If La Jolla can’t rid itself of its vexing sea lion problem, with the pinniped population booming at The Cove and elsewhere, maybe it should consider taking a different tack: turning the pesky marine mammals into customers.

In fact, that transition, as reflected by a couple unusual incidents during the past couple weeks, may already be under way.

On Jan. 21, at the Cave Store, 1325 Coast Blvd., a souvenir and gift shop with a long flight of stairs leading down to historic Sunny Jim Cave, an unusual visitor turned up around closing time. A juvenile sea lion that had climbed the cave stairs — all 145 of them — entered the facility from its submarine depths to the chagrin and shock of three customers already in the shop, including a lady in a wheelchair.

Caught on the store’s surveillance camera, the sea lion, a species sometimes known for its aggressiveness, didn’t bark or bite. Apparently not finding anything in the shop that it liked (not enough fish or pinniped stuff), the animal, according to eyewitness accounts, wandered around the facility from its submarine depths to the chagrin and shock of three customers already in the shop, including a lady in a wheelchair.

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Incoming president Andrew Ward, who replaced outgoing president Jacqueline Bell, introduced himself. The rest of the BRCC board presently consists of John Newsam, vice president; Barbara Dunbar, treasurer; Tim Brictson, secretary; and board members Ron Fineman, Michelle Fulks, Lake Price and Greg Wadsworth.

Dunbar gave an update on Midway bluff repair. “Work on the Midway bluff stabilization project is scheduled to take 77 workdays,” Dunbar said. “Work on the Midway bluff stabilization project, which started in February, is scheduled to take 77 workdays.”

Bird Rock Council welcomes new president, gets updates on bluff stabilization

All residents don’t find sea lions cute

By HANNA LAUKKANEN

Sea lions at La Jolla Cove have been a long-standing problem in La Jolla. Residents and La Jolla Town Council have tried for at least three years to come up with ways to keep them in a small area or get rid of them. La Jolla Village News asked residents about the sea lions, and one had a very different take.

Jim Schultz says the lions are a smelly mess.

Shirts and shoes required, no flippers allowed

Sea lions visit The Marine Room and the Cave Store in La Jolla

By DAVE SCHWAB

If La Jolla can’t rid itself of its vexing sea lion problem, with the pinniped population booming at The Cove and elsewhere, maybe it should consider taking a different tack: turning the pesky marine mammals into customers.

In fact, that transition, as reflected by a couple unusual incidents during the past couple weeks, may already be under way.

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BARBARA DUNBAR, BRCC TREASURER
In February, La Jolla Village Merchants Association unanimously endorsed a proposal to use non-harmful plastic “rollers” to help resolve problems with sea lions at the Cove, and it heard a pitch for creation of a new Maintenance Assessment District to pay for cleaning and upkeep of the Village.

La Jolla Town Council president Steve Haskins continued his campaign before local civic groups in an attempt to convince them of the rationale — and necessity — for installing plastic barriers as an impediment to sea lions at the Cove. Marine mammal feces, along with that of birds, has built up over time, causing huge odor problems over the last few years.

Haskins said the physical rolling barriers, which aren’t pricey, could be easily installed at two relatively narrow locations to prevent marine mammals from climbing on rocks. He added chemical spraying, which has been tried to combat the problem, hasn’t worked.

“Chemical spraying costs $7,200 a month and has proven to be insufficient in solving the (odor) problem,” Haskins said, adding that seal waste is also contaminating the waters of the Cove with bacteria, which has become a major health concern.

Haskins noted that using physical barriers is “low-tech and not terribly expensive” but if successful would help solve the odor problem by preventing animals from accessing dry areas where their waste builds up and becomes problematic. He said the barrier would also serve to physically separate humans and sea lions, thus preventing interaction between them.

La Valencia Hotel manager Mark Dibella, speaking on behalf of the nonprofit La Jolla Community Foundation, spoke to board members about a proposal to create a Maintenance Assessment District in the Village. Creation of such a district would tax both merchants and residents to pay for ongoing maintenance, including trash pick-up, watering of flowering plants, sidewalk cleaning et cetera.

Dibella noted residents and businesses would be taxed differently by using property square footage as a measure.

Dibella noted there are 63 existing assessment districts, including one in Bird Rock in La Jolla, pointing out they’ve all largely been successful.

“The goal is really to create a more uniform Village,” Dibella said, adding, “We’ve been relying on city-maintained services, and those will not grow as the city grows. We want to make sure La Jolla, the jewel of San Diego, has vibrant public spaces which enhance the Village lifestyle.”

More information about the prospective district is available at www.enhancelajolla.org.
Some people were born to make the world a more beautiful place. No matter the situation, they can’t help but add a splash of color wherever they go. They leave things a little brighter simply because they were there.

Those who’ve worked with Gregg Whitney will tell you that he’s one of those people. As a real estate professional for more than two decades, he’s had the opportunity to make the process of buying and selling a home a little brighter for many La Jolla residents.

You see, Gregg understands that making important decisions about your most important investment—your home—can be a stressful situation for anyone. But he also knows that working with a professional who truly understands your needs and goals, someone you can trust to make those needs a top priority, will make the entire process simpler, smoother and much more enjoyable—and successful. And that’s the type of professional Gregg has always strived to be.

He believes that when it comes to serving his clients, there’s nothing more important than providing the information and service they need. To him, each transaction is a work of art deserving his best efforts and full attention. No detail overlooked, no “going through the motions,” but a creative and individual approach every time.

When you’re thinking of buying or selling, call the agent who can turn your next transaction into a real estate masterpiece. Accept no imitation—Call Gregg Whitney today. You’ll be glad you did.
Whistle-blowing in our times

By Natasha Josefowitz, Ph.D.

“Who does not bellow the truth when he knows the truth makes himself the accomplisher of lies and furies.” — Charles Péguy, poet and essayist (1873-1914)

Some things that were deemed unacceptable not long ago are considered acceptable today. Other things were acceptable until recently but are now perceived as reprehensible. What happened, and how did these things shift in attitudes over time?

Let’s look at a few examples. There has been a spate of movies recently that depict companies and organizations promoting harmful, illegal or immoral practices; selling defective, dangerous or not-as-depicted or promised products and services; or falsifying, misrepresenting or withholding crucial information. I’m referring to the tobacco, food, sports, firearm and drug industries as well as banks, toy companies et cetera. All have been publicly exposed in the media and on the Internet. There is a new wave of public outcry because this information can now be shared by many more people using social media. There have been whistle-blowers who have unearthed the malfeasance.

Whistle-blowing targets companies and organizations that have got ten away with fooling consumers, the government and the public.

The truth has been unearthed through independent research by professionals in science, medicine and technology and by concerned individuals and advocacy groups. Much of what was unknown or seemed appropriate not long ago is no longer so.

We now know that the results of health studies was withheld by the tobacco industry while its representaives continued to insist that cigarettes were safe, that professional sports organizations concealed vital information on the severity of and long-term damage done by head trauma and concussions and that the Catholic Church systematically protected pedophiles.

The stakes can be enormous for the people running these big businesses. Often, huge sums of money are involved, as is power. Greed is a driving force. What does it take to come forward and divulge the truth, to say, “Hey, this is not OK”? Anyone who comes forward about the wrongdoings may be threatened with firing, jailing or even death.

Individuals and consumer groups have uncovered wrongdoings; movie producers have made documentaries; books have been written. Many have had a lasting impact on the public consciousness by changing not only attitudes and behaviors but also, in some cases, policy.

Recently, there have been outcries regarding the treatment of animals by dairy and poultry companies. People are demanding that orcas like Shamu not be contained in small spaces. Newspaper articles have described ways prison guards treat certain juvenile offenders, which has already led to discontinuing isolation as punishment. Some of these things were once acceptable but are no longer. Some were unknown or did not cause outrage.

What does it take to raise our awareness and consciousness to the ills surrounding us. The world is changing at an incredibly fast pace, due in part to the impact of technology that promotes information distribution to millions within minutes.

Some of the things that were not acceptable just a few years ago — such as interracial or gay marriage — are commonplace today. The whole idea of gender identity is now reverberating through our social consciousness. The struggles of transgendered people (formerly a taboo topic) are now openly discussed — thanks in part to a book and movie on the subject.

In looking back at our history, we see how some people have raised our consciousness and changed the course of history. Jesus was a whistle-blower when he drove the moneylenders from the temple.

In the 17th century, Galileo was threatened for his theory that the earth revolved around the sun because it was contrary to church teachings. In more recent times, Gloria Steinem wrote about the disparity of women’s salaries and women’s lack of available opportunities.

In 1962, Rachel Carson’s book _Silent Spring_ uncovered that the use of chemical pesticides by the farming industry was detrimental to birds. Student sit-ins, Occupy Wall Street, the Arab Spring in 2010 and movies addressing anti-Semitism, prejudice against gays and even how black housework-ers were treated in the South: All have contributed to raising our consciousness.

We are living in a time wherein people demand transparency in organizations, justice and humane treatment and stand up against corruption, violence and lies.

We are concerned about our environment, our planet and ultimately about our survival as a species. Let us all keep pulling together in favor of these lofty goals.

It is not easy to stand up to confront the people in charge. There is reason to worry about job security and other threats for exposing what is really going on. Our sense of integrity and values may be at stake. It often takes a heroic stand to be a whistle-blower.

As Bob Dylan sang so perceptively back in 1964: “For the times, they are a-changin’.”

Natasha Josefowitz is the author of more than 20 books and taught the first course on business management for women in the United States. She lives at The White Sands in La Jolla.

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Established in early 2008, Jean Brooks (UCSD Graduate) and Todd Brooks (Air Force Veteran, US Air Force Academy Graduate) had the desire to develop Assisted Living Care Homes and Services for seniors that are cut above the rest at fair & competitive rates. Right Choice Senior Living has Resi- dential Care Homes located in highly desire- able neighborhoods close to UCS, La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Clairemont (Mount Street Area) medical facilities and the beach. Come see us today before making your final choice. Make the Right Choice Today. For more infor- mation (619) 246-2003 or go to the web- site at rightchoiceseniorliving.org.

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*An Attorney Your Grandpa & Grandma Would Love!*

**Virginia Weber, Lic. Attorney**

**A Law Corporation**

Probate

Trusts

Wills

Ask The Trust & Estate Attorney

**Question:**

I will be inheriting some money and a home, do I need a will or trust?

**Answer:**

Inheritance and gifts are separate property, which means that you do not need to put your spouse’s name on them. In the event that you have already put the asset into your spouse’s name jointly, then you have already commingled them and they may be community property.

If you receive real estate valued over $50,000 (no kidding) or the funds you inherit are valued over $150,000, then you should put them into the name of the trust to avoid probate. Probate is a court procedure that takes about a year and costs a bundle of cash.

One of the reasons that you have to sit down with me to discuss all the facts, is that the advice depends on your particular situation. The first consideration is whether or not the assets should be put into the trust to avoid probate. Probate is a court procedure that takes about a year and costs a bundle of cash.

The second consideration is whether or not you should add a Will. A Trust can handle your assets and the Will can provide a backup in case the Trust is not valid. If you have children that will be receiving the money, the Trust can hold the assets until they are of age. The Trust can also provide for the caregiver if there are no children.

The third consideration is whether or not you should add Power of Attorney. Power of Attorney can give someone the power to handle your assets when you are unable to do so. Power of Attorney can be for financial or medical decisions. Power of Attorney can also be to handle your estate when you die. Power of Attorney can be added to the Trust.

The fourth consideration is whether or not you should add a Living Will. A Living Will can allow you to dictate what happens to your body if you are terminally ill and unable to express your wishes.

The fifth consideration is whether or not you should add life insurance. Life insurance can be put into the trust to avoid probate.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 619-222-5500.

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Women with Hair Loss can have Thick and Healthy Hair

Volume is the most requested service of all clients. Thick, healthy hair is never out of style! Even with all the excellent professional volumizing products available, nothing compares with the real thing: thick, healthy human hair.

The unique patented process used at Judy’s salon attaches a protein bond of real human hair to a small section of your own hair. The bonds are so strong you can style your hair anyway you choose. This unique application process makes it the only system that does no further damage.

How Do You Match Extensions?

If you are blending colors, choose extensions that are the same level of color as the client’s own hair. If you are changing the level of the client’s hair, choose a shade that works well with their skin tone. A coloring process can be done to match the natural hair 48 hours prior to application and extensions can be matched to that.

What type of hair extensions do you use?

Judy uses Great Lengths all-natural hair extensions and prefers these extensions because they are created from 100% human hair and use a unique, application process that attaches a bond of protein to the same molecular structure as your hair. This application process does not harm your own hair. While others use techniques such as welding, gluing or knotting, which strain your hair to a high degree, Judy uses a much more gentle principle called modulating. An extremely high-tech method of bonding the hair strand to your own hair. Extensions can be used for volumizing, lengthening, coloring or simply adding texture. Judy will offer a free consultation guiding you through your new style. Whether creating a new look, following fashion or with a special occasion on the horizon, Judy’s hair extensions have over 55 colors to choose from and blend with your own. Most importantly your own hair will not be damaged and the extensions can be easily removed by an expert.

Can hair extensions damage my hair?

No, they will not. Actually, even very fine and damaged hair can become healthier if you’re wearing hair extensions because they will protect your hair from things that could damage it like curling irons, blow dryers, styling heat and environmental damage. Because of the unique application bonding system, the extensions can be easily removed. This is different than many hair extension methods that tend to tighten too tightly to your hair. Judy’s is fully trained on how to equilibrate her clients’ hair to professionally take care of their hair extensions at home. Judy will recommend hair products, brushes, combs and appliances for use at home. Hair-styling is very similar to how you style your hair without extensions.

Contact Judy in La Jolla Village for answers to any more of your hair extensions questions:

Toll free: 1-800-276-0763 and enter 1017. You can call any time. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how you really can sell your home yourself.

Free Report Reveals Secrets Smart Home Sellers Use to Preserve Their Equity

SANDiego. 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.

Perhaps, you’ve had your home on the market for several weeks with no offers. This can be a very frustrating time, and many home-owners 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. Inside the report, you’ll find 10 inside tips to selling your home by yourself. You’ll find out what real estate agents don’t want you to know.

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 1017. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how you really can sell your home yourself.

Bridal Hair Extensions for your perfect wedding look.

Don’t be limited to your current hairstyle for your wedding, reception and honeymoon. By adding 100% natural hair extensions you can add volume, length or completely change your look. Call Judy for a free estimate prior to making the final decision considering hair extensions or hair recovery treatments.

$200 OFF your first full head of hair extensions

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Who Else Wants To Get Rid Of Their Headache?

Don’t Let Headaches Keep You From Living Your Life A Moment Longer!
The Answer To Getting Rid Of Your Headaches Is On This Page...

When you suffer with headaches it’s a real problem, and it affects every aspect of your life. You might feel like anything, either with your family, for fun or for work.

You watch other people getting on with their lives and you’re unable to whole heartedly take part. There is no argument on this point.

When you have a headache then you have to drag yourself around, you can’t think straight and you don’t feel good at any time. To top it all off, it probably isn’t going to get better on its own.

Wouldn’t it be worth finding out if there could be a solution for you? If you do suffer with headaches then I urge you to take us up on our offer; to have a full examination at this special discounted rate before, it is withdrawn without any notice whatsoever.

Find Out How To Get Rid Of Headaches For Just $49
Cut This Voucher Out And Save $230

Call 619-275-4343 NOW (Quote: BOS37DDHA3)
And For Just $19 (normally $220) You Will Get A Comprehensive Consultation Examination And X-Rays That Will Show You Why You Suffer With Headaches.

Village Veterinary Hospital offering discounted services

The Village Veterinary Hospital, at 7527 Draper Ave., has announced several savings opportunities for pet owners.

Until the end of March, the hospital will be offering 15 percent off dental care, and its vaccination clinic will offer 30 percent off all vaccines in addition to holding a $6 rabies clinic every second and fourth Friday of February and March.

The hospital has also announced that it will be participating in a low-cost spay and neuter clinic and offers 30 percent discounted health care packages.

Free Report Reveals Secrets Smart Home Sellers Use to Preserve Their Equity

You've read a new report entitled "Sell Your Own Home," which has been prepared especially for home sellers like you. Inside the report, you’ll find 10 inside tips to selling your home by yourself. You’ll find out what real estate agents don’t want you to know.

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 1017. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how you really can sell your home yourself.

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La Jolla AMC welcomes Fox TV sitcom cast

By HANNA LAUKKANEN

Kellani Fite and Marielle Limbo went to see the recent screening of Fox TV’s new series, “Cooper Barrett’s Guide to Surviving Life” at the AMC La Jolla 12 theater, along with some of the cast. And they’re hooked.

The series, which premiered on TV Jan. 3 and online Dec. 21, centers on 25-year-old Cooper (Jack Cutmore-Scott), who little by little figures out how to cope with adult life. He and his three friends, Kelly (Meaghan Rath), Barry (James Earl) and Neal (Charlie Saxton), end up in funny and dangerous events, and they survive them together.

“I think it was pretty entertaining. I think it relates to a lot of random events, and they survive them together.”

Take, for example the “lost phone” episode.

“I lose my phone all the time, and I freak out all the time, just like Cooper. It’s kind of you and your close friends hanging out doing a bunch of stupid things, and they survive them together.”

The girls say they will continue to watch the show on screen that we have fun,” Limbo says.

“The core of all these people,” Fite says, “is genuinely good. It’s really easy to take a show like ours and make it really cynical and have no heart. We are different because we love and we love love.”

Leonard Bernstein never died, and Hershey Felder can prove it

By CHARLENE BALDRIDGE

I intimated this in an earlier column, and it’s now official: The multi-talented Hershey Felder, who recently completed a hugely successful run as Irving Berlin at La Jolla Playhouse, will return to San Diego this summer. On this occasion, Felder will inhabit one of America’s most beloved composers / conductors / educators / raconteurs, Leonard Bernstein, in his own vehicle, titled “Hershey Felder as Leonard Bernstein in MAESTRO.”

Joel Zwick directs the “pre-New York engagement” that plays at the Lyceum Stage, San Diego Repertory Theatre, Wednesday, July 6 to Sunday, July 17. You’re right; the show was mounted at The Old Globe Theatre in 2011.

Reached in San Jose, where he’s playing Berlin through Feb. 14, Felder said that his Bernstein makes a stop in L.A. prior to New York. Though his show played here five years ago, he continues working on them once they open, learning more and more. “The Bernstein is in good shape now. It has worked well for a number of years, and it will be nice to install it at the Rep.”

Felder and director Trevor Hay were to attend the San Diego Critics Circle Awards, held in La Jolla Monday, Feb. 8, due to Felder’s nomination for his recent outstanding solo performance as Irving Berlin, which San Diego native Hay directed.

Enjoy the Beauty of Old Town

Read More Online at sdnews.com

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Enjoy the Beauty of Old Town

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So who's the real inspiration behind Valentine's Day?

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN

In several hours, you'll be part of a movement whose consumers spend around $19 billion in celebration of one of America's (almost) national holidays, Valentine's Day. Sunday, Feb. 14, reportedly was $5 billion. (People also make plans for Valentine's Day a year in advance). The holiday was banned by the Romans; the latter has been a movement whose consumers spend around $19 billion in celebration of one of America's (almost) national holidays, Valentine's Day. Sunday, Feb. 14, reportedly was $5 billion. (People also make plans for Valentine's Day a year in advance). The holiday was banned by the Romans; the latter has a history of being celebrated with flowers, cards, and candy. Over the years, the tradition of giving flowers on Valentine's Day has become a global phenomenon, with people sending flowers to loved ones around the world.

Playhouse's 'Come from Away' wins six awards at critics' fête

La Jolla Playhouse's world-premiere musical "Come from Away" took home six awards in a Feb. 8 ceremony honoring the best in local theater. The production didn't involve the best of circumstances. Juliana's dad, Asterius, was also the latter having been condemned to death merely for marrying couples in love (it was against Roman law for soldiers to wed, as it was thought married men made loose soldiers). One day, in a pang of desperation, Asterius brought Julia to Valentinus, hoping for a miracle. He got it, as the priest restored Julia's sight (and the gifts and flowers from Julia didn't exactly hurt the relationship). In time, Val fell in love with Julia and converted her and her dad to Christianity.

Then came the fatal mistake. Thinking he was on a roll, the priest attempted to sway Emperor Claudius II into conversion—but the big guy wasn't having it. Even as Julia and Asterius pled Valentinus' case, one of Claudius' chopping blocks had the cleric's name on it. Valentinus was stoned and beheaded on Feb. 24, AD 270, but not before he'd penned a farewell letter to Julia, signing it "From Your Valentine."

In death, and with the Church's sanction, Valentinus would take his place as the patron saint of love. The pagan god Lupercus, central figure in the feast of Lupercalia, wasn't cutting it anymore, as the Church had grown weary of the event (it had involved a lottery in which women were matched with men as sex partners, and it had become a staple in Roman culture for 800 years). The new holiday would feature a kinder, gentler celebration, with the guys courting favor through flowers, notes and the best booze the auresus could buy.

Full disclosure, in case you were wondering: There are more St. Valentines than meet the eye—one guy's the patron saint of epileptics, while another is the spiritual steward of bees. And Val isn't necessarily the go-to guy for people on the market (that task belongs to St. Raphael, patron saint of singles actively seeking a marriage partner). St. Valentine, after all, is the patron saint of romantic love, pure and simple—amid his exhaustive affection for Julia (and minus the billion-dollar price tag), it looks like he's kept his end of the bargain.

An Original Love Story

Julia and Valentinus were the happy couple even before there was a Valentine's Day. We do know her name was Julia, and she was just 16 when she met Valentinus; the key here is that she was also blind. Moreover, the introduction didn't involve the best of circumstances. Juliana's dad, Asterius, was also Valentinus' jailer, the latter having been condemned to death merely for marrying couples in love (it was against Roman law for soldiers to wed, as it was thought married men made loose soldiers). One day, in a pang of desperation, Asterius brought Julia to Valentinus, hoping for a miracle. He got it, as the priest restored Julia's sight (and the gifts and flowers from Julia didn't exactly hurt the relationship). In time, Val fell in love with Julia and converted her and her dad to Christianity.

Then came the fatal mistake. Thinking he was on a roll, the priest attempted to sway Emperor Claudius II into conversion—but the big guy wasn't having it. Even as Julia and Asterius pled Valentinus' case, one of Claudius' chopping blocks had the cleric's name on it. Valentinus was stoned and beheaded on Feb. 24, AD 270, but not before he'd penned a farewell letter to Julia, signing it "From Your Valentine."

In death, and with the Church's sanction, Valentinus would take his place as the patron saint of love. The pagan god Lupercus, central figure in the feast of Lupercalia, wasn't cutting it anymore, as the Church had grown weary of the event (it had involved a lottery in which women were matched with men as sex partners, and it had become a staple in Roman culture for 800 years). The new holiday would feature a kinder, gentler celebration, with the guys courting favor through flowers, notes and the best booze the auresus could buy.

Full disclosure, in case you were wondering: There are more St. Valentines than meet the eye—one guy's the patron saint of epileptics, while another is the spiritual steward of bees. And Val isn't necessarily the go-to guy for people on the market (that task belongs to St. Raphael, patron saint of singles actively seeking a marriage partner). St. Valentine, after all, is the patron saint of romantic love, pure and simple—amid his exhaustive affection for Julia (and minus the billion-dollar price tag), it looks like he's kept his end of the bargain.
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MEET THE GLOBAL EXPERT, MCKENZIE BOLT, AND LEARN ABOUT Tata Harper’s APPROACH TO ORGANIC SKINCARE.
Consistency is the byword as Piatti celebrates 25 years in La Jolla Shores

By DAVE SCHWAB

This year, Piatti Italian Restaurant & Bar is celebrating 25 years as a cornerstone eatery in La Jolla Shores.

The quarter-century celebration, replete with lively cocktails, fabulous wines and culinary delights served up by longtime chef Peppe Capatinita, is set at the restaurant at 2182 Avenida de la Playa for Thursday, Feb. 25, from 6:30 p.m. to midnight.

Proceeds from the dining fundraisers will benefit Las Patronas and the La Jolla Shores Business Association, a micro-business improvement district.

What distinguishes Piatti and has allowed it to survive the rigorous test of time?

“We’ve had the same chef since the day we opened,” noted restaurant general manager Tom Spano, adding, “Also, our food is very consistent. If you come in and say ‘I want the same dish I had six months ago,’ it’s probably still going to be on the menu.”

Piatti of La Jolla Shores is one of nine in the restaurant chain, all of the same name and five of which are in California.

The Italian eatery — and its La Jolla neighborhood — share a lot of culinary history. But before it was Italian, the restaurant served German fare.

Preceding Piatti was another gone-but-not-forgotten establishment, Rheinlander Haus restaurant, bar, gift shop and coffee shop. It was a slice of Germany in the Shores, serving cuisine from that country from 1956 to 1984. In between those two restaurants, for a brief stint, was Gustaf-Anders Swedish cuisine.

Rheinlander Haus was co-owned and operated by European immigrant Ernest Kleeble, who died in 2012 at age 81, and his business partner, Al Williams. During their years together, the restaurant duo created a couple important San Diego restauranting precedents. They were one of the first to get outdoor seating, even securing a permit their last couple years in business to close down the street for Oktoberfests.

Rheinlander was also one of the first privately owned San Diego eateries to have a completely tiled kitchen. Additionally, it was one of the first businesses on the West Coast to serve imported German beer.

Spano, who’s been employed at Piatti off and on since coming to San Diego in 1989, said the retail landscape was quite different when Piatti first arrived.

“The partners of Piatti restaurants, started by the Harmon family of Mill Valley, bought the restaurant building from Helen Copley and former San Diego Mayor Maureen O’Connor.”

Spano said, noting that Osteria Romantica, the Italian restaurant across the street today, was a bank back then.

“Where the Shorehouse Kitchen is now used to be a Chinese restaurant,” said Spano. “There used to be a travel agency where Galaxy Taco is now.”

A Mexican restaurant used to be where Barbarella’s is across the street.

In fact, Barbarella’s owner Barbara Beltaire got her start at Piatti.

“I was hired when Barbara was the general manager,” Spano said.

Spano said one thing that has changed over the years with Piatti is that it’s now “a little bit more organized.”

“Years ago, there wasn’t even a training manual,” Spano said, “so I created one.”

Citing 25 years in business as “a milestone,” Spano said Piatti’s 10th and 20th anniversary celebrations were also important and helped the restaurant build its tradition of giving back to the community via annual party fundraising celebrations.

“This year, we’re doing something different,” said Spano, chair of the La Jolla Shores Business Association. The association, he noted, “will be getting a portion of the (fundraiser) proceeds.”

As chair of the Shores micro-business improvement district, Spano is now helping guide the future direction of the community and its stoked beach, which draws upward of 2.5 million visitors annually.

“We want to improve the aesthetics of the Shores,” Spano said. “In the long run, that will help everyone, the residents as well as the businesses.”

For more information, call (858) 454-1389 or visit piatti.com
Why give roses for Valentine's Day when cyclamen will do?  

By LINDA MARRONE

A striking plant with vibrant pink, red, purple or white butterfly-like flowers and heart-shaped leaves, cyclamen is the perfect plant to give to a loved one or to your garden for Valentine’s Day. Native to regions of the Mediterranean, this perennial plant will rebloom year after year and grows from a round tuber that produces its lush leaves and eye-catching flowers from fall through spring, when most of the garden is sleeping.

Cyclamen is widely available this time of year – and when purchasing it, choose a plant with firm green leaves and a lot of flower buds. Here in our mild climate, you can grow cyclamen outdoors, but you can also grow them inside as a house plant. Either way, cyclamen does not like direct sunlight and too much heat. I prefer to grow my cyclamen in pots outdoors rather than in the garden soil, where they can attract snails and slugs faster than you can imagine. If you grow them indoors, make sure they are kept in a cool place, such as a windowsill with indirect light during the day and where they will stay cool at night.

When the weather warms up in late spring, the plant will go into a dormant state, lose all its leaves and appear to have died, but it hasn’t. After the tuber rests for about four months and with little care, it will come back to life, sprout leaves and bloom again in the fall. When it goes dormant, remove any remaining leaves, let the pots’ soil dry out and store it in a cool dark place. After the hot days of summer and early fall are over, bring the pots out into the light and give them a drink. Sometimes after they go dormant, I will carefully dig up the tubers, taking care not to disturb their roots, and repot them in a “holding” pot until I am ready to replant them in the early spring.

Cyclamen likes well-drained soil and prefers that you let the soil dry out just slightly before watering it again. Use caution not to overwater or to let it stay dry for too long. When you water, don’t drench the plant itself, and just water the soil.

That said, I’ll tell you that with the heavy rains we had recently, my pots got drenched, but my plants are surviving. After the rain, I moved them to a sunny location to let them dry out – and while some of the leaves and flowers died, I just removed them, and the plants are now sending out new leaves and flower buds.

As your plant grows, cut off the stems with spent flowers and any leaves that begin to yellow or fade. Fertilize your cyclamen with a balanced fertilizer for flowering plants, one that does not have too much nitrogen, or you will have more leaves than flowers (I use Eleanor’s VP-11 fertilizer). You need to fertilize only in the fall after the dormant period ends and then about every two months before they go dormant, around March, since our cooler spring weather can keep them in bloom until May. A word of caution: I’ve read that cyclamen leaves can be poisonous to cats and dogs, so plant them out of reach of your pets. A nickname in England for the plant is “sow-bread,” because wild boars and pigs dig up the tubers to eat. So while the tuber may not be poisonous, the leaves may be harmful if ingested.

Linda is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker in La Jolla. Pictures of her garden have been published in local and national magazines. Take a tour of her garden at LindaMarrone.com.
completed sometime in April 2016,” Dunbar said. “The project includes repair of eroded hillsides on the western end of Midway as well as restoration of the lookouts.”

Noting the contractor is “installing a retaining wall to restore the bluff,” Dunbar added the project also includes a concrete pad, a bench and new fencing or railing along with drought-tolerant landscape.

Dunbar noted the smaller section next to Midway will now be to traffic when the heavy-duty equipment work on bluff stabilization commences.

“The total cost of the project, which has already been budgeted, is $475,000,” Dunbar said. Previously, project city manager George Fritha told the council that erosion problems with the western end of Midway bluffs goes back years. He told the community advisory group that storm water runoff was seriously eating away at the bluffs as far back as 2004.

The engineer said repairs will “improve the path of travel on the sidewalk leading to the sea area.”

Improvements are to entail creating a mechanical earth wall with blocks stacked onto one another to support and stabilize the bluff wall.

Freiha said the texture of the newly created earth wall will match existing neighboring walls.

In other action:

• South African winemaker Lowenberg of Lowenberg Vineyards with newly created earth wall will install at Saleta (811-766-7778 or (811-793-7100).

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to be a consensus builder. We need new ideas. If you give me the chance, I'll work hard and don't don't have to agree with me.

Architect Phil Merton, a longtime La Jollaan running for assembly, is urging voters to support the ad hoc committee, which was established to advise the city on its needs and wishes. LJCPA is a liaison with the city and also a forum for residents. "I’m going to throw my hat in for the LJCPA," said Sharon Zimmerman, a Republican running for the district's AD HOC COMMITTEE.

The ad hoc committee’s mission is twofold: to add clarity to the interpretation of building codes and to close loopholes in zoning allowing categorical exemptions for coastal development which contribute to mansionization. “It’s somewhat of a moving target: things are always changing,” said Wampler of coastal zoning. From the audience, Bob Whitney, who is developing a mixed-use, retail-residential project in La Jolla Shores, challenged the viability of the ad hoc committee’s meetings were poorly attended, which don’t think the ad hoc committee has community consensus, and that is the way we want to go.”

Wampler replied she’s heard from many people who have shared her views about alleged planning abuses with mansionization. She added many people with families are also unable to attend nightime meetings because of their busy schedules. But she said that perhaps among board members last 20-30 minutes have been included.

Board member Joe LaCava moved that ad hoc board believe that the final report accepted and that the ad hoc board encourage to “continue on and schedule a series of meetings to enhance community consensus then bring it back to the LJCPA for a vote.”

The group vote on the motion was 10-4-1.
and are harmful for the residents, hotels and restaurants of the area. He thinks that the way of getting rid of them is to go down to the shore with cattle prods and zap them every time they come out from the water. He says the lions are smart animals and learn fast where they are not welcome.

Schultz doesn't like that the lions took over the Children's Pool. "Children's Pool is for children, not for seals or sea lions," he said. "There are lots of places for them all down the coast of California. We don't have to have them here where we have a heavy concentration of people and children."

Doug Smith thinks that the sea lions would go to another place if the pinniped's presence prompted SeaWorld to dispatch a rescue team to pick up the female pup, which marine mammal officials found to be malnourished. They said what it should at that age. The pup turned up (no one knows how) in one of its booths.

A building El Niño in the Pacific has been wreaking havoc on the food supply of sea lions and other marine mammals for the past year or more. Due to warmer-than-usual ocean temperatures, which apparently drove sea lions' usual fish prey species to greater depths where they couldn't be reached, SeaWorld has rescued a surprising and unprecedented number of malnourished and dehydrated sea lions. The park and its employees worked long hours to rehab more than 1,000 emaciated marine mammals, more than double the usual number.

The park's trainers worked overtime to nurse them back to health before returning them to the wild. "We saw sea lion pups coming in day by day," said at that time. "They were coming in very emaciated, 18 to 20 pounds as opposed to (the normal) 35 pounds or more, only a few pounds in very emaciated, 18 to 20 pounds as opposed to (the normal) 35 pounds or more."

In response, SeaWorld temporarily suspended its popular sea lion and otter show for a few weeks so trainers could assist with the park's marine mammal rescue and rehabilitative efforts. Koontz noted the marine mammal theme park was busy all last year rescuing sea lions and other coastal species. "The marine mammal species rescued by SeaWorld San Diego in 2015 were: 990 California sea lions, 31 northern elephant seals, 24 harbor seals, 10 fur seals and two common dolphins," Koontz said. "We also responded to five entangled humpback whales and one fin whale off the Southern California coast in 2015, successfully disentangling three of the humpback whales. Our aquarium team came to the aid of three sea turtles, and our bird rescue team was also busy, taking in and caring for 186 marine birds including grebes, pelicans, gulls, herons..."
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