Hundreds jam-pack Cuvier Club to fight for La Jolla legacy

By MARIKO LAMB | VILLAGE NEWS

In a powerful show of community unity, more than 400 La Jollans filed into the Cuvier Club on April 26 to urge U.S. Postal Service representatives not to go through with the proposed sale and relocation of their beloved Wall Street post office.

Residents packed the room to capacity, holding nothing back in expressing just how much their post office means to them.

Arguments against the proposed relocation ranged from protecting the historicity of the building and Belle Baracenua mural to emphasizing the significance of the Wall Street post office as a vital economic engine, a meeting place and cultural landmark.

The defenses were varied, but one thing was certain: No one wanted to see it go.

“I can’t think of another time that I’ve seen such excitement and such a sense of unity about anything in La Jolla,” said Tom Gruznow, president of the La Jolla Historical Society board.

Merchants, residents, civic leaders and community organizations have joined hands in the fight to save La Jolla’s Wall Street post office since word spread of its proposed relocation in January.

“It’s truly the glue that holds our community together,” said District 1 City Councilwoman Sherri Lightner.

“We need to do everything we can so we don’t lose this historic community treasure.”

Relocating the post office would not only cut off the village’s economic livelihood, but also its link to communities surrounding the village, like Bird Rock, said Joe Parker, president of the Bird Rock Community Council.

“Bird Rock does not have its own U.S. post office, and we come to greater La Jolla to do our business there,” he said. “The La Jolla post office is an important community touchstone for Bird Rock. It is our connection to greater La Jolla.”

Phil Collier, president of the La Jolla Village Merchants Association, argued that USPS’s proposal simply does not make sense as a rational economic solution to the postal service’s dire financial problems.

“If they put a 14,000-square-foot building that they need to downsize to 6,000 square feet — and most of that is the counter space — why would you go about trying to move it with all the costs? Just keep your 6,000 square feet and sell off the other 8,000 square feet,” he said.

“Would you also go out and try to relocate to another space that’s prob-

What’s next?

The USPS will accept public comment until May 26. Comments for the record are only accepted via letters to the following address:

Diana Alvarado
USPS Pacific Facilities Service Office
1300 Evans Ave., Ste. 200
San Francisco, CA 94188-8200

After the public comment period, the USPS will reach a recommended decision regarding the post office’s proposed relocation. Following the announcement of its decision, the public will have 15 days to appeal the recommendation.

— Mariko Lamb

A plein-air art experience returns to the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve this weekend as wildflowers and artists alike come out to breathe in the fresh ocean air. It’s the third annual Art in the Pines, returning for the two-day event featuring artists capturing nature’s beauty in the midst of it.

Guests can observe artists at work, peruse and buy original artwork; guided nature walks; tours of the historic Torrey Pines Lodge; and expert demonstrations in several different artistic media.

A free shuttle will run from the reserve’s North Beach and South Beach parking lots. The event is free, but the parking lots are $10 per car or free with a valid annual pass. Guests are strongly encouraged to consider walking to the event (15-minute walk uphill from the south parking lot).

Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve is located at 12600 North Torrey Pines Road.

For more information, call (858) 755-2063, email AITP@torrey-pines.org or visit artinthepines.org.
**UNIVERSITY CITY**

- **$895,000**
  - Spacious remodeled 2BR/2.5BA La Jolla Shores condo only one block to the sand in the La Playa complex next to the LJ Beach and Tennis Club. Upgrades include granite counters, wood floors, and fireplace with marble surround.

**LA JOLLA**

- **$784,000**
  - Architectural quality, remodeled 3BR/2BA & office home has an expansive open floor plan with a beautiful covered patio, featuring great indoor-outdoor living spaces.

- **$799,000 - Limited Time Offer!**
  - Sophisticated turnkey flat with an ideal Village location within walking distance of everything! This beautiful homes features granite counters, wood floors, an open and spacious floor plan, huge master suite and chef’s kitchen. 2BR/2BA, Text M10116 to 85377 www.1236Cave2B.com

- **$774,000**
  - Enjoy location, quality, and perfection! One-level remodeled home on the 17th fairway of La Jolla Country Club. You will recognize impeccable detail both inside the home and out. 4+BR/4.5BA Main House + 1BR/1BA Guest House

**LA JOLLA**

- **$3,155,000**
  - Pristine Lower Hermosa home impeccably maintained, this bright one level ranch has 3BR/3.5BA, lovely private yard with spa and salt water pool, beamed ceilings, hardwood floors throughout. www.6357ViaMaria.com or TEXT H29781 to 85377.

- **$2,550,000**
  - Incredible Spanish-style home offers unsurpassed quality, ocean views, golf course frontage and convenient Village access. 4BD/5.5BA, ocean view study, and an exercise/computer rec room. Text M10114 to 85377. www.7569PepitaWay.com

**LA JOLLA**

- **$4,295,000**
  - Provence-inspired Lower Hermosa home in walking distance of the beach! Generously updated, this home boasts breathtaking ocean views, indoor outdoor living via a central courtyard with pool and entertaining areas, and a gourmet kitchen. 6BD/5.5BA Text H31536 to 85377. www.6447CaminoDeLaCosta.com

- **$5,992,000**
  - In the Village of La Jolla just steps to the beach, Cove, restaurants and shops. Completely upgraded with walnut flooring, chefs kitchen, onyx fireplace and counters, and more. 400SF panoramic ocean view roof deck.

- **$5,485,000**
  - Single-level home in La Jolla Shores with ocean views, beautiful upgrades and within walking distance to shops, restaurants and the beach! 4BD/3.5BA with den/study Text M10123 to 85377. www.2485CalleDelOro.com

- **$5,195,000**
  - Provence-inspired Lower Hermosa home in walking distance of the beach! Generously updated, this home boasts breathtaking ocean views, indoor outdoor living via a central courtyard with pool and entertaining areas, and a gourmet kitchen. 6BD/5.5BA Text H31536 to 85377. www.6447CaminoDeLaCosta.com

**LA JOLLA**

- **$4,490,000**
  - The Yianolos Estate consists of four legal parcels totaling over 36,000 square feet. North shore views are available from three parcels. The largest parcel contains a Cliff May 1936 home with 5 bedrooms and four baths.

- **$4,395,000**
  - This 5BR/3.5BA home is situated on almost a ½ acre of beautifully manicured grounds. Private family home with separate guest house, walking distance to the beach, great indoor + outdoor entertaining. www.2670HiddenValley.com or TEXT H31973 to 85377.

- **$4,295,000**
  - The Yianolos Estate consists of four legal parcels totaling over 36,000 square feet. North shore views are available from three parcels. The largest parcel contains a Cliff May 1936 home with 5 bedrooms and four baths.
Muirlands ready to rock to save teachers

By MARIKO LAMB | VILLAGE NEWS

Muirlands Middle School’s grounds will again transform into a festive rock ‘n’ roll atmosphere filled with delicious grub, carnivals, games and live musical entertainment for the school’s annual Muirlands Rocks fundraiser on May 6 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Muirlands’ alumni band, Neverready, performs at the school.

Whether it is the face painting and carnival booths or the feeling of supporting a good cause, children and adults alike will find something to enjoy at the festival.

“Last year, Muirlands Rocks was incredible. We had over 700 La Jollans join us to play in our booths, eat a yummy barbecue and listen to our local teen band, NeverReady, who all used to attend Muirlands Middle School,” said Natasha Vossen, vice president of the Muirlands Middle School Foundation.

“This year, it is even more important to attend because not only will we have a great time again, but this year, we are hoping to turn it into a serious fundraiser as well.”

The need for such a serious fundraiser is more urgent than ever. Sadly, the teachers and staff at Muirlands Middle School are not exempt from the onslaught of pink slips that are dished out to teachers and staff each year.

“Under the current budget constraints, Muirlands Middle School will lose three-and-a-half teacher positions and all its counselors next year,” Vossen said. “All funds raised will go toward paying for teachers’ salaries.”

A grave motivation may underlie the foundation’s need to raise funds, but the festivities at the event will be anything but.

The smell of Dimich Family’s fresh hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken will fill the air, guests of all ages will have the opportunity to try their hands at one of the festival’s many carnival games, and everyone is sure to get their toes tapping to the tunes of the school’s alumni band, NeverReady.

Tickets to the event are $15 and include dinner and two game booth tickets. Sponsorship opportunities are also available by visiting www.give2schools.org. For more information, visit www.muirlandsms.org or call (858) 459-7925.

Calling all student photographers

In partnership with Outside the Lens, the La Jolla Historical Society is once again offering student photographers the chance to shine with its second annual student photo contest. This year’s event is themed “La Jolla: My Favorite Place,” inviting students and their families to submit their favorite images of La Jolla.

Photo entries will be accepted at the La Jolla Historical Society offices, 7846 Eads character.

Photo entries will join the tens of thousands of photos in the archives of the La Jolla Historical Society, preserving La Jolla for future generations, and may be published with attribution and without compensation.

Photo entries will be judged on originality, imagination and the quality of the images. The rules for entering the contest have changed. Each student may enter one photo, which must be the property of the student and may not have been previously published. Entries may be any size and may be color or black and white.

The photo must be mounted on an 11-by-14-inch black matte labeled with the student’s name, school and grade. Attached to the mounting should be a CD with the image, minimum 300 DPI in JPEG, TIFF or PDF. Entries must include a signed participation waiver.

For more information, visit www.lajollahistory.org, call (858) 459-5335 or contact keckmo@yahoo.com.

“Sell Your Own Home” which has been prepared especially for homeowners that want to sell their home by themselves. You’ll find that selling your home by yourself is entirely possible once you understand the process.

The need for such a serious fundraiser is more urgent than ever. Sadly, the teachers and staff at Muirlands Middle School are not exempt from the onslaught of pink slips that are dished out to teachers and staff each year.

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SOLD! Above List Price - April 2012

La Jolla Estate, 4,656 sq. ft., 5BD/6BA sprawling Ranch-style home with generous pool & spa, nearly a half acre of lushly landscaped grounds, located in quiet West Muirlands neighborhood. Sold at $1,755,000

Selling a home isn’t easy. After all, with the proper information, selling your home by yourself is entirely possible once you understand the process.

Inside the report, you’ll find 10 inside tips to selling your home by yourself which will help you sell for the best price in the shortest amount of time. You’ll find out what real estate agents don’t want you to know.

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“How to sell your home without an agent”

SAN DIEGO: If you’ve tried to sell your home yourself, you know that the minute you put the “For Sale by Owner” sign up, the phone will start to ring off the hook. Unfortunately, most calls aren’t from prospective buyers, but rather from every real estate agent in town who will start to hound you for your listing.

After all, with the proper information, selling your home isn’t easy. Perhaps, you’ve had your home on the market for several months with no offers from qualified buyers. This can be a very frustrating time, and many homeowners have given up their dreams of selling their homes themselves. But don’t give up until you’ve read a new report entitled “Sell Your Own Home” which has been prepared especially for home sellers like you. You’ll find that selling your home by yourself is entirely possible once you understand the process.

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WE ARE ALMOST THERE!

The La Jolla Historical Society Board of Directors and its Partners for History Campaign Committee thank the over 375 families, individuals and friends who helped us raise nearly $2 million for the restoration and retrofit of historic Wisteria Cottage and its buildings and grounds at 780 Prospect Street. We are especially grateful to Ellen Revell and her family for their magnanimous gift of the property in 2008.

VISIONARIES ($10,000 & above)
Ellen Revell, Anne Revell Slummy, Mary Revell Parde, Bill Revell, and Carolyn Revell
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Dave & Sandy Cregg Erickson
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Jean Drinkwater
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Steve & Stephanie Williams
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Warren Weck
RADM & Mrs. Gay Zeliff, USN (Ret.)

Wisteria Cottage still needs you.
Please send your check or 2-year pledge to the
La Jolla Historical Society, PO Box 2085,
LJ 92038, memo line: Capital Campaign. Thank you so much!
ably going to cost you more than the current space? Multiply that by 30 years, and you actually have a negative cash flow. Moving is pointless. You paid for the building. You only lose.

He also urged USPS representatives to think of village merchants as potential buyers should the building go up for sale. “If you actually talk to us—the merchants association, the villagers—we really really respect what you’re doing,” he said. “We, as a community, will come to you and make proposals and work with you to help you save the money you need to charge, and we will keep our post office.”

Community leader Egon Kafka said he spoke with Jay Wang, a commercial loan officer at the U.S. Bank, who offered what Kafka said is a viable solution.

Together, we calculated that a replacement building similar to the one in town here would cost about $2,300,000 per month, or $27,600,000 per year. Jay offered that for $18,700 per month, he would loan the money to the Postal Service and they could buy their building back in a 2.5-year deal, he said. “As a citizen and taxpayer, I’d really like to see the U.S. government not divest itself of a property in this foolish way.”

Postal representative Diana Alvarado said the USPS has not begun a site search at this time.

“We wouldn’t do that until the building is actually placed on the market and we have potential buyers,” she said. “If we were to relocate, we wouldn’t want to leave the building empty.”

A well-filling the space, community members were not short on ideas.

Erika Torri, executive director of the Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, said postal services should stay at the current location neighboring the Athenaeum, but that a cultural element similar to the Athenaeum’s model could fill the excess square footage in the building, making the bustling area “a wonderful cultural corral for artists and scholars.”

“Most importantly is to save the building the way it is because it is a beautiful site,” said Torri. “I don’t think you would be any shortage of ideas for what could be done for the building if we still have the post office at the front.”

AlVARADO also said the USPS does recognize the potential for the Wall Street location to rightsize in-house, a suggestion that was met with a hearty round of applause.

“Our replacement retail space would be approximately 6,000 square feet. We’re here to seek your input as to where you would want that to be. But I think I already know where that is,” she said.

She emphasized that the proposed relocation was just that—a proposal. “Say the relocation was approved. There are two very important contingencies that have to happen,” she said. “We have to have an acceptable buyer and we have to have an acceptable relocation space. If neither of those things happen, this [relocation] does not happen.”

She also said the USPS does recognize historical significance and has hired a historical consultant to define historical elements of the building should it go up for sale.

USPS representative Ken Boyd urged residents to write to Alvarado during the 30-day public comment period following the April 26 meeting to outline a “vibrant business plan” that will benefit from the remedies suggested.

“It’s not, ‘Sell the building, hell or high water,’” he said. “It’s where listening to the different options, and I think there have been some very good options. Now, I think the ball is in your court to make a decision.”

With so many La Jollans rallying behind one goal, a “win-win” solution can certainly be found, said Trip Ben nett, interim executive director of the La Jolla Historical Society.

“I hope you go away from here understanding that we’ve got a lot of smart, intelligent people at this forum,” Bennett said. “You need to know that the economics — whatever it is — we can solve it.”
**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Christy Brunelle Littsnower and Aja Lee, two La Jolla-based singer-songwriters/educators, are joining together to fill in the gaps in public music education with their new program, La Jolla Youth Jam Nights, starting May 7.

Littsnower and Lee developed the idea as a way for kids to learn how to play together in a group format. Children who wish to learn to play a variety of instruments, including guitar, ukulele, piano, bass, hand drums and vocalists, are welcome. The group will convene for a four-session series, each Monday from 6 to 7 p.m. at a private residence in La Jolla.

Littsnower, a two-time San Diego Music Awards nominee and a veteran of San Diego’s music scene, started her music career in 1998 at Java Joe’s in Ocean Beach. She teaches elementary and middle school in the San Diego Unified School District until 2008, when she received a pink slip — at which point she decided to set her sights on living off her musical talents. She currently teaches a music club and songwriting workshop in Mira Loma Middle School’s enrichment program. She can be seen playing songwriter showcases, art festivals and coffee houses throughout San Diego.

Lee started her music career in high school in Michigan, selling CDs out of her locker between classes. Since then she’s been writing, performing and teaching, and was the music teacher and music curriculum writer at Bird Rock Elementary in 2005-06. She teaches private lessons to many of La Jolla’s budding musicians and she’s also a performing musician in San Diego and North County.

The cost of the jam night is $25 per child, per four session series. Ages 8-16 are welcome, and a performance will be held at Bird Rock Coffee Roasters on July 30. For more information, email ladljouyjamnight@gmail.com.

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**Quarterbacking Care**

Older patients require a different coordinated approach to healthcare that balances their medical needs along with the circumstances of their lives. A majority of older patients have at least one chronic disease that they manage. At the same time a very high number of these people also have difficulty performing basic and more advanced activities of daily living, which often complicates matters.

A patient who is cognitively impaired may seem lethargic when they may be experiencing a stroke or a heart attack. Geriatric care managers can assist the older population with quarterbacking their care in a coordinated way. They make sure that all aspects of the patient’s health and well being are being addressed. Call Innovative Healthcare Consultants for assistance to meet your goals. 760-731-1334, www.innovativehc.com or www.nurseinyourpocket.com

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**Take a stroll through La Jolla history**

The first street to be paved in La Jolla was the Torrey Pines Grade in 1915. After that, in 1916 when it was proposed to pave Prospect Street, residents fought against the expense to the property owners living on the street, who were to be assessed a fee to help pay for it. In spite of the protests, Prospect Street was paved in 1918. Even then, the street was not paved from curb to curb, but only a wide strip down the middle.

Previously, La Jollans complained when the first sidewalks were put in, and a few residents walked their block on them because the hard surface made their feet sore. They claimed the sidewalks would ruin the town.

But progress came to La Jolla in spite of the complaints with more streets being paved one by one. The popularity of the automobile required more street paving. La Jolla was the Torrey Pines Grade in 1922. The 10th annual Creek to Bay Cleanup, held on April 28, turned up many pounds of trash — 184 pounds, to be exact — at La Jolla Shores. The cleanup proved to be a big success, as different locations all over the county to collect more than 100,000 pounds of trash county wide. Young and old alike pitched in to help clean the county’s waterways of garbage.

Take a stroll through La Jolla history

**First Friday Art Walk**

To get the latest information about First Friday Art Walk, go to www.firstfridayartwalk.com.

**Creek to Bay Cleanup turns up some treasures**

The 10th annual Creek to Bay Cleanup, held on April 28, turned up many pounds of trash — 184 pounds, to be exact — at La Jolla Shores. The cleanup proved to be a big success, as different locations all over the county to collect more than 100,000 pounds of trash county wide. Young and old alike pitched in to help clean the county’s waterways of garbage.

The event brought out 5,500 volunteers in 88 different locations all over the county to collect more than 100,000 pounds of trash county wide. Young and old alike pitched in to help clean the county’s waterways of garbage.

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Bishop’s surfers ride waves to state title

The Bishop’s School surf team rode the waves all the way to the state championship against The Bishop’s School, which then led to the semi-finals against University City High. Continuing the winning streak, Bishop’s surfers went on to the finals against last year’s champions, Aliso Migmig High School. The Bishop’s School prevailed and took the win with a close final score, 24 to 18.

— Staff and contribution

Open a new PacTrust checking account and receive $60 for using your MasterMoney* Debit Card!

While other banks tried to charge up to $50 or more per year to use their debit cards, PacTrust Bank will actually pay you to use your debit card. Plus, get surcharge-free access to over 28,000 ATMs nationwide. How’s that for money in the bank?

*Offer available only to new checking customers who open a Value or Master Checking Account by June 30, 2012. Qualifying checking accounts will receive a credit of $5 per month for each debit card purchase processed, for the first 12 statement periods. Maximum of $60 credited per new checking account. Limit of one 150 MasterMoney* Debit Card Promotion per customer per calendar year. Any promotional amounts credited will be reported to the IRS as interest. ©2012 PacTrust Bank

LA Jolla Half Marathon races down the coast

The La Jolla Half Marathon once again made its way from the Del Mar Fairgrounds down to La Jolla Cove, with thousands of participants hitting the streets for a piece of the glory. Luis Gonzalez of Mexico, above left, carried his daughter across the finish line, while others, like the couple below, celebrated their accomplishment with cheers and costumes. District 1 City Councilwoman Sherri Lightner, below right, was on hand to cheer on the runners.

Photos by Don Balch

Bishop’s School surf team rests between waves. Team members include seniors Zach Lanza and Charlotte Brutton; juniors Aaron Ellis and Luke Erbeek; sophomores Addison Lanza, James Maygart, Marion Basham and Li Johnson; and freshmen Jack Aguena, Timmy Cheaney, Liam Parr, Jack Piepzna, Kor Sullivan and Elle Johnson.

BASEBALL update

La Jolla High’s varsity baseball team won two of three games last week, improving to 14-6 overall and 4-1 in Western League play.

The Vikings opened the week by dominating cross-town rival The Bishop’s School 11-3 in a non-league contest. Kevin Usselman was 2-for-4 with a triple and 3 RBIs. Bobby Schuman was 2-for-3 with a double and 2 RBIs and Sam Schneider earned his second victory of the year pitching in relief.

Eric Pitrofsky did a bit of everything Saturday against University City High School in the second game of the week. On the mound, he threw his third consecutive complete game, improving his record to 7-1. At the plate, he collected two hits and scored two runs as La Jolla cruised to a 9-1 victory. Ronan Young and Usselman also had two hits each.

The Vikings came up just short in the third game of the week, dropping a 4-1 contest to UCHS. Pitrofsky had two more hits and an RBI, while Alex Biopolous and Tyson Youngs also drove in runs for the Vikings.

The 14-6 record represents the best mark for the school through the first 20 games since the 2007 season.

Upcoming games:

 Home against Mission Bay HS, May 9, 3 p.m.
 At Point Loma High, May 7, 3:15 p.m.
 At Madison High, May 4, 3 p.m.
 At Point Loma High, May 2, 3:15 p.m.
 Home against Mission Bay HS, May 9, 3 p.m.

— Staff and contribution

Ask the Audiologist! Question:

What do I do if I just don’t like my hearing aids?

There are a lot of factors that go into a great hearing aid fit.

1. The hearing practitioner’s education background.
2. The manufacturer that designs the hearing aid.
3. The style of hearing aid you choose. Big? Small? In the ear? Behind the ear?
4. The level of technology that you choose. How sophisticated is the computer chip in your hearing device?
5. How many follow-up appointments have been completed.

The hearing aid needs to be fine tuned to fit your lifestyle.

6. How fast your brain is adjusting to the new sound quality. Depending on how much change in quality the hearing aid is providing and how long the patient has compensated for the hearing loss, it may take one year to adjust to the new sound quality.

With so many options, there is a lot of room for error. Because your hearing aids are most likely digital (there are very few analog hearing aids out there), start from scratch! If it has been longer than six months, return to your Audiologist and ask to be reevaluated. Return to the basics. Hearing your hearing aids recalibrated can make all the difference in the world. If you are still unhappy, get the advice from another Audiologist. Sometimes you have been on the wrong track from the beginning. The six factors listed above are all very important when it comes to hearing well!

Send us your questions! 1310 Rosecrans Street, Suite A San Diego CA 92106

* 619-756-7848
Peninsulahearingcenter.com
Surf Diva’s La Jolla Surf Camp & Acadamy
Awarded Nickelodeon’s Parents’ Choice for surf schools, Surf Diva’s La Jolla Surf Camp & American Surf Acadamy provide the best kids co-ed surfing program in San Diego. Girls and boys aged 5 to 10 and 11 to 17 learn to surf and participate in awesome activities emphasizing ocean & beach awareness. The surf camp takes place at La Jolla Shores, a sandy bottom beach. This prime San Diego location is the perfect place to learn how to surf.

The surf camps include: surfing, beach games, beach culture and are supervised by: Surf Diva certified/ First Aid/ CPR and Lifesaving trained and qualified surf instructors. Whether your child is a beginner or has some surfing experience, the small groups allow our surf instructors to provide your child with the proper coaching.

Sign up for La Jolla YMCA Summer Camp
The La Jolla YMCA offers day camps all summer long, beginning June 13th – August 31st. Day camps range from a variety of choices and for all ages. There are more than 100 camps to choose from, including ice-skating, gymnastics, swim lessons, field trips to amusement parks and much more! Kids will learn, grow and thrive making lasting friendships and memories. Camps fill up fast but please sign up as soon as possible. To ensure that every child and teen has the chance to go to camp, the Y offers financial assistance to those in need. Also, it’s not too late to sign up for our spring camps, April 2-6. To register for either spring or summer camps, please visit lajolla.ymca.org or call (858) 453-3483 for more information.

Nike Golf Schools & Jr. Camps
Nike Golf Schools and Jr. Camps offer a variety of programs designed to meet the needs of each camper. Every facet of the game is covered during morning instruction and afternoon course play. Beginners, intermediate, high school and advanced players can immerse themselves in the sport for an entire week. Our camps are led by directors who are nationally recog-
that every child and teen has the chance to go to camp, they’ll offer financial assistance to those in need.

To register to either spring or summer camps, please visit peninsula.ymca.org or call (619) 226-8888 for more information.

Westminster Presbyterian Preschool programs

Westminster is a preschool that started simply—just a mother (ex-Kinder garden teacher) looking to educate her two-year-old—has matured into a local institution of sorts. “It brings joy to my heart,” said Judy Stephens, founder of the school. “I love what I’m doing and I’m very enthusiastic about educa tion for children.” The school offers part and full time programs for ages 18 months to 6 years of age.

Since Westminster opened, its approach has been to create an all-around fun experience that prepares children for kindergartens with science, language arts and math curriculums. For example, a recent lesson plan took students on an imaginary trip to Italy, complete with a plane, luggage, and even a mini-Pompeii created in the school’s sandbox.

The summer Programs feature Summertime themes such as Kid Olympics or Underground Adventures. Also available is “Success in Kindergarten,” a class designed for children starting Kindergarten in the fall.

“We give the kids an ‘I Can Do’ attitude,” said Stephens. “They’re excited about school and the learning process.” This is the mindset that I want our kids to have.

For more information, call (619) 224-7403, or visit www.sdpschools.com.

Playtime at Claytime

Claytime Ceramics Camps offer a good balance of indoor and outdoor activities. Children begin their day with a walk by the tidepools (one block away from the studio), followed by warm-up exercises at the studio. On Mondays and Wednesdays we work on ceramic painting projects in which children learn ceramic painting techniques (color blending and use of puffy paints). On Tuesdays and Thursdays the kids work on mosaic projects. Children create their own patterns, learn to apply adhesive and glue their own pieces.

On Fridays we include fabric painting or sketching or ice-skating and surfing outings.

And the end week with an ice cream party in which the kids get to use the ice cream bowls they painted on Monday. All supplies are included.

For reservations call 619-223-6050

SD Humane Society’s Animal Adventure Camp is a tail wagging good time!

Campers 5-13 years old interact with dogs, exercise bunnies and guinea pigs, socialize kittens, enjoy animal related games and crafts, get behind the scenes tours of the Humane Society’s camp, and create magical memories for life!

Each year, hundreds of kids join us for Animal Adventure Camp experiencing how rewarding the human-animal bond can be. Throughout the program, children will be introduced to the proper care and understanding of the animals around us, which helps them to develop respect and a positive attitude toward all living beings.

Week-long sessions are offered June through August for just $210 in San Diego and Oceanside dates vary. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. To register or more information, call (619) 243-1452 or visit www.sdhumane.org.

Camp Boogie Rocks

For over 10 years, Camp Boogie has provided a safe, affordable, and fun day camp program for children ages 6 to 12. Located at Robb Field in Ocean Beach, we have an outstanding reputation within the local community. Our summer program includes trips to the beach, a variety of arts and crafts, group activities and games, and a weekly field trip. Field trips include such places as Knott’s Berry Farm, Soak City, and the SD County Fair. All of these activities are included with enrollment! Campers have an opportunity to create new friendships, play outdoors, and have fun in a closely supervised environment.

For more information visit our website campboogie.com, or contact Brian Lozoskie, Camp Boogie’s director and a California credentialed teacher, at 619-990-6192.

Ooh La La Dance Academy’s Performing Arts Summer Camps!

Dance, Sing, Music, Perform, Arts & Crafts

Times: 9am-2pm • Ages: 6-16
Dates: June 18 – August 11
Cost: $75 Per Day | $275 Per Week | $549 Per 2 Weeks
Theme: Wizard Of Oz | Hip Hop & Rocknroll

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Ooh La La Dance Academy’s Performing Arts Summer Camps!
If you’re happy with your dentures, don’t read this!

WHY SUFFER WITH DENTURES?

For centuries, removable false teeth, or dentures, have been used to replace missing teeth. But denture-wearers report that many undesirable side effects come along with this less-than-ideal solution: Dentures are uncomfortable to wear and often slip or click; they can cause bad breath, and require ongoing and inconvenient maintenance; they often result in a weak bite, a fake-looking smile and an overly active gagging reflex.

Care and comfort aside, those with dentures also are prevented from eating many of the foods and participating in many of the activities they enjoy.

With today’s science, there’s simply no reason for anyone to struggle with dentures. In fact, many of the problems denture wearers struggle with can be solved in just one day with the help of your ClearChoice team of dental implant professiona.

Denture wearers tend to struggle with:
• Shame or embarrassment when smiling
• Feeling limited in social situations
• Maintaining a fully active lifestyle
• Appearing older due to bone loss
• Health issues related to their teeth

THE SOLUTION IS DENTAL IMPLANTS.

Dental implants provide far better results than do dentures, because implants can prevent potential bone loss. Because they’re anchored into the jawbone, the fusion of the implant and bone provides stability, just as the natural teeth did. Implants perform and are cared for just like natural teeth!

If you’re missing some or all of your teeth, dental implants can stimulate the bone, protect against atrophy and help preserve your natural facial features.

Unlike dentures, dental implants are fixed in place, perform like your natural teeth, and can last a lifetime!

CHOOSE A BETTER LIFE TODAY.

Most people who choose dental implants report the decision to be life changing. Not only do dental implants look great and boost your confidence, but they can also restore you to the active lifestyle you’ve been missing. Swim, ski, laugh and sing. Give business presentations. Eat what you like. Do it all without worrying about how your smile looks, or that your teeth will slip or fall out!

WHY TRUST CLEARCHOICE?

In addition to being the No. 1 provider of dental implants, ClearChoice has industry-leading customer satisfaction and success rates. In fact, an independent study of thousands of patients showed that those who chose ClearChoice would overwhelmingly recommend ClearChoice to others.

Call about Our risk free consultation and receive a free 3D CAT scan (a $700 value)

CALL TOLL FREE 1.888.454.3202 TODAY

The ClearChoice team of specialists provides 21st century solutions to people struggling with dentures or bad teeth.

All patients benefit from the following ClearChoice advantages:

• Team of oral surgeons and prosthodontists
• A single, convenient location for all services
• Advanced 3D dental imaging technology
• IV sedation during procedure for your comfort
• On-site implant lab to custom make your teeth
• Financing options made to fit your budget
• Your complete treatment fees on one bill
• A new and beautiful smile in just one day!

Arshiya Sharafi, DDS • Scott Perkins, DDS

ClearChoice Dental Implant Centers are locally owned and operated by licensed local dentists, and are part of a professional affiliation of Implant practices operated by oral surgeons, prosthodontists and restorative dentists across the U.S. "Qualified patients can have their procedure in one day after initial workup without additional bone graft surgery. Results may vary in individual cases. Limited services available at satellite offices. "Independent Dental Implant Survey March 2011, America’s #1 Choice determined by an Independent Patient Survey 2011. © 2013 ClearChoice Dental Implant Centers

www.clearchoice.com
Jackets and scarves and layers, oh my!

SABRINA HEFT

This last batch of windy, rainy weather got me thinking a lot about outerwear. I know we live in sunny San Diego but the reality is we need to dress in layers — even in the so-called warmer months. Mornings are cold and overcast, afternoons are sunny and beautiful, evenings back to chilly. Dressing for all these weather patterns could make a girl crazy if you have the right pieces it can be a cinch. First and foremost, a solid wardrobe has a chic and stylish coat (winter and spring versions). I go for a pea coat in winter and trench coat for spring — keeping it simple and classic is always in style and gives you the most versatility. You can mix and match these two with just about anything from dresses to jeans. Let me warn you that a fabulous coat can be very pricy (in some cases a mortgage payment) but this is a foundational piece, so worth the investment.

MOMIX mixes it up for Music Society dance series

BY MARC & DARLYNNE MENKIN

La Jolla’s iconic La Valencia Hotel is marking its 85th anniversary this year in a memorable way. Not only is the historic property undergoing an impressive multi-million-dollar renovation, its famous Whaling Bar & Grill recently unveiled an exciting new menu, including a bevy of innovative, cool cocktails and scrumptious happy hour food selections.

“*The Pink Lady*” is a popular place for visitors, but thanks to its newly redesigned menu, it’s also hoping to secure a reputation as a hot spot for locals. Celebrated mixologist Scotty Moses is the creative force behind La Valencia’s new beverage program. Moses said he had fun revamping the menu and with the hotel celebrating its 85th year, it was an ideal time to offer something new — think old-school classics with a twist. So what are Moses’ favorite cocktails?

“*Since the hotel has been open since 1926, I wanted to introduce the Saracine, which is a classic from the 1800s, while the Hemmingway Daiquiri is a homage to the classic writer and to our beautiful ocean setting,“ he said.

Another favorite is the Ballast Point fan — sure to be appreciated by San Diegans, as it’s made with a locally distilled gin. “Using a local product always gives our guests a unique experience,” Moses said.

Also worth mentioning is the grand cosmo, which has a hint of citrus and is topped off with pink champagne. With the warmer months just approaching, it’s the perfect summer cocktail.

As for the Whaling Bar’s new happy hour food menu, there are plenty of tasty choices.

**Our advice?** Make sure you come hungry. We sampled the brie-wrapped dates and couldn’t get enough — you can’t go wrong with rye bourbon and bacon! Guests can also choose from a delicious list of tapas, including pardon peppers served with sea salt and manchego, calamari frito paired with a chipotle aioli and potatoes la rioja made with chorizo, braised kale and a poached egg.

La Valencia’s new happy hour is from 4 to 7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and offers half-price specialty cocktails, wines by the glass and draft beer from 4 to 7 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

La Valencia unveils cool cocktails, tasty treats for 85th anniversary happy hours

BY SABRINA HEFT

Get daily news updates at sdnews.com

**La Jolla Living**

**Retail Therapy**

Dresses, coats, shoes, jewelry — these are all the basics, right? But what about those small add-ons that make your outfit special? You know, the little details that can take your look from drab to fab. These are the finishing touches that can really make your outfit pop. From statement necklaces to statement earrings, scarves to hats, there are so many ways to elevate your wardrobe. So the next time you’re shopping, don’t forget to look for those special touches that can take your outfit to the next level.

They also offer a special deal, which includes two drinks with two tapas for under $20. For more information, visit www.lavalencia.com.

— Marc & Darlynn Menkin are the co-owners of Where You Want To Be Tours. Many of their tours and teambuilding scavenger hunts feature secret areas in La Jolla, www.where-tours.com.

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For those who wish to venture a bit outside of La Jolla for some entertainment this weekend, consider the visually stunning performances by dance group MOMIX. Presented by the La Jolla Music Society as the last in this season’s dance series, the performances take place on Saturday, May 5 at 2 and 8 p.m. at the Birch North Park Theatre.

Known internationally for presenting work of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty, MOMIX is a company of dancer-illusionists under the direction of Moses Pendleton. For 20 years, MOMIX has been celebrated for its ability to conjure up a world of surrealist images using props, light, shadow, humor and the human body. The group will perform “Botanica,” one of its most organic and inventive works. “Botanica” is one of Pendleton’s acclaimed original productions alongside “Lunar Sea,” “Opus Cactus,” “Orbit” and “Passion.”

La Jolla Music Society enhances the concert-going experience by presenting a Jolla’s iconic La Valencia Hotel is marking its 85th anniversary this year in a memorable way. Not only is the historic property undergoing an impressive multi-million-dollar renovation, its famous Whaling Bar & Grill recently unveiled an exciting new menu, including a bevy of innovative, cool cocktails and scrumptious happy hour food selections.

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La Jolla Music Society enhances the concert-going experience by presenting a
lose the jacket and loosely drape the scarf around your neck. At night when it is cooling back down, put on both again and you will be ready for evening temperatures.

Looking for a lighter (and less expensive) way to layer? Cardigans and scarves are always an option. Cardigans have come a long way and there are many updated styles these days, like cropped and boyfriend. They are also coming in all kinds of colors, prints and materials. I prefer Merino wool or cashmere to cotton as they hold shape and color better. Take a very simple dress and throw on a printed cardigan and accessories — or use that same cardigan to dress down with jeans or shorts and a T-shirt. I love using items in multiple ways, and most pieces can easily transition between dressy and casual. Scarves and pashminas are great finishing pieces and can be very expressive (like jewelry). I recommend having a good mix between solid colors (black, cream, orange, pink) and wild prints. This is a great way to start experimenting with mixing prints, since it’s on a small scale. Another good thing about scarves is that just about every designer does them, so you can really have several and they won’t break the bank. Think of them as throw pillows — change your pillows and your living room has a new feel. I like pashminas for their length, softness, weight and warmth, plus they can easily fold up and be tucked into or tied around a handbag. They are a bit more expensive, but worth it. Most major department stores will mark them down or put them on promotion, so look for the right times to invest.

I hope this helps to keep you warm and stylish in these coming spring and summer seasons. You can never be sure what our Southern California weather will bring us from day to day, but if you have the right essentials your style never has to give way to function.

— Sabrina Heft has been a fashion consultant in San Diego for several years. Along with consulting, she is the creative director and lead stylist for The Gap at UTC. heftsabrina@yahoo.com

FASHION CONTINUED FROM Page 11

BRIEFS CONTINUED FROM Page 5

Jewels glitter once again for gala

The Arc of San Diego’s signature gala, The Jewels of San Diego, returns for Arc of San Diego’s signature gala. The Jewels of San Diego, returns with a bold theme on May 5: Moulin Rouge. The annual black-tie event will take place at The Grand Del Mar, starting with a 6 p.m. cocktail reception, followed by an evening of dinner, dancing, and a Moulin Rouge cabaret show at 8 p.m. Guests will participate in live and silent auctions by bidding on items that will help support The Arc of San Diego’s essential life services like day training services, employment placement programs and residential living services to 2,500 San Diegans with disabilities.

Chairman of the gala is authorities committee, which is chaired by Phyllis and John Parrish — long-time supporters of The Arc of San Diego. The event features an honorary committee of supporters, including Marilyn and Kim Fletcher, Lee and Frank Goldberg, Jeannine Jones and Don Breitenberg, Joyce Blount and Jessi J. Knight, Je. “Papa” Doug Manchester, Sandy Redman and Jeff Mueller, Susie and Dean Spanos, and Sally R. and John M. Thornton.

Tickets are $200 per person and $2,000 per table of 10 for gold seating, and $300 per person and $3,000 per table of 10 for platinum preferred seating. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information or to make reservations, contact Jennifer Bates Navarra at (619) 685 1175, ext. 291 or jnavarra@arcsd.com.

‘Divine’ feast hosted by Junior League

An afternoon of fine wining and dining overlooking picturesque La Jolla Cove is in order for May 5 — and guests will have the opportunity to feel good about themselves, too. It’s the 12th annual Island Divine Food and Wine Festival, hosted by the Junior League of San Diego.

SEE NEWS, Page 13

Bottomless Mimosas and Bloody Mary Bar

7644 Grand Avenue • La Jolla • finchlasjolla.com

The Jewels of San Diego return for Arc of San Diego’s signature gala.

Since 1956

The Jewels of San Diego return for Arc of San Diego’s signature gala.

When you see a fashion consultant in San Diego for several years.

The Jewels of San Diego return for Arc of San Diego’s signature gala.

The Jewels of San Diego return for Arc of San Diego’s signature gala.

The Jewels of San Diego return for Arc of San Diego’s signature gala.
Bite of Boston
Bite of Boston (B&B) is a family-owned eatery which offers an array of East coast-style seafood, soups, breads and main courses in weekly rotating menu. They are available seven days a week. Enjoy Fish & Chips, fried shrimp and lobster ravioli and other many authentic Italian dishes. Cafe Milano offers you an authentic Italian experience and incredible experience for the whole family at affordable prices. Early Bird Special: 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. and choose a select soup or salad, menu entrée, and dessert for $15.95.

Bite of Boston
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Donovan's Steak House
They may look good enough to eat, but the paintings and sculptures at Donovan's of La Jolla are strictly off limits -- so you'll have to content yourself with the USDA's prime beef, the eatery's star attraction. If steak isn't in the plan, pork and veal chops and succulent seafood will satisfy the most discriminating of palates. And at Donovan's, fresh seasonal vegetables and your choice of potato are always included with each entrée.

Cafe Milano
Owner/Chief Pasquale Chiauri, brought Northern Italian cuisine to La Jolla 12 years ago and has been successfully pleasing both local residents & out of towners, even out of the country guests, with his home made pappardelle pasta, real ossobuco, lobster ravioli and other many authentic Italian dishes. Cafe Milano offers you an authentic Italian experience and incredible experience for the whole family at affordable prices. Early Bird Special: 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. and choose a select soup or salad, menu entrée, and dessert for $15.95.

Station Sushi
Station Sushi can handle your late night private party for 20 - 40 people (10 person minimum) 10:30 p.m. to 1:30 am. And the best part is it’s All-you-can-eat AND drink (some restrictions apply). Join us for Happy Hour Sunday-Thursday 5:30-7 p.m. We are now open for lunch Monday-Friday 12-2 p.m. Dinner Monday-Thursday 5:30-7:00 p.m. www.station-sushi-birdrock.com

NEWS
This year’s event will feature morsels from more than 50 of San Diego’s best restaurants, as well as tastings from numerous wine, beer and cocktail purveyors, including Bal- last Point Brewing, The Cottage, Cafe Japengo, Falkner Winery, Brian Malarkey’s Herringbone, Red Trac- ker’s Stone Brewing, Svedka, Oceanaire, Whisknladle and more. More than 1,000 influential San Diego residents, who are loyal to local businesses and committed to their community, are expected to attend for the opportunity to take in the fresh ocean air while, nibble sumptuous treats and bid on silent auction items.

Island Divine is the Junior League’s premier fundraiser, critical to providing the funds needed to support community projects, programs and the mission of the league. The Junior League, which was founded in 1929, is committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving the San Diego community by providing volunteers and creating organizations and events like The Polinsky Center. Voices for Children, LEAD San Diego and Kids on the Block. More than 1,000 members help develop community programs and contribute more than $1 million in donations and volunteer hours.

Island Divine Food and Wine Festi- val will take place on May 5 from 3 to 7 p.m. For more information on the festival or the Junior League of San Diego, visit www.islanddivine.com or call (619) 234-2253.
May on the coast

Cinco de Mayo serves up the spice

By MARIKO LAMB | villagelocalnews.com

Cinco de Mayo might not be San Diego’s most celebrated holiday, but on this side of the border, it gives San Diegans a good excuse to go loco with all of the great deals around town on May 5.

• It’s no wonder Puesto Mexican Street Food is quickly becoming a local favorite. With wallet-friendly offerings like three tacos and a beer for just $10 — a special Cinco de Mayo offering — who could resist stepping in to check it out? Guests can choose from various meat and seafood options, a range of unique toppings and a choice of six homemade salsas. Try the beef-bean-flavor path flavors like chicken and pineapple, corn, balsamic, grilled cactus or zucchini flower. Additional specials are available for those who follow the restaurant’s social media accounts, including Twitter and Facebook.

Pin de Diego, Modern, Minimalist and Postmodernism, 7:30 p.m., Humphrey’s Backstage Live, 1408 Rosecrans St., (619) 224-3577, www.jahla.org, $19 members, $24 nonmembers

Robin Holcomb Band with Horns, 7 p.m., Humphrey’s Backstage Music Club, 2241 Shelter Island Dr., (619)-224-3577, www.theroyal3.com, free

And the Word was God: Jesus Sings, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive, (858) 263-1141, www.lfjcc.org, $20 members, $25 nonmembers

The Latest in Social Networking, 7 p.m., Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, 4126 Executive Drive, (858) 263-1141, www.lfjcc.org, $20 members, $25 nonmembers

“The Homefront for Japanese Americans,” 6 p.m., 780 Prospect St., (858) 245-5330, www.lajollahistory.org, $15-$20, students free

Art in the Pines, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tommy Pines Resort, 2229 N. Torrey Pines Road, (858) 755-2003, www.tommypines.com

Bell King estate auction, 6:30 p.m., Athenaeum, 1008 Wall St., (858) 454-5872, www.jahla.org, free

Secret Garden Tour, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wisteria Cottage, 780 Truxtun Rd., (858) 646-5303, www.wisteriaparties.com, $40 members, $50 nonmembers

Ulises and Vikings in Russia’s Borderlands, 7 p.m., D.G. Wills Books, 7461 Girard Ave., (858) 488-7005

Neil Young, 9 p.m., The Troubadour, 2039 Psychology, 10252 Wall St., www.eatpuesto.com, (858) 454-1260.

• What would a Mexican celebration be without a refreshing margarita — or three? George’s at the Cove will offer unique libations — like the pineapple pepper or “Holy Spirit Margarita” — for a new twist on the standard cocktail. To complete the fiesta, munch on George’s award-winning fish tacos and enjoy La Jolla’s panoramic southwestern view while listening to the rousing sounds of a mariachi band.

San Diego Harp Society student recital, 2 p.m., The Neurosciences Institute, 10440 John Jay Hopkins Dr., La Jolla, www.nsii.edu, free

J.A.M. Kwest, 9:30 p.m., RT’s Longboard Grill, 1446 Gateway Ave., (858) 270-4036, www.longboardgrill.com, free

Yacht concert, 8 p.m., The Loft, 9500 Gilman Dr., (858) 534-8497, www.yj.pm, $12 students, $15 regular

Hands on Hardbody, 8 p.m., La Jolla Playhouse, 2910 La Jolla Village Drive, (858) 599-1778, www.lajollaplayhouse.org, $34-$64

What’s happening
HELP WANTED 250

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REMEDIAL & ADDITIONAL SPECIALTIES

The statement was filed with Ernest J. Dronenburg, Jr., Recorder / County Clerk of San Diego County on: MAR 29, 2012

WANTED TO BUY 350

WASHINGTON APARTMENTS, 1620 BAY ST. SAN DIEGO, CA. 92101

LAW COURTHOUSE 1555 6TH AVENUE SAN DIEGO, CA. 92101

CASE NUMBER: D529684 You have 30 calendar days after service was mailed to you to file a written objection with the court. This is an informal proceeding. You can complete an objection by completing the following and mailing to the court:

- Name of the party filing the petition
- Date of the petition
- Address of the court
- City and county of residence of the party filing the petition
- The party opposing the petition
- Reason for opposing the petition

You may be ordered to pay attorney fees and court costs if the court determines that the opposition is not timely or that there is no reasonable basis for it.

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SOMETHING NEW TO TELL THE TABLE... 250

MARIA GARCIA at the table on DURING THE COURT BIZANS BEFORE THE COURT OF APPEAL IN NO. 111111111.

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY FARNOODY LLC

is hereby registered by the following owner(s): MALAKA JACKSON located at: 7894 DAGGET ST. #202E SAN DIEGO, CA. 92111 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): DEBORAH E. COULTER located at: 1870 CHALMERS RD. #101 SAN DIEGO, CA. 92109 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): HEATHER SAHAR RODEFSHALOM located at: 5239 SOLEDAD MTN RD. SAN DIEGO, CA. 92109 858-232-3705 HAS FILED THE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME REFERED TO (1) FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S): a. DESIGN LEADERSHIP CENTER TO JEREMY AKIVA BECK THE COURT ORDERS THAT all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed by the above named party, the court will then proceed with the hearing.

RENOVATION SERVICES

- Remodeling
- Additions
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This business is being conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP The transaction of business began on: APR 12, 19, 26 AND MAY 03, 2012

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Starry, starry nights

Those industrious Las Patronas (LP) ladies are hard at work preparing for the 66th annual Jewel Ball, coming up Aug. 4. They unveiled a glimpse of their ambitious design ideas at a breakfast event at Hotel Parisi on April 25. Inspired by such movies as “Roman Holiday” and “La Dolce Vita,” Jewel Ball chairwoman Elaine Murphy (the Italian bride of an Irishman) decided to recreate mid-20th century Rome at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club. What LP’s doing isn’t easy (they’ve discovered Rome wasn’t built in a day), but they’ve been on it since last year. Not only will they have it ready in time, but it will surely be beautiful. Titled “Passeggiata” (Italian for a social stroll with friends), the ball will feature stylish décor, including Ionic columns, faux stone facades, cypress trees, ancient ruins, a Trevi Fountain representation, long wooden tables, cross-back chairs and much more. The event will raise very substantial sums for multiple worthy beneficiaries. To reduce costs, much of the decor will be sold immediately after the event. As they say, “When in Rome — go shopping!”

Shortly after a 2006 motorcycle accident severed Eric Northbrook’s spinal cord, he and wife Denise founded HeadNorth to help improve the availability of essential resources required by individuals and families affected by spinal cord injury (SCI). Eric asked friend Stath Karras to chair an event for HeadNorth in collaboration with the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, where stem-cell research is being used to find cures for SCIs so that sufferers may someday walk again. Stath agreed, on condition that event attendees would experience something uniquely different, and such great fun that they’d want to return every year.

Named “Bring It!,” the lively fundraiser drew a capacity crowd of about 300 for its fourth annual iteration last Friday evening. Joan Rivers (or a very credible impersonator) greeted arriving guests, who then enjoyed a reception featuring gourmet bites, libations, games and entertainment. Later, all were seated for dinner and famed Hollywood host Cory Almeida immediately got guests pumped up and ready for the coming competition.

“Let me hear you scream!” he implored — and they did.

Dinner arrived — on aluminum “TV dinner” trays with triangles for potatoes, veggies and a delicious short-rib entrée (much like Swanson’s, but of vastly higher quality). Wine flowed freely — lubrication for the short live auction and fund-a-need pledges that followed. A dessert buffet opened, overflowing with sweet treats, including a great variety of candies to keep guests’ energy levels high.

Then the main event: a spirited game-show competition. This year’s subject was reality TV. Trivia questions appeared on a big screen; each table

SEE SOCIETY, Page 18
was a team and answers were tabulated electronically. The top four teams went onstage for a live "challenge," the winners scoring points. One challenge involved blindfolded team members drawing "tramp stamp" tattoos on life-sized blow-up dolls. After four intense rounds, a final challenge involved water balloons, as uniformed janitors stood by with mops. Finally, the winning team was awarded a huge trophy as "We Are the Champions" was played. Host Cory became a DJ, and the dance floor filled with guests — and inflatable dolls of both genders.

Child Abuse Awareness Month closed with the April 25 Blue Ribbon Gala, "A Family Affair," at the Estancia La Jolla, celebrating Home Start’s 40th anniversary with a 1970s-themed party. The organization helps prevent child abuse by offering comprehensive programs and services that ease the burden of poverty on low-income families, providing critical assistance to San Diego’s most vulnerable children and families. (Home Start has also been named one of the nation’s 50 best places to work.)

The gala sold out, with more than 300 participants. After a cocktail reception and silent auction, Susan Taylor and Tom Blair co-emceed the dinner program. Praise and proclamations honoring Home Start’s effective efforts came from District 3 City Councilman Todd Gloria, Solana Beach Deputy Mayor Dave Roberts, San Diego protocol officer Charles Eshnaur and Teresa Santana, chief of the District Attorney’s Office’s Family Protection Division, which prosecutes all child abuse cases.

Fiona Mackin-Jha and Sanjay Jha were major event sponsors, both personally and through Motorola Mobility, whose vice president and foundation director, Carol Forsyte, spoke of how Home Start empowers families, women and children. A brief video depicted the organization’s work, after which a Home Start client told, with heartfelt emotion, of how it’s helped improve her life and her hopes.

Following a short live auction and paddle-raise pledges in which some donors were exceptionally generous, a dinner of filet mignon and salmon was served. Once the Mighty Untouchables began to play, the dance floor was quickly and continually populated.

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