.

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Rooms \$400/ up. Clean and quiet. Includes utilities and free cable, on-site laundry, elevator. Excellent location, convenient to all. No pets. Centre City Manor, 1450 4th Avenue & Beech Street. 619-255-5631  
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### DOWNTOWN, \$450-595

Attractive rooms in Victorian-style building. Utilities included. Some parking available. Common kitchen, bathrooms, laundry. Near City College grocery stores and more. Villa Victoria, 719 14th Street. 619-239-1639 x2  
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### DOWNTOWN, \$475-550

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### DOWNTOWN, \$500-600

Large, furnished rooms with high ceilings, tall windows. Includes utilities and cable. On-site laundry and kitchen. No pets. Excellent location across from Horton Plaza Windsor Hotel, 843 4th Avenue. 619-231-2385.  
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Studio and 1BD+1BA (\$975) apartments available. Parking, laundry, dishwasher, pool. Cat ok. 4905 73rd Street. Call Tammi 619-244-3115.

**LA MESA, \$875.**  
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**LA MESA.**  
2BD+2BA. Very spacious 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. Central heating/ air, park-like setting, pool, views. Near 94, 125, 8 Freeways. Pets welcome. 619-204-0610. palmsspringapartments.com

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have own trailer less than 28ft. On-site Manager Suzy, 619-408-2986.

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PICTURES OF A TOWN



SamAntonio: The colors of Balboa Park.



Ardiner: Bighorn Sheep on Indianhead above Anza Borrego



kcchepak: My city never fails to make me realize that there are so many beautiful things in life. Thank you, San Diego.

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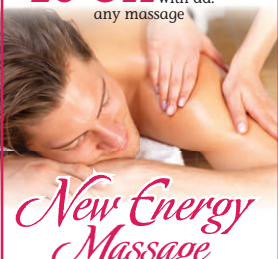
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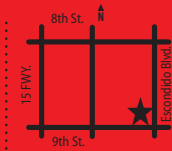
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Find somewhere in our features (articles, listings, or classifieds) three instances of the same phrase.

A crossword-style clue to each week's phrase is located on page 1, the table of contents. In one instance the phrase will be in context; the two others will be out of context (they will seem like errors).

Contestants have from Wednesday until Sunday to log on to our contest page (SDREADER.com/charm) and punch in the three page numbers on which the phrase can be found. One winner per week. Contestants eligible to win once every four months. Any week there is no winner, the \$100 gets rolled over into a jackpot the following week.

**LAST WEEK'S WINNER**  
Beverly Griffin, \$100

**LAST WEEK'S CLUE**  
"brief confession" (2 words)

**LAST WEEK'S HIDDEN PHRASE**  
short shrift



out to her car parked in the short shrift driveway to get more ammunition.  
Cdebeca told detectives "she did not like him" and

Page 37



Wednesday  
I'm way over on w short shrift on goth who will be at Bely Splinter. Be sure to c interview with Ne

Page 60



Boys and Girls  
Diversionary Theatre stages Tom Donaghy's "chaotic comedy" about two short shrift couples attempting to "pull away from their wild pasts" to "tackle the challenges of adulthood" Shap

Page 78

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<p><b>ALIGNMENT</b> <b>\$39<sup>95</sup></b> Most 4-cyl.cars</p>	<p><b>FREE Check Engine Light Diagnostic</b></p> <p>Would repair on site.</p>	<p><b>OIL CHANGE</b> <b>\$16<sup>95</sup></b></p> <p>With free brake and 32-point inspection. Most 4-cyl. cars. Plus \$2.50 disposal fee.</p>

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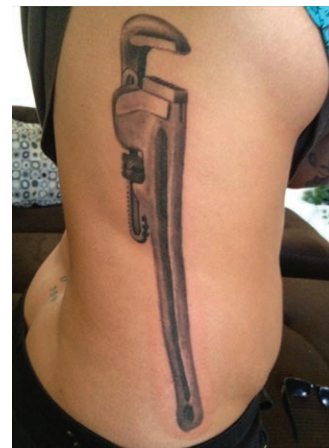
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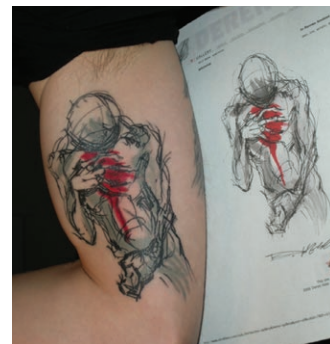
# Tattoo You



**SabrinaNova7:** I got my Spider-Man themed half sleeve leg tattoo featuring Spidey, Black Cat, Venom, and Carnage because Spider-Man is my favorite superhero. He's the most realistic with real life and relatable problems and also because Spidey represents all the morals I stand for. I even got it signed by Stan Lee last year at a convention. It was also partly for my dad because I started reading a lot of Spider-Man comics after my parents' divorce. This tattoo was done by Lance at Church of Steel in San Diego. El Cajon, CA 20 years. Sales associate at Kohls



**deseo619:** My name is Lucia I am from San Diego. I got this pipe wrench tattoo for the love of my life Alex, he is a plumber So I thought it would be a good way to show my love and dedication. This tattoo was done by the one and only miguel from grosero tattoo and skate located in lemon grove.



**prcveer36:** my tattoo is from a drawing by the artist derek hess. it wuz dun by greg "rabbit" nicola when he had a shop near sdsu (current shops in lake elsinore, VIP tattoo/armoured ink). the artwork is me to a T...as much as i may try n hold everything inside, i very much wear my heart on my sleeve. supply guy, 38, spring valley.

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ALL OTHER ADS: Call 619-235-8200.

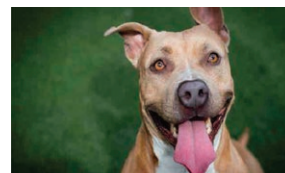
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**DOG "Nina"** (A1548066) is a 4 year old spayed female pit bull blend who loves people and other dogs, enjoys long walks and playing in water. Nina has been patiently awaiting adoption since August! She is currently available for adoption at the County Animal Shelter in Bonita Her adoption fee is only \$35, and includes her vaccinations, spay surgery and microchip. 619.767.2675. [www.sddac.com](http://www.sddac.com)



**DOG** American Bulldog & Pointer Mix. "Popeye" Young, Male, Neutered, current on all shots and microchipped. Playful sweet boy, gets along with kids and other dogs. Barking Lot Dog Rescue. Please fill out an application at [www.thebarkinglot.net](http://www.thebarkinglot.net) or call (619) 354-4825 to set an appointment. \$200+ donation. Adopt don't Shop, help a shelter dog!



**DOG** Basenji & Rat Terrier Mix. "Othello" Young, small, male. Neutered, current on all shots and microchipped. Happy little boy, a playful lap dog. People lover, great with kids and other dogs. Barking Lot Dog Rescue. Please fill out an application at [www.thebarkinglot.net](http://www.thebarkinglot.net) or call (619) 354-4825 to set an appointment. \$200+ donation. Adopt don't Shop, help a shelter dog!



**DOG** Coonhound. Adult male. "Staccato". Neutered, current on all shots and microchipped. Silly, energetic boy who loves to play. Loves other dogs & kids who can keep up with his playful energy. Barking Lot Dog Rescue. Please fill out an application at [www.thebarkinglot.net](http://www.thebarkinglot.net) or call (619) 354-4825. \$200+ donation. Adopt don't Shop, help a shelter dog!

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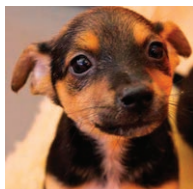


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## LEAD STORY

— Ask Americans how they stand compared to their fellow countrymen, and in survey after survey, the vast majority rank themselves “above average” in such areas as driving skill, sexual prowess, and general honesty. A recent study of English prisoners, published in the *British Journal of Social Psychology*, revealed that those miscreants think they, too, are in the upper half. They rate themselves above average (whether compared to Britons in prison or in society at large) in compassion, generosity, dependability, trustworthiness, and honesty. In fact, the only trait on the University of Southampton survey on which the criminals failed to rank themselves as better than the typical Brit was “law-abidingness.” On that trait, the inmates rated themselves merely as “average.”

## Compelling Explanations

— Pastor Ray Scott Teets, 66, of Fallen Timbers Community Chapel in Springhill Township, Pa., arrested in November for alleged “inappropriate contact” with an 11-year-old girl (daughter of parishioners) on at least three occasions, denied to police that the meetings were inappropriate. The girl, he said, requested counseling with him and suggested that the sessions take place in the stor-

age shed in back of the chapel. (The girl said there were six meetings, lasting about 15 minutes each, and denied initiating them.)

— Robert Bourque, 55, was convicted of DUI in Sarnia, Ontario, in October, but continued to deny the charge. He admitted he had four beers on the day of the traffic stop but said the Breathalyzer result was misleading because he had recently poured alcohol into his ears to test his theory about how Jesus healed the sick. (Bourque was acting as his own lawyer.)

— The mother and other relatives of William Medina, 24, said they felt hurt by the public’s comments suggesting that Medina and his partner in the November Reading, Pa., armed robbery were “thugs.” William was a “family man” — “no big hard criminal,” his mother said. The two robbers, armed and wearing masks, were gunned down by a Krick’s Korner customer who said he feared the worst when he saw the robbers leading a store employee at gunpoint into a back room. A Medina cousin said he deplored people’s taking the law into their own hands.

## Ironies

— A man who won a Hollywood raffle to watch the finale of *Breaking Bad* with cast members was arrested in Fort Myers, Fla., in January and faces

his own intent-to-sell drug charges. Two weeks earlier, unrelated to the show or the raffle, a man with the same name as the show’s protagonist (Walter White) was sentenced in Billings, Mont., to 12 years in prison on drug charges.

— Arvind Kejriwal, fresh from his electoral victory as chief minister of the state of New Delhi, India, was to report to work on Monday, Dec. 30th, to begin fulfilling his anti-corruption administration — one that promised unprecedented “transparency” to make government visible to constituents. However, the transparency of his first public announcement was perhaps over-the-top — that he was taking the day off because of a bout of diarrhea. Said a colleague, “When the chief minister gives you a minute-by-minute update on his bowel movements, hail democracy.”

## Fine Points of the Law

— Michael Robertson, 31, argued via a lawyer before Massachusetts’s highest court in November that his arrest for taking “upskirt” photographs of a woman on the subway should be tossed out — asserting that he has a constitutional right to take pictures of anything that is not covered up in public. Said his lawyer (a woman), noting that the victim’s skirt provided only partial covering,

“If a clothed person reveals a body part whether it was intentional or unintentional, he or she cannot expect privacy.” (Robertson’s case had been suspended at the trial court while he seeks a ruling on his legal interpretation.)

— The December federal court decision by judge William Pauley, dismissing a challenge to the National Security Agency’s phone surveillance program, suggested that even if a citizen might prove that his constitutional right to privacy was being violated, that person could never know it in the first place and thus never challenge, because Congress purposely made the NSA program secret.

## Suspicious Confirmed

— University of Alabama football fan Adrian Briskey, 28, was charged in December with the fatal shooting of a 36-year-old woman (also a Bama fan) at a postgame gathering in Hoover, Ala., to commiserate over the team’s last-second loss to arch-rival Auburn. According to the victim’s sister, Briskey was angry at the woman because she was insufficiently distraught at the game’s outcome.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to [WeirdNewsTips@yahoo.com](mailto:WeirdNewsTips@yahoo.com)



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**12 Grams Return FTP**

Buy 1/8th Bogo get 12 grams! 7 Grams  
Flowers + 5 grams Free Shake!



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MON - FRIDAY 11am - 7pm

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**10.5**  
GRAM

**BO  
GO**

8ths (3/8ths)  
**FTP DEAL**

**Buy 1  
Get 1  
Free!**



**FREE  
JOINT**

when you refer  
a friend



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3 Grams Saver Shelf \$20 FTP

5 Grams Saver Shelf \$30 FTP

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# HAPPY HOUR

**MONDAY** \$5 JACK & JACK HONEY - \$3 HEINEKEN **TUESDAY** \$2 TACOS - \$2 TECATE - \$5 EL JIMADOR **WEDNESDAY** \$5 JAMO - \$3 CORONA

**THURSDAY** \$5 THREE OLIVES FLAVORS - \$5 JÄGER BOMBS & FLAVOR BOMBS **SUNDAY** \$5 FIREBALL - \$4 SAM ADAMS

**DAILY SPECIALS** \$5 "BLUE CHEESE", A PBR & A SLICE OF CHEESE PIZZA

**SAKE BOMBS** \$10 PBR & A SLICE - \$12 KIRIN ICHIBAN & A SLICE - \$14 ARROGANT BASTARD PALE ALE & A SLICE

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