Seaport Village’s ‘Coastal Christmas’
highlights good cheer and charitable giving in San Diego

Loren Smith (aka Surfin’ Santa) posing with some ‘reindeer.’ (Photo courtesy Seaport Village)

There are three things 66-year-old Loren Smith is an expert at: plucking the bass, strumming his guitar, and playing the best vacationing Santa on the West Coast. Smith, a long-time San Diego resident, has been Seaport Village’s white-bearded, Hawaiian shirt-wearing, board shorts-sporting “Surfin’ Santa” for the last 14 years, attracting thousands of people at a time to Holidays at Seaport Village each December. “This is probably the hardest job that I do every year because of going up and down on a Christmas float,” said Smith.

Convention Center celebrates 30

The San Diego Convention Center is celebrating its pearl anniversary – 30 years as an iconic San Diego landmark.

Since opening its doors in 1989, nearly 6,000 national and international meetings, conventions, sports, and entertainment events have contributed approximately $26.4 billion in revenue to the regional economy, cementing the convention center as an important “economic engine” for America’s Finest City.

In 2018 alone, $1.1 billion was infused into San Diego’s local economy. Total tax revenues tallied $24.7 million, used to pay for local municipalities including fire and police protection, street, park and beach maintenance, and library and recreation services.

“The convention center has been a great investment for San Diego’s local economy,” said Clifford “Rip” Rippetoe, CVE, president and CEO of the San Diego Convention Center Corporation. “Each year, our events and their attendees generate over a billion dollars in regional economic impact. We also support the city of San Diego’s general fund with the hotel and sales tax revenue generated from visitors, with $24.7 million in the last fiscal year, alone.”

State agency pushes new focus on labor trafficking

Lawmakers, social workers, attorneys, victims and advocates came together at San Diego Central Library to discuss the issue of labor trafficking and gaps in response to this form of human trafficking. Victims and advocates who spoke before a panel of public policy experts had one message: California must do more to treat labor trafficking victims equally to human trafficking victims.

The public hearing was hosted by California’s independent government oversight agency The Little Hoover Commission on Nov. 21. Choosing San Diego as the location of the first statewide public hearing was intentional because of its proximity to the border. As commissioners and audience members learned, unlike sex trafficking (which often ensnares U.S. citizens), forced labor cases almost always contain an element of immigration.

California Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins opened the hearing to discuss the efforts she has made at the Legislature to address human trafficking. She acknowledged that the focus since human trafficking was made a felony in California in 2005 has been on sex trafficking, and now it is time for people to turn their attention to labor trafficking since much less is known about it. Atkins said more temporary housing and specialized services are needed, as well as data on the...
Block D reaches a LEED milestone

U.S. council gives first-in-region high marks to Makers Quarter’s green-friendly features

CITIZEN

A piece of a large-scale development taking root in Downtown San Diego recently garnered attention for its green-friendly features and, in the process, has notched bragging rights.

The U.S. Green Building Council, an organization promoting sustainable building design, construction and operations plans, has certified the Block D component of the Makers Quarter site in East Village with an LEED Platinum designation.

LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a metric used to gauge green features in buildings. There are multiple LEED certification levels, based on a point system.

Projects garnering 40–49 points, for example, are deemed LEED Certified, while those with 50–59 points attain LEED Silver status. On the upper end is LEED Gold, 60–79 points, and at the top level, LEED Platinum, which requires 80 points and up.

Developers have been touting Block D as the first multi-tenant commercial office building to emerge in Downtown San Diego in more than a decade.

But the LEED Platinum certification is another first for the area, said Mary Pampuch of Lankford & Associates. Pampuch and her firm are named co-developers of Makers Quarter, including the Block D portion of the site.

“We’re obviously very happy with the way it turned out,” Pampuch said. “I’m very pleased that we were able to achieve that level of status.”

As it turned out, Block D earned exactly 80 points in the U.S. Green Building Council’s review of the site — the minimum needed to reach the coveted, rarefied top-level certification. Although numbers continue to fluctuate, and climb upward, information from the council states there are about 7,000 buildings with the Platinum status.

Pampuch said Block D was done with the Platinum certification in mind. Pampuch said in an interview with Downtown News, though the confirmation still was gratifying.

“There were several design elements that we used, taking advantage of San Diego weather in the process,” Pampuch said.

Some of the most prominent examples of the green-friendly design, she said, are the installation of a natural ventilation system throughout Block D’s confines. Whenever possible, Pampuch said cutting-edge technology was integrated into the building design, Internet of Things, or IoT, infrastructure, for example, is used to power the blinds throughout the complex. Solar power, she said, is also used to its maximum.

“It’s resulted in a more efficient mechanical system,” Pampuch said.

A peek at the U.S. Green Building Council’s scorecard of Block D reveals where the building excelled. For example, the project had high marks in the energy and atmosphere category, receiving 35 of 37 possible points. The project also notched five of 10 possible points in the area of water efficiency.

From her vantage point, Pampuch said she believes other projects in the region, including Downtown, will follow in Block D’s footsteps.

“I expect that there will be several that will come after us,” she said, pointing to long-term savings and technology as reasons.

Block D, a 60,000-square-foot building, is largely comprised of office space, though other features are also included in the plans, including street-level retail and restaurant sites. Two new ground-level tenants on tap in the year ahead include Blackmarket Bakery and Tailored Hair.

Other developments within Makers Quarter include Block A, which has been described as a mixed-use lifestyle-focused center and Block C, a high-rise corporate development.

Developers such as Pampuch and Stacey Pennington, the urban planner helming Makers Quarter, have touted Makers Quarter as a place where San Diego’s entrepreneurs and creative people can come together, collaborate and innovate.

In a statement on the vision behind Makers Quarter, Pennington said she believes it will be transformative in the years and decades to come because of the thoughtful steps being taken to foster economic growth.

“It’s the future of San Diego,” Pennington said. “It’s the future of this mega region.”

— Dave Fidlin is a freelance journalist with a special affinity for San Diego and its people. Contact him at dave.fidlin@thinkpost.net.

LAWLAB

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

issue. She shared findings from a 2012 study by SDSU researcher Sheldon Zhang on labor trafficking in San Diego County that showed 30% of migrant laborers are victims of trafficking and 50% of migrant laborers face abusive practices.

A Los Angeles man, who wished to remain anonymous, explained his experience that you will never forget!

* Bring a toy to help support OPERATION HOMEBRONT.

Elisabeth English
San Diego Broker Specialist

619.788.2720
ElisabethSellsSanDiego.com
ElisabethEnglishRealEstate.com
31686

Top Real Estate Agent
Happy Holidays!

Contact us for your FREE
Buyer & Seller Space Rental Plans
(both furnished & unfinishe
over 15 years of real estate experience

You are invited to the inaugural Christmas City USA celebration at the Legacy International Center, where technology meets tradition.

Our Christmas celebration is an audio and visual choreographed experience that you will never forget!

* Bring a toy to help support OPERATION HOMEBRONT.

Legacy International Center

Website: legacysandiego.com
Call: (888) 534-2299
(888-LEGACY9)
Filmmaker and local Holocaust survivor team up to keep memories alive

LEORAH GAVIDOR

The Holocaust is fading from collective memory. Survivor Rose Schindler and local filmmaker Randall Christopher hope to keep that from happening. On a chilly November evening at Bread & Salt in Barrio Logan, the two shared stories in front of a packed audience.

Rose Schindler, 89, was born in Czechoslovakia. In 1944, the German army came to her small town and ordered the Jewish residents to prepare for a trip. Her family did not own any suitcases; they had never traveled. Her mother told her and her siblings to put on a few sets of underwear and as many clothes as they could. Her father hid the family jewelry and some money on the farm where they lived, though soldiers had directed them to turn in valuables “for safekeeping.” They boarded the trains.

She and her two sisters, one brother, and their parents ended up in Auschwitz. Rose was 14.

Randall Christopher, local animator and award-winning filmmaker, didn’t learn much about the Holocaust in school. Growing up in the Orlando area, he didn’t know anyone Jewish. One day, reading the New York Times, Christopher came across a story about Nazi Adolf Eichmann, the high-ranking Nazi in charge of logistics for the “Final Solution.” He escaped capture after the war and fled to Argentina, where Israelis hunted him down in 1960. He was executed in Israel in 1962. Christopher was enthralled by this part of history — how had he not heard of it before? He set out to learn all he could, and decided to make a film.

“The Driver is Red,” an animated short that has won 42 awards, tells the dramatic story of Eichmann’s capture in Argentina. Screened as an introduction to Rose Schindler’s talk, the film offers a brief but powerful glimpse into one aspect of Holocaust history. Christopher hopes it inspires people to learn more. He has made it available for free viewing online so teachers can show it in classrooms and anyone can watch it.

When the war ended and Rose Schindler made her way back to the rural part of Czechoslovakia that she had called home, she found the family house empty and unlivable. Her parents and brother had been killed at Auschwitz. She retrieved the hidden jewelry and found her father’s pocket watch. She showed the audience the watch chain she still wears around her neck.

“This is what keeps me going.”

Rose and her husband Max, who met in London through a post-war program for survivors, made their way to the United States in the early 1950s. Rose has made it her life’s purpose to educate people about what she and Max and others experienced in concentration camps, traveling around San Diego to meet with schoolchildren and audiences. With standing room only at Bread & Salt, the crowd listened intently while Rose talked candidly.

“After what happened to you, how can you trust human beings?” an audience member asked.

“You have to trust people, what else can I do?” she replied. Her book, “Two Who Survived,” tells the whole story.

— Leorah Gavidor can be reached at lgavidor@hotmail.com.
Christmas-hater Scrooge is in San Diego for a big show

JEAN LOWERISON | theroundup.com

Hey, who invited that grumpy old Ebenezer Scrooge to our fair city? What’s he doing making fun of our ball teams and telling those nice charity collectors, the Saint Sisters Gertrude and Prudence, “Tell the Padres you struck out!”

“Ebenezer Scrooge’s BIG San Diego Christmas Show” — an awfully long title for a snappy 80-minute show — is in its West Coast premiere through Dec. 29 at The Old Globe’s White Theatre.

The time frame of the beloved Dickens novella has been moved up a few decades, and Scrooge has moved here to make his fortune by serving the financial needs of the city’s Panama-California Exposition.

Playwrights Gordon Greenberg and Steve Rosen started this whole thing two years ago with an original version in Pennsylvania. Old Globe artistic chief Barry Edelstein saw it there and asked if they could tailor it to San Diego. The answer was yes, and co-playwright Greenberg directs the show here.

Five actors — four playing multiple roles and one playing the old grouch — take advantage of cleverly-designed suggestions of sets and props and a script full of local references to bring the old English story to sunny (well, not so much on the day I’m writing this) San Diego.

Tonight, the local carolers, The Sons of Pitches, have to perform out in the freezing cold because “there isn’t a theater in all of San Diego.”

The skeleton of the Dickens original — the characters and the message of redemption — remain. But this Scrooge has a modern security system (the kind that goes “bloop bloop”) when he settles down (in the “balmy” 44 degrees of his bedroom) to read his favorite book, Scrooge and Marley’s business ledger.

He’s a bit nonplused by the ghosts who visit, but it takes the misfortune of Bob Cratchit’s young son Tiny Tim to change his heart. And that’s what this show is all about.

Because of the performance requirements, it took months to find this remarkable cast. Among them, they play 50 roles — some in rapid succession — in addition to singing, dancing, playing musical instruments and being funny.

Broadway veteran Robert Joy plays Scrooge with plenty of grinch but here, even Scrooge gets some humor. When he is taken to visit his old school, the Burberry Academy for Unloved Boys, he says, “How I’ve missed it: the rain, the sunburns, the repression.”

Cathryn Wake and local actor Jacque Wilke play wonderfully off each other as the malaprop-prone Saint Sisters, as well as handling several other parts (including one ghost) each.

David Israel Reynoso designed the costumes — both time apropos and seemingly easy to get on and off in a hurry. Amanda Zieve and Bart Fasbender contribute fine lighting and sound designs.

The grouchy old guy is back. If you think you’ve seen enough of him, do yourself a favor and see just one more version of the timeless story. This one’s worth it.

— Jean Lowerison is a long-standing member of the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle and can be reached at infodame@gmail.com. —

THEATER

CHRISTMAS SHOW

Savings

UptO 85% OFF

FREE COUPON

This card is not insurance.

FDA-approved prescription medications not covered by insurance.

MEMBER: 437584 GROUP: HD
BIN: 610301 PCN: HD

Honest Discounts

Up to 85% Savings

Save up to 85% on your prescriptions

HonestDiscounts.com/sdnews

MEMBER SERVICE: 877-777-2330

Prescription Savings Card

FREE Rx Savings Coupon

Bring this card to your pharmacy.

PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES

• CVS
• Target
• Longs Drugs
• Walmart
• Kroger
• Fry’s
• Harris Teeter
• Walgreens
• Duane Reade

Up to 85% OFF

PCN: HD

MEMBER: 437584 GROUP: HD

This card is not insurance.
Addressing climate change will take a group effort and there’s a new tool to help us how.

CA 53 BULLETIN

By REP. SUSAN DAVIS

A new United Nations report released in November provided a serious warning regarding the climate crisis we face. Unless we act now, global temperatures will spike 4 degrees by the end of the century. This year has been the hottest on record and we are seeing the impact. Superstorms, raging wildfires, droughts seem to be the new normal.

The good news is that solutions are not elusive and by working together, there is a way to slow the rise in global temperatures.

While the House has taken action to address climate change, there is a new tool people are using around the country to better understand the challenges we face in creating viable solutions. This is an initiative, created by MIT and the nonprofit, nonpartisan Climate Interactive, is a program that brings people together and requires them to engage as a group to craft climate change policy.

The nations of the world came together under the Paris Agreement with a goal of reducing global temperatures by 2 degrees by the end of the century.

With this goal in mind, the En-ROADS program looks to show how cooperation and a comprehensive approach can achieve the same outcome.

Mostly, it has been students who have taken up this challenge, but the creators of the initiative believe state, local, and federal government leaders can participate and use policies they can implement to stem the rise in global temperatures. In fact, just last month members of Congress were briefed on this new program.

En-ROADS takes a group of people and divides them into small groups representing stakeholders, such as climate activists, developed nations, developing nations, energy efficiency, fossil fuels, and renewable energy.

They then set about coming up with policy solutions requiring each group representing different sectors to find an approach that leads to a two-degree drop in global temperatures by 2100.

The groups eventually (usually through encouragement) then have to negotiate with each other to come to an agreement.

The two big takeaways from these sessions? People are realizing how hard it is to reach the goal of reducing rising temperatures and there is no silver bullet to ending climate change. It’s going to take discussion, compromise, and a myriad of approaches to get the job done!

We cannot just look at reducing carbon emissions — it’s very important and a key component to reducing the effects of climate change.

We can’t just look at sustainable communities. It’s not just cars with better gas mileage but how about fewer cars! Encouraging more bicycling through increased bike lanes. Making public transportation more accessible, reliable, and more affordable.

There is reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and increasing access to renewable energy. Looking at population and deforestation. Carbon pricing needs to play a role as well as building and industry energy efficiency.

How we look at these aspects to address the climate crisis and doing it while working together is what En-ROADS is all about.

This climate interactive tool should not be seen as something just for the classroom or government representatives. It can be a resource for citizens to use to learn more about how we can address this existential threat of our lifetime. Maybe they can take what they learned to their local representatives with ideas and proposals on how we solve this problem.

Get together with your friends, relatives, and neighbors. The challenge: See if you can achieve what world leaders are striving for, which is to bring down our planet’s temperature.

We do love to look at sustainable communities. It’s not just cars with better gas mileage but how about fewer cars! Encouraging more bicycling through increased bike lanes. Making public transportation more accessible, reliable, and more affordable.

This tool shows it will take a team effort and people coming together to find common ground to solve this. Only together can we create a sustainable Earth for future generations.

Christmas

surfboard for 200 pictures,” said Smith, who has also played Santa face as a group. San Diego and the San Diego Zoo. “But making those kids smile is wonderful and the event itself is always remarkably successful and fun.”

“She’s the original San Diego Santa Clause,” added Scott Andrews, the event’s marketing director.

Holidays at Seaport Village takes place throughout the month of December, having kicked off last weekend with Santa’s arrival and the lighting of the watercraft Saturday, Nov. 30, for his signature Surfin’ Santa reveal, parade and photo-op session. In 2013, USA Today named Smith’s arrival one of the “10 best Santa sightings in America.”

“It’s always been a popular event,” said Smith, who will also be the guest of honor at “Breakfast with Surfin’ Santa” at Harbor House Restaurant Saturday, Dec. 14. From 9 to 10 a.m., guests can enjoy a waffle bar, with the guests and Santa to enjoy at Har.

We’re really excited to bring these creative characters together,” said Nomad Artz’s executive director, Layla Marcus. “This is a time for families to get together to celebrate the holidays and San Diego culture as we don’t get the snow, but we do get the sun and the waves and it gives us an excuse to be outside and enjoy the good weather.”

But Holidays at Seaport Village is also adopting a philanthropic approach this year, joining forces with Surfrider Foundation San Diego to display Surfrider artist works, like a Christmas tree made entirely out of repurposed trash, to promote sustainability and bring awareness to plastic pollution in the oceans.

Seaport Village is also inviting guests to donate new toys at “Santa’s Workshop” (located in front of the Harbor House), which will be gifted to Toys for Tots.

“This is a way we can impact our guests in an active and positive way,” said Smith.

The holidays are not just about entertainment, it’s also a season for giving.”

Feeding San Diego will also host an ornament-making station near Santa’s Workshop, where families and friends can create and decorate plastic spoons and write encouraging messages to be put in feeding San Diego food-filled backpacks that go out on Fridays to kids in need.

“It’s a really great opportunity for us to get the message out about the face of hunger in our community,” said Donna Layman from Feeding San Diego. “Especially during times like this, when we have the thread, we hope people fall into need very easily being displaced from their homes and having to make difficult choices.”

While it’s still one of his more taxing jobs, it’s these nonprofit connections and the greater-good focus which has made Surfing Santa Smith’s favorite Santa role.

“There’s a unique energy that comes with this particular event,” said Smith. “This event really means a lot to me and I’m proud of what they do. It’s a big reason why playing this Santa character has become so integral to me.”

Other Holidays at Seaport Village activities include holiday film screenings by Seaport Cinema, photos with Santa at his Workshop, San Diego Bay Parade of Lights (Dec. 8 and 15), and a Menorah lighting on Dec. 28.

For more information on tickets and times, visit seaportvillage.com/holidays.

“Victoria Davis is a full-time, multi-media, freelance journalist. You can follow her on Instagram and Twitter @victoriadavisd. To contact Victoria, email at vodavi83278538@gmail.com.”

By JULIE MAIN

Holidays at Seaport Village is also adopting a philanthropic approach this year, joining forces with Surfrider Foundation San Diego to display Surfrider artist works, like a Christmas tree made entirely out of repurposed trash, to promote sustainability and bring awareness to plastic pollution in the oceans.
Little Italy reflects on 2019, looks ahead to the next decade

By CHRISTOPHER GOMEZ

Little Italy News

Say goodbye to 2019 and ciao to 2020! As the new decade fast approaches, the Little Italy Association takes time to reflect on 2019’s greatest achievements and looks ahead at what is to come in the new year and beyond.

This year, the neighborhood expanded with an abundance of new businesses and a new residential space. With all the impressive changes, the emphasis of community has remained the same with the return of several staple community events and holiday festivities that everyone knows and loves.

Setting fire to the San Diego brunch scene, Little Italy welcomed an immersive breakfast dining experience with the opening of Morning Glory in April. Other new restaurants entering the area were Zinque, Carter Hotel and the globally popular burger joint, Shake Shack.

In addition, Carté Hotel opened its doors in September, offering an upscale hotel experience with luxurious amenities that is just steps away from all the excitement of Little Italy’s shops and restaurants. Locals and visitors alike are able to enjoy sea-to-table dining and a rooftop with exceptional views of the bay and city.

The gorgeous Luma Apartments, a 24-story high rise, also came to completion and began leasing, meeting San Diegans’ demand for new residential living in the center of the city. Within the community, residents and visitors celebrated a year of highly-anticipated annual events like Taste of Little Italy, Labor Day Stickball Tournament, State of the Neighborhood and Trick-or-Treat on India Street. San Diegans said “argh” one final time at the last pirate-themed event at Our Lady of Rosary Church, Washington Elementary School and our very own Little Italy Association. Mission San Diego de Alcalá will also observe a year of highly-anticipated annual events like the Anatomia Italiana program.

Looking forward to 2020, residents can expect new businesses like the expansion of the Little Italy Food Hall to enter the neighborhood. Developers Holland Partner Group and Bridge Housing Group plan to develop a new 30-story residential tower with 295 market rate residential units and an 8-story building with 63 apartments for seniors on Kettner Boulevard between Beech and Cedar Streets. Not to mention Little Italy’s tallest tower to break ground at India & W. Cedar Streets. While it’s time to say goodbye to the end of a decade, we welcome 2020 with open arms as we look onwards to new possibilities for one of San Diego’s ever-evolving top hotspots.

To stay connected with the neighborhood by following on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook Ok. For more information, visit LittleItalySD.com.

Spotlight on the academy: Kevin Petti, Ph.D.

Kevin Petti, Ph.D., is an alum of the University of San Diego, earning his doctorate in 2006. Dr. Petti is also a dual U.S./Italian citizen, college professor, textbook coauthor, and president-emeritus of the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society. Dr. Petti teaches anatomy and physiology, human dissection, and health science at San Diego Miramar College. Dr. Petti also leads academic programs to Italy focusing on the genetics of anatomy as a science and its influence on the Renaissance masters in the Anatomia Italiana program he founded in 2012. His students range from anatomy professors pursuing continuing education to undergraduate study-abroad programs for San Diego State University.

Dr. Petti is invited to speak about the connection between art and anatomy in Renaissance Italy at international conferences, museums, and Italian American groups as well as universities throughout North America and Europe. The Italian government has invited him to speak at their Cultural Institutes in Los Angeles, New York City, and Houston; and the University of Palermo, Sicily, hosted Dr. Petti for a week as a guest lecturer in its seminar series celebrating its 210th anniversary. In November, Dr. Petti is speaking at the annual conference of Italian Scientists and Scholars of North America, hosted at the Italian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Recently, Dr. Petti gave a lecture at the University of San Diego as part of a Convivio-University and University of San Diego-sponsored program highlighting a new art exhibition at the university — “Christ’s Life, Death, and Resurrection,” which runs through Dec. 13. Dr. Petti’s presentation, “Connecting Art, Anatomy, and Religion in the Italian Renaissance,” served as the perfect precursor for guests before attending their private viewing of the Renaissance print artifacts on loan from the British Museum. In his discussion, Dr. Petti focused on the nexus of art, anatomy, and religion and the oft-unknown connection of the Renaissance masters’ art form to the discipline of anatomy and how these masters’ analysis and knowledge of anatomy were vital components in the creation of many of their artistic treasures.

To read the rest of this article, visit sandiegodowntownnews.com.>
The Blind Burro in Downtown’s East Village fetched a couple of awards at last month’s Chef of the Fest Competition, which is part of the annual San Diego Bay Wine + Food Festival. Famous for its Baja-inspired fare and inventive margaritas, the establishment ranked second place for duck carnitas served with jalapeno-cranberry salsa. The dish, which also netted top honors in the poultry category, will appear on Blind Burro’s New Year’s Eve menu and then on the regular menu soon after.


Touted as a “contemporary steakhouse and whiskey society,” Huntress is due to open by the end of January in the Gaslamp Quarter. The upscale project is headed by the RMD Group (Sidebar, Rustic Root, and Volcano Rabbit, to name a few). It will also incorporate Lumi by Akira Back, a rooftop venue serving modern Japanese cuisine and crafty libations.

Huntress’ kitchen will be helmed by executive chef James Montejano; and Lumi’s culinary offerings come under the direction of executive chef James Jung. 376 Fifth Ave., huntresssteak.com.

The casual counterpart to Animae, located on the ground floor of the Pacific Gate by Bosa luxury condo building, is now open. Named NIMA Cafe, the west-Downtown establishment offers playful spins on tea and coffee drinks, plus breakfast and lunch — for dine-in or takeout. Look for items such as pineapple ice tea, tomato-egg sandwiches, pour-over ramen, and more.


— Frank Sabatini Jr. can be reached at fsabatini@san.rr.com.

The expanded space inside Little Italy Food Hall is making way for Graze by Sam, an eatery, bar and bottle shop conceived by TV personality Sam Zien (“Sam the Cooking Guy”) and the local hospitality group, Grain & Grit Collective. Zien also runs Not Not Tacos at the food hall.

“We want to serve items that I would serve you in my own home,” Zien stated in a written announcement, referring in part to casual fare such as salads and sandwiches. The spot will also offer organic and biodynamic wines, craft beers, cocktails and high-end spirits. Scheduled to open early next year, it will be located directly across from the food hall entrance in the Piazza della Famiglia. 535 W. Date St., grazebysam.com.

A bright, casual cafe adjoining Downtown’s plush Animae restaurant has opened. (Katalyst PR)

The casual counterpart to Animae, located on the ground floor of the Pacific Gate by Bosa luxury condo building, is now open. Named NIMA Cafe, the west-Downtown establishment offers playful spins on tea and coffee drinks, plus breakfast and lunch — for dine-in or takeout. Look for items such as pineapple ice tea, tomato-egg sandwiches, pour-over ramen, and more. 969 Pacific Highway, 619-432-1225, animaeucd.com.

— Frank Sabatini Jr. can be reached at fsabatini@san.rr.com.
Restaurant Review

Seafood cornucopia
A dual-dining concept on the bay turns 30

By FRANK SABATINI JR.

Like fraternal twins, The Fish Market is two entities. Born together — on Dec. 13, 1989 to be exact — each carry decidedly different traits.

The ground level greets with sushi and oyster bars as well as full-service dining areas accented by oak-clad walls, brass railings, and fiberglass fish hanging above.

The upper floor is the sibling that likes things a little posher and trendier. It goes by the name Top of the Market, and flaunts its steak-like glory, and straight ahead are booths and Art Deco-ish lighting fixtures.

What they both share in common, however, are ringside views of San Diego Bay.

There are six locations of The Fish Market — locally another in Del Mar, plus four in Northern California. The original kitchen was founded in 1976 in Palo Alto by business partners Bob Wilson and the late Fred Duckett, who would harpoon swordfish for the restaurants. Eventually the duo launched Farallon Fisheries up the coast, which supplies the company with a variety of fresh seafood and smoked fish.

Yet some species such as opah and Pacific swordfish are sourced only a stone’s throw away from local fishermen at Tuna Harbor.

During my recent first-ever visit to the lower level with a friend, the latter ended up on my plate in all its steak-like glory, and straight off the mesquite grill. Dense, rich and juicy, a quick squeeze of lemon was all it needed. Although as with all of the fresh-catch choices, you can opt to have it grilled with blackened or Cajun seasonings.

Meals kick off with baskets of good sourdough bread, an amenity that demanded a warm spinach salad composed simply of kale, cranberries, and balsamic reduction. We skipped over the oyster and sushi selection and proceeded to the lower level with a friend, the latter ended up on my plate in all its steak-like glory.

A destination seafood restaurant shrouded in greenery and flowers. *(Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)*

Ginger escaped the prawns, but the lime didn’t. We weren’t disappointed since the magic of the mesquite grill gave the crustaceans all the flavor they needed while seeping into the mound of sprightly cole slaw beneath.

My grilled swordfish entree came with a choice of two sides. I stuck to the old-school options — au gratin potatoes, which unlike most were deliciously crusty rather than goopy, and “fishwife rice” consisting of rice and vermicelli pasta seasoned with browned butter. Indeed, I was dining like it was 1989. And I didn’t mind one bit.

My companion gravitated to a pair of fish tacos after learning the opah filets tucked inside are breaded in panko crumbs. Their crispy outcome came with the bonus of kicky chipotle-ranch dressing, which proved a tastier alternative to traditional white sauce.

We were in good hands with a waiter named Dave, who has worked at The Fish Market for 26 years. Off duty, he’s an ocean fisherman, so naturally all of our questions about the menu’s vast seafood options were answered with authority.

It would take multiple visits to assess the menu’s winners and losers. But right down to the exquisitely spiced pumpkin cheesecake and perfectly tart key lime pie, we gave this ground-floor operation an A rating. It matched in quality the experiences I’ve enjoyed upstairs over the years.

To my surprise, I learned some days later from The Fish Market’s president, Dwight Colton, that both levels are slated for remodeling in the next few years. Design details, he added, are still in the works.

— Frank Sabatini Jr. is the author of ‘Secret San Diego’ (ECW Press) and began his local writing career more than two decades ago as a staffer for the former San Diego Tribune. You can reach him at fsabatini@san相干.com.

The Fish Market
750 N. Harbor Drive
619-232-3474, thefishmarket.com

Prices: Soups, salads and appetizers, $7 to $23.25; sushi and seafood cocktails, $8.25 to $17; tacos and sandwiches, $13.50 to $19.95; pastas, $15 and $20.25; entrees and specialties, $12.25 to $51

Entrees, $20.25; entrees and specialties, $13.50 to $19.95; pastas, $15 and $20.25; tacos and sandwiches, $13.50 to $19.95; pastas, $15 and $20.25; entrees and specialties, $12.25 to $51

Free $13 Socks with every item

Free $70 shoes with every skateboard

25% Off

Bring this in to get a 25% Discount off any one item including T-shirt, Hoodie, Jacket, Shoe or Skateboard.

Exp. 11/30/2109

www.cali-strong.com    @calistrongusa

CALI Strong
The California Sports Company
789 West Harbor Drive (next to Puesto)
San Diego, California 92101
Park in Seaport Village and we validate

LOCAL San Diego BRAND

DINING

San Diego Downtown News
December 2019
Cali Strong — San Diego’s Sports Brand with a Mission!

Cali Strong — The California Sports Company is a local San Diego brand that offers some of the most innovative products in the sports industry. It is also one of the coolest and most entertaining shopping experiences you will encounter as a consumer. I was struck by the warm welcoming as soon as I entered, along with a tour of their unique products and ending with a chance to compete at cornhole, basketball or football game to win prizes. Not surprising, they have a rave 4.9 star Google rating with not even one negative comment! While I was there, custom-made socks were being created and these are something you have ever had in a retail setting and Cali Strong is their new favorite store!

Because Cali Strong is a direct-to-consumer brand, they can offer a tremendous value of free $15 socks with every item purchased as well as free $75 shoes with every skateboard. What is also prevalent is the superior quality of their t-shirts, hats, jackets, backpacks, shoes, skateboards and one-of-a-kind bikes. “We only carry exclusive, high-quality merchandise so it becomes your favorite,” explained Co-Founder, Jim Stroesser, best known for his turnaround of Arcteryx. Notable is a collaboration with the likes of Nike, Converse & Oakley.

Another example of what makes Cali Strong so unique is their tactical hats with a selection of 16 removable Velcro Morale Patches for a different look, based on the occasion. Also notable is Cali Strong’s Glow-in-the-Dark Sock and Cali Strong is activated by light and glows bright blue at night. They even offer a unique complete head-to-toe series where the hat, shirt, sock and skateboard share the same designs including some with hidden brand messages.

But, what makes Cali Strong stand out most is their mission to support give-back programs to kids organizations that stand for positive values and their support of military families. Many celebrity athletes and entertainers love to wear the gear, such as local icon Bill Walton, a Cali Strong ambassador. There are dozens of sports celebrities and sports stars who have collaborated with Cali Strong to produce products for each celebrity’s cause or charity including Jamie Foxx, Andre Reed, Terrell Davis, Ribeiro Jiu Jitzu and many more.

Cali Strong also has a fund-raiser affiliate program wherein it gets you up to 50% support. Cali Strong community organization involved in today’s youth that instills core values, good citizenship and character development be it through education, sports, music or faith with 20% of top-line sales donated back to the parent organization. For more information, please contact Co-founder Jennifer Echeverria at jaj@cali-strong.com.

Cali Strong supports our local military year-round with multiple store locations on the military bases and the annual “Sock it to Me” program for soldiers and veterans. In addition, Cali Strong supports the Wounded Warrior project and a special Military training program coached by veterans and active duty which implements military training skills to high-school athletes.

So, shop local and help Cali Strong in their Mission to raise and inspire the next generation of leaders. Visit Cali Strong store at the Headquarters in the Seaport Village District for unique gifts that your loved ones will enjoy!

— Mike Rosensteel is the sales manager for Downtown News.
December Nights, membership and poinsettia display!

By John Bathouse

Friends of Balboa Park, a nonprofit that champions the legacy and beauty of the park, is stewarding a number of wonderful opportunities for the community to enhance Balboa Park during this holiday season.

DECEMBER NIGHTS
During December Nights, Friends will be hosting a pop-up shop at the Balboa Park Carousel on Dec. 6 and 7. We will be selling animal-themed tree ornaments, stocking stuffers, and the limited-edition Balboa Park Carousel 2020 calendars! Proceeds support fundraising efforts to restore and preserve the historic Balboa Park Carousel.

BE A FRIEND
Friends is rounding out our 20th anniversary this year, and with the community’s help, we have accomplished several milestones to preserve and enhance Balboa Park. Among many initiatives, we launched a membership program to facilitate even more people joining our efforts to make a meaningful difference in Balboa Park. Join online at friendsofbalboapark.org/membership.

Poinsettias in the Botanical Building
Friends of Balboa Park’s seasonal floral will be filling the Botanical Building with traditional and hybrid poinsettias throughout December. You can help make this display a festive sight-to-see by making your tax-deductible donation today.

Balboa Park Carousel
In 2017, Friends acquired the historic Balboa Park Carousel, and launched a multi-year $3 million fundraising capital campaign to restore and complete the purchase of the carousel from its prior owner. The campaign recently surpassed the $1.9 million mark, thanks to the community’s generosity. We still have a ways to go to reach our next milestone and need your support. Please consider a donation today and help preserve one of the park’s most beloved icons!

For more information on Friends of the Balboa Park Carousel, call 619-232-2282 or visit friendsofbalboapark.org.

— Friends of Balboa Park is a nonprofit affinity organization that champions and enhances the park by connecting the philanthropic community to Balboa Park.

For more information on Friends of Balboa Park, call 619-232-2282 or visit friendsofbalboapark.org.
Sunday, Dec. 8
The Neave Trio is presented to celebrate an evening of beloved holiday traditions and the world premiere of a new work. The Neave Trio, known for their energetic and technically demanding performances, will be joined by a variety of guest artists for a program that includes works by Beethoven, Schubert, and a world premiere by a local composer. The concert will be held at 8 p.m. at the Leland Stanford Jr. Memorial Church, 1900 Bayshore Dr., San Francisco. Tickets are $50-$150. For more information, visit neavetroi.com.
described as “the deliberate and willful exploitation of our labor by being assigned to work shifts of cruel and unnatural length.” Immigrants in the so-called “underground economy” are already in a precarious position: if injured, they would have to fend for themselves because they are not listed on the business’s workers compensation insurance.

“The workplace abuse faced by new immigrants leads us to feel that the employees were not even treated as human beings, but as slaves whose rights were ignored in lieu of the employer’s pursuit of economic success,” said the man.

After Atkins’ opening address, two survivors shared their stories publicly.

“My name is Angela and I’m a survivor of labor trafficking,” said Angela Guanzon. She explained how when she immigrated with labor protection laws so that the employees were not even treated as human beings, but as slaves whose rights were ignored in lieu of the employer’s pursuit of economic success, said the man.

Home technology that helps you adjust to time and weather changes

With the time and weather changes upon us, we’re now arriving home to a darker, colder house. Yes, even in Southern California.

But with the vast array of smart home technology available today, and a strong internet connection that can power dozens of devices simultaneously, you and your family can better adjust to standard time and the winter months.

Smart thermostats. Forgot to turn off the heating before you left for work? Or maybe you want the house to be nice and toasty when you get home. Cox Homelife’s programmable thermostats allow you to remotely adjust the heat and air to have the perfect temperature when you get home or wake up.

Home cameras. Daylight saving means the kids may be home by themselves when it’s dark. Cox Homelife’s home monitoring services offer remote live video viewing, professional monitoring, video recording, and customizable notifications, allowing you to monitor things when you’re not home. And with Cox Homelife, you’ll feel safe knowing only you have access to the video footage. Learn more at cox.com/homelife.

Smart locks. Roughly 30% of burglars enter a home through an unlocked door. A smart lock allows you to control home door locks from your smartphone. Cox Homelife’s smart lock features include voice commands,

“Demand for cheap goods competes with corporations [that] want more profit,” she said. “We better the humanity of those we don’t think about... We can and must do more.”

The advocate also raised the idea that labor trafficking is not focused on because it is not sensationalized by the media. “Next time you hear the horrors of sex trafficking, please remember the children exploited for labor,” she added.

Renuka Zellars spoke next about her time as a 6-year-old servant in India. While there, she was cared for by one of her attackers and allowed to leave the house. That all changed when the adult daughter of the family she worked for brought her to Texas to care for her children and do all the housework in the giant mansion they lived in. Zellars said she had her first panic attack at 11 when she asked to go to school and was rebuffed. She decided she wanted to return to India and searched for her passport, which had been taken from her Zellars found it and ran to the mansion’s gate, where a woman who was passing by on a walk helped her leave the property. That woman, who was passed by Zellars under a blanket late— Zellars said this was the first human touch she experienced since leaving India.

The rest of Zellars’ story before she ended up being adopted by a woman in San Diego reveals the problem of not having laws and policies around labor trafficking.

That woman had been in an abolished slavery and involuntary servitude in 1864, but Texas in 1989 had yet to institute any consequences for people who enslaved others. The woman who trafficked Zellars was able to simply walk out of the police station to continue her career in law without issue because there was nothing to arrest her on. Meanwhile, Zellars was sent to juvenile jail because no one quite knew what to do with her. Zellars is not alone in being a victim who was treated like a criminal. One of the accomplishments Atkins touched on was legislation treating all minors involved in the sex industry as victims of trafficking and providing them for prostitution. For labor victims who were forced to work in illegal industries like human smuggling or drug dealing, they are still going to be jailed for their own abuse.

They may also be less likely to attempt to escape or report crimes committed against them for fear of persecution. “If the criminal justice system looked at them as victims instead of criminals, more would be identified,” she noted. In late 2018, Cox, the president and managing attorney of Free to Thrive. She brought up homelessness, addiction and drug trafficking as contributing factors for individuals who are forced into illegal labor but do not profit from that labor. She also discussed how people who are trafficked are at higher risk of being sexually assaulted; some face the same issues as people who are sex trafficked.

She was against lamping all victims together, but she did point out a few commonalities many share, including their immigrant status and how many face psychological coercion and manipulation.

In addition, she submitted that labor trafficking victims are more isolated from society than sex trafficking victims and are less likely to know they are victims.

“There is no one story of exploitation,” Beck said.

Currently, there is little outreach to victims from nonprofit, additional, law enforcement depends on victims to identify themselves.

There is no proactive identifications of victims, said Colleen Owens, the former senior research associate at the Urban Institute. She shared the results of one study she conducted which found 100% of victims she looked at were immigrants, and came from 29 origin countries. She found the top countries sending labor trafficking victims were located across Asia and in Mexico and the top industries targeted were domestic work, agriculture, construction, restaurant and janitorial work. Owens said in most crimes, you can point at criminals, “but in labor trafficking you have to point back at yourself.”

The only outreach to potential victims occurs in jails and prisons. Beck urged the commission to look at outreach to vulnerable populations. San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephan echoed this later when she broached the idea of leveraging the State Department to educate immigrants using certain trips to find victims and are less likely to know what to do with them. Meanwhile, Zellars was sent to juvenile jail because no one quite knew what to do with her.

When the criminal justice aspect of human rights violation seemed the focus of the Nov. 21 hearing, some of the advocates who spoke urged public policy to change. Supervisor Jamie Beck said that the vast array of smart home technology available today, and a strong internet connection that can power dozens of devices simultaneously, you and your family can better adjust to standard time and the winter months.

Businesses and unions are disadvantaged by labor trafficking,” Beier said.

Education and the public foster parents was also proposed, along with incentivizing prosecutors to bring labor trafficking charges.

“The Little Hoover Commission will have another report next year based on the findings of the public hearing and further studies on labor trafficking. Beier pointed out the recommendations put forward by the State Legislature, it will be next to coordination.

“They are victims who are thought to be criminals. That’s why we’re here. We’re here to say that we’ve got a point to where humans are treated like chattel, like property.”

— Kendra Sitton can be reached at kendra@sdnews.com.
An aerial view of the convention center (Courtesy photos)

Notables include the 1996 Republican National Convention, which hosted 30,000 attendees and generated $160 million in economic impact; the Microsoft Professional Developer’s Conference and Exchange Conference; several Super Bowl media centers: “Wheel of Fortune”; Major League Baseball’s FanFest, which hosted more than 100,000 people; numerous medical conventions and trade shows; along with its most popular event, Comic-Con International, which consistently draws the year’s largest crowds.

The original 1.7 million-square-foot space of waterfront property has gone through multiple expansions and infrastructure improvements. In 2001, an expansion doubled the space to 2.6 million total gross square feet. As the convention center grew, so did its list of high honors. In 1999, the popular destination was named one of the top three convention centers in the world by Meetings and Incentive Travel Magazine.

“We are consistently rated as one of the top five convention centers in North America,” continued Rippetoe. “We are the region’s premier gathering place from a design and service perspective. San Diego — the total package in the heart of Downtown, with close proximity to an international airport and hotels within walking distance. Plus, San Diego is full of attractions, beaches and sunshine.”

Rippetoe also tipped his hat to the convention center’s dedicated employees. “Our employees are our greatest asset,” said Rippetoe. “Our dedicated staff embraces and lives out our core values: integrity, service, collaboration, courage, and accountability.”

Additional awards include one of San Diego’s “Great Places To Work” by the San Diego Society for Human Resource Management; a National Inner Circle Award from Association Meetings for excellence in service, flexible meeting space, and high quality food and beverage; Leadership In Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council; and a Tech Hero award from the Technology Foundation of America.

The facility also received a Level Three Sustainability Certification to the APEX/ASTM — Environmentally Sustainable Event Standards. Level Three is noted to be a significant industry achievement as it’s specifically tailored for the meeting and events industry. Performance criteria includes staff management policy, communications, waste management, energy, air quality, water, procurement, and community partners.

The San Diego Convention Center Corporation is extremely proud of their sustainability efforts, which includes industrial sorters for recycling plastics, aluminum, metal and other materials; the conservation of water with low-flow, automated sinks and toilets in its restrooms; and the replacement of more than 11,650 of the original light fixtures to energy-efficient LED bulbs.

In 2019, its kitchens, void of garbage disposals, composted 178 tons of non-edible food. In addition, unserved event food is donated to the San Diego Rescue Mission. Nearly 80 tons of “untouched food” was donated to the mission — enough to plate 127,000 meals. The San Diego Rescue Mission shares that food with more than 90 local nonprofit organizations.

The convention center has also been named “Recycler of the Year” seven times by the City of San Diego. In 2017, the Port’s Green Business Network titled the center with an Overall Sustainable Achievement for Large Businesses and featured it as an environmental champion in their “Greenwork Makes the Dream Work” campaign.

Additional kudos include a 2018 Gold Award for the Best Convention Center in the Western United States by the 2018 Prevue Visionary Awards and recognition by Global DMC Partners as the No. 1 destination for meetings and conferences for 2020 in this year’s Global Destination Index.

San Diegans will be able to choose whether to invest in maintenance and expand the convention center through a hotel tax, which will be on the ballot in March.

— Lucia Viti can be reached at lucavi@roadrunner.com

**RAIN, WIND, AND FIRE...**

“The three menaces to any chimney, fireplace, or stove.”

Every year there are over twenty thousand chimney / fireplace related house fires in the US alone. Losses to homes as a result of chimney fires, leaks, and wind damage exceeds one hundred million dollars annually in the US.

CHIMNEY SWEEPS, INC., one of San Diego’s leading chimney repair and maintenance companies, is here to protect you and your home from losses due to structural damage and chimney fires.

Family owned and operated and having been in business for over 30 years, Chimney Sweeps Inc. is a fully licensed and insured chimney contracting company (License # 976438) and they are certified with the National Fireplace Institute and have an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.

For a limited time, readers of this paper will receive a special discount on our full chimney cleaning and safety inspection package with special attention to chimney water intrusion points in preparation for the rainy season.
Neuman & Neuman Real Estate successfully represented more buyers and sellers in 92101 than any other agent, team, or brokerage during the past 12 months with 91 closed transactions.

Before you put your home on the market, call for a FREE marketing package.

619.595.7025

SellSanDiego.com