Happening La Jolla
A retrospective of the week’s events around town

A star falls at UCSD
By KENDRA HARTMANN | Village News
Visitors walking past UC San Diego’s Jacobs Hall might think, if they happened to look up, that Dorothy’s house had landed not in Oz, but rather on the school’s campus. The small house attached to the roof of the building at a diagonal angle, however, is not a hapless dwelling from Kansas, but the work of artist Do Ho Suh.

 Called “Fallen Star,” the house was hoisted into place last November, and on June 7, it opened to the public as a life-size art installation, part of the school’s Stuart Collection.

At 15-by-18 feet, the house is furnished with slightly worn furniture and decorated with homely knickknacks — including baby pictures of some UCSD faculty and others connected with the work. The plants growing outside are all real, and include a plum tree, a wisteria vine and tomatoes. The lights in the house come on at night, as does a TV. Viewers might sometimes catch steam rising from the kitchen.

SEE STAR, Page 2

A spectacular splat
As part of an annual event that has become something of a legend on the UC San Diego campus, about 150 students gathered in front of Urey Hall to watch as a sacrificial fruit was flung off the seventh floor of the building for the 48th annual Watermelon Drop.

In an impressive display of terminal velocity, this year’s watermelon created a splat measuring 133 feet, 7 inches — the second-largest splat in the history of the school’s oldest tradition. The record of 167 feet, 4 inches was set in 1974.

The event was started in 1965 by physics professor Bob Swanson. The first year’s splat measured 91 feet. The fruit was flung off the building by Watermelon Queen Elizabeth Huller.

— Kendra Hartmann

La Jolla High students set the fishes free
By MARSHA KAY SEFF | Village News
Just before summer vacation, a group of La Jolla High School science students freed Nemo, Nemo and more Nemos — 15 fish in all.

It was graduating senior Daniela De Kervor who dubbed the juvenile fish, which were part of a local stock-enhancement program aimed at increasing the once-dwindling California white sea bass population.

In the first school project of its kind in San Diego, the students from Dave James’ biology class, together with the school’s Marine Science Club and the National Ocean Sciences Bowl, raised the fish until they were 260 days old and ready for release.

Not afraid of mixing movie metaphors, De Kervor said she felt like the lead in “Free Willy” when she helped upend the cooler of 10-inch cultured bass in Mission Bay and the students bid them farewell.

“They’re ready now for the real world,” said senior Moe Porter, who’s off to Northeastern University in the fall to study architecture.

SEE FISH, Page 6

La Jolla High School students wade into Mission Bay to upend the cooler and free the white sea bass.

— Kendra Hartmann

Coastkeeper honors the champions of the ocean
By KENDRA HARTMANN | Village News
Beachgoers at La Jolla Shores on June 10 were witness to a record-breaking event involving surfboards — but not one that took place in the water. The beach last Sunday was the site of 3,000-foot line of surfboards, laid end-to-end, stretching down the beach as far as the eye could see.

Sponsored by Genentech and founded by Jessica Yingling, Survivor Beach aims to support those fighting cancer and raise funds for research, patient care, and enhancement programs.

Photo by Sharon Hinckley

A star falls at UCSD

Water. It’s a fact of life for all living things, but none more so than those of us who thrive in a coastal zone — especially those of us who enjoy it for its diversions, in addition to its life-giving characteristics.

To honor those who devote themselves to the necessary work of protecting the waterways, San Diego Coastkeeper presented eight awards to local environmental leaders on June 8, World Oceans Day.

Among those honored at the ceremony at Birch Aquarium, fittingly overlooking La Jolla’s marine protected areas, were County Supervisor Pam Kuentz, who enjoys it for its diversions, in addition to its life-giving characteristics.

SEE CHAMPIONS, Page 6

La Jolla High students set the fishes free

A spectacular splat

La Jolla High students wade into Mission Bay to upend the cooler and free the white sea bass.

— Kendra Hartmann

Fast Fact
La Jolla Fashion Film Festival

Organizers recently announced Peter Isacksen, one of Hollywood’s most respected agents, in the field of branded entertainment, will be on hand at this year’s La Jolla Fashion Film Festival. Isacksen, whose work has been seen on CNN, TBS, ABC, FoxTelevision, NBC, Fuel TV, Spike TV, FX, Fine Living Network and in feature film production, said his express mission is to see the best in short film production and meet and greet the directors who created them.

As a member of the Producers Panel in the LUFF seminar series, guests will have an opportunity to question Isacksen on an individual basis.

Check back here often for quick facts about the upcoming fashion fest, taking place July 25-28.
chimney, inviting the notion that someone inside is just settling down by the fire. A visit to the home, meanwhile, might prove a bit disorienting for some. The house itself is built at a 10-degree angle, while its floor sits at a 5-degree angle to the flat roof of Jacobs Hall’s seventh floor. Not to worry though — the house was built according to California’s earthquake standards, and is designed to withstand 100 mph winds. The Stuart Collection plans to open “Fallen Star” for a few hours a week, as well as by appointment. Call (858) 534-2117 or visit stuartcollection.ucsd.edu for more information.

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On June 5, Venus passed directly between the Earth and the sun, providing a viewing opportunity not to be seen for the rest of our lifetimes. The rare transit, which will take place next in 2117, is how astronomers historically measured the size of the solar system.

Photographer Don Balch caught these images of Venus, a tiny black dot against the surface of the sun (framed by a telephone pole in the lower photo), using what he called a “McGyver-like method.” Balch had no dense filter available to shoot through into the bright sun, so he taped four pair of sunglasses together and attached the apparatus to the glass on his 400 mm lens. The result is truly a once-in-a-lifetime image.

Talents of all kinds descended on the Village for the first edition of the La Jolla Village Merchants Association’s “Haute La Jolla Nights” on June 9. The event drew out residents and tourists alike for an evening on the town. Above, the horn section of the band Neveready entertain with a hot set, while Aja Lee, left, performs next to the Athenaeum.

We have everything special, beautiful, soft & girly for your SPECIAL LADY...
Hillel project a ‘no go’ for Community Planning Association

Despite major revisions to the proposed UCSD Hillel Center for Jewish Life by architect Mark Steele— including downsizing the square-footage of the building by half of what was originally proposed in 2000, breaking up the bulk into three separate buildings and creating an open-space park for the community’s benefit — opponents of the project remain adamant that it does not belong in a single-family neighborhood.

At the La Jolla Community Planning Association’s (LJCPA) June 7 meeting, project proponents and opponents alike came out by the dozens to speak to the merits of the project, address existing and potentially imminent traffic problems in the area, and debate whether or not the facility would, in fact, serve as a religious institution or as a student center. Hillel director Michael Rabkin requested three things from the LJCPA — a street vacation, a site development permit (SDP) for the proposed facility and a temporary use permit for Hillel’s temporary administrative office, located at 8976 Cliffridge Ave.

“This is a two-phase project. Phase 1 requires a permit for the administrative use of a house purchased by the Potik-Chamberlain Foundation for temporary use by Hillel for administrative offices,” said Rabkin. “Phase 2 would be the construction of the permanent facility.”

The revised, decade-long project proposal consists of an approximately 6,600-square-foot structure broken up into three separate facilities on a triangular lot bounded by La Jolla Village Drive to the north, La Jolla Scenic Way to the east and La Jolla Scenic Drive North to the southwest. The buildings, as proposed, would be surrounded by an outdoor courtyard and 27-space surface parking lot. Phase 2 would also entail converting the existing cul-de-sac at the end of La Jolla Scenic Drive North into part of a 10,000-square-foot landscaped park and bike path for public use. Upon completion of the facility, the temporary office space would revert back to single-family use, assured Rabkin.

27 Tips to Drive up the Sale Price of Your Home

SANDIEGO. Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that decision, you’ll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here is a way to help you to be prepared as possible.

To assist home sellers, a new industry report has just been released called “27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar.” It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today’s tough, aggressive marketplace.

In this report you’ll discover how to avoid financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach you will get straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-276-0763 and enter 1023. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW.

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Starting a business can be a daunting task for any woman with a great idea. Local entrepreneur and co-founder of Chic CEO, Stephanie Burns, discovered this early on while she was still in graduate school.

“I realized there are so many women out there that have great ideas — and they’re super smart — but they just don’t have the time to go to business school,” said Burns. “A lot of my girlfriends at the time were starting side businesses. We were all in our late 20s and early 30s, and we all started having the same questions.”

She discovered that many of those burgeoning questions could not be answered by one, all-encompassing, easy-to-use source.

“I started noticing women couldn’t find the information they needed and nobody was really serving them, so I thought, ‘I want to create a business website that’s fun, savvy and very smart, but also appeals to women my age,’” she said.

From that point on, Burns made it her goal to ensure that no other woman felt lost when it came to potentially making one of the best decisions of her life.

After getting laid off from her job — while still in the whirlwind of developing her new business — Burns had auditioned for the popular game show “Wheel of Fortune” with her younger brother. The brother-sister duo was asked to appear on the show in February 2010 during Family Week, winning about $12,000. Using her portion of the winnings, Burns seeded Chic CEO’s website and design campaign, launching her business into the stratosphere of web-based advisory businesses.

“There are a lot of great resources out there that provide information, but there’s not really one place that speaks to women like we do,” she said. “We provide everything women need to get started in business.”

The first step: “Just get started,” she said. “We don’t all have to know all the answers to get started. We’ll figure it out along the way. Your business is always changing just like you are. You can’t make it perfect from the start.”

Burns makes it her goal to provide a little fundamental assistance, with the aim of allowing any woman to get started on any range of businesses from wedding planning to tax preparation and everything in between.

Chic CEO gets down to the basics by providing step-by-step information, downloadable templates, a “3-Day Chic Start,” and myriad other easy-to-use resources for women entrepreneurs to kick-start their business.

“There is a fundamental ABC 123 to starting a business that for some reason is really hard to find on the Internet, and we just think that’s ridiculous. Our goal is just to provide value for women to start their own business,” she said. “We honestly believe that no woman should ever feel stupid in starting their own business. They should have all the information they need to be successful.”

Once that business is finally realized, Chic CEO won’t leave its clients high and dry. It also provides a support network of entrepreneurial women who have started or are in the process of starting their own businesses with monthly networking mixers in conjunction with 6 Degrees San Diego.

“These mixers are really important for women to make connections and trade ideas in a really relaxing, non-intimidating environment,” Burns said. “Chic CEO will host its biggest mixer of the year on June 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. in celebration of the one-year anniversary of the San Diego SAVY mixers. Burns invites women to come share business ideas, garner advice from other women and have a good time over complimentary drinks and appetizers with like-minded professionals. The mixer will take place at Ginger’s, located at 600 Fifth Ave.

“I got laid off twice, and working for somebody else — having my livelihood in someone else’s hands — scares me a lot more than being an entrepreneur,” said Burns, urging women to take that first, intimidating step. “I think a lot of women are finding that the answer to this is taking their opportunity in their own hands and get started with what they really want to be working on. Even though it’s a little scary, I sure am happier.”

Business highlight:

Game show win helps launch a woman’s dream career: to help other women do the same
By DAVE SCHWAB | VALLEYS NEWS

CIVIC report: Bird Rock Community Council, June 5

Bird Rock residents Rich and Lisa Tear are asking for the community’s help to feed the hungry.

Their charitable pitch for aid came during Bird Rock Community Council (BRCC)’s monthly meeting June 5.

“One in six Americans is hungry, including many children,” Lisa Tear told BRCC, adding that for the last four months, she’s distributed 500 little white collection bags on people’s doorsteps, asking for donations of canned goods and other non-perishables.

“Every little bit helps,” Tear said in a follow-up phone conversation about how her quest to feed the rest got started.

“I contacted the woman and she told me how she delivered these bags to her neighborhood, which is a big job,” Tear said.

“I can only handle so many streets,” she said, noting the benefits of helping needy people far outweigh the effort.

Tear said she’s also using the food charity project to teach her children an important life lesson.

“I’m actually taking a group of kids from the mid-level school to a distribution point to see people lined up to get a meal out of the food I collect,” she said.

“When you see all that food — it’s pretty amazing.”

Those interested in helping Tear can contact her at lisatear70@gmail.com.

In other action:

• BRCC president Joe Parker said planning for the Second Saturday summer picnic event was going well.

• Tear said she’s also using the food for earthquake research.

Scientists need residents for earthquake research

Scuola Institution of Oceanography is calling on Southern California residents to help scientists capture key seismic data to improve earthquake warning and emergency response efforts.

“Every day I worry about my kids crossing the street,” said next-door neighbor and UCSD professor Akif Tezcan.

“If you narrow that street, it’s an accident waiting to happen. You don’t want to be responsible for that … I’d love to have trees lining the streets, but it’s going to make life a little bit more dangerous around there.”

The JCC received the award for its Inclusion Program, launched a decade ago, in recognition of its work, “a collaborative project sponsored by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography where seismic hazard is high — makes the pictures more vivid."

"There’s already certain safety hazards and danger on that street that are irrespective of this site development, and that needs to be addressed separately, not by shooting down this plan,” said Rabkin.

While many of the trustees supported Mark Steele and title-owner Hillel for addressing the community’s previous concerns regarding the project, trustees determined the findings could not be made for the issuance of a site development permit for the facility or a temporary use permit for the administrative office in the residential neighborhood.

Trustees also voted to deny the requested street vacation, which would have paved the way for the project to be built.

HILLEL CONTINUED FROM Page 3

primarily religious use,” asked trustee Tim Lucas during the meeting. “If this really is a religious institution, then you have to have double or triple the parking that’s being provided to meet the city codes. If it’s not, then you don’t have that requirement, but it doesn’t fit in the single-family zone.”

Lucas, among others, also issued concerns about the development of the Hillel project in a single-family zone would set a precedent for more creep from the university into the nearby residential neighborhoods.

“There are 57 religious-affiliated groups on campus. I think this could be a problem because any group that claims to have a religious affiliation could start buying houses and putting centers into neighborhoods,” he said.

In addition to the zoning issues, some trustees and neighbors also raised objections to the proposed street vacation and lane narrowing that they said goes against the San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) and will increase traffic in the already vehicle-ridden neighborhood.

“Every day I worry about my kids crossing the street,” said next-door neighbor and UCSD professor Akif Tezcan. “If you narrow that street down, it’s an accident waiting to happen. You don’t want to be responsible for that … I’d love to have trees lining the streets, but it’s going to make life a little bit more dangerous around there.”

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Former LJHS student becomes Kansas ‘royalty’

By SCOTT HOPKINS | VILLAGE NEWS

A former La Jolla High School third baseman became the highest University of San Francisco athlete ever taken in a baseball draft when he was selected — following his junior season — as the fifth player overall in the annual amateur draft.

The Kansas City Royals sent Kyle Zimmer, his parents and a crowd of supporters into a frenzy June 4 at their La Jolla home when his name just minutes into the 40-round, three-day long event. Cameras from the Major League Baseball network also recorded reactions.

“Everything was a surprise,” the 20-year-old Zimmer said later. “You don’t know what’s going to happen until they say your name. It’s always been a dream to be a professional baseball player.”

He did have one reaction planned — immediately pulling on a Royals cap when his name was called. The task was made simple, as he grabbed it from among 11 caps his aunt Tina Boughton had bought, representing the first 11 teams to select in the first round.

His high draft selection validated some disappointments along his career path.

Coaches at USF converted Zimmer to pitching after it appeared he would n’t see large amounts of playing time at third base. The move, which proved brilliant, was not embraced immediately by Zimmer, who threw just over five innings his entire freshman season.

But now, after his junior year at USF, Zimmer has a fastball in the mid-to-upper 90s, a nasty curveball and is working on perfecting a changeup.

“He had a very strong arm and he had a lot of potential, but he was very raw as a pitcher,” said Gary Frank, Zimmer’s coach at La Jolla High. “It is definitely surprising that he was able to have so much success as a pitcher in such a short time. His success has been a testament to his drive and determination.”

And it was that arm — and determination — that sent him off to Kansas City, signing a contract last week that is expected to pay him a $3 million signing bonus. He was accompanied to “The Show Me State” by his parents, Eric Zimmer and Cathy Boughton, representing the first 11 teams to select in the first round.

“Boughton had bought, representing the first 11 teams to select in the first round.

It is important to know that hiring a geriatric care management company with this commitment for more than a year, and 32 percent do so for five years or more.”

An article in “Today’s Caregiver” states:

“Nearly one in four caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias provide 40 hours a week or more of care. Seventy-one percent sustain this commitment for more than a year, and 32 percent do so for five years or more.”

It is important to know that hiring a geriatric care management company with professionals can provide valuable support to that frazzled caregiver. The care manager can guide the family and the caregiver through the maze of long term care issues. The care manager has helped many clients with similar problems — the family is experiencing this for the first time.

If you have been providing daily support to a family member and are feeling “burned out,” you owe it to yourself to get help. Seek out professional help that can ease your burden.

Innovative Healthcare Consultants has a staff of RN Geriatric Care Managers to advise you and experienced caregivers who can help with respite care. Call them at (760) 731-1334 or see their website at www.innovativehc.com
Pacific Sotheby’s International Realty Announces Powerhouse Partnership

SAN DIEGO (June 6, 2012) – Pacific Sotheby’s International Realty announced Steve Games and Nyda Jones-Church have joined forces with Brian Arrington and are now partners in Pacific Sotheby’s International Realty.

Games has joined the firm as chairman of the board and Jones-Church will act as chief executive officer. Pacific Sotheby’s International Realty operates eight offices in the San Diego market with locations in Point Loma, Coronado, La Jolla, Mission Hills and La Mesa. Pacific sotheby’s International Realty has also acquired the Rancho Santa Fe region’s top talent and building the Sotheby’s International Realty brand’s market presence in the high-end markets of San Diego, Rancho Santa Fe, Del Mar, La Jolla and Coronado. Steve and Nyda founded Pickford Realty in 1985 and since that time have the distinction of operating one of top five real estate companies in America. The strength of an established and growing luxury real estate firm coupled with the power of two market legend creates a very powerful union.

According to Arrington, the addition of Games and Jones-Church will help create a market powerhouse. “This is a pivotal time in San Diego’s real estate market, with great opportunities for future growth,” he said. “Steve Games and Nyda Jones-Church bring forth a lifetime of wealth of experience to our management team as the company intensifies its push to become the leader in luxury residential real estate sales in San Diego. We intend to open additional offices in other key locations in order to serve the most highly desirable markets of San Diego County.”

The Sotheby’s International Realty network currently has more than 12,100 sales associates located in approximately 620 offices in 45 countries and territories worldwide.

"By joining forces with Pacific Sotheby’s International Realty we now have access to the cutting-edge marketing resources and global exposure of the Sotheby’s International Realty brand,” said Games. “We have proudly served the San Diego community for nearly 20 years and look forward to working with Brian and his team to create the area’s leading expert in luxury real estate.”

Pacific Sotheby’s International Realty listings are marketed on the sothebysrealty.com (http://www.sothebysrealty.com/en/home.aspx) global website. In addition to the referral opportunities and widened exposure generated from this source, the firm’s brokers and clients will benefit from an association with The Sotheby’s auction house and worldwide Sotheby’s International Realty marketing programs. \n

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Please complete at least 50% of the ballot. One ballot per person. Ballots must be postmarked, submitted online, or hand-delivered by Mon. 6/29/12.

FISH CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Part of the Institute’s Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program, the classroom project helps students understand where food comes from and the sustainability of a natural resource, according to Karen Terr, director of education.

The project began in December with 25 fish. Two went to the Department of Fish and Game for health inspections and one to SeaWorld San Diego “committed suicide,” according to De Kervor, who headed to Lewis & Clark College in the fall for pre-med.

Even so, they plan to continue the program next year.

The Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute’s two white sea bass program began in the early 1980s. From the 1990s to the 1980s, annual party-boat catches in California had dropped from more than 55,000 to less than 1,000, according to Shane.

The average lifespan of a white sea bass is 10 to 15 years, with a weight of about 60 pounds, according to Shane. The biggest on record lived 24 years and weighed 95.5 pounds.

One of the students’ favorite parts of the experience was tagging the fish behind the eyes.

“We got to knock them out,” Porter said enthusiastically.

The institute has asked fishermen to cut off the heads of their white sea bass catches and return them for analysis. Shane said some of the bass have been caught after as many as 13 years after release, and as far away as Monterrey. White sea bass are local to California waters, and many menus list them simply as “sea bass.” Other types of bass are often incorrectly named on menus as well. For instance, black sea bass is really giant sea bass, according to Shane. And Chilean sea bass is not from Chile, but rather the Antarcticand it’s not really bass, but Patagonian toothfish.

Shane said the next couple of months are the best chance to get white sea bass into local stores and restaurants. Even so, De Kervor said, “I want our (fish) to live long and productive lives...I hope one doesn’t end up on my table.”

BRCC CONTINUED FROM Page 5

Bird Rock community fundraising event benefiting Bird Rock Elementary School, are both progressing.

“Birdstock: Taking It To The Street will be held Saturday, Aug. 11 from 1 to 4 p.m., allowing people to stay on the boulevard after and have dinner or visit merchants,” he said, adding the summer program, normally held the Saturday in August, will be rescheduled so as not to “double up” on event happenings.

• One local resident, noting identifying community signage is lacking, suggested creation of a “Welcome to Bird Rock” banner might be in order.

“That’s just one way to do it,” said Michelle Fulks of the BRCC who heads up the Neighborhood Watch program. “It would be available to us to choose what we want.”

“We’re talking about it with the community so that people have input,” said Parker.

• Parker said installation of new median light standards will be finished soon, adding the improvement project will be dedicated in the name of the late George Sutton, who died last year in an accident and was deeply involved in the project.

“We’ll be flying a plaque [honoring him] to the light standard across the street from Bird Rock Coffee Roasters,” he said.

BRCC board member Barbara Dawson said the lighting project will provide a much-needed public benefit. “It’s creating more lighting at night so we’re improving the safety of the area,” she said.

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Furniture Store ____________________________

Gift Shop ________________________________

Grocery Store ______________________________

Grocery Store [Specialty] ____________________

Hardware/Buliding Supplies __________________

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Weight Loss ______________________________

Yoga Facility ______________________________

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Jones said. “The vibe of the venue what we’re playing on KPRI and it general criteria. “The music needs to go with. “My favorite thing about playing at the Birch Aquarium is the gorgeous location,” she said. “We’re on stage above the ocean, the sun is setting and people are there to listen to our music. What more could we ask for, except maybe a green flash? Still waiting for that.” For Jones, the best thing about this concert series is “hands down the community angle of it. It’s our favorite concert series, it feels like a little community event. It’s like a group of friends that get together once a month,” she said. “And I like that we’re helping the Birch Aquarium at the same time.” Crawford agreed. “Not only is it a great opportunity to enjoy a great concert at sunset, but it also helps contribute to our ability to teach San Diegans about the ocean and how to protect it,” she said. The Green Flash concert series continues throughout the summer, with upcoming concerts including Need to Breathe (June 20), Matt Nathanson (July 18), The Dunwells with The Heartless Bastards (Aug. 15) and former Rughorn member Steve Poltz (Sept. 19). Admission to the shows is for those 21 and up only and includes free parking as well as entrance to the aquarium.
Simply put, St. Germaine Children’s Charity (SGCC) works to stop child abuse. Their goal is for every child to be safe, healthy, loved and cherished. Founded by the late Barbara Christensen in 1984, the organization has since raised more than $3 million in cash and $1.7 million worth of “in-kind” donations, all of which has been directed to help abused and at-risk children in San Diego County. Membership dues cover all operating costs and there are no paid employees, so all contributions go toward supporting child abuse prevention.

SGCC’s signature fundraising event is its Silver Tea, held each December at an elegant private residence. The most recent was held at the lovely La Jolla estate of Maureen and Chad Carpenter, bringing in about $30,000. That, along with more than $10,000 in additional contributions, was distributed at SGCC’s annual Membership and Grants Award Luncheon last week at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club.

The event started with a reception in the Walnut Lounge, and continued with the luncheon program in the La Sala Room. After a welcome by SGCC President Sheila Scaramecca, an exceptionally hearty salad was served, full of such goodies as avocado, chicken, ham and bacon. As guests enjoyed the fare, grants were presented to Angels Foster Family Network, ARTS — A Reason to Survive, Casa De Amparo, Center for Community Solutions, The Children’s Initiative, Family Health Centers of San Diego, Healthy Start Military Family Resource Center, Home Start, New Haven Youth and Family Services, San Diego Armed Services YMCA, South Bay Community Services, STAR/PAL, and Women’s Resource Center. These worthy organizations, chosen through a rigorous two-month review and screening process, serve thousands of children throughout San Diego.

Named in memory of its founder, SGCC’s most prestigious prize is the Barbara Christensen Heart of San Diego Award. It went to Home Start (along with the day’s largest grant), gracefully accepted by CEO Laura Mustari and incoming board president Paul Davis. The event concluded after the installation of SGCC’s new slate of officers.

Balboa Park’s Mingei Museum, where art belongs to everyone, brings together the art of all people (as its coined name defines). The fourth annual Mingei Fusion fundraiser brought patrons into the showpiece museum on the evening of June 9 to enjoy a combination of the eclectic art on exhibition and a broad international selection of food, drink and entertainment. Spread throughout both floors were stations offering exotic specialties from Cuba, Mexico, India, Ethiopia, Persia, Japan and Peru, plus gourmet chocolates (many in wine varietal flavors) and dozens of decadent desserts. Libations included wines and beers, mini vodka shots, two very different kinds of sake, coffees, sodas and lemonade. Henna artists and a calligrapher drew dramatic designs. Guests never quite knew what to expect around the next corner.

Further sensory stimulation came from the Mingei Museum’s collection of ornamental pottery from all over the world.も
from dance and musical performances from the cultures of China, Scotland, Brazil and Cuba. Guests watched close-up from the perimeter of the Rotunda Gallery or viewed from the balcony above. One of the hottest acts was Skelpin, with a unique blend of Irish, flamenco and Middle Eastern music by performers from Ireland, Ocean Beach and points between.

At 9 p.m., the gates opened for the after party, held in the Mingei’s theater. Its highly accessible $25 ticket price attracted a spirited additional crowd of attractive young partygoers — the sort from which future museum supporters come. They enjoyed a stunning digital video display, a popular DJ, a bar, freshly made foods and more desserts. Lavishly costumed Brazilian dancers put on a show and samba lessons by Vima Vedenko from Supersonic Samba School were enthusiastically received.

Entertaining as it was, next year’s party will be somewhat different. It will celebrate the Mingei’s 35th anniversary with affordable ticket levels, a sit-down dinner and special attractions for everybody. Save May 18, 2013 for the affair, which will be chaired by Susan Oliver and Sue Spanos.
The dinner party will take place at the museum’s outdoor terrace at 7 p.m., with mouthwatering dishes from local suppliers, specialty cocktails, and an art installation by Brian Sick. Roberts will speak at the La Jolla Community Center, 8611 La Jolla Blvd., on June 17 at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.mcasd.org or call (858) 454-3541.
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