New vision for Veterans Plaza moves forward

Second in series of workshops planned to mold new presentation

By TONY DE GARATE | THE BEACON

Even before the 9/11 tragedies, there were plenty of Obeceans who knew that patriotism was consistent with the community’s laid-back, do-your-own-thing ethic. In 1997, they decided it was high time to do something big.

An idea to honor those who have served our country in the armed forces took hold, with the help of the since-vacated Ocean Beach Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association (OBMA) and others, the idea came to fruition.

In a nutshell, that’s how the Veterans Plaza at the corner of Abbott Street and Newport Avenue — with two its flagpoles, a 6 ½-foot-high piece of granite rock and accompanying plaque, and dozens of inscriptions engraved onto a brand-new, concrete sidewalk — came to be, organizers said. Ocean Beach was ahead of the curve.

But the most serious problems had to do with the memorials on the sidewalk. Circles of various sizes had been engraved on the new concrete, and the public could honor a loved one with an inscription inside the circles for a few hundred dollars.

Knox said, “And right away, they washed out. And they were blotchy,” she said.

Later, some coloring and improvements for our families and our children.”

For those looking to be pampered, “We're delivering real results to protect our beaches, guard taxpayer dollars, the delayed audit reports, the lawsuits, the pension scan-

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How to sell your home without an agent

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

After all, with the proper information, selling a home isn’t easy. Perhaps, you’ve had your home on the market for several months with no offers from qualified buyers. This can be a very frustrating time, and many homeowners have given up their dreams of selling their homes by yourself which will help you sell for the best price in the shortest amount of time. You’ll find out what real estate agents don’t want you to know.

Inside the report, you’ll find 10 inside tips to selling your home by yourself which has been prepared especially for home sellers like you. You’ll find that selling your home by yourself is entirely possible once you understand the process.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-276-0761 and enter 1017. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how you really can sell your home yourself.

It’s vacation time! Peninsula Beacon readers are heading out of town and taking their favorite hometown paper with them! Don’t pass up your chance to have your name and face published in The Beacon. Take us with you to wherever corner of the world you may be visiting and share your trip with other readers. Tell us your name and/or the names of your family members in the photo and give us a brief description of where the shot was taken. Email the photo and the information to beacon@sdnews.com. It’s that easy! Photos are published based on space constraints and in the order in which they are submitted.

WILLIS ALLEN
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Front house has 3 bedrooms and 2 baths + a 2 car garage. Rear house is 1 bedroom and 1 bath. Both located on a quiet cul-de-sac within walking distance to schools, stores, restaurants, bus line and freeways. Terrific location. Present GSI $45,600.00 year.
ASKING $750,000

OCEAN BEACH TRIPLEX
City, harbor to Mexico Viiew! Built in 2006, this home fulfills your dreams! 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 700SF MBR, approximately 3600SF of living space. Elevator, 4 fireplcs, wine cellar + 3 car garage all on private knoll.

JUST LISTED!

Charming single-level home on peaceful street. Wood floors, 2BR/2BA, office/bonus room, plus huge family room. Large yard, 2-car garage. Nice!
$599,000

SUNSET CLIFFS VIEWS!
Stately 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home with panoramic views extending to La Jolla. Newly remodeled gourmet kitchen, grand master suite with 2 view decks and fireplace, pool with solar heat.
$1,725,000

HIGHLIGHTS

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ON VACATION WITH THE PENINSULA BEACON

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Faulconer outlined principles he pledges to follow as he continues his efforts toward a brighter future.

“First, we must fulfill the will of the voters by implementing comprehensive pension reform at City Hall. We must make full pension payments to ensure we don’t unduly pass on the debt to our children and grandchildren,” he said. “We must protect public safety, particularly by improving police retention and recruitment, and we must not and cannot support cuts to our core neighborhood services that all of us rely on.”

The councilman said no budget is justifiable unless the city considers all reasonable and acceptable ways to deliver services efficiently and effectively.

“Unfortunately, the administration is ignoring opportunities to cut government waste by stalling managed competition, which is costing taxpayers tens of millions of dollars each year that would be saved through streamlining,” he said. “Using estimates about what the city could gain annually that’s costing taxpayers tens of millions of dollars isn’t justifiable unless the city considers all reasonable and acceptable ways to deliver services efficiently and effectively.

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He said although the city has united to resolve the front-page financial scandals of the past, the day-to-day neighborhood challenges remain. Those challenges, he said, must be met head-on through collaboration.

“Delivering the results we’ve covered tonight didn’t require divisive rhetoric. Bipartisan politics doesn’t pave streets. It doesn’t protect our ocean or dispatch our police officers or fire fighters to our homes any faster,” he said. “Collaboration and respect get things done, and it’s the path I intend to follow as long as I am your elector-leader.”

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He said in the next 30 days, he will ask his fellow councilmembers to reaffirm their commitment to voter-approved managed competition.

“I believe it is central that we have a healthy and dynamic city and these principles will help ensure that,” he said. “If we follow the will of the voters, particularly on managed competition. San Diego can and will continue to lead on fiscal reform.”

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PL / OB Community Yard Sale Day
Next Saturday April 27th

Still time to sign-up for the 3rd Annual Big PL / OB Community Yard Sale Day, the sign-up deadline is April 23rd. The event is hosted each year by long time Point Loma Realtor Bob Woodard of Prudential CA Realty.

The Big PL Sale Day continues to grow each year and we are approaching 100 sales for this year’s event. The best part for sellers is it’s all FREE! We market the event throughout San Diego County to attract buyers from all areas. Last year there was an abundance of antiques along with just about every household and sporting item you could think of. The one thing that’s for sure, you never know what people will break out for the sale.

I will be providing master maps for buyers of all the sale locations at my office located across from the PL Post Office at 2920 Canon St., SD 92106 from 6AM – 9AM on April 27th. We are encouraging sellers to open from 7am-12 noon which still provides them a free afternoon.

Sign-up to participate by contacting Bob Woodard at (619) 227-LIST (5478) or go to www.bigyardsale.com for more detailed information.

Dana Middle School principal steps down after 10 years

After a decade at the helm of Dana Middle School, principal Diane Ryan has stepped down to accept a position as principal at Challenger Middle School in Mira Mesa.

“This is so bitter sweet,” she said. “I am grateful to our students, parents, teachers and staff for sharing the Dana experience with me for the past 10 years. It has been my honor to serve our young children and be the compass always pointing to their future. Together with staff and parents, I believe we have made a difference in the lives of thousands of children.”

Although Ryan said she looks forward to the next chapter in her life, she will also miss the Dana community very much. “I am a person who embraces change and welcomes the challenges that come with it,” she said. “I am appreciative of the wonderful relationships that we have built and the incredible opportunities we have created for Dana students. I have grown professionally and personally, and have many fond memories to hold on to.”

A panel of parents and staff will work with area superintendent Gilbert Gutierrez in the selection of a new principal over the next few weeks. Ryan’s final day will be Friday, April 19, and a retired principal will fill in during the transition. “Great things are happening at Dana. Solid foundations and structures are in place, and I believe this work will continue,” Ryan said. “Thank you, everyone, for your support and endless commitment to our kids. I have enjoyed being a part of this magical world and will forever hold a special place in my heart for Dana.”

Dana Middle School Principal Diane Ryan has stepped down to accept a position as Challenger Middle School’s principal.
As summer water sports begin approaching, it’s never too late to learn to swim.

By Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

Point Loma High School baseball player Jim Murray, a member of the 1973 Pointer team that won a CIF championship, will be feted at a 40th anniversary “Spirit of ’73 Gala” on April 26 at the Bali Hai restaurant on Shelter Island.

“I have always been a person that looked forward and rarely in the rear view mirror,” Murray said in a letter to event organizers. “But as I get older and closer to retirement, I realize the single most important lesson in my life had to be the sense of TEAM that I developed playing base- ball at PLHS.

The 14 members of that team have taken much of their experience forward with them to become successful in careers and life.

Murray and his teammates have been showing up faithfully for 15 years to play in the annual alumni vs. varsity game, a tradition born at their 25th reunion in 1998 when the challenge “I’ll bet we could still beat those youngsters” was verbalized. Another team member, Paul Contreras, put things in perspective.

“With the on-field battles, we enjoyed our success but had our failures that brought us together as a team. The ’73 Pointers picked each other up when it was required and cheered for each other all of the time. We were brothers of the ball,” Contreras writes.

Organizers of the “Spirit of ’73 Gala” promise a night of great food, fabulous fun, stories that get better with age and opportunities to bid on both live and silent auctions of intriguing donated items.

Tickets are $75, with all proceeds supporting PLHS baseball. Contact

PLHS championship team of 1973 remains in spotlight

BY NICOLE SOURS LARSON | THE BEACON

Many people who swim only by keeping their faces above the water have a problematical relationship with the water, swim instructor Kim Shults discovered.

Some, like me, have had traumatic water-related incidents that affect their ability to feel comfortable swimming.

That, plus her concern for drowning prevention and water safety, is one reason Shults started her “40 for 40” Faces in Water Project to mark her 40th birthday.

The former Ocean Beach resident was a 12-year veteran ESL (English as a second language) instructor in the San Diego schools when she received her annual layoff notice last year. She decided that was one too many layoff notices, and opted not to return to public education — at least now — but to focus on her first love, teaching swimming.

She determined to use her birthday as a catalyst to examine what she wanted to do with her life at mid-decade and take steps toward that goal.

“I felt as if she had given me back the joy of being in the water as a child, but had lost as an adult. Now, following my water-walking sessions, I return to the pool to practice my breathing and swimming techniques, each time increasing my number of laps. I’ve continued lessons, learning backstroke and refining my freestyle. Most important, I feel more confident and safer in the water.

My experience is not unique. Through her project, Shults has already taught infants and mature adults, including several who had never swam before, the basics of swimming and breathing.

“I decided to do this project for myself. It’s very selfish. I love seeing the looks on people’s faces when they do something they didn’t think they could ever do. I look at them and know they can do it. I get to spend that time with them pushing them to a level they never thought was possible,” she said.

Shults is looking for a few more people, particularly adults, who want to change their relationship with the water and learn or improve their swimming. If you would like to participate, visit www.faceinwater.org, or email kim@faceinwater.org, explaining your story and interest in swimming.

It’s never too early or late to learn how to swim.

By Nicole Sours Larson, left, and swim instructor Kim Shults in the water at The Plunge in Mission Beach.

Above, player Steve Grimes is carried off the field at San Diego State University after the Pointers defeated Hoover 11-2 for the 1973 CIF championship. Grimes was the winning pitcher and also hit a three-run home run.

Left, members of the 1973 Pointer CIF championship team who played in this year’s Alumni Game include front row, left to right, Tom Evans, Terry Greeses, Steve Grimes and Paul Contreras. Back row includes Mark Comons, Kevin Stafford, Brian Silano, Steve Vargas and Jim Harvey.

Writer Nicole Sours Larson, left, and swim instructor Ken Shults in the water at The Plunge in Mission Beach.
PLAZA
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
tricky business, and, over time, the concrete lost its ability to sustain the stress of the engraving process, Knox said. When the first mistake occurred, an effort to correct it pretty much wiped out what funds had been set aside for maintenance.

“We tried so hard to tackle it, but it really was a bad design,” Knox said.

Salt, air, sand and foot traffic also took their toll, eroding the engravings and rendering many of them difficult, if not impossible, to read. The majority of the circles remain empty, and no one has purchased an inscription since August 2008, Knox said.

Over the years, contractors have assessed the damage, but all have come to the same conclusion: start over. “They all left scratching their heads. They all said it needed a complete re-do,” Knox said.

A coalition of community groups, headed by the Ocean Beach Community Development Corporation (OBDCD) has united to do just that. The second of two public forums to discuss design features and generate ideas has been scheduled for April 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Point Loma Masonic Lodge, 1711 Sun- set Cliffs Blvd.

The effort got a big boost a few months ago with a $20,000 grant from the county’s neighborhood reinvestment program through an application supported by the office of District 4 County Supervisor Ron Roberts. The money should pay for the design phase and the architectural firm KTU+A has been retained for that purpose, said Tom Perotti, OBDCD president. KTU+A has worked on the OBDCD’s other big proj- ect, the Ocean Beach Entryway at Sunset Cliffs Boulevard and West Point Loma Boulevard.

All the major community groups have voiced strong support in the effort, and even Mayor Bob Filner has expressed interest. Perotti said.

“The current plaza is in such dire- pair, it doesn’t really honor the names of the veterans that are on the sidewalk,” Perotti said. “It’s past due. It’s time to show respect to the veterans and to define the space once again in a renewed effort.”

A five-member committee has been appointed to lead the effort, headed by Tom Grosch, who also serves on the Ocean Beach Town Council’s board of directors. Grosch said he’s pleased with the progress so far and the quality of the feedback from the first forum in February and dozens of surveys submitted by citizens at the forum and online.

Grosch said KTU+A will present two alternatives based on that feedback dur- ing the April 30 workshop. The alterna- tives haven’t been released yet, but they are said to represent a philosophical debate between those who think the senti- ments behind the memorial should be expressed artistically, and those who prefer a more formal approach.

“They both meet the criteria we’ve developed, but in different ways,” Grosch said. “From those two, take a look and see what works best from both, and then combine them into a final design.”

Some design concepts have emerged that nearly everyone agrees on, Grosch said: the memorial should be moved south to the grassy area adjacent to the Ocean Beach; and a crosswalk needs to be installed at Newport Avenue and Abbott Street.

“Setting out, there was the obvious criteria — the memorial is worn down and something more sustainable and long-term had to be constructed. That was the main thing,” Grosch said.

“Then you have to keep in mind that it’s a major (area) in Ocean Beach, and it has to match the community vibe.”

Still to be determined is how the worn-out sidewalk inscriptions will be represented in the final design. Grosch said, “We’ll be doing everything we can to incorporate those medallions. They won’t stay where they are.”

Several years ago, as the engravings were becoming less legible, the OBMA took photos of the memorials and wrote them all down. “We think we have all of that documented,” Knox said. After the workshop, the OBDCD and KTU+A will work on a draft final design that can be presented to community groups for more feedback. Grosch said.

WHAT: Public forum on how to save Veterans Plaza at Newport Avenue & Abbott Street
WHEN: Tuesday, April 30, 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Point Loma Masonic Lodge, 1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd.
WHO: Anyone interested in restoring the declining plaza. Hosted by Ocean Beach Community Development Corporation
More information is available at www.obcdc.org and vetsplazainfo@obcdc.org

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- 50% of the ballot must be complete to be counted in the drawing.
- One ballot per person.
- Limited to 92107 zip code/Ocean Beach Restaurants.
- $100 credit will be awarded to the winner. 50% of the ballot must be complete to be counted in the drawing.
- Maximum votes for same Restaurant is 5. All other votes for that Restaurant will not be counted.

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Quick hits

Hearing set for suspected rapist

A June 3 preliminary hearing has been set for a man suspected of kidnapp- ing and raping a woman in Loma Por- tal.

Michael Meretez Tesfa, 21, has plead- ed not guilty to charges that also include robbery and false imprisonment of the victim in the March 18 incident.

The victim said she met Tesfa earlier that night and that he asked her to go to a hotel with him, but she declined.

Shortly before 9 p.m., Tesfa is alleged to have sexually assaulted her behind Perry’s Café on Pacific Highway near Rosecrans Street.

Tesfa’s case was on probation for punching his mother in the face on Jan. 2, 2012. He pleaded guilty to misdemeanor battery and was sen- tenced to 180 days in jail. His probation has been revoked because of his arrest in the new case.

Tesfa is being held on $750,000 bail. — Neal Putnam

Rockin’ fundraiser set to aid MS research

Point Loma natives Mary Alice Dube and husband Ray are hosting “Metal 4 MS,” a rockin’ fundraising event on April 20 at Brick by Brick in Bay Park to raise funds for multiple sclerosis research, advocacy, professional educa-

tion, programs and services to help those living with MS.

Ray, drummer for the band Hellbent, and Mary Alice, a local resident who has been living with Multiple Sclerosis since 2006 are hosting the fundraiser to fuse rock ‘n’ roll with a good cause.

Featured bands include Blackout, Van Roth, Hellbent, Iron Mayhem, Busted Knuckles and Ratz, and raffle tickets will be available at the concert for a chance to win great prizes.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and the first band will take the stage at 6 p.m. Tickets are $12 at the door and all proceeds will benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

For more information, visit www.plgc.org.

Westminster states Payson High Choirs gig

Payson High Choirs will perform at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 21 at 10 a.m., located at 3598 Talbot St.

Payson High Choirs, consisting of Bel Coro, the large concert choir and Trou- veres, the chamber choir are traveling to San Diego for an annual choir tour this year. The choirs are under the direction of Marilyn Morgan.

Payson High School is located in the small town of Payson, 20 minutes south of Provo, Utah. The Payson community has a long history of high musical achieve- ment. The choirs have won numerous awards over the last 30 years as they have toured and competed in various choir festi-

tivals like the Heritage Music Festival.

For more information, call Westminster Presbyterian Church at (619) 223-1191.

Thrift shop sets sale with international flavor

The American Cancer Society Point Loma Discovery Shop, 3609 “C”Midway Drive, is offering customers the opportuni-
ty to experience international shopping during its annual “Around The World” event on Friday, April 16 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A wide array of items have been put aside to make shopping fun and exci-
ting.

All proceeds go to cancer research and education. Donations and volunteers are always welcome. For more information, visit cancer.org/discovery, or call (619) 224-4316.

News

Rockin’ fundraiser set to aid MS research

Point Loma natives Mary Alice Dube and husband Ray are hosting “Metal 4 MS,” a rockin’ fundraising event on April 20 at Brick by Brick in Bay Park to raise funds for multiple sclerosis research, advocacy, professional educa-

tion, programs and services to help those living with MS.

Ray, drummer for the band Hellbent, and Mary Alice, a local resident who has been living with Multiple Sclerosis since 2006 are hosting the fundraiser to fuse rock ‘n’ roll with a good cause.

Featured bands include Blackout, Van Roth, Hellbent, Iron Mayhem, Busted Knuckles and Ratz, and raffle tickets will be available at the concert for a chance to win great prizes.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and the first band will take the stage at 6 p.m. Tickets are $12 at the door and all proceeds will benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

For more information, visit www.plgc.org.

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Hearing set for suspected rapist

A June 3 preliminary hearing has been set for a man suspected of kidnapp- ing and raping a woman in Loma Portal.

Michael Meretez Tesfa, 21, has plead- ed not guilty to charges that also include robbery and false imprisonment of the victim in the March 18 incident.

The victim said she met Tesfa earlier that night and that he asked her to go to a hotel with him, but she declined.

Shortly before 9 p.m., Tesfa is alleged to have sexually assaulted her behind Perry’s Café on Pacific Highway near Rosecrans Street.

Tesfa’s case was on probation for punching his mother in the face on Jan. 2, 2012. He pleaded guilty to misdemeanor battery and was sen- tenced to 180 days in jail. His probation has been revoked because of his arrest in the new case.

Tesfa is being held on $750,000 bail. — Neal Putnam

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For more information, visit www.facebook.com/Metal4Ms.

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tivals like the Heritage Music Festival.

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Ocean Beach’s Suzy Hagstrom never knew her paternal grandmoth-
ern, who died before she was born. But nine years ago, Hagstrom started mulling over the idea of organizing an art exhibition to honor her grand-
ma, a beloved Coronado High School art teacher.

The result is “Art through the Generations,” a show that features father Painter Hagstrom’s watercolors, etchings and other work, alongside that of some of her former students, that runs through May 31 at the Coronado Public Library.

Suzy Hagstrom plans to donate all her grandma’s work — “including my favorites” — to the Ocean Beach/Taylor Branch Library for a perma-
nent collection. In addition to 30 framed watercolors, there are dozens of etchings and prints, ceramics, enamel on copper works, an oil paint-
ing and a woodcarving.

Though the work adorned her late parents’ San Francisco Bay area home for years and, later, her own, Hagstrom says, “I feel better about letting the community enjoy her works now. I’ve enjoyed them all my life and now it’s time for the commu-
nity where she lived and worked to enjoy them.”

Grandma was an art teacher at Coronado High from 1939 until her death in 1951 at age 46 from a cere-
bral hemorrhage. The yearbook that year was dedicated to her.

The art teacher influenced many students, Hagstrom points out, sever-
al of whom became acclaimed artists themselves. Hagstrom, who is a jour-
nalist, used her reporting skills to track down some of former students and borrow their work to hang beside their teacher’s for the tribute show.

“Connecting with her students was a way to get to know her. Even stu-
dents who had no interest in art remember my grandmother and her lessons on perspective.” Hagstrom adds, “The exhibit highlights the importance of art in education.”

Among those former students, now age 77 to 86, on display are Patty Murphy Jepson of Coronado, Coron-
ado High School class of 1948, a commercially successful artist who sells her works and paintings on com-
mision.

There’s also Dolores Bridges Mote of El Cajon, class of ’45, who has painted as a hobby all of her life; John Clamppit of Coronado, class of ’54; Sarah Mott Durand of Ashland, Ore., class of ’48; Lois Drake Ferguson of San Diego, class of ’53; John “Jack” Minchin of Encinitas, class of ’48; Doris Klindt Naccarato of Coronado, class of ’51; Hildegarde Jaeger Stubbs of Encinitas, who finished high school in Santa Monica, and Celeste Walkup Usler of Puyallup, Wash., class of 1951. All have had a lifelong passion for the craft, according to Hagstrom.

It’s an interesting coincidence that “Painter” was the art teacher’s maid-
en name, said Hagstrom, whose own middle name, Esther, comes from her grandmother.

Although Hagstrom’s mom and dad grew up in Coronado, her moth-
er’s parents moved to OB in 1950. “Grandpa got tired of the car ferry commute,” said Hagstrom, a volun-
teer poll worker in OB, who lives just two blocks from Sunset Cliffs, the subject of one of her favorite water-
colors by her grandmother.

More information on the Art through the Generations exhibit is available by calling Christian Esque-
vin, director of library services, at the Coronado Public Library, 640 Orange Ave., at (619) 522-7395. Also, check out www.estherpainter-
hagstrom.vpweb.com.

Hagstrom planned the art tribute to her paternal grandmother.
NTC at Liberty Station is San Diego’s new Arts & Cultural District located at the former Naval Training Center in the new Liberty Station neighborhood, near Downtown on San Diego Bay. With 28 acres and 15 of its 27 buildings complete, NTC is home to nearly 50 museums and galleries, artist studios, dance companies, educational groups, multidisciplinary arts, creative retail and other organizations that showcase San Diego’s creative community and provide innovative experiences for the public. The campus also features venues for indoor or outdoor events, festivals, seminars, retreats and meetings. For information and a schedule of classes and events, go to www.NTCLibertyStation.com or call 619 573-9260.
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LIBERTY STATION art studio helps kids learn about selves, the world

By Ethan Orenstein | THE BEACON

Pachis, located in Liberty Station, offers art workshops designed to teach children about a wide range of topics with the freedom of expression.

Pachis owner Juliana Flores developed the concept when she was in college and working with kids.

“A lot of the time, art is mistaken for craft, and just putting together construction paper and glue sticks and other little simple things, rather than giving it more meaning and letting the kids explore what they can do,” Flores said. “To me it was really important to have them look at art as a way of expression rather than another subject in school.”

The Pachis curriculum is built around four main topics called “My Self, My Community, My World and My Art.” The topics inspire learning and expression about the child’s individuality, other people, the community, the world, different cultures and various styles of art.

Flores said the program helps children feel comfortable with themselves, learn about their role models, discover how to contribute positively to their community and gain a wide perspective about cultures and people around the world.

“To me, it’s really important for kids to understand what other kids their age are doing in any other part of the world, and also understanding why we look different or why we do things differently in terms of traditions and holidays,” Flores said.

Topics like recycling and conservation are also important parts of the workshops. Flores said art can really be done with anything as long as the child has the freedom to create what they want.

“It’s a little bit ridiculous that we’re cutting art from the budget and from schools because you can do a lot without having to spend a lot of money,” Flores said. “You can still give kids that sense of expression for a least an hour a day to make something that comes from their heart rather than just their brain.”

The workshops, offered to children 4 to 12, are a unique combination of class structure and artistic freedom. Flores said allowing children to express themselves while learning has been successful.

“They really like the freedom of expressing themselves, but also having the structural part of a class,” Flores said. “At the end of the day, they’re learning something, they’re getting something out of it, they’re making something that they get to take home.”

Flores said the program focuses on individual inspiration, rather than instilling technical skill. While children do learn how to work with different media, the projects they create are their own. She said kids can paint with toothbrushes to explore different textures and discover the endless things they can create with each art supply.

After each class, every student creates something completely unique, which Flores said is really how art should be.

“I went through art school and absolutely hated being graded or my fellow students being graded over something that the teacher didn’t think was the best,” Flores said.

Flores said it’s important for kids to create art from a young age and continue. The studio features a gallery of art and handmade items by artists from San Diego.

Wishing you a Happy Earth Day
Next Liberty Station Section will be April 30th, 2013

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Students are immersed in art at Pachis Studio at Liberty Station.

Courtesy photo by Juliana Flores

Students are immersed in art at Pachis Studio at Liberty Station.

Courtesy photo by Juliana Flores
Diego and Tijuana to show children that they can make a living as an artist.

“I think you can become a better person. It sounds really cheesy, but I honestly believe you can become a better person if you have your artistic side a lot more developed,” Flores said. “It makes you communicate better, it teaches acceptance, it teaches respect and caring for others. I think there’s a lot of value to exposing children to that form of art rather than, ‘We’re all going to draw dolphins and they have to look like this.’”

For class schedules and registration information, visit www.mypachis.com.

PACHIS
CONTINUED FROM Page 10

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All Children Love Tea Parties and Books

Point Loma Tea will be presenting a series of Children’s Teas this Spring and Summer in collaboration with The Yellow Book Road Children’s Book Store. Watch for announcements of specific dates and times for events for kids and their parents to experience a fun tea party along with readings from great kid’s books relating to tea, etiquette, friendship and more! Point Loma Tea and Yellow Book Road are neighbors in NTC at Liberty Station. 619-884-4370

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Bravo School of Art and Theatre Arts School of San Diego team up this summer to immerse your creative child in Visual and Performing Arts Camps at Liberty Station! We offer week-long full and half day camps for ages 7-11. Campers can “Globe Trot with the Arts” June 24-28 and “Dream Big” July 15-19 as they explore the world of visual and performing arts taught by professional artists/teachers. Don’t miss the fun! Register now! For more information: BravoSchoolOfArt.com (619) 223-0058 TheatreArtsSD.org (619) 786-6068 Create • Explore • Play • Hands-on • Fun!!

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FX Dojo offers Computer Animation Instruction for all ages and skill levels. Located in Barracks 19, Liberty Station, FX Dojo is a learning center for beginners, hobbyists, and experienced artists seeking career development.

Computer Animation is fun, but also provides a well-rounded education. Students learn teamwork, problem solving, and applied math, in addition to specific software. Summer 3D Animation Classes for KIDS and TEENS begin the week of June 17th and repeat through July and August. KIDS (ages 8-12) 1:30pm-3pm, Monday-Friday, $150 for all 5 classes. TEENS (HS Students) 3:30pm-5pm, Monday-Friday, $150 for all 5 classes.

All classes are taught by Otto Lai (currently teaching Animation and Visual Effects at San Diego State University, Art Institute, and Platt College) (619) 154-3656 Register online (10 seats maximum) www.fxdojo.com Check website for a complete schedule, class descriptions and upcoming Spring Classes.

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Thanks to all the Participants in our Easter Coloring Contest!

KALANI BALL, AGE 11 WINNER

LIBERTY STATION
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THE PENINSULA BEACON

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RACHAEL BOLOGNA, AGE 8
MAILE BALL, AGE 8
ETHAN BALL, AGE 9
KALANI BALL, AGE 11
MAURE BALL, AGE 8
ABRIGAIL HINDMAN, AGE 5
HALEIA BALL, AGE 3
Dana Middle Mariners to present ‘Pirates of Penzance’

Garland as Frederic and Grace Allen as the Pirate King.

Dana’s fifth- and sixth-graders have been delighting audiences with musical productions ever since the campus at 1775 Chatsworth Blvd. reopened for fifth-graders in 1998 and, in 2001, for sixth-graders as well.

Many of Cobb’s students graduate from Dana Middle to the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts (SDCP), the premier public arts magnet within San Diego Unified School District. Tickets are $7 and may be purchased in advance by visiting www.danamid-dle.com and clicking on “Jackson Theater Box Office.” Tickets will also be available at the door but it is advisable to purchase early, as seats are already selling quickly.

Las Olas offers up tasty Mexican fare on Point Loma

 Owners Dave Murphey and Pete Johnson, both originally from the area, said they are excited about the new venue, which offers plenty of parking.

According to the owners, the menu offers many options, like “build your own taco” with seafood, chicken, pork, along with carne asada taco platters and favorites like flame-roasted chili rellenos stuffed with fall-off-the-bone-tender carnitas or seasonal grilled vegetable enchiladas. The owners boast honest food, prepared fresh daily from scratch with wholesome ingredients.

A full bar also features margaritas and other fine drinks, along with a 10-tap selection of Mexican beers and San Diego’s home-grown craft beers. Sign up at www.lasolasmex.com to become a Compadres Club member to receive monthly promotions and other great deals sent directly to you.

For more information call Las Olas at (619) 222-6600.

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The Raglan Public House: a welcoming place to be when going out on the town

Dr. TERRY LEIGH REELF | THE BEACON

The Raglan Public House, or Raglan for short, opened its Ocean Beach location a year ago, and is located at the corner of Bacon Street and Niagara Avenue. In 2006, owners Phillip “P.J.” Lamont and Matt Baker opened their first restaurant, the Bare Back Bar & Grill, in Pacific Beach. Their second restaurant, the Bare Back Grill, was opened in the Gaslamp District a few years later. In about three weeks, Lamont and Baker’s newest restaurant, the Queenstown Public House, will open in Little Italy. Local architect Michael Soriano designed the Ocean Beach Raglan, as well as the Queenstown Public House.

When guests first arrive, they are greeted with a genuine smile. While the servers are busy, busy, they still create the time to stop by tables to see if guests need anything or to ensure they are enjoying drinks or meals.

Raglan is family-friendly, and children will find much to entertain themselves with the magnetic chalkboards and plastic toys while they make up their minds about which fries they want. There are also other kid-friendly and healthy-menu choices. If guests have a well-behaved dog, he or she is also welcome, but they will be seated outside.

Now that the weather is warming up, the open-air patio offers several picnic-style benches beneath a vine-covered trellis, complemented by an exterior wall with alternating panels of glass and ivy. There’s also a bar-style table with additional stools that faces Bacon Street.

Inside, there are a variety of seating arrangements. The assorted wood tables, designed and built by bar beverage manager Kyle Jaworski and kitchen manager Robbie Valdez help to create a laid-back atmosphere without sacrificing comfort. Jaworski and Valdez also created the wooden caddies that hold napkins and bottles of Raglan’s variety of signature ales.

No matter where you look, there’s something to discover. Whether it’s the newspaper collages and magnetic chalkboards, the hanging-surfboard light fixtures or the skateboard rack. There are wide-screen TVs above the bar and throughout the restaurant. Need the staff report? They have that, too. There’s also a crayon sign on the wall that reads: “Raglan Rocks. Thank you for coming in, Kids!” which was given to Raglan in gratitude for sponsoring an event, according to assistant manager Alex Cunningham.

“We have over 500 beers from all over the world and train our staff to assist customers with finding alternates to their favorite beer,” said beverage manager Pat Souza. We also like to provide opportunities for learning about new beers.”

If one prefers a nice glass of wine, Raglan’s selection includes California wineries and Australian and New Zealander imports.

If one is looking for something a bit stronger, there’s a full bar. Offerings include Red Snakesbite and shandy, along with craft cocktails made with Pisco, rum, whiskey and more.

“Our goal is to go outside the box with cocktails, which range in price between $8 and $11,” said Jaworski. “We try to do something that people wouldn’t just order off the cuff. There’s a double shot of alcohol in our cocktails, too, which is a bit different than with other places.”

It’s clear why Lamont and Baker’s restaurants earned “Best Burger in San Diego” for 2009-12. Not only are there a wealth of styles and fixings to choose from, but they even sport a lamb burger, complete with mint jelly.

“All the beef is grass-fed — no pesticides,” said Jaworski. “And we grind our own meat daily in the morning. This way, the flavor is always fresh and juicy.”

“The ‘gnarly big burgers’ range from the "bare burger” at 99¢ to the “big, bare and dirty burger” for $15.90, with two beef patties, two friend eggs, bacon, Italian cheese and beetroot. There’s also a vegan veggie burger and the contents are printed directly on their menus.”

Raglan’s chicken menu ranges in price from $9 to $10.90. There’s variety here, too, including a choice of grilled or fried chicken. The branches menu ranges in price from $3.50 for matchstick fries to $15.99 for a Munchie Feast, which includes several of their popular appetizers. There’s also tomato basil soup and four different types of fries, each with a unique flavor palate.

Our regular patron said, “If it’s the nicest place in OB proper.”

His favorite meal? The traditional British fish and chips with malt vinegar. “I really like the tartar sauce,” he added. “It has a noticeable kick.”

Another patron said, “people from all up and down the coast come to Raglan because they’ve heard it’s a cool place.”

In the mood for dessert? There’s the Old Float 7 — ice cream and Young’s Double Chocolate Stout for the 21-and-up crowd. Under 21? You can have the Virgin Float 7 with IBC Root Beer. Additional dessert offerings involve chocolate chip, oatmeal or peanut butter cookies with ice cream.

Specials include a burger of the month, a weekly Wednesday Farmers Market special and a Saturday and Sunday happy hour drink special from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Since they do change-up their specials on a regular basis, be sure to ask your server what’s new.

In addition to sponsoring a soccer team and hosting the 2012 award ceremony, Raglan also hosted a charity benefit for the two women who fell from Sunset Cliffs, according to Jaworski. Zouroudis said they also hosted a Big Brothers and Big Sisters event this month.

“We want to continue to grow and excel at providing quality food, quality beer and offering something new for our customers to enjoy,” said Jaworski.

The Raglan Public House is open Mondays through Fridays from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m., and on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m. It is located at 1851 Bacon St. For information, call (619)-794-2304, or visit www.raglanpublichouse.com.

Alex Cunningham, assistant manager at the Raglan Public House in Ocean Beach, serves up a drink with a smile.

A view of the front door of the Raglan Public House.

Courtesty photo by Willow Katsumi Relf-Discartin
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Indie-rock Mad Traffic sets gig in advance of summer tour

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

There are plenty of indie-rock bands out there trying to get the public’s attention these days. Some resort to gimmicks, some to mass promotion. But the ones that seem to stick it out in the public eye for any length of time seem to have one thing in common: the ability to pen a hook-filled tune and do so repeatedly. Such is the case with Mad Traffic.

Mixing powerpop, hip-hop, new wave, rock and folk, the band has come up with a melodic sound, complete with instantly memorable songs that are big on anthemic choruses. Amid a flurry of activity, Mad Traffic is preparing to tour this summer. But, in the meantime, it will release a new single, “Thunder & Lightning,” on April 20 with a CD-release show at Mother’s Saloon. Then, on April 29, the band will appear on the FM94.9 program, “The Local Pyle,” with host Tim Pyles. The band will wrap up the month with the release of an EP, “City,” and adjacent release show at the Casbah on April 29.

Mad Traffic was formed in 2008, shortly after singer Blaise Guld moved to California from Philadelphia in search of a new inspiration. He soon met drummer Dave Torr. The two ended up renting a house in Clairemont and holding living-room jam sessions and nascent songwriting sessions.

“We tried a couple of different bassists and started with two guitarists, but in the end the group grew into what it is almost organically,” Guld said.

Torr suggested trying out guitarist Brian Fletcher, as well as bassist Chris Murray, who he knew from local reggae band High Tide. Blaise Garna was the last member to join Mad Traffic.

“He had been playing in another local project with Dave and came to one of our band practices one day,” Guld said. “He jumped into some of our songs with his saxophone and we all knew that night that this was going to be our band.”

Though the quintet has been gigging since 2008, it didn’t rush the decision to become Mad Traffic.

“We played many shows nameless and used random names we came up with, like, ‘Tambourine Space Helmet’ and ‘Cabbages and Kings,’” Guld said.

One day, Guld was stuck in traffic on the I-5 on the way to a gig, and explaining why he was running late, told band members that there is “Mad traffic on the freeway!”

“After that, the name seemed to stick and came to represent the bustling streets and lifestyles of Southern California,” he said.

While the energetic sound the band conjures up is strong on its own, Guld considers lyrics to be a crucial component of the band. “(I started) writing songs, poem and short stories from an early age,” Guld said. “My best friend and I back in Philly wrote a rock opera when we were 1.5 years old.”

He told band members that there is “Mad Traffic has stuck together so well because we are all writers, creators and self-innovators. We enjoy the journey of writing a song from start to finish and self-innovators. We enjoy the journey of writing a song from start to finish and challenge ourselves and each other to push the envelope of our style.”

“Every band member has been in multiple projects throughout the years,” he said. “This band is our life, music is what we care about most,” Guld said.

“Mad Traffic has stuck together so well because we are all writers, creators and self-innovators. We enjoy the journey of writing a song from start to finish and challenge ourselves and each other to push the envelope of our style.”

He points out that everyone is equally involved in the creative process.

“It is like free fathers and the band is our baby,” Guld said. “We raised it from an infant over four years ago and it is now getting smarter, reasoning and beginning to understand the way the world works.”

Goals for the band this year and next include more touring, recording and releasing new material. Guld said he is happy with what the band has accomplished so far, but he’s hungry for more.

“My favorite thing about being in Mad Traffic is writing and playing music with these guys,” Guld said. “Every time a song comes together and we all leave band practice feeling like we made a difference somehow.”

• Mad Traffic: Saturday, April 20, at Mother’s Saloon, 2228 Bacon St., 8 p.m. and 21 and up. For more information, visit motherssaloonob.com

FIESTA DE REYES SPRING ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE SET

This spring, Fiesta de Reyes offers live, free entertainment every day of the week. The stage, located in the Fiesta de Reyes courtyard, will host a variety of authentic and cultural performances for the pleasure of diners, shoppers and passers-by. All performances are free and open to the public.

Folklorico dancing will be performed on the Fiesta de Reyes stage Mondays and Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:45 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 p.m. The term folklórico means “folk dance” in Spanish and is a collective term for traditional Latin American dances that celebrate local folk culture. Dancers wear brightly colored costumes reflecting traditional Spanish influence and dance to music featuring horns and guitars. The dancing groups at Fiesta de Reyes consist of professional dancers, students and young children.

On Wednesdays, Mariachi Divina, the only all-female mariachi group in San Diego, will occupy the Fiesta de Reyes stage from 5:30 to 7:45 p.m. On Fridays, the Fiesta de Reyes stage will welcome Luis Max & A Blue Moon from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The band features music straight from the heart and was influenced by growing up in Mexico. Its sounds are a fusion of Latin, rock and pop music. Rich in Latin percussion with a hint of jazz, it will satisfy even the most sophisticated of musical tastes.

Last and surely not least, Fiesta de Reyes also has a revolving house Mariachi band. Los Rios performs every Monday, Thursdays, and Fridays from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 3:30 p.m. Los Rios sings traditional mariachi songs, Santana, Kool and the Gang and even Pink Floyd tunes.

Fiesta de Reyes is a lively experience with a permanent party ambiance. It is located at Juan and Calhoun streets, a one-block stroll from the Old Town Trolley Station. For more information call (619) 297-3100 or visit www.FiestaDeReyes.com.
Growing a community – one plant at a time

Mary Wick (left) and Susan Nance, Point Loma Garden Club president, prepare one of the unique garden arrangements to be sold at the club’s annual Plant Sale on Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to noon at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3558 Talbot Street, Point Loma. For more information, visit www.plgc.org.

People in the news

Colbert realty team notches two awards

The Kathleen Colbert Team at Prudential California Realty — consisting of Colbert, Joel Young and Andrea Young — is entering its 26th year with Prudential and boasts a total of 53 combined years of real-estate experience.

The team has just received two prestigious awards: Prudential’s Chairman’s Circle Award, signifying the top 4 percent of Prudential agents in production nationally; and San Diego Magazine’s Five Star Real Estate Agent Award, which is given to fewer than 5 percent of agents in San Diego County. The latter award is based in part on surveys in areas of overall satisfaction and whether they would recommend the provider to a friend.

In addition to the awards, the team placed in the top 100 among all Prudential agents in San Diego County and third out of over 60 agents in their office. They represent buyers and sellers all over San Diego County with special concentration in the areas of Point Loma, North Park, Del Cerro, San Carlos, Allied Gardens and the College Area.

A majority of the team’s success comes from referrals and repeat business from past clients. Prudential officials said, “Kathleen, Joel and Andrea are strongly devoted to helping their clients achieve satisfaction in all their real estate dealings,” said Jim Reifsnider, manager of Prudential’s San Diego central office.

Pointier wins Republican Women honor

Point Loma High School senior Brooke Justus was selected as this year’s winner of a $2,000 scholarship offered annual-ly by San Diego County Federation of Republican Women (SDCFRW).

Point Loma Peninsula Republican Women Federated (PLPWRF), one of 23 Republican Women Federated clubs in San Diego County, chose Justus as its rep-representative in the county contest because of her excellent essay on “What the U.S. Constitution Means To Me” and a track record of academic achievement that outpaced other entrants.

During a PLPWRF membership tea on Wednesday April 17 at the historic Point Loma Assembly at 3015 Talbot St., District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis spoke on “Important Citizen Updates” and intro-duced Justus as the SDCCRW scholarship winner.

For more information, contact Mar-jorie Partis at (619) 223-2264.

Looking ahead

Peninsula area events. April 18-May 3

THURSDAY, April 18

The Peninsula Strings Concert takes place at 7 p.m. in the Point Loma High School gymnasium, featuring student musicians from Dana, Corona and Point Loma High School. For more information, call (619) 223-0476.

The Ocean Beach Historical Society hosts author Diana Lindsay on artist Ricardo Breceda, who has taken a primitive welding art form of Mexico to new provocative heights. More than 125 of Breceda’s metallic sculptures are scattered over three non-contiguous square miles of Borrego Valley. The historical society event takes place at 7 p.m. at the Point Loma United Methodist Church 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. For more information, visit obhistory.wordpress.com.

SUNDAY, April 21

Aaron David Miller will perform on San Diego’s unique Baroque pipe organ at 4 p.m. The first half of the concert features early music, while the second half will demonstrate Miller’s gift for the art of improvisation. The suggested donation is $5, although no one is turned away. A festive, complimentary reception follows with Miller to learn more about San Diego’s finest instrument. The event takes place at All Souls’ Episcopal Church, located at 1475 S Street.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

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SAN DIEGO GRAB BARS is dedicated to helping you stay independent and safe in your own home. We offer grab bars, shower seats, and hand held shower heads to help make the bath room a safer environment. And while the bathroom is where people normally think that they need grab bars, we can install hand rails and grab bars anywhere in your home: next to the bed, at the top of the stair case, in the hall or outside the back door.

When we visit you, we bring along a great selection of products for same day installation. Decide what diameter and texture feels best before you buy. We can match the finish of your existing hardware.

Falls are one of the main reasons people leave home and move into assisted care. Let us help you prevent falls and stay in the home you love.

Are Your Elderly Parents Resistant To What You Suggest?

Has this happened to you before? You are pretty sure that your Mom and Dad aren’t eating right, aren’t getting out for shopping or doctor’s appointments and just seem to be having more problems than usual. You want to help but they always say, “I’ll think about it” or “maybe later.”

Sometimes approaching them in a dif- ferent manner makes all the difference. Success may happen when you suggest it in a different manner makes all the difference.

1) They worry about the cost. Pay for the caregiver as a gift to them. Ask all the sib-lings to chip in a little each month.
2) Negotiate with them and avoid putting them down or being sarcastic.
3) Ask them why they don’t want help and answer their fears with factual answers.
4) Tell them how worried you are. Say: you’ll help me and I’ll help you. Let your parent know you are not being sarcastic.
5) Recommend the provider to a friend.

Senior briefs

Grab Bars Provide Safety for Seniors

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Sometimes approaching them in a different manner makes all the difference. Success may happen when you suggest change by taking into account their value system or needs.

1) They worry about the cost. Pay for the caregiver as a gift to them. Ask all the siblings to chip in a little each month.
2) Negotiate with them and avoid putting them down or being sarcastic.
3) Ask them why they don’t want help and answer their fears with factual answers.
4) Tell them how worried you are. Say: you’ll help me and I’ll help you. Let your parent know you are not being sarcastic.
5) Recommend the provider to a friend.
Thursday Club Juniors Annual Gala In Support Of Special Delivery San Diego To Be Held Friday, April 26th.

The Thursday Club Juniors Gala Event benefiting SPECIAL DELIVERY SAN DIEGO, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to providing quality meals to homebound, critically ill people in our community is scheduled for Friday, April 26, 2013 at the Thursday Club in Point Loma. The event will feature dinner, music and a silent and live auction.

The Thursday Club was founded in 1921 to promote social, educational, cultural and civic activities throughout San Diego County. Each year, the Thursday Club Juniors proudly support their heritage of philanthropy by planning a gala event to support local charities. Funds raised by Thursday Club Juniors have helped to transform many local charities, enabling them to better serve our community and help where it is needed most.

This year, we are proud to support SPECIAL DELIVERY SAN DIEGO. Their mission is “to alleviate hunger and malnourishment, in medically homebound people and people living with aids, cancer and other critical illnesses. Fresh, wholesome food is prepared, infused with love and home delivered to feed both the body and soul.” The organization’s 100% volunteer staff, cook from scratch, using organic ingredients whenever possible, and provide fresh wholesome fruits and vegetables with each daily delivery.

You can still help, even if you can’t make it to the gala! The online portion of The Thursday Club Juniors’ silent auction is now open for BIDDING!

This auction will run from April 11, 2013 to April 21, 2013, with the live event taking place on April 26, 2013.

All proceeds from the online auction will go to Special Delivery San Diego www.specialdeliverysandiego.com. So, tell your friends, family and community to get bidding!

For all details, ticket and auction information please visit The Thurs-day Club website at www.thethursdayclub.org and click the TC Junior’s 2013 Benefit Link!

Thursday Club Juniors Gala benefiting Special Delivery, San Diego www.thethursdayclub.org/soul_food_auction.html
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