DJ honored with vibrant East Village mural

KENDRA SITTON | Downtown & Uptown News

DJ and World Beat Cultural Center founder Makeda “Dread” Cheatom was honored as a San Diego hero with a new mural in East Village. The mural by artist Taylor Gallegos depicts the long-time radio host DJing with the word “unity” behind her.

Cheatom explained that when she met with Gallegos ahead of the mural’s creation, Cheatom emphasized that the through line in all of her work is building unity. Unity is also celebrated on the first day of Kwanzaa.

“...my goal is to promote unity in diversity, by teaching world peace. And that’s what we need right now is unity,” Cheatom said.

The mural is part of a project from beer company Estrella Jalisco to add bright public art to 100 communities in the Southwest United States honoring people who have had a positive impact on their neighborhood. Gallegos is one of nine artists in residence for the program.

“First brewed in Guadalajara, Jalisco, the cultural capital of Mexico renowned for its vibrant art scene, Estrella Jalisco has a long-standing tradition of bringing people together around colorful art and celebrating life,” said Jayden Kahl, Senior Director of Marketing, Estrella Jalisco. “Through this program and the artists who join us, we’ll collectively extend those values to communities across the country and make a tangible, visible impact on a local level.”

The mural honoring Cheatom is one of two featuring San Diego heroes. Cheatom grew up in Logan Heights. She attended San Diego High School and San Diego City College for broadcasting. For over 25 years, she has had her own “Reggae Makossa” radio show on 102.5 FM.

Cheatom has received several awards from local government entities, the Women’s Museum of California and more. She said this particular honor stands out because it is something people on the street will see rather than just top officials. Already, the mural is eliciting a reaction from people...
Dave's Flower Box – an institution worth keeping

By Mike Rosensteel

Open since 1953, Dave's Flower Box is one of the oldest and most successful businesses that has operated in North Park. And as many residents and customers from all over the country agree, this is a flower shop like no other. In addition to an incredible selection of flowers and flower arrangement, the staff couldn't be friendlier. Owners Jim and Michele Martin and their team go out of their way to take care of each and every customer. And interestingly, they have managed to survive the pandemic. While some of their regular business streams, such as proms, birthdays and weddings have declined, their online business has thrived. Imagine not being able to be part of a holiday gathering or even a funeral, due to the pandemic. In many cases, the next best thing is to send a beautiful flower arrangement. And no local florist does it better than Dave's Flower Box.

Unfortunately, construction of an apartment building poses a threat to the continued survival of Dave's Flower Box. Located at the corner of Texas Street and El Cajon Boulevard, the owners of the project next door want to eliminate the entrance to their business. Most customers use the El Cajon Boulevard entrance. With only the much smaller Texas Street entrance remaining, it will be difficult to enter the business. Traffic at this intersection is already difficult and undoubtedly will impact the amount of business Dave's Flower Box will receive.

A beloved business like Dave's Flower Box is one that San Diego needs. Efforts are being made to keep the El Cajon Boulevard entrance. Please support Dave’s Flower Box and their efforts to keep both entrances intact. Their products, staff and longevity make Dave's Flower Box an institution worth keeping.

—Mike Rosensteel is a sales consultant for San Diego Community Newspaper Group. Contact him at miker@sdnews.com.

New mural

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

on the streets she cares about. Cheatom shared a story of a homeless man stopping to ask Gallegos if he was painting Makeda because he recognized her.

“There's a Black person up there; there's a person of color. So it empowers -- empowers young people and it empowers the homeless,” Cheatom said.

“Representation is very, very important.” 

Cheatom has had stints of homelessness and said her background in an underserved community can show people struggling they too can make it out. A major part of her community work includes feeding and teaching homeless people. With the World Beat Cultural Center's Balboa Park location and her extensive time in Logan Heights, Cheatom said the East Village has always been in her backyard. The larger-than-life mural adds a splash of color to the drab area of the neighborhood.

Cheatom hopes it can be the start of new focus on the East Village. She is bursting with ideas including asking Mayor Todd Gloria to add homeless services to the building the mural is painted on or creating an artist collective. If that does not happen, she imagines a music night in the area.

“The arts are a resource for healing,” Cheatom said. The mural is located at 151 17th Street. A second mural of artist and healer Jaqueline Alvarez is at 900 G. Street.

“I'm really happy that there's color out there in the Village and I look forward to working hard with you there. In the end, people also need resources, including the arts... If we can get more resources for arts and music, and we can teach and we can heal, because music is healing. The arts are a resource for healing,” Cheatom said. The mural is located at 151 17th Street. A second mural of artist and healer Jaqueline Alvarez is at 900 G. Street.

—Kendra Sitton can be reached at kendra@sdnews.com.

Cheatom and Gallegos pose in front of the completed mural. (Photos by J. Emilio Flores)

Gallegos is one of nine artists in residence through Estrella Jalisco.

Dave’s Flower Box

2405 El Cajon Boulevard
619-298-7247
davesflowerbox.com
Peers education
CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Society are bridging education al gaps through extracurricular teaching.

“I think that it’s important for every child to get some extra help and really have someone to fos ter their lesson learning because it really only takes one person to help a child through a subject that they’re struggling with and allow them to engage with the material in a way that is really special to them, and allow students to progress further in their education,” Catalina McFarland, who volun teers as a tutor, said.

KID BY KID
Kid by Kid is a free one-on-one tutoring program founded in 2018 by Daxton Gutekunst that partners middle school and high school students with refugee stu dents who need help in subjects like writing or math. The pro gram has gone through a couple locations and iterations, most recently Saint Mark’s Church. Finding a central location with classrooms was a challenge so the move to online tutoring has actually helped the program participate increase dramatically since restarting this fall.

Gutekunst is a sophomore at Bishop’s School and many of the volunteers come from other pri vate schools like Francis Parker High School. The students re ceiving free tutoring are primarily refugees through Karen Organization of San Diego (KOSD). Despite the disparity in background between tutors and stu dents, Gutekunst said people are able to build connections because of the similarity in ages. Most tu tors are only a couple years older than students, which he said is less intimidating than asking for help from an adult.

“You’re learning from a friend. You’re learning from a peer. It’s not so much that tutoring with an adult isn’t effective, we just have seen that this camaraderie that is forged over these sessions is really beneficial to students,” Bankers Hill resident Gutekunst said.

Not requiring transportation to a physical location on Saturday mornings has made participation in the program explode. Typically, 50 students and 50 tutors connect over Zoom for one hour each week.

The organization seeks to provide individualized teaching to students who may not receive the attention they need in a classroom.

“I think the pandemic has just made everyone more aware of their privilege, especially me and the students at my school which is why we’ve had so many people start tutoring. When we have this ability, especially through technology like Zoom and screen share, to provide some support and guidance to children who maybe even before the pandemic did not have the sort of attention that we get at school. When we have this ability to help them, I think it’s a responsibility and also it’s really a gift to be able to engage with other children,” McFarland said.

Still, some inequities remain even after moving virtually. Tutor Niamh Malhotra, who also attends Bishop’s School in La Jolla, said a fter two sessions a child she tutored had to quit due to internet issues.

Since then, Malhotra was paired with a first grade student who needs help with reading and writing. Malhotra said she has seen the student’s reading improve this year although teaching writing virtually has proved challenging. Through the tutoring, they have developed a positive relationship and even read spooky Halloween stories together.

“She’s so sweet. She drew a picture of me the other day like a princess and she said, ‘Look at the view.’ And I think I’ve just loved to build a relationship with her and help her with the same things every week,” Malhotra said.

AGSS is still holding workshops during the pandemic.

Dozens of volunteers and participants are connecting over Zoom. (Photo courtesy AGSS)

In addition to tutoring, Kid by Kid has organized a school supply drive and a Christmas gift drive. Here Kid by Kid founder Daxton Gutekunst is pictured with Karen Organization of San Diego Youth Program Coordinator April Moo.

(Author of “Life Beyond Therapy”)

San Diego Downtown & Uptown News
December 2020

Niarm Malhotra goes over a worksheet with the child she tutors. Malhotra said she has already seen improvement in the girl’s reading ability since school started. (Photo courtesy Niamh Malhotra)

FEATURE

Kid by Kid is a free one-on-one tutoring program founded in 2018 by Daxton Gutekunst that partners middle school and high school students with refugee students who need help in subjects like writing or math. The program has gone through a couple locations and iterations, most recently Saint Mark’s Church. Finding a central location with classrooms was a challenge so the move to online tutoring has actually helped the program participation increase dramatically since restarting this fall.

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(Author of “Life Beyond Therapy”)
ESG investments create change

By STEVE DUSTER

ESG investments create change by investing in companies that are leaders in environmental, social, and corporate governance. ESG investments might be the ticket for people that create change through activism, volunteer, donate to charities, and mindfully reduce their carbon footprint. ESG investments can also result in a safer portfolio for you.

ESG investment is best explained using examples to show the power of your dollars working to create lasting change in our world. Here are just three examples below.

Parnassus Investments is a leader in ESG investments. Their mutual funds completely avoid investing in any fossil fuel companies. Fossil fuels contribute to global warming. Investors can help reduce carbon emissions by withholding their retirement savings from fossil fuel companies. If all investors stopped investing in fossil fuels, these companies would no longer have the cash to develop new production facilities.

Parnassus uses the combined power of investors that buy their mutual funds to call for corporate accountability. If the company owns Oreos cookies and Rita crackers was pressured by Parnassus and other shareholders to reduce its environmental footprint and switch to sustainably sourced ingredients, they will do so. In order to maintain these mutual funds, earn investment returns and change the world – all with your investment dollars.

Calvert is another leader in ESG investments. One of Calvert’s many initiatives is to increase the number of women and people of color on the boards and in senior leadership positions at publicly traded companies. In the past year, they have been engaged with 37 large U.S. companies to further this initiative. Calvert does this by filing shareholder proposals seeking to increase diversity at the top of the management structure. Using the voting power of Calvert funds, they can vote in favor of productive shareholder proposals and vote against destructive proposals. Because investors have billions of dollars invested in Calvert mutual funds, Calvert has the power to make a meaningful impact on the success or failure of a shareholder proposal. Once a shareholder proposal is approved, management must move forward with implementing the change.

For both Parnassus and Calvert, your money allows them to get to work and create change. First, an investor buys shares of a mutual fund. Parnassus and Calvert then invest that money in companies that are already doing great things for the world so that these sustainable practices can expand. And Parnassus and Calvert also go to other companies, letting management know they have plenty of money to invest if the company will make changes to improve the environment, diversity, sustainably, and protections, and so much more.

There is another benefit of ESG investments. This philosophy reduces exposure to certain risks. ESG investing can actually produce the same or better returns than traditional non-ESG investments with less risk to your portfolio.

Are ESG investments right for you? They probably are if you recognize ESG investments as a form of activism, volunteer for nonprofits, donate to charities, own an electric vehicle, use solar power or ride a bike for commuting. All of these actions can be done on an individual basis. You can increase your impact for change by investing in ESG mutual funds that create change on your behalf.

—Steve Duster, CFPE is the financial planning manager at Rowling & Associates – a fee-only wealth management and CPA firm helping individuals find their financial freedom. Rowling & Associates is a fiduciary standard of care helping people with their taxes, investments, and financial planning. Read more articles at rowling.com/blog.

—Kendra Sitton can be reached at kendra@sdnews.com.

Guest Editorial

The way forward: Conquering the pandemic

By Brian Schrader

Besse by disease, economic recession, unprecedented political polarization and rampant inequality, it’s time for us to take a step back and evaluate our current situation.

In recent times, we’re descended into political infighting and divisiveness. We’ve lost the will to join forces in solving problems. But America is stronger than ever. Our power lies in wait for a collective purpose that we can tackle together. In this short series, we’ll diagnose our current problems and we’ll see what we can do as a nation to dig ourselves out of our current situation and emerge, raring to solve ever more ambitious problems and build the future we desire – a future befitting the most powerful nation on earth.

Before that though, we need to deal with the single most pressing issue in America today: the pandemic.

COVID-19 has disrupted our entire way of life and it seems like that will continue for longer than we would like or hope. The race to a vaccine, which is astounding in its own right, has been very delayed. It is very clear that the things we have so far will not yet protect us from a second wave. We still have a long way to go. We will need the vaccine to be widely available, fully regulated by the federal government, and should fund an immense contact tracing workforce. Rather than contract this job out to private firms or administration, the government should make funds available so that every state, county and city can form its own contact tracing network. These networks will then get hired and trained within days, would comb the population, identify confirmed cases, contact the infected person, and trace their exposure to find the source of their infection and identify others who may have been exposed and inform them. A truly massive contact tracing effort, one that employs tens or potentially hundreds of thousands of tracers, would not only provide easily scalable, remote-friendly work for those currently unemployed, but it would also help public health officials better understand outbreaks and break spread within their own communities.

The program should be administered by local and state officials for maximum flexibility for each community but be funded by the federal government, allowing for the scale of a truly national program. A program of this size is not something we desperately need, but it’s something that local governments don’t have the funds to do.

Paired with similarly sized testing funds, such a program would boost employment, provide stable income for tracers, mitigate the burden of unemployment, and help reduce carbon emissions.

For the deficit-sensitive among you: yes, such a program can be funded without raising taxes. This is for a few reasons. First, taxes in a recession often do more harm than good. Second, the national debt is already so high due to the COVID-19 response and cursed ourselves to a multi-trillion dollar deficit. It doesn’t make sense, nor is it important, to talk about the national deficit. The fact that helping people helps the economy. Numbers that look good today will matter even less next year. Things will now won’t last— not with so many people dying or without jobs.

There aren’t only the things the government can do. Congress should also appropriate money to help state and local governments with their budget shortfalls, and it should provide crucial funds to help elementary schools reopen safely and help businesses pay their expenses. Additionally, funding and equipment should be provided to older students, so that all of them get a first-rate remote learning experience, and we should expand rural broadband to ensure that those outside the city get the same quality of education as those in urban areas.

In short, the current choice between a forced reopening during a pandemic or a safe but devastating shutdown is a false dichotomy — one created by a refusal to help fellow Americans during a crisis. Personal sacrifice is necessary as we make our way through this path we choose. We all need to wear a mask, wash our hands and move our social lives online for now. But together, and with patience and effort, we can emerge victorious.

—Brian Schrader is a local business owner, software developer, editor, and San Diego resident living in Normal Heights.
Attorneys and captains in West End
San Diego street names: Part eight of the series

William Jefferson Gatewood formed his West End tract in 1873 and named his north-south streets after people he knew. In the ordinances of 1899 and 1900, original names changed as follows: Pemberton became Idaho (later 28th), Winder became Utah, Johnson became Sherman (later Granada), Gatewood became Kansas (later 29th), Brunson became Nebraska (later 30th), and Robinson became Ray. The names Pemberton, Winder and Gatewood were discussed in last month’s column. This time the focus is on Johnson, Sherman and Brunson.

Possibilities for a San Diego pioneer behind Gatewood’s choice for the street name of Johnson include Cullen A. Johnson and George A. Johnson.

Cullen Augustus Johnson (1826-1872) was working as an attorney in San Francisco by 1861 and moved to San Diego in 1867. He served as the district attorney from 1868-1869. A City Deed dated February 25, 1869 records his purchase of the 80-acre west half of Pueblo Lot 1116 from the City Trustees for $20 with “Wm Jeff Gatewood” signing as the notary public. This land became part of University Heights in 1888.

Cullen Johnson died of tuberculosis on May 16, 1872. Father Antonio Ubach conducted the funeral service in the Old Town Catholic Church, and Johnson was buried at El Campo Santo Cemetery. The Daily Union’s May 17, 1872 issue noted, “A large number of the members of the Bar and friends of the deceased followed his remains to the grave.” However, his gravestone is not identified. It may be one of the many unnamed graves marked with a simple cross, enclosed with a picket fence, or even lying under San Diego Avenue. The cemetery was split by a streetcar line in 1889, and the rail line was paved for what is now San Diego Avenue in 1942. Most of the bodies were left in place both times.

George Alonso Johnson (1824-1903) was born in New York and came to California by steamboat in 1849, landing in San Francisco. The 1860 Federal Census listed Johnson as a “Steamboat Captain” in San Diego. He was a notable pioneering captain on the Colorado River before settling in San Diego. In 1853, he founded a successful steamboat company that shipped cargo up the Colorado River from its mouth to Fort Yuma. He is an important figure in Arizona history.

George Johnson lived in Old Town during his early and later years. He was a member of the State Assembly in 1863 and 1866-1867 and participated with Gatewood as a director of the San Diego Bay Shore Railroad Company to build a rail line from Old Town to Horton’s Addition. His name is among those listed on the back cover of the 1874 San Diego City Directory as a director of the Commercial Bank of San Diego.

In addition to these civic accomplishments, he raised premier stock on the Rancho Santa María de los Peñasquitos. The rancho was a wedding gift to Johnson’s bride, Maria Estefana Alvarado (1840-1926), from her parents in 1859. Through her mother, Estefana was the niece of Pio Pico, the last governor of California under Mexico, and General Andres Pico. The land encompassed what is now the communities of Mira Mesa, Carmel Valley and Rancho Peñasquitos. Johnson sold the rancho in 1880. Later, the family moved to a wood-frame prefabricated building that had been brought by ship to San Diego’s Old Town in 1869. They lived in this simple home until Johnson’s death on November 27, 1903. The San Diego Union’s December 1, 1903 Historical records verify that Cullen Johnson was buried at Old Town’s El Campo Santo Cemetery in 1872, although his gravestone is not marked. The original name of Granada Avenue was Johnson Street, perhaps for this attorney who also dealt in land. (Photo by Katherine Harri)

George and Estefana Johnson lived in this simple house on the Old Town plaza after leaving their adobe on the Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos in 1880. The Johnson House was reconstructed in 1989 by California State Parks and is currently operated as a fine goods store with colorful clothing, jewelry and hats.

Matthew Sherman’s early San Diego home near the corner of 19th and J streets was built in 1868 and moved to its current location in 1904 from a lot now in the northbound lane of I-5. Present-day Granada Avenue in North Park was

Rain, Wind, and Fire...
“The three menaces to any chimney, fireplace, or stove.”

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

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

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For a limited time, readers of this paper will receive a special discount on our full chimney cleaning and safety inspection package with special attention to chimney water intrusion points in preparation for the rainy season.
WELCOME THIS YEAR’S WINNERS!

San Diego’s urban core in the Downtown and Uptown communities is full of vibrant neighborhoods, historic districts and unique businesses. From residents to houses, our neighborhoods comprise a balanced mix of young and old, established and new. Why would the dining and entertainment establishments we frequent be any different?

Each year, we ask readers to weigh in on what businesses add to the fabric of the communities in the annual Best of Downtown and Best of Uptown awards. Due to the changed publishing schedule of these newspapers due to the COVID-19 virus’ impact on advertising, these awards have been combined into one special edition highlighting businesses in both areas.

Readers of Downtown and Uptown News were able to vote for dozens of local establishments in dining categories like happy hour, Irish pub, burrito, pizza and donut shop as well as retail categories like antique store and spa.

San Diego Uptown News covers nearly a dozen neighborhoods, including Mission Hills, Bankers Hill, Hillcrest, University Heights, Normal Heights, North Park, South Park, Golden Hill, Kensington and Talmadge, as well as nearby regions of City Heights, Mission Valley and more. Downtown News covers another set of unique neighborhoods from the reaches of the ever-expanding East Village, to the majestic Gaslamp Quarter, through the twinkling lights of the Core/Columbia and Financial districts, to the shores of the Marina District and the Embarcadero, and to the piazzas of Little Italy. Our readers have spoken about their favorite establishments. The range of winners reflect our diverse neighborhoods, offering a glimpse of what it’s like to live in the urban core.

As you look through these pages, we hope you find familiar names along with new faces. Swing by these spots for a taste of life and to support local businesses.

To each of our 2020 Best of Downtown and Uptown winners, we extend hearty congratulations on your recognition. We hope our loyal readers — and your loyal customers, both new and old — continue to show you patronage for years to come.

—The staff at San Diego Community News Group (sdcnn.com)
Thank You!

San Diego Uptown News

San Diego AHF Pharmacy Staff

Best of 2020 Uptown San Diego
Best Pharmacy GOLD Winner

3940 4th Ave, Ste 150
(619) 574-9700

AHF Pharmacy
20 Years in Service
Best of Uptown / Downtown

San Diego Uptown/Downtown News
December 04, 2020

Dining

Gold
Barley Max • Cowboy Star (tie)
Barleys & Gardens North Park

Bronze

BBQ
Gaslamp BBQ

Best American Cuisine tie

barleymash

barleymash is a fun, high-energy restaurant and bar that celebrates the richness of American culture through its appetizing and progressing bar fare. Both the restaurant philosophy and menu offerings draw together from two barroom staplers: beer and bourbon. Set amid reclaimed wood from the original foundation and a warm and modern design, the restaurant and bar are supported by a community strong with 30 beers on tap from the city's best micro-nano-breweries and even fall a full stocked bar. The garage-door style windows open up the interior space to the Gaslamp's sunny disposition.

Silver

Native Tavern & Burges

Barley Max

Barleys & Gardens North Park

Best Breakfast (tie)
The Waffle Spot

The Waffle Spot offers a first-class spot for locals and emporiums in Europe's legendary Nolita Hill is inspired by both the best of this culture and the best of this culture. The Waffle Spot serves Breakfast, Brunch, and Lunch and has been a San Diego favorite in Mission Valley for 25 years. This family-friendly restaurant is great for kids features fresh waffles 7-7 days a week, along with classic breakfast and lunch menu items. Ample Free Parking and Free Wi-Fi are available for all patrons. Groups are welcome, plus Catering and To-Go services are available.

Bronze

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Best Brewery

Fall Brewing Company

Located in the North Park neighborhood of San Diego, Fall Brewing Company specializes in quality craft beers and a tantalizing tasting experience.

Best Beach

Hob Knob Hill

For 75 years, Hob Knob Hill has been doing their way. The bakery starts each day to bake fresh muffins and cakes. The cooks cure the sweet and savory, soups and sandwiches. The bakery is open for 25 years. This family-friendly restaurant is great for kids features fresh waffles 7-7 days a week, along with classic breakfast and lunch menu items. Ample Free Parking and Free Wi-Fi are available for all patrons. Groups are welcome, plus Catering and To-Go services are available.

Best Breakfast

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Best Cocktail

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Best Bar

Cowboy Star Restaurant & Butcher Shop

the Cowboy Star menu features the finest in select natural products from the nation’s leading certified beef producers. Angora has along with the freshest seafood available. They are committed to supporting neighborhood farmers, fishers and producers. Their kitchen food that recaptures the simple and pure tastes found in local. The Old West ambiance provides a laid-back and shoestring dog perfect for private parties and special events. The focal point of Cowboy Star is the stunning display kitchen, which offers an inside view of the heart of the house.

Best Breakfast (tie)
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Best of Uptown / Downtown 2020

Best Chinese
Hong Kong Restaurant
This unassuming Chinese eaterie serves a huge menu of classic dishes, quick service, great prices and open until late. Perfect!
Hong Kong Restaurant
3871 Fourth Ave, 92101
hongkongrestaurantsd.com
619-291-9449

Best Dessert
Grapes & Hops Deli
This stylishly designed Little Italy shop has won architecture awards, but it is the taste of their desserts, drinks and that keeps customers returning. The 7,000 sq. ft. space offers everything from house favorites such as the Gianduia and the Passion Fruit Ricotta, to delicious paninis, salads, and artisan cheese selections. They also offer leaf tea and wonderful organic coffee creations, as well as organic fine wines and boutique beers.
Grapes & Hops Deli
811 Market St, 92101
grapesandhopsdeli.com | 619-255-5383

Best Donut Shop
Nomad Donuts
Extraordinary Desserts
Nomad Donuts offers an ever-evolving menu of donuts, bagels, preserves and coffee. Nomad is your go-to for gourmet donuts and bagels inspired by the world yet created with local ingredients. From Pacific Rim flavors to your grandma’s kitchen, San Diego donut shop celebrates global tastes with weekly changing menus.
Nomad Donuts
3102 University Ave, 92104
nomaddonuts.com | 619-431-5000

Best Farmers’ Market
Hillcrest Farmers Market
The Hillcrest Farmers Market hosts 175 weekly vendors offering a wide variety of locally grown in-season fruit, produce, gifts, arts and crafts, and flowers. Many of the local California farmers participating in the market grow their produce organically or with no pesticides. The market also hosts a large variety of prepared food and hot food items with an emphasis on international cuisine. Additionally, each week, there are a large number of arts and crafts vendors participating, as well as weekly entertainment.
Hillcrest Farmers Market
3960 Normal St #3960, 92103
(619) 299-3330

Best Fine Dining (tie)
Mr. A’s
Born in rural southwest France, Bertrand studied economics at the University of Toulouse. After college, his studies took him to America, always deriving income by waiting tables in French restaurants. In over a decade, Bertrand became involved in the ownership of several restaurants. Bertrand had always loved the tremendous location and potential of the legendary Mister A’s. He was able to purchase the lease in 2000 and completely redesigned the restaurant. Bertrand writes a wine column for a local newspaper, enjoys golf, tennis, horse racing and traveling with his lovely wife Denise.
Mr. A’s
2550 Fifth Avenue, 92103
mrasrestaurant.com | 619-239-1377

The Prado
A picturesque hacienda with a patio sets the scene for inspired Californian fare and happy-hour deals. Located in the House of Hospitality, The Prado offers historic charm in the center of San Diego’s Balboa Park. The Prado at Balboa Park
1549 El Prado, 92101 | 619-557-9441

Best Greek Cuisine
Olympic Cafe
For over thirty years, Olympic Cafe has served the San Diego and North Park communities with the finest homemade Greek and American style cuisine. By making food from scratch with the freshest ingredients, they provide flavorful and distinctive dishes, which are inspired by recipes handed down through generations.
Olympic Cafe
2300 University Ave, 92104
619-692-9082

Best Happy Hour (tie)
The Local Eatery and Fishing Hole
Casual neighborhood hangout for pub grub, a rotating selection of craft beers on tap and great happy hour. The Local is known for a good time with locals and tourists alike. Open daily with the support of his mother, Ruth and brother, Robert, who are both managers. Their cuisine, a fabulous mixture of music and cocktails is the formula to a memorable night.
The Local Eatery and Fishing Hole
1065 Fourth Ave, 92101
thelocalsandiego.com | 619-231-4447

La Hadas Bar and Grill
Alan Gomez is the proprietor of La Hadas Bar and Grill in the Gaslamp Quarter. He and his father, Fred Gomez, opened the restaurant in 2008, quickly becoming a favorite with locals and tourists alike. Open daily with the support of his mother, Ruth and brother, Robert, who are both managers. Their cuisine, a fabulous mixture of music and cocktails is the formula to a memorable night. Las Hadas is the perfect combination of innovation and tradition cultivating the American culture to that of Latin America.
La Hadas Bar & Grill
558 Fourth Ave, 92101
lashadasgrillsd.com | 619-232-1720

Best of Uptown / Downtown 2020
San Diego Uptown/Downtown News
December 04, 2020

9
37 Years of Proudly Supporting Our Community Partners

“We look back fondly, but our focus is on the future and to positively impact the entire San Diego region.”

– Cody J. Martinez, Chairman, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
Best Health Food
Lazy Acres
Lazy Acres has a great selection of healthy foods and niche products. The organic produce is plentiful and easy to find.
Lazy Acres
422 W. Washington St, 92103
619-272-4289

Best Indian Cuisine
Royal India
Royal India restaurants have been voted the best Indian restaurants in San Diego, year after year and are run by the Kambo brothers. Locations are independently owned by Sandeep Singh Kambo or Jagdeep Singh Kambo. Royal India has been voted best Indian restaurant in San Diego specializing in fine dining. They combine their experience and cooking talents to provide tranquil ambiance, using the finest ingredients, prepared with an infusion of passion and creativity.
Royal India
329 Market St, 92101
royalindia.com | 619-269-9999

Best Irish Pub (tie)
The Field
What happens when an Irish couple with a big dream ships a pub, piece by piece, to the heart of America’s finest city? The Field Irish Pub—it’s a genuine bit of Ireland in San Diego’s Gaslamp Quarter. Come in to experience Irish food, stay for the live and lively entertainment. As they say in Ireland: Cead Míle Fáilte, a hundred thousand welcomes.
The Field
544 Fifth Avenue, 92101
thefield.com | 619-232-9840

The Ould Sod
Any establishment is merely bricks and mortar without the people that create the atmosphere. The Ould Sod is blessed with the finest staff west of county Galway. So belly on up to the bar, grab a stool, order a pint and experience some Irish hospitality. Cead Mile Fáilte (a hundred thousand welcomes) to San Diego’s favorite Irish Pub. It has the authentic feel of a local pub that you would find anywhere in the Emerald Isle. The bar itself is actually the third oldest licensed establishment in San Diego, first opening its doors to patrons away back in 1940 as “Ryan’s bar.” In 1989 it was transformed into “The Ould Sod” by current proprietors Tommy Quinn, Ron Stout and Mick Ward.
The Ould Sod
3373 Adams Ave, 92116
619-284-6594

Best Irish Pub (tie)
Nekter Juice Bar
Nekter Juice Bar is at the forefront of the juice cleanse revolution with cold-pressed juices, smoothies and acai bowl. Nekter has juice bars throughout the US.
Nekter Juice Bar
969 Market St., Ste 150, 92101
619-235-5995

Best Mexican Cuisine (tie)
Pokez Mexican Restaurant
Pokez offers a wide array of delicious plates, all of which are easily adjusted for vegetarian and vegan diners. They cook with vegetable oil, not lard, so the beans and rice are 100% vegetarian, low in fat and sodium, and have no MSG or artificial anything. They offer both low-and high-octane beverages for your consumption: from house-made sangria, beer and soda to freshly juiced combinations of fruits and veggies. They recently debuted an espresso bar as well since they serve breakfast all day.
Pokez Restaurant
47 E St, 92101
pokezrestaurant.com | 619-702-7160
Best of Uptown Downtown 2020

Edgewater Grill
Best Pet Friendly Dining (tie)
Queensntown Public House

Rich’s Nightclub
Rich’s is San Diego’s largest and most popular gay nightclub. There are two large, separate rooms each with a fully-stocked bar, DJ, and dance floor; a VIP area with four private VIP booths and a separate private party room upstairs that overlooks the main dance floor, and two outdoor smoking patios. Experience one of the best gay nightclubs in the U.S.

Best Outdoor Dining (tie)
The Prado
The Prado, an award-winning, full-service restaurant located in the House of Hospitality in Balboa Park, offers charming indoor and outdoor dining. The unique decor blends the historical aspects and whimsical accessories inspired by the Park museum collections. The diverse cuisine includes an array of appetizers, salads, sandwiches and imaginative entrées. The lounge combines a lighter menu with a wide variety of margaritas, sangria, beer, wine and other beverages.

Edgewater
Edgewater is one of those front dining spots where it’s amazing to dine on the patio but you don’t have to sit there to get a stellar view of our beautiful San Diego Bay! This location has had a few different concepts since 1980, but we’ve had a diverse California-style menu for more than 15 years.

Best Pizza
MAKE pizza+salad
People are changing the way they eat – they want unique, healthy options, and MAKE pizza+salad delivers in an innovative way. Start with our fresh, homemade pizza dough, then top it with your choice of sauce, cheese, fresh vegetables, meats, and more. Then compliment any dish with one of the craft beer or wine selections. Bite into a meal that’s good for you, served fast, and as unique as you are.

Tajima Ramen Bar
Tajima offers one of the widest selections of Japanese cuisine at affordable prices, to satisfy the unique tastes and desires of everyone in your party. Daily tapas-style (small plate) menu changes with the season, sourcing the freshest seasonal ingredients available. Five San Diego locations and another three restaurant in Tijuana Mexico, there is a uniquely designed Tajima within reach of your desire for Japanese cuisine at its finest!

Queenstown Public House
Queensntown Public House is a quaint and whimsical restaurant located in San Diego’s Little Italy neighborhood specializing in New Zealand inspired dishes. Whether it be for breakfast or brunch for weekend morning meals, lunch or happy hour for a grass-fed burger and a cocktail, or dinner on the patio for some local live music, Queenstown Public House is the place to suit the daily lives of busy individuals, families, and friends.

MAKE pizza+salad
699 Park Blvd, 92101
makespandiego.com | 619-546-8511

Flinmar Phone & Sushi Bar
Flinmar Phone specializes in Japanese and Vietnamese cuisine! While other restaurants may attempt to offer so many things, their primary focus is on Pho and Sushi. The have assembled a team of chefs who create recipes that focus on authenticity, flavor and originality making sure every plate is up to their high standards and flavor.

Queenstown Public House
1557 Columbia St, 92101
queenstownpublichouse.com | 619-546-0444

Pho Express
Enjoy family friendly pho, rice dishes plus other Vietnamese classics at this simple, no-frills eatery.

Best Sports Bar
Redwing Bar & Grill
Named Best Dive Bar in North Park! Enjoy pool, darts, Buzztime Trivia, and karaoke seven nights a week! Plus they have a full outdoor smoking patio, great bartenders and a relaxed laid back atmosphere.

Best of Uptown Downtown 2020

sdnews.com
**Best Steakhouse**

Red Fox Room & Steakhouse

The Red Fox Room was an old inn in England and dates from around 1560. The three original rooms, slightly different in design, have been combined to form a spacious “tap room.” These rooms were dismantled, shipped across the Atlantic in sections, and then completely rebuilt. During the 1990’s, this property was sold and Miss Davies “Ocean House” and later converted into a hotel. The Red Fox Room was again dismantled and placed in storage. It is from this source that the Red Fox finally found its resting place in the Lafayette Hotel in San Diego to once again be admired as such a beautiful room should be.

**Farmer's Bottega**

Farmersbottega.com | 619-458-9929

Farmer's Bottega

craft local beer and wine.

breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner.

Farmer’s Bottega serves farm fresh food, located in the heart of Mission Hills. This farm-to-table restaurant is a tribute to the unique flavors of local produce. It is from this source that the Re" Fox finally found its resting place in the Lafayette Hotel in San Diego to once again be admired as such a beautiful room should be.

**Best Sunday Brunch**

Farmer’s Bottega

This farm-to-table restaurant is located in the heart of Mission Hills. Farmer’s Bottega serves farm fresh breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner along with a unique selection of craft local beer and wine.

Farmer’s Bottega

860 W Washington St, 92103

farmersbottega.com | 619-458-9929

**Best Wine Bar**

Carruth Cellars Urban Winery

619-642-0299

This 100% vegan restaurant brings tasty dishes made with organic produce to customers avoiding any animal products. The innovative menu attracts vegans and meat-lovers alike.

**World-Class Care, Minutes Away**

Thank you for recognizing us as best hospital.

For more than 60 years, Sharp Coronado Hospital has provided exceptional care to our community, and we continue to innovate to deliver safe, extraordinary health care.

- A 24-hour ER minutes from downtown — save your spot online
- Online scheduling for appointments, including mammography, laboratory, and physicial therapy
- Advanced germ-fighting robots to thoroughly disinfect patient rooms
- A state-of-the-art Outpatient Pavilion providing the latest surgical treatments and imaging in a calm, beautiful setting that facilitates healing

Visit sharp.com/coronadoscheduling to make an appointment or learn more.

**Best of Uptown / Downtown 2020**
This holiday season and into the new year, shop local and support your community by purchasing from your local retail, restaurants and service industry businesses. Our local stores are in need of your support now more than ever.

Sure, it’s easy to buy from big online distributors but remember, your neighborhood business owners are relying on you to keep North Park going through this difficult time. Keep your dollars local and shop small!

This year looks different but the NORTH PARK LIONS CLUB, proud sponsor of the 2019 Toyland Parade is here to support our community. We regret that there will be no parade this year but we respect the health and safety of the community and hope to be back to celebrate in the street in 2021. Please support local businesses and have a safe and pleasant holiday season.

Congratulations to the
BEST OF UPTOWN & DOWNTOWN NEWS WINNERS 2020
SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

THANKS TO OUR SHOP LOCAL PROGRAM SPONSORS

ARTESANIA · GALLERY AXA · GOLD DUN COLLECTIVE · HUNT & GATHER · HOME & HOUND · MILA COLLECTIVE P GMENT · SAGA SISTERS · SHOP GOOD

THE LITTLE GIRL CAN'T HELP IT · DEXTER'S UKE · ENVIOUS CIDERWORKS · COMMUNAL COFFEE · ORIGINAL 40 BREWING · LACERMO · HELLO BIRDIE LAB SKIN

HABIT · CON PASTRÍCO · 615 SPIRITS · BOTTLECRAFT NORTH PARK · SPLASH WINE LOUNGE & BISTRO · REPLICA "YAN"
Best Antiques Resale
Consignment Classics
Browse through three large show-
rooms to find the same furniture as
other furniture stores plus many
one-of-a-kind items that make your
shopping a unique experience. You
will find an eclectic mix of new and
gently used furniture and home
decor. Go Green – choose a piece of
history and character or choose from a
large selection of new furniture at
bargain prices.
Sports Arena: 3602 Kurtz St, 92110
619-291-3000
Downtown: 1995 Hancock St, 92101
619-491-0700
consignmantclassics.net

Best Attorney (tie)
King Aminpour
Attorney King Aminpour started col-
lege at the age of 11, finished law
school at the age of 24 years King and his firm have
become California’s youngest attor-
ney at that time. He is the founder of
RJS Law is So. California’s finest tax
law firm. Their teams of top attor-
neys are located in San Diego, Cuya-
moa, Orange County, and Beverly
Hills. Practice includes: Criminal Tax,
IRS Audits, Appeals. Offers in Com-
promise, Estate Planning, Probate,
Trusts and Trust Litigation.
RJS Law
303 S St #400, 92101
rsolution.com | (619) 595-1655

Best Auto Repair Shop
Mission Hills Automotive
If you’re looking for auto repair in
San Diego, Mission Hills Automo-
tive works hard to earn your trust
and loyalty. They know how impor-
tant it is to find a car service you can
rely on, so your satisfaction is their
top priority each and every day.
Their professional automotive ser-
vice offers you years of combined
expertise from well-trained techni-
cians. They treat their auto repair
professionals well because they value
their skill and can-do attitude—that
will save you time and money.
Mission Hills Automotive
305 W Washington St, 92103
619-299-9367

Best Bank
Union Bank of California
Banking solutions designed to meet
your financial needs. Learn how
Union Bank® can help. You deserve
more. The Private Bank. Savings.
Mortgage. Checking. Credit Cards.
Investment Services.
Union Bank of California Downtown
1201 Fifth Ave, 92101 | 619-230-4666

Best Barber
Brightside Barber
Brightside is a full-service barber-
shop created for the individual
regardless of lifestyle. They offer pro-
fessional guidance and tailor each
cut so guests can express and own
every individual, they also
educate customers about the
best style choices to maintain
and grow their style.
Best Bike Shop (tie)
San Diego Bike Shop
Throughout years San Diego Bike
Shop has served a wide range of cus-
tomers. They stock a wide range of
parts and offer a variety of services to
the bicycling community; be it road
rider, mountain biker, BMX, they
do not shy away from reviving a
beat-up old bike and have the exper-
ience and expertise to work on what
the technology offers today. In a nut-
shell, they are just not an ordinary
cycle shop.
San Diego Bike Shop
619 C St, 92101
619-237-1245

Best Boutique
Wild Dove Boutique
This chic little boutique is located in
the East Village area of Downtown.
Wild Dove is an elegant complement
to the urban woman. The name is
representative of a dove’s pristine,
effortless, feminine beauty, coupled
with a wild, contemporary edge. The
words they live by are: clean, easy,
and multifunctional. You’ll find
pieces that transition from day to
night. Refined, yet easy. And fabrics
that feel so yummy. Find functional
fashion without compromising qual-
ity or price. Every great neighbor-
hood deserves a great boutique.
Wild Dove Boutique
740 Market St, 92101
shopwilddove.com | 619-501-5849

Best Boxing Gym
Undisputed
Welcome to City Heights Undisput-
ed. Learn real boxing, Muay Thai,
Jiu-Jitsu, and MMA. Adults and kids
ages 3 and up alike enjoy learning from
top-notch instructors. Stop into
their facility, plus claim your free day pass
to try the classes that you are inter-
ested in. You’ll agree, this establish-
ment really is Undisputed.
Undisputed Boxing Gym
4151 University Ave, 92105
undisputedusa.com | 619-299-2699

Best Car Wash
Uptown Touchless Car Wash
In business since 1988, your neigh-
borhood car wash has recently
upgraded to top of the line equip-
ment, providing a quality wash in
less time. With full service or express
options, customers can choose the
wash and additional services based
on time and budget.
Uptown Touchless Carwash
4157 Normal St, 92103
619-297-9274

Best Chiropractor
Elite Health San Diego
The motto is “Every Life is Treated
Equally.” Elite Health patients range
in age from 2 months to 93 years old.
They include weekend warriors,
pro women, military personnel,
Olympians and Olympic hope-
fuls, high school college, NFL, NBA
and pro athletes, grandparents, chil-
dren, and just normal, hard-work-
ing individuals who have everyday
stresses. Their team of doctors, mas-
ter therapists, and health and well-
ness specialists work together to help
patients feel live and perform at the
highest level possible. Your goal
should be to walk out the door feel-

ing better than yesterday.
Elite Health San Diego
645 Park Blvd, 92101
elitehealthpractice.com | 619-301-8188

Best Cosmetologist/Dermatologist
Dr. Sadi Erfani
Restore that youthful vibrance from
not-so-long ago. In these exciting but
sometimes confusing times in medicine,
it is comforting to know that you can count on the knowledge
and expertise of a skilled and expe-
rienced plastic surgeon who will treat
you with the same kindness and
compassion as he would a family

Best Cosmetics
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in...
Your Neighborhood Christmas Headquarters
Christmas Trees, Poinsettias, Wreaths, Garland, beautiful gifts and more. Let us make your Holiday special at Mission Hills Nursery.

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and thanks for your support these past 12 years!

- We are your friendly neighborhood Auto Servicing Center
- You can count on Dealership Level Quality

Hours: Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm

Best of Uptown / Downtown 2020

Best Credit Union
San Diego County Credit Union
San Diego County Credit Union is San Diego’s largest locally-owned financial institution. With over $8.3 billion in assets, SDCCU is a not-for-profit credit union wholly owned and operated by its members. Unlike other financial institutions, like big banks, San Diego County Credit Union does not issue stock or pay dividends to outside stockholders. Instead, earnings are returned to members in the form of lower loan rates, higher dividends on deposits or lower fees. Visit a SDCCU branch today and experience the difference.

It’s your hometown. It’s ours too.

Best Dentist
Jeffrey S. Keeny DDS
Dr. Keeny’s staff provide profession- al care and are eager to help with your dentistry needs as well as answer any questions you might have during your visit. Each member of their team specializes in particular dentistry services from dental cleanings, root canals, dental insurance, continuing care, sensitivities, cosmetic care and more!

Jeffrey S. Keeny DDS
1807 Robinson Ave, 92103
619-295-1512

Best Dispensary
March & Ash
Visit this one-of-a-kind cannabis boutique in the heart of Mission Valley. Just 15 minutes away from Downtown San Diego, their flagship location boasts an impressive flower bar, a dedicated CBD room, and a clone wall. They believe everyone deserves a comfortable and confident cannabis experience and they prioritize customer education, safety and satisfaction. That’s why they try to have the most knowledgeable staff and the highest quality products in San Diego.

March & Ash
2835 Camino del Rio S #100, 92108
619-314-7336
Best Hair Salon
KNSTRUT

KNSTRUT is an upscale, boutique hair studio with a unique "speak-easy" vibe. All guests are treated as part of the family in a comfortable and inviting atmosphere. The studio exclusively represents EVO Hair Products, "saving ordinary humans from themselves." As for color services, colorists top choice of paint: Goldwell and Redken. Count on an up-beat, interactive, and positive environment. Wake up, wind down, relax, recharge.

Best Health Food
Lazy Acres

Lazy Acres Market is a best source for wholesome, natural, and organic foods and products in the San Diego area. Lazy Acres Market is about natural foods and real people dedicated to providing un-matched personal service. They go out of their way to make the Lazy Acres experience enjoyable every time you come by.

Best Hospital
UCSD Medical Center

UC San Diego Medical Center, UCSD Medical Center

Best Jeweler
Harold Stevens

Harold Stevens jewelers prides itself on three basic rules of business. Authenticity: Being authentic means being true. And there is no area where they take truthfulness more seriously than in pricing. Expertise: Having roots in the South African diamond trade means their reach and reputation extends beyond local geography with insider connections to source the finest, non-conflict diamonds from around the globe. Trust: A culture and philosophy that prioritizes relationships over sales, its only natural that their commitment extends well beyond a purchase. Harold Stevens 225 Broadway Suite #1180, 92101 haroldstevens.com | 619-231-0520

Best Manicure/Pedi
Beauty Lounge

Have you been looking for a full-service beauty salon where you can enjoy the ambiance of comforting decor designed to make you feel relaxed and refreshed while having all your beauty needs fulfilled? At Beauty Lounge, their goal is to make your experience both memorable and relaxing. With over 2000 sq. ft, they have the facilities to host parties of up to 20 people. Beauty Lounge 3745 Fifth Ave, 92103 | 619-255-2591 beautyloungesandiego.com

Best Massage
The Knot Shop

The Knotstop is committed to taking a leadership position in instituting and enhancing processes and protocols to ensure the health and safety of members, guests and employees. This much is certain, offering massage and stretch services to members and guests will be more critical now than at any other time in recent history. C-19 isolation and uncertainty have impacted the collective mental health and widespread depression is a genuine global concern. Massage therapy can help relieve tension in muscles and connective tissues, increase blood flow and promote relaxation. What you may not know is that massage therapy has been found to help relieve the physical symptoms associated with depression, anxiety such as headache, insomnia and widespread muscle pain.

The Knot Shop 2655 Fourth Ave, 92103 theknotstop.com | 619-256-5666

Best New Business
The Business Turnaround Group

The mission of the Turnaround Group was developed to assist any small to medium size business who find themselves suffering from an array of business challenges. The goal is to understand objective and the unique needs and provide the necessary services needed to resolve the client’s unique business challenges quickly and cost effectively. turnaroundgroup.com

Best Optometrist
Urban Optiks Optometry

Urban Optiks / Gary A. Klein, O.D.

Urban Optiks Optometry

Just a bark from the park! Located in a relaxing home away from home. Beautifully renovated building offers the unique needs and provide the necessary services needed to resolve the client’s unique business challenges quickly and cost effectively. turnaroundgroup.com

Best Pet Boarding/Day Care
DOOZYDOG! Club

The ‘un-kennel.’ They passionately deliver a modern dog experience composed of play, affection, and safety. Everything you need in one location.

DOOZYDOG! Club 634 14th St. Ste. 104, 92101 619-231-4701

Best Pet Groomer
South Bark Dog Wash

San Diego’s premier locally-owned companion-loving hot spot! Their beautifully renovated building offers a relaxing home away from home. Just a bark from the park! Located just three blocks from Grape Street Dog Park. Stop in for a treat on your walk or visit to the park. While there,
Lazy Acres natural market

THANK YOU
DOWNTOWN NEWS &
UPTOWN NEWS READERS FOR VOTING US
BEST HEALTH FOOD STORE!

WHAT MAKES US THE BEST?
Our fresh, organic produce, wild-caught seafood and grass-fed meats?
Our keto, vegan and gluten-free selections?
Our free online cooking and wellness classes?
ALL OF THE ABOVE!
But most importantly, it’s our AMAZING TEAM!

Danny Danziger
Interim Store Director
“My favorite thing about Mission Hills is the awesome sense of community that I get when I’m walking through the store and neighborhood. Thank you so much San Diego for voting us Best Health Food Store in San Diego. I am humbled!”

Vanessa Toledo
Manager of Perishables
“My favorite thing about the Mission Hills community is how open and welcoming they’ve been to our store and Team Members. Many thanks to our Mission Hills community for voting Lazy Acres Mission Hills the BEST Health Food Store in SD!”

Ruben Walters
Manager of Merchandising
“Mission Hills has been an incredible town to work in. It brings so much diversity and community awareness into the store. It truly has been an awesome adventure to be able to work with the community.”

Adrian Mena
Manager of Service
“I am so honored to work in Mission Hills! It’s a great community and we’re very grateful to have been selected as the Best Health Food Store in San Diego. Thank you.”

422 W Washington St.
San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 272-4289
LazyAcres.com
Beyond Pilates

Best Pilates

Best Real Estate Agent

Best Retirement Living

Best Baking Salon

Best Veterinary Hospital

Best Waxing Salon

Best Yoga studio

Beyond Pilates

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In a perfect world, San Diegans would be preparing for the holiday season by planning shopping trips to Nordstrom’s, Macy’s and other specialty shops at Horton Plaza. Alas, thanks to COVID-19 and the demise of the Horton Plaza shopping center, things are a lot different this year. Many of us yearn for the days of sophisticated and discerning shopping, and leisurely strolls through spacious aisles, admiring fine goods, clothing and housewares, like Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, we can only close our eyes and try to recall a time when shopping did not exclusively involve Amazon, FedEx and UPS. For a look at what turn of the century elegant shopping involved, one can still enjoy a glimpse of yesteryear at the Marston Building.

The Marston Building
1896
427 C Street
Architect: Reid Brothers
Architectural Style: Italian Renaissance Revival

This large Italian Renaissance Revival beauty, located on the northeast corner of 5th and C St., was constructed in 1896 by Stephen W. Marston for his nephew George W. Marston. The cost for the project, designed by the Reid Brothers, was $60,000. The Reid Brothers went on to design the Hotel Del Coronado, among many other noteworthy structures. The four-story rectangular building, the second of George Marston's four stores, was constructed of brick with a flat roof and a large glass lightwell or skylight, which let an open court from the roof to the ground floor. A very elaborate broad terra cotta frieze of floral designs capped the structure, while the upper floors featured patterned brick arches above large, double hung sash style windows. Additionally, the building featured a wrought iron elevator, considered quite a novelty at the time.

The wide aisles allowed shoppers to stroll comfortably throughout the various departments which included plumbing, hardware, general merchandise, clothing, and more! A large open central court area was provided for shoppers to stroll comfortably throughout the various departments which included clothing and shoes for the entire

\[ \text{SANDEE WILHOIT} \]

\[ \text{Gerald & Janet Historica Foundation} \]
San Diego is home to myriad Italian restaurants, retailers and organizations. To be sure, our city provides an array of resources, not only in Little Italy but throughout the county. Wouldn’t it be nice to have a website and app that bring all these resources together? Well, we at Convivio have taken on that task.

Launching in January, Italian San Diego will be the virtual piazza for San Diego, an online resource that promotes our city’s vast network of Italian eateries, stores, and community groups. We are proud to present a digital networking and loyalty program designed to support local business while helping to foster unity and goodwill in our city and promote our rich Italian cultural assets. Our goal is to encourage local residents into our network, and in doing so, we hope to create a more unified Italian community in San Diego through our innovative program. For consumers, a simple log in with an e-mail will afford access to the resources and special offers. And perhaps best of all, the app is free to use for merchants and consumers! You can follow Italian San Diego on social: @italiansandiego. Be on the lookout for the launch next month!

—Tom Cesarini is the executive director and founder of Convivio and also serves as the Italian honorary consul of San Diego. Convivio cultivates community and fellowship, advances Italian cultural identity, and fosters multicultural awareness across myriad disciplines through education and research, social enrichment, and innovative programming. Visit: conviviosociety.org | Follow: @conviviosociety

Little Italy adds virtual traditions to this year’s holiday celebration

By Christopher Gomez

As we continue to keep everyone’s safety in mind, Little Italy is doing everything possible to keep the spirit of the holidays alive! While families are still able to drop-off their letters to Santa at the Big Red Mailbox in Piazza della Famiglia and participate in the annual Little Italy Toy Drive, there are also celebrations to be enjoyed from the comfort of your own home.

First off, our favorite jolly man has gone virtual. You can now email your letters and drawings to Santa directly to Letters@SantaInLittleItalySD.com. If you would still like to drop-off your letter in person, just make sure it is dropped off by December 1st. Your letter will need to be postmarked by the December 14th so that Santa has enough time to respond. When addressing your envelope, make sure to use Santa’s address: 123 Elf Road North Pole, 88888 and include a first-class stamp.

Making his Little Italy debut is our newest resident: Giuseppe the Elf. Follow along on social media as Giuseppe eats and drinks his way through our neighborhood while getting into some shenanigans along the way. He only signed the lease on his Little Italy condo for the month of December, so he has 25 days to really live it up! Think you know where he is headed next? Send us your guesses on Instagram @LittleItalySD #GiuseppeTheElf #LittleItalySD.

Last, but certainly not least, are the appropriately titled virtual cocktail/mocktail classes—JOY! Some of Little Italy’s mixologists are helping you get in the holiday “spirit” during a series of weekly virtual cocktail/mocktail classes every Thursday in December hosted on the Little Italy Instagram and Facebook page. Every Tuesday, the recipe for that week’s class will be posted across all of Little Italy’s social media channels so you can shop and prepare ahead of time. Learn how to make the perfect seasonal sips from mixologists at Civico 1845, Cloak & Petal, Juniper & Ivy and Little Italy Food Hall. There has never been a more perfect time to shake up something festive just in time for your virtual holiday party!

As Little Italy continues to keep the safety and wellbeing of residents, business owners and visitors at the forefront, the Little Italy Association is constantly looking for new ways to engage the community and keep the spirit of the holidays strong. It’s important for us to continue to support our community and small business owners now more than ever. Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!

—For the latest updates on Little Italy, please visit us at LittleItalySD.com or follow us on Instagram @LittleItalySD, Twitter @LittleItalySD and Facebook @LittleItalySD. Christopher Gomez has been Little Italy’s District Manager since 2000. Reach him at chrisg@littleitalysd.com.
Marston Building

Carried an ad that proclaimed "elegant." The "finest department store," and "el snail into additional sell with impeccable manners. reflect the Marston commit walls and carpeting, fresh flow with its beautifully decorated was an oasis of artful elegance useful and things beautiful." The

Marston’s as the “leading dry goods house of San Diego.” George Marston was not on- ly a merchant, but was also a philanthropist of the highest order. To his third floor remodel, he added a schoolroom, where boys who had to work to help their families could go to classes after their shifts. He also treat- ed his employees to a sumptuous feast every Christmas, and paid all employees, both male and fe- male, equal wages.

Marston’s Department Store remained at this location un- til 1912, when it was moved to its final location across Fifth Avenue. In 1954, Marston’s expanded into a new six-story addition, and thus occupied the entire block on the north side of C St. between Fifth and Sixth Avenues. This story was demol- ished in the late 1960s. The 1896 Marston Building is now fully restored and serves as an office building, where the lobby displays archival photos of the department store, and where one can ride up to the upper floors on the wire cage elevator. It is still elegance personified.

—Sander Wilhoit is the his- torian and lead tour guide for the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation. She can be reached at ssvilhoit@gaslampfoundation.org.

Street names

Continued from Page 5

issue reported his “interment was at the Catholic Cemetery on the mesa overlooking the Bay.” This is present-day Pioneer Park in Mission Hills, a story in itself.

In 1900, City Engineer Louis Davids replaced the West End name of Johnson with Sherman, because nearby University Heights also had a Johnson Avenue. In University Heights, the street was named for Andrew Johnson, U.S. President from 1865 to 1869. Gatewood had named his street before the 1888 map of University Heights was filed, but Davids ap- parently gave higher priority to maintaining consistency with the University Heights theme of presi- dents for east-west streets.

Davids likely recognized prom- inent San Diego pioneer Matthew Sherman (1827-1898) with the replacement name in West End. Sherman was stationed in San Diego in 1862 during the Civil War and came to live in San Diego permanently in December 1865 after being discharged from the army with the rank of captain. He started his military career at age 13 and served on the USS Independence during the Mexican War in the 1840s. Sherman was a long-time public figure in San Diego. He served as Customs Collector from 1865-1869, as city clerk from 1869-1870, on the City Board of Trustees from 1884-1886, on the County Board of Supervisors from 1886-1887, and as mayor from 1889-1893. He founded Sherman Heights from land he bought from the City Trustees in 1867. The family lived in several homes in his tract. Sherman helped set aside the land that became Balboa Park and helped create Mount Hope Cemetery — his eventual resting place — which his wife named. The Evening Tribune’s July 5, 1898 issue announced Sherman’s death that morning, noting, “During his thirty-three years’ residence here Captain Sherman enjoyed the confidence and re- gard of everyone with whom he became acquainted...” Those acquaintances probably included Louis Davids, who also lived in Sherman Heights during the 1890s. Sherman Street was changed to Granada Avenue by Ordinance No. 4346 on January 16, 1911.

Anson brunson (1834-1895) was born in Ohio and became an attorney. He practiced in Macion City, Missouri, before coming to California in 1862. He settled in Napa and then moved to Los Angeles a few years later. He came to San Diego often. The San Diego Union’s October 20, 1869 issue re- ported, “Our friend A. Brunson of Los Angeles, was badly stung by a stingaree while out bathing on Saturday last. He is doing well un- der the care of Dr. Hoffman. The surf is very fine, but dangerous. We advise our friends to patronize the Baths of Cottrell, at Horton’s wharf.”

Brunson represented plaintiffs and defendants in a variety of San Diego cases. He and Gatewood represented the defendants in a case reported in the Daily Union’s October 8, 1871 issue, and both men gave speeches at an April 13, 1871 San Diego event to entertain members of the Los Angeles Bar. A City Deed dated April 20, 1871 indicates Brunson bought land in Pueblo Lots 22, 32, 3 106 and 214. However, it appears he had sold all this land by 1873.

Brunson was nominated to be a Superior Court judge in 1884. Later, he continued his law practice, including for railroad companies. The San Diego Union’s December 12, 1890 issue noted, “Judge Brunson of Los Angeles, attorney for the Santa Fe sys- tem, came down last evening on business.” The San Diego Union’s June 15, 1893 issue reported, “W.J. Hunsaker, ex-mayor of San Diego, was yesterday appointed general attorney of the Southern California Railroad compa- ny, with headquarters at Los Angeles. Mr. Hunsaker succeeds Anson brunson, his law partner.” Brunson died on October 8, 1895 and is buried at Pioneer Memorial Cemetery in San Bernardino.

—katherine wren is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. Reach her at info@northparkhistori- ty.org or 619-294-8990.
Thank you, San Diego!

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