Former San Diego Zoo founder’s home and Junior League San Diego HQ get facelift

The 210 Maple Restoration Project is scheduled to be completed by December

By Kendra Sitton | Uptown News

The San Diego Zoo founder’s home when it was first built. (Photo courtesy Junior League San Diego)

Dr. Harry M. Wegeforth, the founder of the San Diego Zoo, would probably be thrilled his former residence in Bankers Hill has served as headquarters to the Junior League of San Diego (JLSD) since 1981, and is undergoing a restoration.

Dubbed “The 210 Maple Restoration Project” – the multi-year, multi-phase initiative will provide an inclusive, safe and functional space to serve its 1,000 volunteer members, 120 community partners and 1,200 youth exiting foster care, according to Andrea Myers of the Junior League of San Diego.

We’re pretty pleased to have such a great community asset and continue to use it as such to connect, train and mentor JLSD members, as well as ultimately develop exceptional San Diego leaders and community partners, Myers said.

Considered a “true jewel,” JLSD acquired the home in 1981 and is celebrating its 90th anniversary in the community. Additionally, the organization helped to have the home designated a historical landmark in 1981. At press time, the organization had raised nearly $400,000 of its $750,000 goal for the renovation project.

Famous architects

Designed by Louis Gill — a principal in the office of his uncle, famed architect Irving Gill — for Dr. Harry M. Wegeforth and his family in 1916, the house is two levels and about 3,900 square feet. It included many modern amenities when it was constructed, according to architect Tim Martin of Martin Architecture.

“The architecture is pretty amazing due to it being a largely intact example of Louis and Irving Gill’s work,” said Martin who is a lead in the project.

Constantin Bakala smiles and hugs his family after landing at the San Diego International Airport. (Photo courtesy St. Luke’s Episcopal Church)

Constantin Bakala and his wife Annie pulled together $400,000 of its $750,000 goal after escaping from political persecution in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. His wife had been assaulted. He was imprisoned and tortured by his own government. His family had been hunted and harassed. His wife was assaulted. ICE responded by detaining him, Pastor Colin Mathewson said after the church service.

The order follows an inspection on July 31 to determine if the church was properly zoned and properly operating within city code after six years of uninterrupted operations. The city now says Missionsgathering has transitioned from “Church Zoning” to “Music Venue/Nightclub Zoning.”

On Aug. 31, Missionsgathering Christian Church in North Park received a Civil Penalty Notice and Order from the city of San Diego, ordering that the church cease operations of their home- less youth shelter and cancel all rentals of their sanctuary, called “The Irenic” immediately — an action that will potentially cost the church an estimated tens of thousands of dollars before year end, and leave youth without a place to stay. The church has already laid off staff in the wake of the order and they may have to cease operations at the campus before the end of the year after the swift action by the city.

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The Irenic, youth shelter shut down

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The renovations include a new training kitchen, flexible seating area for trainings and meetings, new lounge, Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant improvements, upgraded technology, and a records room that will be used to pay tribute to the JLSD’s nine decades in San Diego.

“It was a classic single-family home with many modern amenities when it was designed and built. It has changed little over the years and remains a fine example of Gill’s work,” Martin said.

A central formal entry with grand staircase is flanked by a living room and dining room, with a sunroom to the west off the living room, and a kitchen behind the dining room, with a conventional bath near the rear of the house and a two-car garage. The upper level has several bedrooms, baths with copper tubs and porches once used for sleeping.

Some minor changes were made by another local architect in 1983, which involved converting the home into a commercial-use property from a residence when JLSD took occupancy, according to Case Irwin of Irwin Builders, also a lead in the renovations.

The kitchen is perhaps the most extensive part of the restoration project, which will bring it up to speed for teaching and to meet other current building codes.

“The kitchen is cool and has a lot of original elements still there that we’re trying to incorporate,” Myers said. “One is a huge gas stove that will be kept and we’re trying to save the old doors from the original ice boxes.”

Irwin said at the time the home was built it was advanced as far as techniques. For instance, he said in the basement — which won’t be renovated and is about 1,700 square feet — they found a whole house vac system.

“There is also a dumbwaiter, laundry shoot, and all the baths have trap doors to access plumbing and plumbing fixtures that were ahead of their time,” Irwin said. “There was also some solar device that helped heat water.”

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Interview: 2020 San Diego Council District 3 candidates

WILLIAM E. KELLY | Lorrianne Yao

The four candidates running for the District 3 City Council seat between September 15 and September 22, 2020 are Toni Duran, Adrian Kwiatkowski, Chris Olsen and Stephen Whitburn. Each was asked to state the experiences that prepared them to serve District 3, two or three priority issues and how they would address them. In closing, they were asked if an aging population and climate change were threats to San Diego and if so, what steps they recommended to reduce those threats. What follows are their responses and quotes of their answers by topic in alphabetical order by candidate last name.

Experience:
Toni Duran: “I have served the communities of District 3 as a representative for Toni Atkins in her capacity as State Senate offic- for nearly six years and know the communities, organizations and issues. By working on hous- ing and land use with an eye on a combination of pension resto- ration and manage the employee crisis and the homelessness crisis and the em- ployee and organizational crisis. I helped establish a clean needle exchange program, I was one of the authors of San Diego’s Social Security system.”

Stephen Whitburn: “I have lived in District 3 for nearly 20 years; involved in the vibrant neighborhoods of the district, bustling Downtown, and iconic Balboa Park; engaged with the community professionally as a Civic Director and American Cancer Society in Southern California; and been a volunteer, vice- chair of the North Park Planning Board; vice president of the Ameri-can Civil Liberties Union in San Diego, and president of the San Diego Democratic Club. I have also participated in many community groups and recognize each neighborhood features unique qualities and challenges.”

Priorities:
Toni Duran: “When it comes to the comprehensive look at city zoning and land-use regulations slowing the building of new affordable housing and it needs to be a very public discussion between San Diegans and the politicians they elect to make decisions that determines what our city will become over the next decade.”

Duran pointed out, “San Diego has one of the most aggressive cli- mate action plans in the country, but is missing the milestones. We have to quickly get back on track and make sure our infrastruc- ture is ready to reduce those threats. I am committed to turning plans into action, working with city staff to develop funding mechanisms that can help achieve real pro- gress on getting us to a sustainable future. Creating new housing options for all and having a comprehensive plan to address homelessness. We need one. It’s the only way we’ll make permanent progress on this issue. I’ll bring a top priority to the city to adopt and implement a comprehensive, proactive plan that will efficiently and e- ffectively marshal the city’s resources to end homelessness. “Even people who have a home are struggling to make ends meet. We have to build more housing for those who are living below and moderate incomes. There appears to be broad public support for a proposed bond measure to fund affordable housing, which is a good start.”

“We also need to fix up our streets and especially our cracked sidewalks, which are dangerous particularily for our older residents who are more susceptible to falls. We can accelerate these re-pairs with additional revenue from the hotel surcharge which is lower than that of compar- able destination cities.”

Climate change and an aging population:
Duran: “I see climate change as a very real threat and one of my top priorities. With regards to our growing older population, it is expected to have approxi- mately 1 million people aged 65 and older living in San Diego in the next decade – which is double that of today’s senior population. Having the city of San Diego sign on to be an age-friendly commu- nity is a positive step forward to ensure that we address the needs of our older community members. This means partnerships between government and local nonprofits will be making positive change around transportation, housing, outdoor spaces and buildings, community support and health services, respect and social inclu- sion, communication and infor- mation, and civic participation and employment.”

Olsen stated, “Our older community members are a vital asset to San Diego. I am ready to turn plans into action to achieve our climate goals. As a city, San Diego also needs to be proactive in making sure our infrastruc- ture and residents are prepared to adapt to shifts that will occur with an aging population. I think many of my campaign’s key is- sues, such as improving access to housing and transportation, definitely overlap with concerns about aging. We need to preserve our San Diego neighborhoods and help our older community engage and participate in the city we love.”

Kwiatkowski: “Yes, climate change is real and population growth needs to be managed ef- fectively. They are both threats and opportunities to, and for, San Diego. We are not prepared enough and our city can be a lead- er in our state, which is a leader in the country on climate change. The city needs to set an example by having a zero-carbon footprint as an organization before 2040. We need to manage population growth via smart density in the urban core near mass transit and walkable, bikeable, scooter-able housing and commercial density.”

Whitburn: “Demographic and climate changes pose unique challenges to San Diego for which the city is not yet prepared. The number of San Diegans aged 65 and older is expected to nearly double over the next decade. Many of these seniors will be retired and have fixed incomes, and the need for affordable housing will be even greater than it is today. Many will become less mobile as they get older, and there will be an increased need for housing near shops and services, safe pedestrian walkways, accessible community spaces, and addi- tional transit options. Further- more, rather than allowing older residents to become isolated, we should create opportunities for seniors to use their valuable ex- perience, knowledge, and time to improve San Diego through civic engagement. The city must also contribute to efforts to reduce climate change. The city should continue to implement its adopted climate action plan.”

— William (Bill) Kelly is a freelance community reporter who has lived in San Diego for 22 years. He can be reached by email at webbll@yahoo.com.

Chris Olsen: “My experience in public service and the city’s Office of the Independent Budget Analyst has made me ready to lead on the City Council beginning- the next century. I understand the details of the city budget, city oper- ations, and how to make the city work smarter for all of us. I’ve worked in local government for 15 years including five years in San Diego. I also teach budget and fiscal policy to students at the San Diego State University School of Business. I am the candidate who can deliver results.” Olsen said, “San Diego needs to be a leader on ad-dressing climate change, housing, and most importantly, homelessness.” He stressed, “I will always take action to balance the budget of San Diego’s most pressing issues.”

Adrian Kwiatkowski: “I’m a homegrown San Diegan with a track record of results and a histo-ry of experience spanning over 30 years. I bring a combination of business and professional. I have served as a town council president, on a planning board, on a park and recreation council and on a monarch butterfly conservation board. I had helped establish a clean needle exchange program, I was one of the authors of San Diego’s Strong Mayor-Municipal government, helped establish the smoke-free beaches and parks ordinance and worked with the VA San Diego Health Care System to open the VA Aspire Center in Old Town, a facility for military veterans with post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury and most recently helped to continue the efforts to improve the protections for the La Jolla har- bor seals.”

Chris Olsen: “My experience in public service and the city’s Office of the Independent Budget Analyst has made me ready to lead on the City Council beginning- the next century. I understand the details of the city budget, city oper- ations, and how to make the city work smarter for all of us. I’ve worked in local government for 15 years including five years in San Diego. I also teach budget and fiscal policy to students at the San Diego State University School of Business. I am the candidate who can deliver results.” Olsen said, “San Diego
North Park lot gets splash of color

There are several ways to improve the environment of a community. One popular way is to make it easier for residents and visitors to walk and bike. Another is to beautify public spaces with art.

North Park is doing both with an exciting new project that enlivens the 400-spot Ace Parking structure located at the corner of 29th Street and North Park Way.

Local artists Kris Hodson Moore and Don Masse were selected to create 16 artworks that will adorn the parking structure for the next several years. These will replace the current artwork featuring artist Blair Thorney who graciously donated her talent to North Park in 2008. Both Moore and Masse say they are honored to continue Blair’s legacy.

“North Park residents and visitors adore Thorney’s whimsical renderings so it was important that the selection committee choose the right artists for the project,” said Angela Landsberg in a statement, CEO of North Park Main Street, which is managing the project funded by Civic San Diego.

The artists were selected from a pool of 20 proposals. The North Park Garage Selection Committee evaluated the artists’ proposals based on their ability to: creatively use the space; complement the style of the building and the physical space; symbolize and/or reflect the history, character or essence of the neighborhood or the community at-large; demonstrate professional ability and quality of artwork.

The committee chose to have each selected artist create pieces that reflect their own styles rather than asking them to collaborate on one approach. Masse chose to feature elements of North Park set against a background of vibrant and colorful pixels. “I envisioned this series of images as a reflection of the past, present, and future of North Park coming together,” said Masse in a press release.

Moore said she also included images of North Park. “I chose the soft-focus technique for its dream-like quality and abstract result. The design samples colors and shapes of nearby buildings, sidewalk crossings, and homes I photographed. This ethereal style helps alleviate the sensory assault of a busy neighborhood, while providing a delightful visual array of colors,” said the artist.

Not only will the new garage art contribute to North Park’s vibe as a hip and edgy artistic hub, it will promote walking and biking. “Research has shown us that when communities make aggregate parking more accessible and attractive, people will park their cars once and spend the rest of their time on foot or riding bicycles in a community,” says Jake Romero, assistant director of North Park Main Street. “Our goal is to reduce our collective carbon footprint while adding to the artistic vibrancy of the community.”

The North Park Garage Selection Committee, Civic San Diego, and Ace Parking invite the community to the official unveiling of the project at a rooftop celebration on Sept. 29 from 5-7 p.m. Guests will meet the artists and community leaders working to enhance the quality of life in North Park.

Kris Hodson Moore's art on the parking garage (Photos courtesy North Park Main Street)
Three Uptown residents are being recognized for writing about their personal stories. Mission Hills resident Anastasia Zadeik and Chili Cilch and North Park resident Kenny Sucher are three of 10 winners of the 2019 San Diego Memoir Showcase.

Sucher wrote a memoir titled “Elephant in the Room,” which recounts a couple’s quarrel in a humorous piece about the struggles between passion, party, and parentage. Zadeik was recognized for her piece “Not Fine at All.” In “Not Fine at All,” Zadeik tells the story of a pre-dawn telephone call from her husband’s ex-wife’s brother that reveals a complicated web of lies, forcing her to reassess more than a decade of her past and setting in motion a chain of events that will fundamentally alter her life—and the lives of those she loves most.

Cilch’s winning contribution is named “Paul.” “For many years, I’ve told my girlfriends that I need to write a book about my crazy dating life. I’ve often joked that while some people have guardian angels, I seem to have guardian practical jokers. ‘Paul,’ is a prime example of my prankster guardians running interference with my attempts at romance,” Cilch said. She is currently working on a memoir tentatively titled “Sole Mates – Walking from One Relationship to the Next and Coming Home to Me.”

Executive Producer Marni Freedman, in association with the San Diego Memoir Writers Association (SDMWA), announced the winners of the fifth annual San Diego Memoir Showcase Competition in August.

This year’s contest theme was “I Didn’t See That One Coming,” and almost 200 submissions were received and reviewed by a panel of judges. Ten winning submissions were selected to be in the fifth annual San Diego Memoir Showcase. The showcase matches writers with local writing coaches and then hires professional actors and directors to bring their stories to life. These pieces will be performed before a live audience at the North Coast Repertory Theatre on Oct. 28. This year, there will be two shows: a 4:30 p.m. afternoon matinee as well as a 7:30 p.m. evening performance.

In addition to the 10 showcase pieces, an additional 20 writers will be matched with a writing coach and featured in the upcoming 2020 SDMWA anthology, “Shaking the Tree: brazen. short. memoir. – Volume 3.” All the authors will have the opportunity to appear on the “Shaking the Tree” book tour as an anthology author.

The award-winning anthology, “Shaking the Tree — Volume One,” was published in 2018 and featured 29 stories from the first three years of the San Diego Memoir Showcase.

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Letters to the editor

Re: 30th Street bike lanes

The City Council has put into place an eccen- tric plan to carve unique road- ways for bicycles and, now, scooters. We are told this move is part of a 30-year plan to encourage folks to bike rather than drive so that San Diego could re- duce emissions and achieve the state’s longterm climate plan.

Sadly, San Diego is not Amsterdam and the council’s intent seems more like a self-serving feel-good more than a se- rious attempt to pursue a well-planned transportation plan.

San Diego has a vibrant and well-ed- ucated citizenry many of whom live in the city center and adjacent distinct neigh- borhoods. Many of them like that the city’s bike network remains small and sparse.

Here’s my thought: The need to also install bicycle shelters in a parking space, in grocery store parking lots, in parking garages and at malls. All you need to do is a “Google Images” search using the phrase “bicycle shelter” and you’ll see that multiple cities in the USA are doing this as well as cities around the world.

And on top of this, there are statistics that show that car-related accidents with bicycles go way down when there are protected bicycle lanes.

David G., via website

Re: Protected bikeways on Fourth and Fifth avenues

This is great news. If we as a commu- nity and race (the human race) really care about climate action plans, (“40” percent of members of our community, then we need to make as many protected bike lanes as possible.

As you may have guessed, I would love to see more bike lanes. I foresee that this will be an issue in future elections.

Emily Blackwood x133

July 18, 2019

Kendra Sitton

Editor

ATTENTION LEGISLATIVE

Our recent story about the city’s founda- tion for 30th Street that accommodates bikes with fully-protected bike lanes while minimizing impacts on other uses.

In the city, we are building infrastructure for a long-term plan that will have lasting impacts on the city’s image, economy, and quality of life.

We are working to make San Diego a more bike-friendly community by providing safe, accessible, and convenient bike lanes throughout the city.

Kendra Sitton

Editor

July 18, 2019

San Diego Uptown News

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ATTENTION LEGISLATIVE

OPINION

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STOP THOSE ANNOYING PHONE CALLS

Have you ever wondered why your mobile phone suddenly started receiving intrusive phone calls from phone num- bers you don’t recognize? Maybe you think you fixed the problem with your iPhone by using the block caller feature, but the next day a nearly identical phone number is calling — just one digit off from the phone number calling the day before.

Before you stop answering calls al- long, let me explain what’s going on. As annoying as they are, not all of these calls are the same. From the pho- ne sweeps, to the utility company threatening to shut off your electricity unless you pay now or the caller asking you to take a political survey — there is a reason you can get some calls to stop but not others. The simple answer is some are legal and others are from companies that are not.

According to the Federal Communications Commission, there are two main reasons why you might receive an unsolicited call:

1. You have been registered with the National Do Not Call Registry.
2. You have received a sales call.

For more information about the National Do Not Call Registry, please visit:

https://www.donotcall.gov

The Do Not Call Registry is a free service that allows you to stop receiving unsolicited sales calls.

Do not answer calls from numbers you do not recognize.

If you receive a call from a company that you do not recognize,挂 up immediately and report the call to the FTC.

By law, you can file a complaint with the FTC.

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To report a call, please complete the following steps:

1. Visit the website:

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2. Choose the “Register Your Phone” link.

3. Register your phone number.

By registering your phone number, you can stop receiving unsolicited sales calls.

Sanctions include:

1. Civil penalties
2. Criminal penalties
3. Both

If any other American had obstructed justice as Trump has, they’d be going to jail.

Forbidding news and investigative story ideas contact the editor by phone or email.

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If any other American had obstructed justice as Trump has, they’d be going to jail.

Forbidding news and investigative story ideas contact the editor by phone or email.
Atkins: Calif. can’t fight mass shootings alone

Three young lives were cut short on July 28 in Gilroy, California — a 6-year-old boy, Stephen Romero; a 13-year-old girl, Keyla Salazar; and a 25-year-old man, Trevor Irby. They were indiscriminately murdered while attending a community celebration, the Gilroy Garlic Festival, where people should be concerned with nothing more than great food, lively music, and enjoying one another’s company. We had barely gotten to know who they were before a horrific mass shooting occurred. In El Paso just six days later, when a racist gunman traveled 650 miles to “kill Mexicans” at a popular Walmart. Before he was apprehended, he murdered 22 people with the same kind of military-style weapon used in Gilroy.

We had little time to catch our breath before we heard the news that just 12 hours later, another young man had randomly killed nine people at a bar in Dayton, Ohio, also using a military-style weapon. I didn’t need to personally know Stephen, Keyla, or Trevor to feel deep sadness. I need only think about people of similar ages who I do know, and how their young lives are full of promise, hope, and infinite possibilities. I didn’t need to know any of the 31 people who died needlessly in El Paso and Dayton — not to mention our own backyard of Poway, where Lori Gilbert-Kaye was murdered on April 27 at her synagogue. But it’s not too late for those children. It’s too late for the 14 innocent people who died in Gilroy, El Paso, and Dayton — not to mention our own backyard of Poway, when Lori Gilbert-Kaye was murdered on April 27 at her synagogue. But it’s not too late for those who might die in the next shooting. Or the next. Or the next.

— Toni G. Atkins represents District 39 in the California Senate. Follow her on Twitter @SenToniAtkins.

FROM PAGE 5

MARA ELLIOTT

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MEASURE S

IF IT HAD BEEN ANYONE ELSE WHO DIED IN GIROY, EL PASO, OR DAYTON, I WOULDN’T HAVE TO SAY MUCH ABOUT THEM. BUT I WILL POINT OUT THAT THE WEAPONS THEY USED WERE SIMILAR TO WHAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED LEGAL UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW. WE MUST NOT SUFFER INOCULUS. WE MUST CONTINUE TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO KEEP OURSELVES, OUR FAMILIES, AND OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE.

— Toni G. Atkins represents District 39 in the California Senate. Follow her on Twitter @SenToniAtkins.
Edward F. Bryans: Leaving a legacy of beautiful buildings

From his arrival in San Diego in 1912 through the 1940s, Edward F. Bryans built structures in every style of the time, including Craftsman, Spanish Colonial Revival, Mission Revival, Italian Renaissance, and Neoclassical. He also was prolific, constructing hundreds of homes as well as many apartments (“flats”) and commercial buildings throughout the city.

In May 1913, he obtained a building permit for 3548 Oregon St. (now Pershing Avenue), which was his home with his wife Myrtle until 1916, when they moved to 3022 Upas St. On April 29, 1926, Bryans obtained a building permit for 3401 Granada, and this was his family residence from 1927 until 1961. His wife died in 1956. Bryans moved to 525 Spruce St. in 1961. His wife died in 1956. Bryans obtained a building permit for 3401 Granada, and this was his home with his wife Myrtle until 1916. He built 15 homes in the North Park Dryden Historic District from 1913 to 1923. Bryans anchor the proposed “Park Boulevard for the Sebastians.” Apartment buildings along Park Boulevard generally between Upas Street and Robinson Avenue. Apartment buildings constructed by Bryans along Park Boulevard during the 1920s include 3401, 3418-20, 3422-24, 3430, 3444-46, 3501-07, 3511, 3517, 3521 and 361.

About a decade into his San Diego building career, Bryans became heavily involved in a front-page-news tragedy related to a recently divorced client, Mrs. Helene D. Henrich, for whom he had just completed the apartment building at 3511 Park Blvd. The Evening Tribune’s Dec. 3, 1922 issue reported the testimony presented at the inquest. Bryans testified that Henrich had called him on Thanksgiving evening and asked him to come over to her apartment near her new building and repair a door that had jammed. He could not get in through the bolted front door, so he went around to the back and up the stairs to the rear porch. There he found a note for him that read in part, “The doors are all bolted, so you cannot get in. Now please do just as I ask you to do...This is very important. Now go and get a policeman, and tell him that I phoned you to come over and now you can’t get in, so you want him here...Now go at once and don’t get inside. They found Henrich’s body on a blanket in the bathroom, “a very important. Now go and get a policeman, and tell him that I phoned you to come over and now you can’t get in, so you want him here...Now go at once and don’t get inside. They found Henrich’s body on a blanket in the bathroom, “a

Edward F. Bryans completed this elegant Italian Renaissance Revival style apartment building at 3511 Park Blvd. in 1922 for Mrs. Helene D. Henrich. This Spanish Colonial Revival duplex—now offices at 3444-46 Park Blvd. was built by Edward F. Bryans in 1924 for Nat and Ella Sebastian.

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.

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**Review: ‘Dance Nation’**

I have always considered dance, like music, a civilizing force in the world. But Clare Barron’s “Dance Nation” (a 2019 Pulitzer Prize finalist) disabused me of that notion, at least when it comes to competitive dance.

Picture yourself somewhere in small-town Ohio, where dance teacher Pat (Daren Scott) is trying to ready seven girls and one lone boy in his troupe for a dance competition that could eventually lead to dance nirvana for a trip to Tampa for the national competition. But first they must win three preliminary rounds.

The conceit of the play depends on the audience imagining a cast of 20- to 60-year-old dancers on the stage are all about 13, and that they are as serious about winning as Pat is. Unlike singing (which many like me managed to do non-competitively and quite happily at that attitude), this is serious and so serious about winning that the fangs (literally) will come out, though at least they don’t resort to trip-ping each other.

Pat is by turns snarky and encouraging, but let’s face it: he wants this team to win as much for himself as for them.

Lake (played by Eddie Varocho) — is especially amusing as the lone boy drowning in the sea of female hormones surrounding him.

Moxie Theatre’s artistic director, Jennifer Eve Thorn, helms this crazy, unsettling, amusing tour through early female adolescence, which plays through Sept. 15.

Pat has choreographed a dance about Gandhi and resistance. So who will dance Gandhi? Several (probably all) of the girls want the role. But there is a hierarchy: the uncontested best dancer is Amira (Wendy Maple). The worst is Zuzu (Joy Yvonne Jones), who looks most like a dancer (and like a winner). But Connie (Farah Dinga) — who has the right look and demeanor — gets the nod. Pat, who seems to like Zuzu despite her evident lack of talent, adds another character — the spirit of Gandhi — and gives that role to Zuzu.

“Dance Nation” is set in the dance world, but it’s really about ambition, desire and finding oneself in the often confusing teen world. In between rehearsals, injuries (Vanessa is lost to injury in the first scene) and the excitement and terror of competition, these girls will have conversations about puzzling issues like masturbation, circumcision and having one’s first period, not to mention the SATs and how to nail the math section, and pondering whether being the best — at dance or anything else — is even good.

Amina speaks for teacher’s pets everywhere when she says, “Sometimes I think I want to lose... Like I feel I hurt people just by existing.”

It’s a whirlwind of a play about confidence and its lack. Building a team, wondering what’s going on in a teen girl’s body — and dancer moms, three of whom (all played by Sarah Karpicis Violet) show up to “help.”

This West Coast premiere boasts excellent acting all around, and fine direction by Thorn. She’s helped by Reiko Huffman’s movable, sectional set design, Kate Bishop’s costumes and fine lighting and sound design by Nate Purdie and Jidy Voon.

Each girl has a definite personality, and no shyness at all in talking about her physical attributes. Ashley (Andrea Agostoli) goes on a monologue rampage about her “epic ass.” Sofia (Sandra Ruiz) is all ready until she freaks out at the sight of her first period. There’s even a confidence-building bit about the “perfect” p-word that all the girls claim.

In a sudden time shift, Li-Anne Rosswell gives us a glimpse of the adult that Maeve will become.

“Dance Nation” has a lot of vulgar and sexual language, so don’t bring the very young. But if you were a child dancer — or know someone who was or is

**The details**

“Dance Nation” plays through Sept. 15, 2019 at Moxie Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Blvd., Suite N in the Rolando neighborhood. Thursday at 7:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets: 858-598-7620 or www.moxietheatre.com

Adult actors depict children in this play. (Photo by Daren Scott)

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**FROM PAGE 8**

**BRYANS**

“25-caliber automatic clutched in her hand.”

In a letter found at the scene, Henrich wrote to her mother: “Mother, dear: My first two marriages were hell. I won’t go through the experience again. I am leaving my property to Mr. Bryans who I feel will carry on my work. Please do not interfere.”

The jury brought in a verdict of “suicide while despondent,” and Henrich’s intended work will become.

If Henrich’s intended work is any indication, and fine direction by Reiko Huffman’s movable, sectional set design, Kate Bishop’s costumes and fine lighting and sound design by Nate Purdie and Jidy Voon.

Each girl has a definite personality, and no shyness at all in talking about her physical attributes. Ashley (Andrea Agostoli) goes on a monologue rampage about her “epic ass.” Sofia (Sandra Ruiz) is all ready until she freaks out at the sight of her first period. There’s even a confidence-building bit about the “perfect” p-word that all the girls claim.

In a sudden time shift, Li-Anne Rosswell gives us a glimpse of the adult that Maeve will become.

“Dance Nation” has a lot of vulgar and sexual language, so don’t bring the very young. But if you were a child dancer — or know someone who was or is

—— this will either validate what she knows or give her a different impression about the art of competitive dance.

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Jean Lowriser is a long-standing member of the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle and can be reached at infodame@gmail.com.
David Oates of PR Security Service in San Diego relayed to us that none of the restaurants owned by The Patio Group will close in light of fraud charges lodged against its parent company, ANI Development, and the investment company’s founder, Gina Champion-Cain.

The well-known restaurateur/investment guru has been accused by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission of defrauding numerous retail investors out of a sum totaling $300 million over the past several years. She operates a series of local restaurants that include The Patio on Goldfinch, The Patio on Lamont, Fireside by the Patio, Saskia’s, and Himmelberg’s.

In an email we received from Oates on Champion-Cain’s behalf, he stated in part: “While we can’t discuss details of the ongoing litigation matter, we will continue to cooperate with authorities throughout this process,” noting also that he expects a “receiver” will be appointed to the civil suit.

In a subsequent email, he pointed out: “We do not anticipate any disruption to operations,” referring to The Patio Group’s portfolio of restaurants.

The Trust Restaurant Group is reinventing a couple of Uptown eating and drinking establishments. It recently announced it will transform the former Brooklyn Girl in Mission Hills (4033 Goldfinch St.) into an Italian restaurant encompassing a full bar, a retail wine section, a bakery, and a walk-up window for purchasing ice cream. slated to be named Cardellino, most of the operation is due to open by late January.

Over in Hillcrest/University Heights, the company’s Hundred Proof (4130 Park Blvd.) will switch from an unpretentious cocktail bar that served casual grub to a neighborhood-style steakhouse spotlighting classic cuts and throwback dishes such as oysters Rockefeller. It’s been named 4130 West and will feature a dry-ageing room. Chef and co-owner Brad Wise plans to also offer old-school Italian favorites such as spaghetti with meatballs and pizzas. The project is expected to materialize sometime in November.

Neapolitan dishes that include seafood risotto, beef cannelloni, parpadelle pasta with lamb ragu, and pizzas baked in a high-heated oven imported from Naples.

SiAmo Napoli, which translates to “we are Naples,” is owned by a trio of siblings from Naples, Italy. They include Flavio Piromallo, who has been general manager of Civico 1845 in Little Italy for several years and previously worked for Buon Appetito in Hillcrest. The restaurant’s chic design features light colors, interior brick, a giant photograph of Sophia Loren, and an imposing mural of Naples in the rear dining area. 3859 30th St., 619-310-6981. siamonapolisd.com.

A spirited kickoff took place Aug. 31 for the arrival of SiAmo Napoli in the heart of North Park. The restaurant replaces Il Postino and ushers in a full bar and classic California-style with carne asada, a chicken cutlet version, and another based on Sunday-style roast using a rotating selection of meats. Biscuit sandwiches will also be available, along with scratch-made cast-iron pies such as pumpkin, pecan and lemon to be sold whole and by the slice. Ferguson will maintain his catering/private chef business that he has run for nearly 10 years under the name Dine In. 3749 Park Blvd, 619-850-8939, sunnyboybiscuitco.com.

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

San Diego Uptown News
September 6-19, 2019 sdnews.com
A golden jubilee in Kensington
Ponce’s Mexican Restaurant turns 50

I t was 1969. Man had set foot on the moon. And way down below in the sleepy San Diego neighborhood of Kensington, an ambitious cook opened a restaurant against the advice of nearby business owners. They believed it would fail because of low consumer traffic in the area.

“There wasn’t much culinary activity around here at the time,” said Ponce Meza Jr., whose father founded Ponce’s Mexican Restaurant on Adams Avenue after previously working at the former Natí’s Mexican Restaurant in Ocean Beach.

Ponciano “Ponce” Meza Sr. retired years ago. But he will be in proud attendance for the restaurant’s 50th anniversary bash, to be held from noon to 6 p.m., Sept. 15, in the adjacent parking lot and the mini park behind it.

Admission is $50, which includes all-you-can-eat tacos, two drinks, a souvenir T-shirt, and live music by the B-Side Players and a mariachi band. (Admission for those 3 to 17 years old is $40.)

The restaurant has been wildly successful. It operates to a full house pretty much from the moment the doors open at 11 a.m. and until closing at 10 p.m. In addition, Ponce Jr. and his sister, Rocio, opened a second location in Del Sur, which is coming up on its one-year anniversary.

I recently visited with a friend who has been eating faithfully at the double-storefront Kensington spot since he was a kid. His go-to picks are the standard margarita made with fresh-squeezed limes, and a combination plate featuring a cheese enchilada and crunchy ground-beef taco. I’m told the latter is the exact duo of hot items that famed San Diego Padres player Tony Gwynn always ordered as a regular Ponce’s customer.

Albondigas soup

The al pastor burrito mingles seasoned pork with bits of pineapple.

Enchiladas suizas

Restaurant Review
Frank Sabatini Jr.

Ponce Meza Jr. alongside the restaurant’s outside murals

Ponce’s Mexican Restaurant
4050 Adams Ave. (Kensington)
619-282-4413, ponces-restaurant.com

Prices: Soups, salads and appetizers, $3.50 to $11.95; street tacos, $2.75 each (or $12.95 for three with rice and beans); specialty tostadas, burritos and tacos, $5.95 to $11.95; tortitas, $8.95; fajitas, $12.95 to $14.95; combo plates, $12.95 to $15.95; signature entrees, $12.95 to $16.95

The combo plates feature a choice of either two or three main items. They come with rice and refried beans, which sneaks lard into the recipe for a creamy, comforting outcome. (Vegetarian beans are available upon request.)

Sitting within the gaze of nearly two dozen females captured in framed paintings, we scarfed down the complimentary table chips with red and green salsas in addition to a bowl of semi-chunky guacamole, which was seemingly made fresh to order.

The collection of paintings, known as “the wall of women,” was amassed over time from various flea markets and customer donations. Some of the women are unknown. Others are either current or former staffers who worked at Ponce’s for 10 years or longer. They all possess Latina beauty.

Over multiple visits, I’ve come to cherish many dishes — too many to completely name here.

The chicken tortilla soup is a relative newcomer and no less outstanding. It features a boatload of shredded breast meat with a stacking of tortilla strips and avocado slices on top.

Plump and crepe-like are the chicken enchiladas suizas.

Framed paintings comprise Ponce’s “wall of women.” (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

see Ponces, pg 13

“Tigers are not Afraid”

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OCTOBER 1 – 6, 2019

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Growing Balboa Park

Summer Appeal, Awards Luncheon, pumpkin dedications, free carousel rides on Halloween!

Friends of Balboa Park, a nonprofit that champions the legacy and beauty of the park, is stewarding a number of exclusive opportunities for the community to enhance Balboa Park.

With fall in San Diego around the corner, we look forward to all things pumpkin and spice and everything nice in Balboa Park!

Balboa Park Awards Luncheon

Join us for the Friends of Balboa Park’s annual Awards Luncheon on Friday, Oct. 4. We will recognize honorees for their commitment to preserve and enhance Balboa Park for future generations.

Millennium Awards

Globe Guilders of The Old Globe
San Diego Junior Theatre
Globe Guilders of The Old Globe
Jim Marsh, San Diego Zoo Global
Greg Rushall, San Diego Automotive Museum

Betty Peabody Emerging Young Leader of Balboa Park Award

Brittani Mirabile, San Diego Museum of Man
Tickets start at $85, with tables and sponsorships available. Please join us in celebrating Balboa Park’s shining stars!

20th Anniversary Appeal

Throughout 2019, Friends of Balboa Park has been celebrating its 20th anniversary of enhancing and preserving the park for future generations. As part of a special anniversary appeal, we are highlighting the more than 300 projects and programs Friends has undertaken that have made Balboa Park a shining jewel. Visit our website for more information, and consider a tax-deductible donation today.

Pumpkins and poinsettias in the Botanical Building

Friends of Balboa Park’s annual display of pumpkins and poinsettias will be filling the Botanical Building in the upcoming months. November features gourds of all different sizes, colors, and textures, while December highlights traditional and hybrid poinsettias. You can help make these displays a festive sight-to-see this year by making your tax-deductible donation for a dedication today.

Balboa Park Carousel

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

Benefits of Being a Friend

Friends is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, and is commemorating this milestone by launching a new membership program that renews supporters and encourages even more people to join our efforts to make a meaningful difference in Balboa Park. Join online at friendsofbalboapark.org/membership.

For more information on Friends’ events and park improvement projects, or to support the Balboa Park Carousel, call 619-232-2282 or visit friendsofbalboapark.org.

— Friends of Balboa Park is a nonprofit affiliation organization that champions and enhances the park by connecting the philanthropic community to Balboa Park. The group has spearheaded major capital improvement initiatives throughout Balboa Park, including upgraded carillon speakers in the California Tower, restoration of the historic Cabrillo Bridge gate houses and Lily Pond, information kiosks, Adopt-A-Plot program, dedicated benches and trees, operation of the historic Balboa Park Carousel, and other programs that facilitate the community’s direct involvement in the enhancement of Balboa Park.

(Photos courtesy Friends of Balboapark)
Two new art installations have been completed as part of “Little Saigon Stories,” a community-based art program showcasing San Diego’s Vietnamese-American community through public art and placemaking activities along El Cajon Boulevard.

Little Saigon Stories was designed as a platform for local youth to capture, preserve and share the first-hand accounts of inter-generational members of San Diego’s Vietnamese-American community through photography and film. The project began in 2017, facilitated by the Media Arts Center San Diego, in collaboration with the AJA Project, Little Saigon Foundation and the El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association.

The latest installation in the Little Saigon Stories series is a large-scale mural created by acclaimed artist Shinpei Takeda, co-founder of the AJA Project, a participatory photography-based program for refugee and immigrant youth in San Diego. The 120-foot-long mural covers the entire parking lot of Sin Lee Foods, located at 4665 El Cajon Blvd. in City Heights.

Painted by Takeda and a small team of volunteers over the course of eight nights, the work centers around a 66-foot ship, the actual size of the typical fishing boats refugees used to escape the communists in the aftermath of the Vietnam War. The image was inspired by a story shared by Andy Bui, a former tenant of Sin Lee Foods, whose uncle Stephen fled to the U.S. on such a vessel. As many as 300 to 400 people were crammed onto each boat, a devastating fact that Takeda depicts in his painting by using the same number of Vietnamese letters to tell the personal stories of escape collected through the Little Saigon Stories project.

Funded through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the mural was designed as a semi-permanent installation using durable road sign paint on the asphalt lot, which sits at the center of the designated Little Saigon District in City Heights. The Sin Lee store is also the site of the landmark “Greeting” wall mural completed in 2018 to commemorate the district.

A second Little Saigon Stories art installation has also been completed at a vacant storefront formerly occupied by Thrift Trader at the corner of 30th Street and El Cajon Boulevard in North Park. The owner of the property has donated use of the store’s large display windows to showcase the artwork of local students until a new tenant is found. The art pieces were previously displayed at a series of community events and pop-up exhibitions in City Heights earlier this year.

Located in the heart of the heavily trafficked “30ECB Hub” along The Boulevard, the store-front location offers the opportunity for more members of the San Diego community to learn about the vibrant Little Saigon District just down the road.

The installation will be center-stage for viewing during the next “Stroll the Boulevard” on Friday, Sept. 6, from 6-10 p.m. The lively neighborhood event will feature a variety of fan activities, games, music art, and food and drink specials from local businesses.

“These two new art installations are a key part of our larger place-making strategy along The Boulevard,” said Beryl Forman, marketing and mobility coordinator for the El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association, in a press release. “We are always looking for new ways to create special community gathering spaces, similar to what we have been able to do with Fair@44. By transforming a boring parking lot into an empty storefront into something not only beautiful, but that also tells a story, creates dialogue and fosters a sense of community pride, that’s really powerful.”

“My hope is that the people will physically step into my painting on the ground, whether consciously or subconsciously, and recognize that we are all part of these stories, that we are literally making history,” said Takeda. “The imagery relates not only to the refugees from the Vietnamese War, but also to those suffering right now on the Mediterranean Sea and elsewhere in the world. The ship represents the ongoing voyage on the sea of negotiation and reconciliation, to the formation of new identity and new collective history.”

More information about Little Saigon Stories can be found at www.mediasartcenter.org/littlesaigon.

Shinpei Takeda’s depiction of a refugee ship in the parking lot of Sin Lee Foods

(Photos courtesy El Cajon Business Improvement Association)
Two book releases in the last month, an appearance on “Animal Planet,” and two advocacy awards show not only how quickly Hannah Shaw has been able to make a name for herself in the public eye, but also the ripple effect of her high-energy and hands-on approach regarding kitten advocacy, rescue and education.

“His has all happened much to my surprise and delight,” said Shaw, founder of the nonprofit Orphan Kitten Club, which provides lifesaving operations and the world’s first grant program specifically funding innovation in kitten welfare. “When people realize that these babies are all unique and so worthy of protection, I think that it gets a lot of people to go out and sign up to foster in their own communities.”

Nicknamed the “Kitten Lady,” Shaw provides educational media and training resources on her website and social media, as well as instructional workshops, all to help individuals and animal shelters learn how to save the lives of kittens.

“I wanted to create a fun community where people could see up close and personal what it looks like to rescue kittens, and also help people to feel like they know the individual animal,” said Shaw. “I teach using stories. It’s not just theoretical. It’s not just data. You’re not just trying to convince people something matters because you read a statistic,” she said. “You’re literally looking at a little life in the palm of your hand, and you know that there are so many other little lives like that people to go out and sign up to foster in their own communities.”

For the next few weeks, Shaw, who tries to share all the information I think that it gets a lot of people to go out and sign up to foster in their own communities.”

To apply to adopt any of Shaw’s kittens, visit orphankittenclub.org.

“It’s all a lot more personal for me now,” said Shaw, who had been an activist for many years but never planned on getting this hands-on with the work. “It’s not just theoretical. It’s not just data. You’re not just trying to convince people something matters because you read a statistic,” she said. “You’re literally looking at a little life in the palm of your hand, and you know that there are so many other little lives like that people who are out there in need of love and support and care.

“That’s why, whenever I teach, I teach using stories. It’s not a theory, it’s a real kitten that you can hold and see and feel and that needs your help.”

To apply to adopt any of Shaw’s kittens, visit orphankittenclub.org.

— Victoria Davis is a freelance reporter.

Hannah Shaw and her cat and first-ever rescue Coco. (Photos courtesy Hannah Shaw)
New book recounts the birth of skate in San Diego

Did you ever wonder what catapulted skateboarding’s popularity into the stratosphere? Does history of a "sport," born and bred along the coast of Southern California, coincide with your love of surfing? Are you "stoked" to know that skateboarding will be featured in Tokyo for the 2020 Summer Olympics?

If you’ve answered yes to any of the above questions, John O’Malley’s new book, “Urethane Revolution: The Birth of Skate-San Diego 1975,” is a must read. The always interesting, sometimes shocking, off-color page-turner dialogues the history of skateboarding from one of its founding fathers, John O’Malley.

Dubbed the “greatest story never told in extreme sports history,” O’Malley retraces his steps as a member of the original Skunkworks crew to creating his own skate parks. Photographs — sure to make everyone reminisce about the good ol’ days — accompany stories from the underground.

“Around 1973, a guy named Frank Nasworthy discovered these urethane training wheels that were used on beginners’ roller skates,” he notes. “They were grippier than the unforeseen composite clay wheels of the day. Frank bolted them on his skateboard and bingo! Suction-cup traction like no one had ever imagined possible. It’s in that instant that the skateboard went from a toy with feet to the only new possibilities.”

According to O’Malley, a perfect storm of “ill winds” that began with a historic drought fueled the Revolution.

“The drought uncovered insanely fun new skating forms like the reservoirs and drainage ditches while recession-vacant homes had their swimming pools drained and skated,” he pens. “Our eyes spoked an urban landscape lit up with a million new possibilities.”

“Urethane Revolution” also showcases La Jolla native Bobby Turner. The innovative craftsman built Turner SummerSki slalom skateboards. Still popular today, these boards are constructed along the design vein of surfboards and snow skis. According to O’Malley, Turner’s skateboards “revolutionized” slalom skating boards. O’Malley touts, “The Revolution is over. Skaters won.”

And if you need a place to play, check out Robb Field — San Diego’s first skateboard park constructed and operated by the city at 2525 Bacon St. Designed with input from the legendary Tony Hawk, the 40,000-square-foot concrete park is suitable for all ages and skill levels. Sidling the San Diego River Bike Path at the onset of Ocean Beach, the “street course” features a combination bowl, handrails, ledges, blocks, a pump bump and an octagon volcano.

—Lucia Viti can be reached at lucavi@roadrunner.com.
Sat., Sept. 7 - Town & Country
City Lights Lantern Festival
To celebrate its 15th anniversary,
Town & Country in La Jolla will
include lion dancing, music, food,
and more. The lantern festival
celebrates the Mid-Autumn Harvest Festival (Ying Tao) as well as the beauty and support from the amazing community of City Heights.
The festival is from 3 to 8:30 p.m. at
the Town & Country Village.

Sat., Sept. 7 - North Park
South Park Walkabout
The South Park Walkabout is a free,
self-guided walking event that
showcases all the unique and
independent shops and restaurants
in South Park. Enjoy complimentary
treats, live entertainment and more,
located at South Park Neighborhood
from 10th Avenue to 30th Street.

Sat., Sept. 7 - Balboa Park
Fe Marketplace
Fe Marketplace returns to Old Town
San Diego. The event will be
overflowing with a variety of local
vendors, as well as massages.
All proceeds will benefit local San
Diego nonprofit Unicef.

Sat., Sept. 7 - San Diego Zoo
San Diego Zoo Food & Wine Fest
San Diego Zoo’s annual food and
tasting event, that will feature
globally-inspired food, wine and
beer, on Saturday, Sept. 7.
The event starts at 5 p.m. and
continues until 9 p.m. with
tastings, opportunity draw-
ings, a beer garden sponsored by
North Park Seniors, and more.

Sat., Sept. 7 - San Diego Zoo
Girls Inc. of San Diego's Annual
Charity Yogathon
Girls Inc. of San Diego presents
its eighth annual Charity Yo-
gathon. The event will be held from
3 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the San Diego
African American Cultural Center.

Sat., Sept. 7 - The Museum of	
San Diego History & Art
“Race, HIV, and Art: The Impact	
of the AIDS Crisis”
This artful novel that chronicles	
Michael Alsop at ronald.alsop@gmail.
com or 908-347-3877 for more	
information.

Sat., Sept. 7 - The City of	
La Jolla
Jeri Dilno Way Home Tour
Join in the City of La Jolla as it
celebrates its annual Jeri Dilno Way
Home Tour. The event will be held
from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will
feature 10 homes around the
beautiful streets of North Park.

Sat., Sept. 7 - The City of	
La Jolla
Celebrating the Jeri Dilno Way	
Home Tour
Celebrate the Jeri Dilno Way Home
Tour with a mansion tour, wine and
cheese social and an open mic	
night.

Sat., Sept. 7 - Escondido
Meditation Club
Complete your week with meditation.

Sat., Sept. 7 - Escondido
Ballet Black Presents	
“Urban Campout: All That's
Beautiful and Fabulous”
Ballet Black is headed to Escondido
for a special performance of	
“Urban Campout: All That's
Beautiful and Fabulous.”

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Kapongo and 17-year-old daughter Mary-Louise thanked the community in a press conference for pressuring Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to release the father on parole.

Bakala said the most difficult part of detention was being separated from his family where he could not see them. “I’m very grateful to God and all those people who are helping my family to be together,” Mary-Louise said.

Due to the new Trump administration policy of keeping asylum-seekers in third countries, often Mexico, during the asylum process, Kapongo and the children’s court date has been postponed to November 2020 to give asylum-seekers outside the U.S. priority in the court system.

As they wait to see if they can stay in San Diego permanently, Constantin’s lawyer is going to petition for the court to bundle his case with the rest of the family instead of having two simultaneous processes. Bakala said through a translator that the conditions have changed since the first time he went before a judge he was by himself, but now he has a lawyer. He is hopeful that his asylum case will go through.

“Constantin has been reunited with his family but thousands of others remain incarcerated in for-profit prisons under appalling conditions. Tragically, the horrors of this story are not unique,” Mathewson exhorted.

“I want to tell those people who have the same situation as my family that whatever is your situation, just remember that you are not alone. There will be people who will support you,” Mary-Louise Bakala said.

Now that the family is reunited, they are able to commemorate the dates that pull a family’s history together. Kapongo and Bakala are belatedly celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary. Mary-Louise is thankful her dad will be by her side to welcome her into adulthood on her 18th birth-day this month.

“I’m just very happy. My dad is here,” Mary-Louise said.

Bakala said, “The joy that I feel right now—I don’t have words for.” — Kendra Sitton can be reached at kendra@sdnews.com.
In addition, the church must apply for a conditional use permit (CUP) because the Code only allows churches to host shelters 30 times a year without a permit, and the church hosts theirs for 50. According to a GoFundMe for the church, the CUP could cost close to $20,000 just to cover the next 20 extra nights.

This notice also cited the church with more than 20 violations and informed them that they may be back-charged at a rate of $300 per violation, per day, since the inspectors first noticed them on July 31, 2019. The church plans to avoid penalties by immediately correcting all violations as identified. The church was informed that without obtaining a conditional use permit for both their sanctuary rentals and the shelter, they would not be able to continue operating these ministries.

The church held their last youth homeless shelter on Sept. 3 and informed the youth that had come to rely on the ministry they are no longer allowed to serve them. Before that, they operated a weekly homeless youth shelter, which provided a hot meal, a warm shower, a place to sleep, and connection to services for residents living with Alzheimer’s or related dementias. Offering compassionate, individualized care and support for residents living with Alzheimer’s or related dementias.

Youth at the emergency shelter were given a hot meal.

Inside Missiongathering Christian Church’s weekly youth shelter (Photos courtesy of Urban Street Angels)

In addition, the church also rented out their church also rented out their sanctuary to host concerts at “The Irenic” for all-ages shows, offering compassionate, individualized care and support for residents living with Alzheimer’s or related dementias. The proceeds of which help to support the arts in the community. In a press release, the church announced its intention to fight the order.

“Missiongathering believes that the city of San Diego may be violating their religious liberty as a church and are committed to fighting these actions for the sake of the survival of the church and their right to be who God has called them to be. It is a fundamental call of Christ to reach out to those who are in need, to clothe the naked, and to be a good steward of our resources. The city is not only preventing Missiongathering from doing that, they are penalizing them for it,” read the release.

At a press conference held on Sept. 3, church leaders called on the city to work with the church in a more “reasonable manner” to continue its operations as a faith community. The church hopes Mayor Kevin Faulconer and city leaders will allow the religious organization to let them continue to express their faith through the weekly shelter and community concerts. They say the outcome of the fight will determine whether the church can stay at its current location.

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**SD UPTOWN NEWS**

September 6-19, 2019

FROM PAGE 1

**HOUSECALLS**

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