

SD METRO

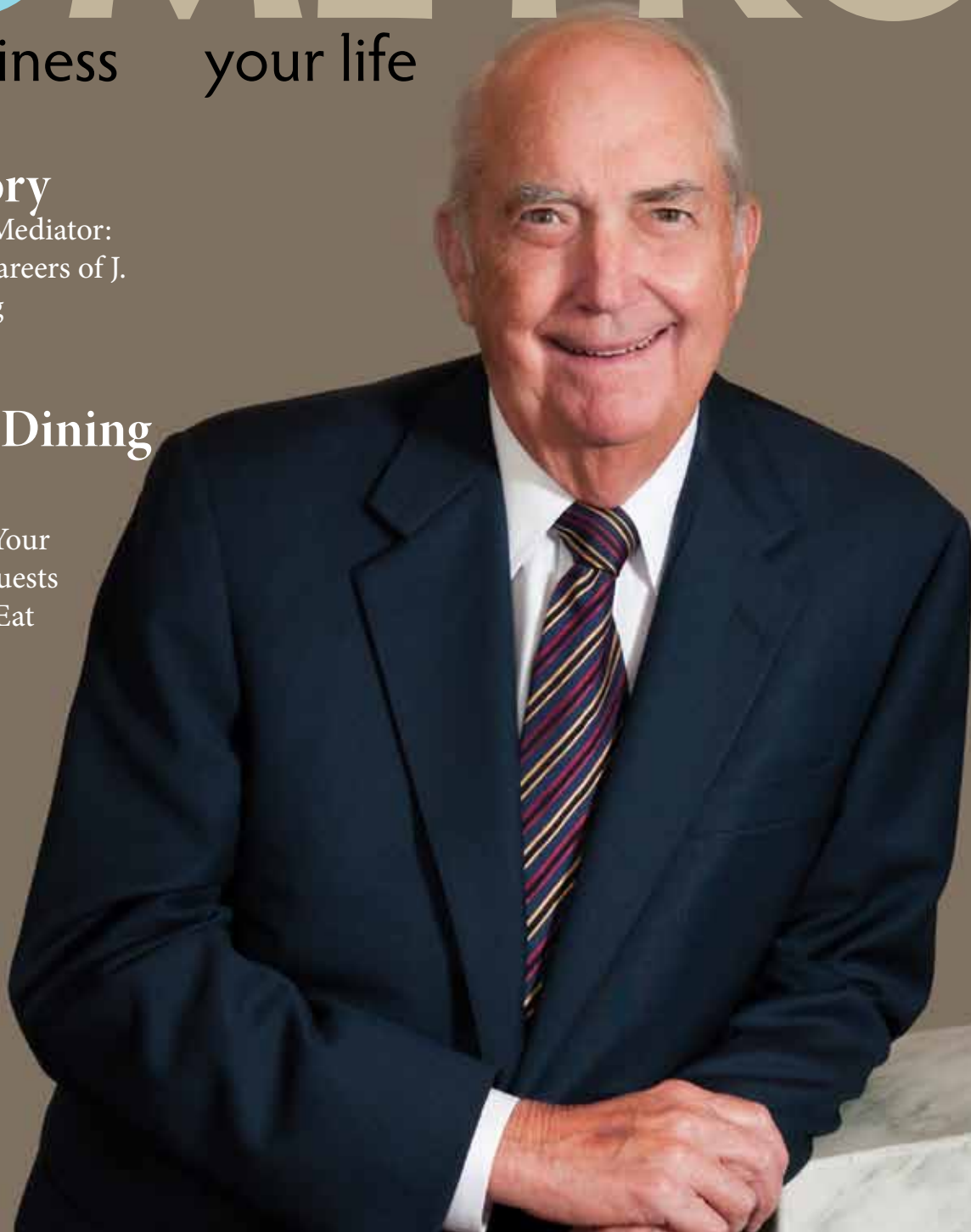
your business your life

Cover Story

Lawyer, Judge, Mediator:
The Amazing Careers of J.
Lawrence Irving

Our New Dining Guide

Where to Take Your
Out-of-Town Guests
Great Places to Eat



America's Best
DONOVAN'S
STEAK & CHOP HOUSE
GASLAMP - 6TH & K
619-237-9700



GASLAMP
333 5TH AVE.
619-906-4850

America's Best
DONOVAN'S
STEAK & CHOP HOUSE
LA JOLLA - UTC
858-450-6666

Rancho Santa Fe Insurance

San Diego's Largest Personal Insurance Agency and
Rancho Santa Fe's Agency of Choice for the Past 25 Years



Craig A. Edwards, President



**Vanessa N. Snodgrass
Chief Executive Officer**



**Laura D. Rodriguez
Executive Administrator**



Anita A. Gentry, CISR



Brooke Gharst



Lisa M. Hill, CISR



Stephanie Moskowitz



**Don Dvorak
Health and Life
Insurance Specialist**



**Janis P. Rochford
Newport Beach
Branch Manager**



**Scott Mosher
Palm Desert
VP Marketing**



**Nancy Wright
Fallbrook
Branch Manager**

Nationally Representing:

- Chubb Insurance
- Fireman's Fund
- ACE Private Risk Services
- Chartis Insurance

• **Rancho Santa Fe**

858.756-4444

• **Newport Beach**

949.759.1111

• **Palm Desert**

760.341.4114

• **Fallbrook**

760.731.1402

"I want someone with honor and integrity, someone I can trust and believe in to handle my insurance affairs. Craig Edwards provides that for me." – *John Moores*

"It was time to upgrade our existing personal insurance and Rancho Santa Fe Insurance was able to provide more comprehensive coverage than our Allstate policy provided. The pricing was surprisingly low and the personalized service that Craig's team provides is second to none." – *William Scripps*



Tired Of Your Old Bank?

SDCCU is where you belong!

We've been taking care of our customers for over 70 years and we're still going strong.

Open an SDCCU free¹ myChecking Account today.

¹myChecking Account is free while enrolled in eStatements, otherwise a \$2 monthly fee applies.



Federally insured by NCUA.

If you're looking for a strong financial partner, look no further than San Diego County Credit Union. We offer a full array of products and services to fulfill your banking needs, like Checking with Direct Deposit and Savings Accounts, Auto and Home Loans and 24/7 Internet Branch online access to your accounts. SDCCU® is the largest locally owned financial institution and we're here to help you realize your financial dreams – one dream at a time!

Visit us online or come into any of our 27 convenient branch locations to open an account today. Everyone who lives or works in San Diego, Riverside and Orange Counties is welcome.



(877) 732-2848

sdccu.com





Cover Photo by Paul Clark

COVER

12 LEGAL MEDIATOR NONPAREIL

J. Lawrence Irving moved almost silently from lawyer to federal judge to legal mediator with some impressive accomplishments.

By Robert Page

14 A GENOMICS FIRST

The La Jolla Institute for Allergy & Immunology will develop San Diego's first center for RNAi screening.

18 CREDIT UNION

Like a fawning mother, EvoNexus nurtures some of San Diego's most promising technology start-up companies.

By Leonel Sanchez

23 WEST COAST CRAFTSMAN

Heritage begins at home.

By Thomas Shess

31 THE SOCIAL DIARY

By Margo Schwab

33 SD METRO DINING GUIDE

- Five places to take your out-of-town guests
- Listing some of San Diego County's finest dining establishments

COLUMNS

6 SCENE

16 CALIFORNIA CIRCLES THE DRAIN

The once Golden State is lead pipe cinch to lurch into insolvency.

By Roger Hedgecock

17 GUIDE FOR COMMERCIAL TENANTS

How cheap is too cheap in the design and construction market in San Diego?

By Kirt Gilliland

Welcome to the new SD METRO Magazine!

After 25 years as San Diego Metropolitan, the time seemed to be at hand to give it a respectful resting place and say a job well done as we move on.

You'll find broadened editorial content in this our first issue as SD METRO. We won't have everything that we have planned but we hope you'll notice our start and the expanding content and improvements as they come along.

Our cover story takes a look at the spectacular career of J. Lawrence Irving, whose decades in the law have taken him from trial attorney to federal judge to the most sought after legal mediator in the country. Judge Irving is a true San Diego icon.

Our West Coast Craftsman, which has been around for 13 years as a major part of our North Park News and Kensington News newspapers, makes its debut in SD METRO with this issue. The lead story was written by Tom Shess, its founding editor and publisher and one of San Diego's most distinguished journalists.

Margo Schwab's Social Diary makes its launch in SD METRO as well. We've engaged Margo to take camera and pen to events throughout the city. She starts here with her coverage of the University Club's fabulous new million-dollar expansion.

Our new Dining sections opens with Katelyn O'Riordan's "Five Places to take Out-of-Town guests," from the fancy to a great place for a burger and fries. Katelyn's piece precedes SD METRO's new dining guide.

San Diego's 15 Most Admired Companies, chosen by our panel of judges as well as those of you who voted on our Website (sandiegometro.com) will appear in our December issue. From a myriad of nominations came a very select group of San Diego business enterprises. The judges, with a tough task at hand, poured over midnight oil to make their selections.

Enjoy our new start!

Robert Page
Chairman/CEO

NEXT ISSUE:

San Diego's 2010 Most Admired Companies

COMING SOON:

2011 SD Metro Movers to Watch

Vote for whom you believe will make a difference for San Diego in 2011. Cast your ballot in our website: sandiegometro.com

Read us online:
sandiegometro.com



Why do more San Diego companies choose Irving Hughes for help with their real estate?

	IRVING HUGHES	Others
No conflict of interest; only represent tenants - never landlords	Yes	No
Unparalleled leverage and collective bargaining for tenants	Yes	No
All professionals are licensed brokers - not salespeople	Yes	No
Local in-house construction management division	Yes	No
Maintain total client confidentiality	Yes	No
Locally owned and operated - not a franchise	Yes	No
Complete client satisfaction guarantee	Yes	No



IRVING HUGHES

Life is a lease. Negotiate well.®

619.238.4393 | www.irvinghughes.com

SAN DIEGO SCENE



Fashion Awards 4.jpg
A variety of fashions, such as these from last year's Golden Hanger Fashion Awards, will be presented on Nov. 13.

The debut collections of **Fashion Careers College** graduates will be the highlights of the college's 24th annual **Golden Hanger Fashion Awards Gala** Nov. 13 at the **Town and Country Resort and Convention Center** — a fundraiser for the **Make-A-Wish Foundation of San Diego**. The finale will be the 13 costumes from the **Timken Museum** and Fashion Career College's third annual Art of Fashion event that was held in the summer. Doors will open to a no host cocktail reception and silent auction at 6:30 p.m. Dinner, a live auction, honoree recognition, and fashion show extravaganza will start at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$150 for dinner/show and \$50 for show only. Chair for the event is **Patricia O'Connor** of North Park, the college founder and CEO. The event will honor **Victoria Hamilton**, executive director of the city of San Diego **Commission for Arts & Culture**, **Phyllis Parrish** and **Judy Smith** of **Bridgepoint Education** and **California Marine** for their philanthropic contributions to the community. For more information call Fashion Careers College at (619) 275-4700.

A North County Indian gaming tribe has signed a multi-year marketing deal with the operator of the San Diego Sports Arena that will rename the sports and entertainment venue as the **Valley View Casino Center**. Financial terms of the agreement with **AEG Facilities**, which manages the arena, were not disclosed, but it will allow the **Valley View Casino & Hotel** in Valley Center to be marketed along with the sports arena under its new name. The **San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians** is the

owner of the Valley Center casino and hotel. The agreement was approved by the San Diego City Council. "We look forward to the opportunities that this new venture will provide, including developing a great relationship with the city of San Diego," said **Joe Navarro**, president/CEO of the **San Pasqual Development Group Inc.**, the San Pasqual tribe's gaming corporation. "Since our casino's inception we've been consistently looking for growth opportunities, expanding our casino, building our hotel, and now partnering with the finest sports and entertainment venue in San Diego County."

The gaming tribe will now market the Valley View Casino Center alongside its casino and hotel brand, and will now



The newly named Valley View Casino Center

also be able to provide its casino guests with premium tickets for all events at the center. **Ernie W. Hahn II** is senior vice president and general manager of the arena, which was built in 1966 and recently underwent a multi-million dollar renovation to add a 6,500-square-foot VIP hospitality space, new lower-level seats, LCD televisions and upgraded concourse and arena entrances. The 15,000-seat facility has attracted several popular performers over the years such as **Elvis Presley**, the **Rolling Stones**, **Bruce Springsteen** and **U2**. It also has attracted sporting events and in November will host the 2010 Fed Cup Final between the U.S. and Italy.

UCSD Chancellor Awarded National Medal of Science
President Barack Obama named **Marye Anne Fox**, chancellor at UCSD, one of the 10 eminent researchers to receive the **National Medal of Science**, the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on scientists, engineers and inventors. "The extraordinary accomplishments of these scientists, engineers and inventors are a testament to American industry and ingenuity," Obama said. "Their achievements have redrawn the



UCSD Chancellor Marye Anne Fox

frontiers of human knowledge while enhancing American prosperity and it is my tremendous pleasure to honor them for their important contributions.” Fox, a nationally recognized chemist and academic leader, was named the seventh chancellor of UCSD in April 2004. Since her appointment as chancellor, the university has established new research and partnership ventures to further innovation and increase international collaboration, achieved a \$1 billion campaign goal, expanded academic and campus programs and facilities, and has received national and international recognition in university rankings. Fox and the other recipients will receive their awards at a **White House** ceremony later this year. The National Medal of Science was created by statute in 1959 and is administered for the White House by the **National Science Foundation**. The medal recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to science and engineering.



Ira Flatow

Ira Flatow, science journalist and host of NPR’s “Science Friday,” has been selected to receive the **2010 Nierenberg Prize for Science in the Public Interest by Scripps Institution of Oceanography**. The presentation will be made at a public ceremony at 7 p.m. on Nov. 9 in the main auditorium at the **Robert Paine Scripps Forum for Science, Society and the Environment** at 8610 Kennel Way in La Jolla. Reservations are required — visit nierenbergerprize.eventbrite.com or call Visitor Services at (858) 534-4109. The Nierenberg Prize was created to honor the memory of **William A. Nierenberg**, who was director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography for 21 years. A bronze medal and a \$25,000 prize are awarded each year for outstanding contributions to science in the public interest. The award was created and is supported by

gifts from the Nierenberg family.

The **Urban Land Institute San Diego/Tijuana District Council’s annual Real Estate Trends Conference** will be held on Nov. 9 and will focus on residential and commercial markets, banking and Government. It will be held from 7:30 a.m. to noon at the **Joe & Vi Jacobs Center**, 4043 Euclid Ave., in San Diego. Through industry experts and peer panels, the event is designed to provide insights and strategies geared toward real estate professionals from San Diego and beyond. **John McIlwain**, ULI Fellow, will present the opening welcome and keynote speech on “Housing in America — the Next Decade.” Retired **Qualcomm** co-founder and **Leap Wireless** CEO **Harvey White** will offer closing remarks on the topic of incorporating art into the education system. Conference presenters include **Lynn Reaser**, **Point Loma Nazarene College**; **Fermanian Business and Economic Institute**; **Gary Sabin**, **Excel Realty**; **Doug Wilson**, **Douglas Wilson Cos.**; **Marie Kunac**, **Embarcadero Bank**; **Scott Ripperton**, **Wells Fargo Bank**; **Scott Lewis**, **Voice of San Diego**; **Tom Murphy**, former mayor of Pittsburgh; and **Laurie Black**, **CCDC**.

Admission fees are \$85 for members, \$50 for student members, \$55 for Young Leaders and \$100 for all nonmembers. To reserve a seat at the conference, visit ulisd.org.

The **San Diego Potters’ Guild’s** annual holiday sale will be held Nov. 13-14 in the **Spanish Village** patio area of Balboa Park. Thousands of pieces of hand-made ceramics will be offered for sale by area potters. Works range from functional ware such as plates, bowls, and coffee cups to more decorative and sculptural forms such as ceramic shoes, garden lanterns, and conch shells. Prices range from a few dollars to a few hundred dollars. Most of the Guild members will be available to answer questions about ceramics in general or their own work in particular. There will also be demonstrations of throwing pots on the wheel. Hours for the sale are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. For information

call the Guild at (619) 239-0507 or visit sandiegopottersguild.org.



Corner lot project rendering

The largest construction project at **Southwestern College** since the school was originally constructed in 1961 was started last month with the groundbreaking for the “corner lot” development. The corner lot at East H Street and Otay Lakes Road in Chula Vista will be the site of the 110,000-square-foot development that will include a new college bookstore, classroom space, food court, art gallery, culinary arts program, a wellness center, administrative offices, conference space and a police station. The project was designed by **BCA Architects**. **Echo Pacific Construction Inc.** is the contractor. The groundbreaking ceremony featured **Raj K. Chopra**, superintendent/president of the college; **Yolanda Salcido**, governing board president; **Manny Lopez**, president of **Southwestern College Associated Students**; **Paul Bunyon** of **BCA Architects**; **Chris Rowe** of **Echo Pacific Construction** and **Chula Vista Mayor Cheryl Cox**.

Beers from breweries in Belgium, England, Scotland, Germany and the Czech Republic will be offered for sampling at the second annual **Antique Brewery Fest** Nov. 20 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the **Wisteria Cottage**, 780 Prospect St., in La Jolla. **La Jolla Historical Society** is presenting the event in partnership with **Merchant duVin** and **Giuseppe’s Restaurant and Fine Catering**. “This is one of the newest fundraisers for the society and one where we have a lot of fun,” said **John**

continued on page 9

Comic-Con's Three-Year Economic Impact: \$488.4 Million

Direct spending by those attending the convention in 2013, 2014 and 2015 is expected to total \$203.4 million



Comic-Con, the San Diego Convention Center's largest annual event in terms of economic impact, attendance and hotel room use by attendees, is expected to generate an economic impact of \$488.4 million between 2013 and 2015, according to a study released by the San Diego Convention Center Corp.

The study also showed that direct spending by attendees during the three convention years would total \$203.4 million and hotel tax revenue would total \$7.9 million. Sales tax revenue would total \$442,000 and room nights would total 378,000.

Comic-Con International, the organization that produces the popular convention, recently agreed to keep the event in San Diego through 2015 — its current contract comes to an end in 2012 — despite heavy lobbying from Anaheim and Los Angeles. Hotel operators and city officials were able to keep the convention by offering larger hotel room blocks, discounted room rates and other incentives. "We are grateful to the hospitality community who came together and committed themselves to this effort," said Carol Wallace, president and CEO of the San Diego Convention Center Corp.

In fiscal year 2009, Comic-Con delivered \$162.8 million in regional economic impact and \$67.8 million in direct spending by attendees, according to convention center officials.

A study commissioned by the convention center corporation using 2008 data showed that more than half of Comic-Con attendees stay in hotels and an estimated 126,000 hotel room nights are used by people staying an average of 4.1 nights at a rate of \$199. The study said spending on hotel rooms alone was \$25 million, which translates into more than \$2.6 million in hotel room taxes going into the city's general fund. The study also showed that \$147,000 in sales tax revenue was generated by Comic-Con attendees for that year.

The extension of the Comic-Con contract to 2015 comes at the same time that the convention center corporation is moving ahead on plans to expand the convention center, a project that would cost an estimated \$750 million.

The proposed expansion would add 200,000 to 250,000 square feet of exhibit space, 100,000 square feet of meeting rooms and 80,000 square feet of multi-purpose ballrooms. A proposed hotel project would include 250-500 guest rooms, ballroom/meeting space, retail and parking.

In August, the convention center corporation named five architectural teams to compete for the right to design the expansion. Selection of the team to perform the work is expected this month.

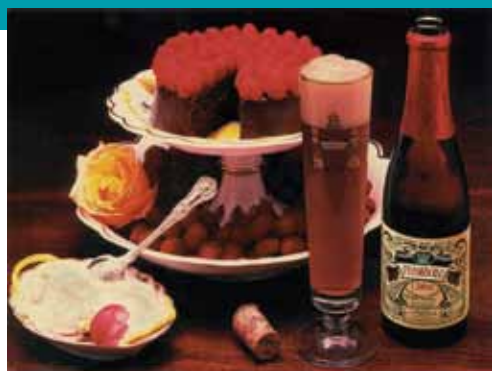
The competing design teams are:

- Gensler in association with Steven Brubaker.
- Howard, Needles, Tammen and Bergendoff California Architects, P.C. (HNTB) in association with Tucker Sadler Architects and Joseph Wong Design Associates.
- LMN in association with Carrier Johnson and Hornberger + Worstell
- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP.
- Thompson, Ventulett, Stainback & Associates, Inc. in association with Martinez + Cutri and ARCHITECTS hanna gabriel wells.

The staff of the San Diego Port District, which is the landlord of the Convention Center property, is to select a consultant to conduct an environmental impact report on the proposed expansion. A consultant is expected to be selected in December.

The expansion is expected to generate \$698 million of economic activity annually in addition to the \$1.3 billion a year that the Convention Center already generates.





thechristmaslightcompanysd.com.

Scene

continued from page 7

Bolthouse, executive director. Attendees can learn how cultural and social history of beer from the classic brewing regions contributes to each brew's unique flavor and discover beer's role in history, from Germany's 1516 "Reinheitsgebot" to early taxation on beer to the breweries of the Trappist Monastery. The cost for society members is \$75. Nonmembers are \$90. Reservations can be made online at lajollahistory.org/events or by calling (858) 459-5335. All proceeds benefit La Jolla Historical Society.

More than 100 trees in Downtown's **Gaslamp Quarter** will be festooned with holiday lights on Nov. 7 in celebration of the season. The lights will be on display through Jan. 3 on Fourth, Fifth and Sixth avenues between Broadway and L Street. The **Christmas Light Co. Inc.** was selected for the



decorations. The company has selected LED lighting that **James Scianda**, its president, says is brighter and uses only 5 percent of the energy of traditional holiday lights. The company and the **Gaslamp Quarter Association** will hold an official lighting ceremony on Nov. 7. For more information, visit

— — — —
Cindy Sandback and **Chris Parkes**, representatives of **Administaff**, will give a presentation on "HR Risks ... and How to Avoid Them" at the Nov. 12 monthly seminar sponsored by the **National Association of Women Business Owners San Diego**. Their presentation will focus on trends in state employment practices and compliance, ways to protect yourself and your business from employer-related fines and lawsuits, options for dealing with your HR issues, and the timeline for health care reform changes and impacts. The event will be from noon to 1 p.m. at **Brandman University**, 7460 Mission Valley Road in Mission Valley. Pre-registration is required and seating is limited. NAWBO San Diego members can attend at no cost, while the fee for visitors is \$25. Box lunches will be provided. Online registration and more information are available at nawbo-sd.org.

— — — —
British Airways will start nonstop daily flights between San Diego and **London Heathrow** on June 1 next year as part of a new business agreement with **American Airlines** and **Iberia**. The three-class Boeing 777 aircraft will be used. British Airways Flight 272 will depart San Diego at 8:05 p.m. daily and arrive in London at 2:25 p.m. the next afternoon. British Airways' returning Flight 273 will depart Heathrow at 3:05 p.m. local time and arrive in San Diego at 6:15 p.m.

— — — —
 Forty-three percent of sustainability professionals make \$75,000 or more a year, according to a survey conducted by **UCSD Extension** in collaboration with **Sustainability: The Journal of Record**. Sixty-two percent of the respondents said that their job does have promotion potential, and most would recommend sustainability as a career to their children. The results were published in the October issue

of *Sustainability: The Journal of Record* and the fall issue of **Prospectus**, the magazine of UCSD Extension. In all, 366 U.S.-based sustainability professionals in workplaces that include corporations, nonprofits and government responded to the survey, which was conducted in the fall of 2009 and winter of 2010. "High-end salaries aren't just limited to those working in large cities, where the cost of living is likely to be higher than that in more remote areas," said **Lori Tripoli**, editor of *Sustainability: The Journal of Record*. "Interestingly, almost as many of those at the upper end of the salary echelon work in suburbs as in large cities with populations of one million or more."

— — — —
Lee Swanson, public information officer for the **San Diego Fire-Rescue Department**, is the new president of the **San Diego Press Club** for 2010. Swanson succeeds **Jan Rieger** of **McLane Rieger Communications Inc.** Freelance writer **Nicole Sours Larson** was named first vice president, while fellow freelancer **Jill Esterbrooks** was named second vice president. Retired radio news reporter **Reid Carroll** continues as treasurer, and freelance writer **Rebecca Chappell** is secretary. Four new members have joined the board: **Ed Joyce**, environmental reporter for KPBS radio; **April Harter**, account executive and director of social media at **Scribe Communications**; **Pauline Repard**, a print reporter for more than 30 years; and **Karolen Linderman** of Web-media.



Proposed Chargers stadium in Downtown.

continued on page 11

Giving 'Diligence' Its Due

New dry dock geared to boost South Bay jobs



Knight & Carver Maritime's 'Diligence'

You'd think that if anyone needed federal stimulus funds it might be the mega yacht, tuna boat and U.S. Navy ship repair business in San Diego.

Not so, according to Knight & Carver Maritime, a large vessel and yacht repair company based on San Diego Bay.

Knight & Carver decided to help stimulate the South Bay economy by mooring its recently purchased 4,000-ton dry dock in National City.

Named the "Diligence" (who figured dry docks are named?), the 400-foot, 63-foot tall dry dock has been in operation since Labor Day.

Dry docks the sizes of "Diligence" are used to lift the larger sized vessels out of the water for repairs.

Now, Knight & Carver Maritime has the biggest yacht lifting capacity on the West Coast, says Mike O'Leary, Knight & Carver's president and CEO.

Gomez Law Firm attorneys win Outstanding Trial Lawyer Awards

John Gomez, Robert Hamparyan and James Iagmin receive honors from Consumer Attorneys of San Diego

Three attorneys at The Gomez Law Firm have been presented five Outstanding Trial Lawyer Awards by Consumer Attorneys of San Diego (CASD) in recognition of outstanding verdicts in connection with a jury trial. The honorees are John H. Gomez, Robert Hamparyan and James S. Iagmin. The awards were presented at CASD's annual awards and installation dinner at the U.S. Grant Hotel last month.

The Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award is given to individuals based in San Diego responsible for an outstanding verdict in connection with a jury trial involving a civil or criminal matter. The case must be tried to a verdict. Other criteria include ingenuity, liability aspects, service to the community and the amount of the verdict.

Gomez and Iagmin received the award for the case of *Wieder v. San Diego Unified School District, et al.* In that case, Gomez and Iagmin obtained a \$1.25 million verdict for an underage female student that had a sexual relationship with her high school teacher.

Gomez and Iagmin received the award a second time

for the case of *Chapman v. Tolo*. In that case, Gomez and Iagmin obtained a nearly \$2 million verdict for a young Marine Corps reservist that crashed into a car on Interstate 162 near Mission Valley.

Hamparyan was awarded the Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award in the case of *Rogers v. Storms & Slover*, tried in conjunction with attorney Ryan Harris. In that case, Hamparyan and Harris obtained a nearly \$13 million verdict for a severely brain injured young woman in Visalia, Calif.

Gomez was recognized by *San Diego Metropolitan Magazine* in January as one of 30 "Movers to Watch" in 2010 for their professional accomplishments. He founded The Gomez Law Firm in 2005, which specializes in employment law and personal injury cases. Last year, the firm obtained verdicts and settlements in excess of \$1 million each in more than 10 separate cases. Gomez was named Outstanding Trial Lawyer of the Year in 2006 by the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego

Scene

continued from page 9

Gov. Schwarzenegger has signed legislation by Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher that eliminates the cap on the amount of state redevelopment funds for which Downtown San Diego's Centre City Development Corp. is eligible. "If you like the jobs, housing, and ballpark that Downtown redevelopment has already created, you will love what this bill does for our region," said Andrew Poat, vice president of policy for the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp. The measure, however, was condemned by San Diego Councilman Carl DeMaio. "This action will have a major impact on the city's general fund. Had the cap not been increased, money would have gone back into the general fund – for basic services like police, fire and roads," said DeMaio.

Early estimates of the benefits include \$7 billion to \$9 billion in public funds – and two to three times that much private sector funding for Downtown redevelopment, housing projects and infrastructure. Some 100,000 jobs could result over the life of the legislation. Specific projects

that are expected to benefit from the redevelopment include the North Embarcadero Project, affordable housing in the East Village and possibly a new stadium for the Chargers. The San Diego City Council must complete a community needs assessment and hold public hearings to gain input from stakeholders. The council also must approve all expenditures involving redevelopment dollars.

Four San Diego-area authors will discuss their books with the public during Old



Author Jack Innis

Town Gift Co.'s Authors Under the Stars program Nov. 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. Old Town Gift Co. is located within Fiesta de Reyes in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park at Wallace and Calhoun streets. Bette Blaydes Pegas will be speaking about her book, "Chasing a Dream in the Galápagos: A Personal Evolution"; Jack Scheffler Innis, author of "San Diego Legends: Events, People, and Places that Made History"; Joey Seymour, author

of "San Diego's Finest Athletes: Five Exceptional Lives"; and R.D. Riccoboni, author of "From Old Town to New Town, San Diego Paintings."



Rendering of the Elements Bar in Quattria Via Aveda Salon Spa.

Grand opening is scheduled on Nov. 26 for the Quattria Via Aveda Salon Spa and Inner Beauty Gallery, located on the second level of The Forum mall in Carlsbad. The new, 3,600-square-foot facility was designed by Encinitas-based David Goldberg of Alba Design and architect John Dengler and Associates of Ft. Collins, Colo. Interior design services were provided by Solana Beach-based Jeanette Houston of Chevalier Inc. The spa is located in Suite 204 of The Forum at 1905 Calle Barcelona.



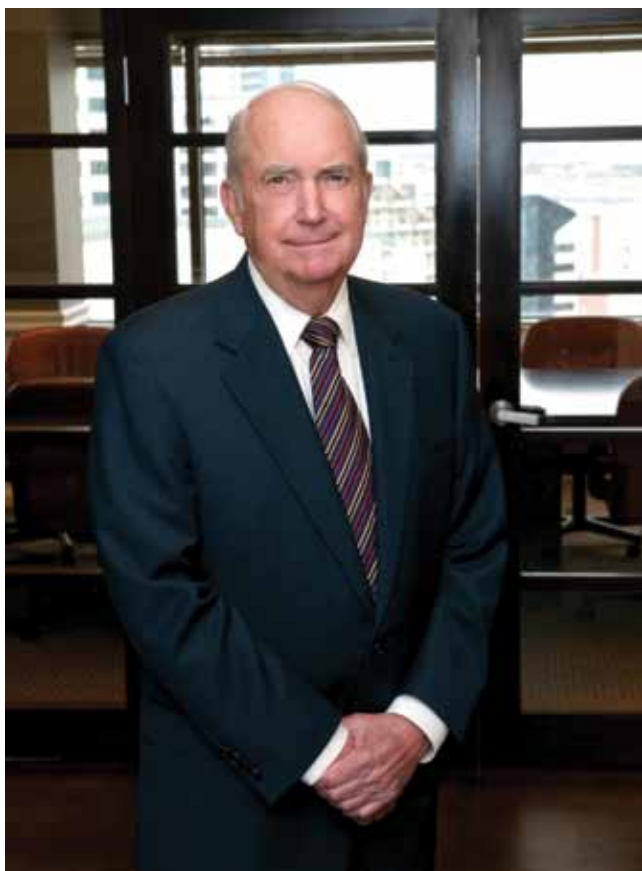
The San Diego firm has been meeting the life & health insurance needs of its clients for 28 years. "We're all about long-term relationships and providing the highest level of ethical service," says firm President, Michael O'Riordan. We work closely with families to preserve their wealth and pass it on to future generations. Our job is to get the best product at the best price for the individual client or business.

3990 Old Town Ave. Suite A-201 | San Diego CA, 92110 • 858-350-1911

J. Lawrence Irving — outstanding trial lawyer, federal judge and now, legal mediator nonpareil

The 75-year-old has handled more than \$10 billion in settlements

By Robert Page



Lawrence Irving has mediated or consulted on more than 60 cases in courts in San Diego, Los Angeles and across the country. (Photo by Paul Clark)

A retired former federal judge, once one of the most respected trial lawyers in San Diego, has turned legal mediation into an art form as well as a prosperous third career.

J. Lawrence Irving has become the “go to” mediator in virtually every major securities case in the country.

He represented the University of California Board of Regents in the Enron case, the largest class action case ever settled. The university recovered \$30 million of a loss reported at \$109.4 million. The amount was net after attorney fees,

putting the net recovery at close to 30 percent. Generally, a gross recovery in a class action security case is 5 to 10 percent, inclusive of attorney fees.

“You name the major securities cases and Judge Irving has been there, the one everyone turns to in settling major cases. He is the dominant mediator,” Robert Fairbank, a noted Los Angeles trial attorney, said.

Add up the settlements which Irving has handled and the dollar amount is north of \$10 billion! Yet, at 75, he remains active and is currently working on four new cases.

Attorney Doug Butz, a long time friend and former partner, said Judge Irving “has been tremendously generous with his time and resources to many charitable causes in San Diego. He’s been a wonderful benefactor.” Throughout his career, Butz said, Judge Irving, “has been sensational and impeccably honest. He has had a unique ability to bring contentious and difficult parties together when the challenge would have seemed impossible.”

Rare is the federal judge who would give up a lifetime appointment to the bench, but Irving had a philosophical disagreement with the federal mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines, which he believed were unconstitutional and immoral. Having been appointed by President Reagan in 1982, he resigned after 8-1/2 years on Dec.31, 1990.

“If I had remained on the bench I would have had no choice but to follow the law and in good conscience, I could not, so I resigned,” Irving said. The Supreme Court agreed with Irving in 2005 when it ruled that federal judges were no longer bound by mandatory guidelines.

The first case that Irving mediated involved Lincoln Savings & Loan and the so-called Keating Affair, named for the high-flying owner of the bank whom federal investigators charged with looting his bank of millions of dollars while driving it \$2.5 billion into debt. The case was settled for \$215 million before going to trial.

The Lincoln case was the linchpin for Irving’s mediation and consulting career, with many larger ones with even greater notoriety to follow, including Enron and World Com.

When the UC Regents hired Irving for the Enron case, he had never been a securities consultant. The university was the lead plaintiff, responsible for the entire litigation.

“The university hired me to be totally independent of their lead counsel, Bill Lerach, to review any questions which the university’s regents had about advice given to them about who

is going to be sued or, most importantly, when it came time to settle, they wanted me to review the settlements and participate in the settlement process and then advise them as to whether I felt the settlement was fair or not," Irving said.

In understanding Irving's major role



Lawrence Irving maintains an office in the Butz Dunn DeSantis law firm in Downtown San Diego.

as the preeminent mediator or consultant in the settlement of securities cases, he had the principal role in nine of the 20 largest settlements of class action cases.

Five of the cases were resolved before Congress in 1995 enacted the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act (PSLRA), which was designed to reduce the number of "frivolous" securities lawsuits filed in federal court.

The Washington Public Power Supply System case was settled for an aggregate of \$750 million; Lincoln Savings for \$215 million; National Health Labs for \$64 million; National Medical Enterprises for \$60.75 million and Sensormatic Electronics Corp. for \$53.5 million.

The four which Irving handled after the PSLRA came into law were Enron for a total recovery of \$7.23 billion; World Com for \$6.15 billion; AOL Time Warner for \$2.5 billion; and United Health Group for \$925 million.

The Enron Case

When Irving got involved in the Enron case, he told the university that he would need help from a securities lawyer, a bankruptcy lawyer and a CPA. The four, including Fairbank, who was the securities lawyer, were Rock Hankin, a CPA and professor at the Anderson School of Business at UCLA, and Kenneth Klee, a Los Angeles attorney and one of the country's foremost bankruptcy lawyers. They became known as the "Judge Irving Team."

Irving calls his Enron experience the most incredible legal experience of his lifetime. The lawyer for J.P. Morgan in the case asked Irving to switch hats from

his consultant role for UC to mediator, saying they would "waive any conflict, whatsoever, because we trust you, would you please do that?" The UC Regents agreed without hesitation.

In Irving's words:

"Enron's executives were running some incredible games. Take a series of e-mails. Hard to imagine that they would have sent them. The company "had to make the numbers" and the only way they could do that was to borrow money from their banks and then claim it as income on their books.

"A bank would buy an 'asset' from Enron and then tell Enron that it had to buy it back just after the quarter ended in which the transaction took place. Enron would then declare it as income when it was really a loan. They did it time and time again.

"Enron's banks were critical participants in its financial maneuvers. In simple terms, they not only planned the robbery, which camouflaged Enron's financial results, but they also drove the get-away car, with each deal accounted for by the company just as it was designed by the banks.

"Their impact? From October 1998, to November 2001, the banks' transactions understated Enron's debt by \$14 billion, overstated cash flow by \$16 billion and provided \$10 billion in fresh capital that cash-starved Enron desperately needed. The banks were Enron's enablers, disguising loans as trades and designing off-balance sheet parking lots concealed as asset sales, where price risk was eliminated and a lucrative return was guaranteed."

Enron's Tier-1 banks — CIBC, Credit Suisse First Boston, Barclays, Citigroup, Deutsche, Royal Bank of Scotland, JPMorgan and Merrill Lynch — used various structured financial schemes, Irving said, to show to the world that Enron was highly profitable.

[continued on page 22](#)

"Enron's banks were critical participants in its financial maneuvers. They not only planned the robbery, which camouflaged Enron's financial results, but they also drove the get-away car, with each deal accounted for by the company just as it was designed by the banks."

La Jolla institute to develop unique genomics research lab

RNAi Center will give San Diego's biomedical community ready access to Nobel Prize-winning technology



The La Jolla Institute for Allergy & Immunology is internationally recognized for its research into diseases related to immune system function.

The La Jolla Institute for Allergy & Immunology will develop San Diego's first center for RNAi screening — a breakthrough genomics technology that would further enhance San Diego's reputation as a national research leader and provide the local biomedical community ready access to the Nobel Prize-winning technology. The National Institutes of Health awarded the La Jolla Institute \$12.6 million in October to develop the center.

"RNAi (RNA interference) allows scientists to explore new ways of disrupting disease processes based on altering gene function," said Mitchell Kronenberg, the institute's president and chief scientific officer. "It is a powerful technology with the potential to transform human health and we are pleased that the NIH has entrusted us with bringing the first publically funded RNAi facility to San Diego."

The La Jolla Institute, a world leader in immunology research, will develop the facility with the intent of hosting research projects throughout the San Diego biomedical research community. "The center will become a shared resource that we believe will strengthen our efforts, and that of the overall San Diego research community, to make innovative discoveries by providing a dedicated facility for exploring the genetic triggers of disease," said Kronenberg.

One of the NIH's long-term goals in funding such a center is to boost genetic research because of its strong potential for improving human health, according to Kronenberg. Center set up will begin immediately.

What is RNA interference?

RNA interference (RNAi) is a natural process that cells use to turn down, or silence, the activity of specific genes. It was discovered by two U.S. researchers in 1998 who went on to receive the 2006 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for their discovery. The scientific community used the discovery to develop RNAi into a powerful research tool for exploring ways to fight disease by altering gene function.

How does RNAi work?

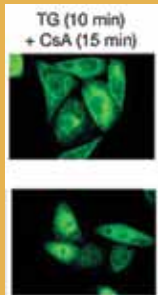
RNAi works by destroying the molecular messengers that carry information coded in genes and without which a gene is essentially inactive.

How can RNAi be applied to medicine and biomedical research?

Scientists are currently working intensely to understand RNAi's role in normal and diseased cells and to harness the mechanism for use in medical therapies.

Diseases that can be blocked by knocking down the activity of one or several genes are the most promising targets for RNAi-based therapies. Cancer, for example, is often caused by overactive genes, and quelling their activity could halt the disease. Viral infections are also important potential targets for RNAi-based therapies based on limiting key viral genes. Numerous studies have already hinted at the promise of RNAi for treating viral infections such as HIV, polio and hepatitis C. In addition, many other diseases, including autoimmune diseases like type 1 diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis, may be better understood and treated once the genes and proteins involved are identified by RNAi screening.

(Source: La Jolla Institute researchers and NIH fact sheet on RNAi)



The photo shows cellular images that have gone through an RNAi screen. The cells pictured in the two panels compare the function of cells that have a single protein either unaffected (top), or blocked (bottom).



Mitchell Kronenberg, president and chief scientific officer of the La Jolla Institute for Allergy & Immunology (center), confers with institute scientists in his research lab.

RNAi has been heralded as a revolutionary technology because it opens the door to developing new therapies for cancer and other diseases based on silencing specific genes. Its discoverers were awarded the 2006 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine. It is generally regarded as one of the most promising drug discovery technologies available today. Scientists from all medical fields can advance their research using RNAi.

Duane Roth, CEO of CONNECT, an industry group supporting the San Diego life sciences and technology sectors, said a dedicated RNAi center will be an important addition for San Diego. "San Diego has one of the densest concentrations of biomedical research talent in the world which makes this cutting-edge center an absolute necessity for our region," he said. "I think it's a testament to the La Jolla Institute's excellence that the NIH has entrusted them with this leadership role in establishing an RNAi Center. This funding insures that the San Diego research community will remain a vanguard in technology-based biomedical research."

Kronenberg said the center's creation as a publically funded facility makes it unique and important for the San Diego region, the state and the nation. "There are only a handful of RNAi Centers around the country," he said. "Ours, unlike a number of the centers, is designed to be openly shared with other research institutes," he said. "While San Diego and immunology will be our center's primary focus, the La Jolla Institute will certainly attract researchers from institutions in other parts of the nation."

An internationally recognized immunologist, Dr. Kronenberg is co-lead investigator on the center grant along with La Jolla Institute scientist Anjana Rao, a leader in cell biology and genomics research and a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. The center will be launched with four major immunology-focused research projects funded by the NIH as part of the RNAi grant.

Kronenberg said these initial projects will investigate some of the most fundamental — and critical — questions of how genes affect immune system function. "We recognize the power and groundbreaking capabilities of this technology and will use it to advance scientific knowledge toward new and more effective vaccines as well as potential new therapies for autoimmune diseases ranging from type 1

diabetes to rheumatoid arthritis."

Three of the projects will be led by Kronenberg and Rao, along with scientists Sonia Sharma and Matthew Pipkin, who work with Rao. Rao was recruited from Harvard Medical School last year to lead the La Jolla Institute's new Division of Signaling and Gene Expression, which will house the center. A fourth project will be led by David Nemazee and Changchun Xiao from the Scripps Research Institute.

La Jolla Institute Chief Technology Officer Stephen Wilson, who helped craft the RNAi proposal, said establishing the RNAi center will require specialized equipment, molecular libraries and instrumentation set up in a laboratory setting. But most of all, it will require significant expertise in designing and running the high-throughput screens. "Dr. Rao brings this expertise to the La Jolla Institute," said Wilson. "She is among the best in the world at using the RNAi screening technology and her expertise will undoubtedly be a catalyst to exciting research with colleagues in San Diego and others around the nation interested in using this facility."

BUYING OR LEASING A NEW VEHICLE?



**GET THE LOWEST PRICE
GET THE LOWEST LEASE**

Auto Buyers Consumer Services is a professional services firm dedicated to making your new vehicle acquisition a pleasure in every respect.

- We negotiate the lowest price and lowest loan or lease rates
- Delivery to your home or office
- No haggle
- Trade-in assistance

Call today and experience your nicest new vehicle acquisition ever

AUTO BUYERS CONSUMER SERVICES

Integrity • Value • Service

(760) 761-4465 or (877) 764-2227

www.abcs4you.com



California Circles The Drain

By Roger Hedgecock

The government of the once “Golden State” is a lead pipe cinch to lurch into insolvency any month now. State government is an estimated \$19 billion in the hole. Revenues are down and spending is up. The state continues to hire during a “hiring freeze.” To solve the crisis, the Democrat majority in the Legislature demands higher taxes on top of already high taxes, which are driving jobs and businesses out of the state. To use the current word for this state of affairs — the situation is “untenable.”

Californians know it too. The most recent Field Poll has 93 percent of California voters agreeing that these are bad economic times, with only 26 percent expecting the state’s economy to improve in 2011.

The media is peppered with grim stories of government fraud, waste and abuse. The daily Lindsey Lohan story provides only partial diversion. Voters avidly follow every word uttered by Snooki both on and off “Jersey Shore.” Anything is better than stories which detail the utter corruption and incompetence of California government.

Stories like this one.

The Los Angeles Times reports that over \$69 million in welfare paid out in debit cards to destitute Californians to keep a roof over their head and clothes on their back has turned up in Las Vegas, Hawaii and on Caribbean cruise ships. Some months ago, in another report, the cards were turning up at Indian casinos in California. The cards could be programmed to deny use at these places, but are not.

Corruption and incompetence is not confined to state government. Consider the “prevailing wage” for public servants in the city of Bell. The city manager received almost \$800,000 per year — nearly twice the salary of the president of the United States. In a city of 40,000 people.

The ex-police chief of Bell claimed a disability retirement due to a back injury, also citing pre-existing injuries to his knee and neck. While waiting on a decision on his case, the chief took spinning

classes, ran a 5K race and disclosed that he enjoyed snow skiing and had participated in the 120-mile Baker to Las Vegas run. The chief made \$437,000 per year in Bell and was looking forward to an over \$400,000 annual retirement payment, half of that tax free in the form of the disability payment.

These revelations were blood in the water to political sharks circling for election advantage. Bell officials, past and present, have been sued by state Attorney General Jerry Brown to renew his voter appeal during his campaign to become governor again.

The latest revelations of bloated salaries and pensions involves the city of San Diego. After digging by Councilman Carl DeMaio, it was revealed that a San Diego city librarian retired from her \$160,000 job with an annual retirement payment starting at over \$227,000 plus full medical. A three-star general in the Army gets around \$150,000 per year in retirement.

Members of the San Diego City Council are vested in their pension benefits from minute one of their “service.” For each year, or part of a year, “served,” they receive 3.5 percent of their annual salary for life beginning immediately after they leave the council. DeMaio has refused a pension. But others have received outrageous benefits.

Ex-San Diego Councilman Ralph Inzunza resigned at age 31 just short of the end of his four-year term of office after a scandal. He immediately began receiving \$21,058 every year for the rest of his life. The amount will increase every year according to a Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) formula.

Former Councilman Michael Zucchet served less than three years of his four-year term before he resigned at age 35 as a result of a scandal. He immediately began to receive \$14,764 per year, which he will also receive every year, adjusted for the COLA.

Councilwoman Donna Frye has served eight years (two terms is the limit) and legally “purchased” five additional years for 15 percent of the actual cost of each additional year for a total of 13 years of “service.” She will immediately receive about \$40,000 every year for the

rest of her life, adjusted upward every year by the COLA.

The 10 most highly paid employees who retired from the city of San Diego last year will cost the pension fund \$61 million over their projected life spans.

The cost of these bloated pension benefits will require a \$240 million contribution from the city’s budget this year, up from \$34 million just seven years ago. As a result, city services have been cut back and the voters are livid.

The current City Council reached the predictable conclusion on how to solve this crisis. They refused to cut back their pension benefits. Instead, they put Proposition D on the ballot seeking voter approval for a “temporary” five year sales tax increase of one half of one percent — a tax which they say will yield over \$100 million a year to restore city services. No surprise that Frye signed the ballot argument in favor of Proposition D

California’s aging system of roads and bridges is poorly maintained; too many of the public schools are among the worst in the nation; 37 million residents include 4-5 million illegals. The state ranks near last in business friendly rankings and is one of the highest taxed states. The last car manufacturing plant in California closed last year; the last aircraft manufacturing plant closes next year; the chemical plants are gone; ditto the furniture makers and a host of other employers.

The public sector has become a parasite that is consuming the host — the people of this once great state.

Californians wonder if anything can be done to reverse the decline — or if anyone is even willing to try.



Roger Hedgecock is a former mayor of San Diego and is a nationally-syndicated radio talk show host. Visit rogerhedgecock.com.

How cheap is too cheap?

By Kirt Gilliland

Given the current state of the economy and the sharp and steady decline of new construction work in San Diego, the design and construction market has taken a big hit. This has forced most architectural firms and general contractor firms to lower their fees to historic lows. Unfortunately, this has created new unintended consequences on projects and begs the question, "How cheap is too cheap?"

In the last two years, we have seen the design and construction industry of San Diego down-scale dramatically. This is the first major contraction of the construction industry in 15 years. Some general contractors have reduced their staff by more than 30 percent, while we have seen many architecture firms downsize by over 50 percent, or even close their doors altogether. What we are left with is an ultra-competitive market across the board for corporate design and construction services in San Diego. Healthy competition is good, but we are way past that now. We now have a market where service businesses are battling hard for work just to stay alive and there is zero profit. These businesses can't survive operating at, or below cost, so the only other variable that can be changed is the quality and cost of their services.

General contractors, for example, are starting to spread their construction managers too thin.

Three years ago, a project manager for a general contractor might manage four to six projects, and today that same project manager is managing 10 to 12 projects. General contractors also are overloading their superintendents with projects, leaving those critical construction details up to the other consultants to discover, sometimes at the eleventh hour of a project. Thus, the project quality begins to suffer. The project manager is overloaded, and the superintendent is missing critical details, which in combination can lead to a project delivered late and at a reduced quality than expected ... or at higher back-end costs.

Architects and engineers are no

exception, but their services are typically estimated and billed hourly. But even so, in the architecture and engineering design industry we are seeing the work product suffer. They are not allowing themselves enough hours to effectively complete each task, which in turn can lead to design problems slipping through the cracks before being submitted for permitting. In addition to lengthening the permitting schedule due to errors, changes on the plans can be modest in cost during the design phase, but extremely costly during construction.

This problem continues into the work of the other vendors supporting the construction project. The furniture vendor, the AV vendor, the data cabling vendor and the phone vendor are all competing at levels like we have never seen before. The cost of materials is similar for each vendor within a trade, and the cost of installation labor is about the same, so the only other variable is the cost of customer service. The project management and executive oversight on projects are suffering, which is leading to customer service and workmanship problems.

The solution isn't easy, as it requires a huge amount of time to qualify and validate every vendor's proposal. The proposals have to be combed through word-by-word in order to quantify exactly what you are getting for your money. Is the supervisor for this vendor working on your project only, or others as well? How many other projects? When do the other projects start? And when do they finish? How much time is being committed each week to properly manage the project and support the client? These are all questions that should be asked in addition to the typical qualifying that goes on with any hired vendor, contractor or consultant.

So, how cheap is too cheap? Picking the low bidder is not always the right decision. A proposal from any qualified vendor has to allow proper materials specifications, quality, time to complete the contracted work, labor to support the project from start to finish and allow the provider some reasonable profit. Otherwise, general contractors will pile on the

change orders, consultants will charge additional services and other support vendors will tell you that they just didn't plan for enough project management time.

These vendors price themselves starting off at a loss, and then spend the rest of the project trying to make a small profit. Proper due diligence during the proposal solicitation process is the key to building a project team and project that is guaranteed to succeed.



Kirt Gilliland heads Irving Hughes CM, which provides project management services to corporate tenants and users of space to oversee design and construction of facility projects.

SD METRO
is a proud
member of



Community is the bottom line for local credit unions

‘We put members in the right product at the right time – and we’re doing well as a result,’ says Teresa Halleck, San Diego County Credit Union president and CEO.

By Janine Rojas

Carlos Rodriguez is only 14, but he already understands the principles of sound money management, thanks to some tips he learned from a San Diego-based credit union. Save your money safely and wisely. And don’t take on loans you can’t afford.

If only the nation’s mega banks would have touted such advice to its homebuyers — as credit unions did, while adhering to careful lending practices that protect the assets of their members.

“Credit unions are not immune to the effects of a lingering recession, but our high standards as conservative lenders have served consumers well through these difficult economic times. Credit unions overall remain well capitalized and ready to lend,” said Diana Dykstra, president of the California Credit Union League.

There are more than 450 credit unions in California, and approximately 25 credit unions headquartered in the San Diego area. Others are based elsewhere but have local branches.

The largest local credit union exclusively based in San Diego is Mission Federal Credit Union (MFCU).

“Just like every credit union out there, Mission Federal’s mortgage loans are very well underwritten. We leave the subprime and exotic loans to the big banks, which they are more than happy to provide for a fee,” contends MFCU chief financial officer Ron Araujo. This approach has contributed to MFCU’s success in maintaining profitability, increased services and expanded branch locations, he said.

Credit unions did not make the ill-advised loans provided by other financial institutions that helped contribute to a lingering recession. Instead, they have focused on serving the needs of its members and the community at large, according to Dykstra. She says this philosophy is helping the credit union industry in San Diego and throughout the state to grow strong while helping its members prosper.

“We didn’t make this mess, but we were certainly hit by the shrapnel of it, because it impacted our members. We didn’t



With help from California Credit Union, 14-year-old Carlos Rodriguez and his family have gained new confidence and hope from their financial education courses. This photo was recently featured in the United Way of San Diego County’s 90th anniversary photo exhibit, ‘Kids & Money,’ in Balboa Park.



Diana Dykstra, president of California Credit Union League.

make the bad loans, but we’re there to provide help,” said Dykstra.

San Diego industry experts agree.

“While touting the American dream, banks were in reality setting up people to fail. In contrast, we never put people in the position of having payments for a home they could not afford. We put members in the right product at the right time – and we’re doing well as a result,” said San Diego County Credit Union (SDCCU) president and CEO Teresa Halleck.

SDCCU is a full-service financial institution serving San Diego, Riverside and Orange counties. SDCCU has consistently applied prudent underwriting standards which benefit the consumers and credit union industry as a whole, noted Halleck. She added that investing in the community is another core



Teresa Halleck, president and CEO of San Diego County Credit Union.

value, citing SDCCU's far-reaching charitable efforts include the upcoming National Multiple Sclerosis Society auction fundraiser, the annual Chargers Blood Drive and financial workshops for youth.

It was at a similar workshop — one hosted by California Coast Credit Union (CCCU) — that teenager Carlos learned about smart banking. He did so well, his photo was featured in the SAY San Diego/United Way of San Diego County “Kids & Money” exhibit last month. The event was in keeping with CCCU's ongoing practice of helping individuals and groups



“While touting the American dream, banks were in reality setting up people to fail. In contrast, we never put people in the position of having payments for a home they could not afford. We put members in the right product at the right time — and we’re doing well as a result.”

— San Diego County Credit Union (SDCCU) president and CEO Teresa Halleck.

achieve their financial goals, said Rene McKee, vice president of marketing and community relations for CCCU.

Reaching out to the community is a running theme at other area credit unions as well. Some gear their efforts to the specific interests of their core memberships. For example, Mission Federal Credit Union (MCFU) — which got its start nearly 50 years ago as a public schools credit union — provides financial support to learning institutions through its Mission4RSchools program and other efforts.



Ron Araujo, chief financial officer, Mission Federal Credit Union.

Although MCFU has since modified its charter to make everyone eligible to join, the organization maintains its focus on education.

San Diego Metropolitan Credit Union (SDMCU) interim president and CEO Stan Abrams says that he is always looking for ways to assist SDMCU members, many of whom were hit by municipal salary reductions. Others are challenged by unaffordable

loans in second place behind SDMCU mortgages.

“For members in that position, having problems with payments, we provide counseling and try to restructure or modify loans when it is prudent to do so and in compliance with regulations,” said Abrams.

In addition to serving the San Diego public at large, SDMCU is the official credit union for the city of San Diego, and for law-enforcement agencies. Several products are

especially for member sectors — such as the 1010 line of credit to finance police equipment needs. In other cases, SDMCU provides special loans and services to members impacted by natural disasters, such as wildfires or earthquakes.

In another example of tailored programs, Cabrillo Credit Union (CCU) helps meet the financial needs of persons working for Border Patrol agents.

“Our members benefit because we focus on them, understand their nuances and have their best interests at heart. They own us, and we tell them we work for them. They are our

bosses,” said Robin Lentz, CCU's chief executive officer.

Lentz characterizes CCU as a mid-sized institution focusing on federal employees, although it converted its community charter a few years ago to include all residents who live or work in San Diego. She contrasts CCU's merger to that of San Diego's USA Federal Credit Union, which was absorbed by Navy Federal Credit Union due financial hardships. CCU fared better than it might have during the economic downturn due in part to mergers with Sharp Federal Credit Union (2003) and Carlsbad City Employees Federal Credit Union (2004). The combined resources enabled CCU to provide a higher level of banking and bolster capital. In addition, having a more diverse client base reduces financial risks, Lentz said.

Lentz and other local credit union leaders agree the fall-out from the rocky times has made credit union membership more attractive.

“Capital is at an incredibly high ratio, which points to the safety and soundness of the industry,” said MFCU's Araujo.

As a nonprofit organization, credit unions typically offer higher savings rates and charge less for loans — along with appeal include the ease and efficiency of local control.

Abrams of SDMCU says another factor is the absence of a profit-absorbing middleman layer. “Credit unions are different (from for-profit institutions) because we don't report to stockholders. Instead, we ask ourselves, how can we better serve and return value to our members?”

Araujo puts it another way: “Awareness is helping grow the industry,” as people turn away from banks. “Credit unions are kind of a phoenix- rising-from-the-ashes thing.”



Robin Lentz, Cabrillo Credit Union chief executive officer.

Media Arts Center San Diego has a new home

Storefront on El Cajon Boulevard spruced up for the teaching of media skills



Ethan van Thillo, executive director of the Media Arts Center San Diego, says he wants the organization to be a resource for the community.

Story and Photos by Jennifer McEntee

What was previously an auto parts store on El Cajon Boulevard near 30th Street is the new home of the Media Arts Center San Diego.

The nonprofit — perhaps best known for its San Diego Latino Film Festival — has ambitious plans for the two-level, approximately 6,200-square-foot space.

Executive Director Ethan van Thillo hopes the place will be an attractive addition to the neighborhood, and a resource for the community.

“We hope to be a catalyst for change,” van Thillo said in a recent interview.

Since the Media Arts Center moved in on Aug. 21, the Art Deco-style building has been scrubbed of graffiti and given a fresh coat of paint. The storefront display windows are newly polished, exterior lighting has been installed and numerous computer workstations have been set up inside.

Still, there’s plenty of work to be done. The interior walls are

configured for the previous tenant. Some of the linoleum flooring is mismatched and peeling. Electricity, plumbing and air conditioning need to be addressed. And the upstairs is packed wall-to-wall with storage boxes accumulated over the organization’s 18-year history.

The Media Arts Center’s mission is to promote design, audio, video and film as tools for community self-expression, social change and professional development. In pursuit of those goals, the center’s new headquarters will eventually include workshop space, a small concession and media gadgetry store, a 49-seat theater, an audio lab, editing suite, lounge area and office space, according to van Thillo.

“We have to have big plans, but of course take baby steps toward them,” he said.

While foundations and corporations fund much of the Media Arts Center’s programs, additional support was sought for the building revamp. The North Park Redevelopment Project Area Committee on Oct. 12 approved a \$350,000 forgivable loan for the Media Arts Center to redevelop the space. The



Storefront of the Media Art Center's new headquarters.

loan means the center will be able to make structural, plumbing and electrical upgrades throughout 2011, said van Thillo.

"The idea for the new space came to me about two years ago," he said. "We wanted to create what's called a 'digital gym.' Any community member can come into the storefront and it's inviting. We want to provide a means where people can learn skills for the 21st century.

"It's not just about educating local filmmakers, but also local community members. We live in a YouTube world now where everyone is creating, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't be teaching story structure, how to write, how to videotape, lighting, all those things that people need to know."

The Media Arts Center hosts after-school programs, community do-it-yourself labs, digital music sessions and senior workshops. Its Teen Producers Project has resulted in some 300 videos created by youth, including educational films contracted by San Diego County's Registrar of Voters and Department of Health. The center's Digital Story Stations, available at some 35 public libraries throughout California, have resulted in 1,200 video clips that tell personal stories of historical and cultural significance. And The People's Post is an experiment in online citizen journalism, by which community members can upload videos about current events.

"Everyone has a story to tell, and we want everyone to participate in our democracy. One way to participate in a democracy is to have a voice," van Thillo said.

The Latino Film Festival, which was the genesis of the Media Arts Center, now draws some 30,000 viewers at a number of venues, according to van Thillo. "Now it's come full circle. It's

"Everyone has a story to tell, and we want everyone to participate in our democracy.

One way to participate in a democracy is to have a voice"

— Ethan van Thillo



The Media Arts Center's new headquarters will eventually include workshop space, a small concession and media gadgetry store, a 49-seat theater, an audio lab, editing suite, lounge area and office space.

not just about exhibition, it's about production, and helping the community tell their own story."

The Media Arts Center has six full-time staff and four part-timers, and more than 100 volunteers for film festivals and workshops throughout the year.

The new space on El Cajon Boulevard, wedged between a liquor store and a piano store, is triple the size of the Media Arts Center's previous headquarters in a Golden Hill Craftsman-style home.

Van Thillo said he was encouraged to consider properties along University Avenue near Ray Street, and also Point Loma's NTC Promenade. While the already established Ray Street arts community was attractive, van Thillo said the El Cajon Boulevard location offers both challenges and promise. The neighborhood is gritty, urban and vibrant.

"That's part of our mission: social change," he said. "Ray Street has been a catalyst for bringing creative new stuff, new life to a neighborhood. If we can give a little bit of that to this area, we've done a good job."

The Media Arts Center has a five-year lease, with a five-year option. The center hopes to become a valued neighbor in North Park over the next decade, van Thillo said.

"The whole point with this storefront is to get better engaged in the community. I think you're going to see us really more involved."

Media Arts Center San Diego, 2921 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, (619) 230-1938, mediaartscenter.org.

Judge Irving Hughes

continued from page 13

Irving got to know Jeff Skilling, Enron's president, and Andrew Fastow, its CFO — both of whom are now in jail — during his time in Houston.

"Fastow said he would cooperate with us on a couple of conditions, one of which was that I had to come and testify or appear at his sentencing and urge the court to lessen his 10-year sentence because of his cooperation with us, which in a federal court is permitted if the defendant cooperates.

"In all of my years that I have been involved in the legal system, as a judge, trial lawyer and mediator, Fastow is one of the most impressive people I have ever seen testify. Smart beyond comprehension and you think, 'Why?' I asked him that question and his answer was always one word, it was the 'culture' at Enron."

In the myriad of cases in which Irving has either served as a mediator or consultant, he said companies got into Enron kind of trouble at whatever the scale of dollars involved because of their executives' own personal demands for grandeur.

"They never have enough. Why would a 50-foot yacht do when you can have a 100-foot yacht? Too much of the time they put self over their company and its shareholders," Irving said.

The AOL Time Warner Case

The University of California also had a major interest in the AOL Time Warner case. Irving recommended to the Regents that they opt out of the ongoing federal class action to file its own case in state court in April, 2003.

When UC learned that AOL had inflated its stock price prior to its January 2001 merger with Time Warner by misrepresenting its sales, revenues and subscriber numbers, it joined the class action. Its pension and endowment funds, which held significant positions in Time Warner stock prior to the merger, suffered losses when the truth about AOL emerged and the merged company's stock price dropped from \$48 a share at the time of the merger to less than \$10 per share by July 2002.

Irving recommended that UC go it alone, leave the class action suit and pursue its case against AOL Time Warner separately. That turned out to be a fortuitous move for the university as its recovery of just over \$200 million was estimated to be 24 times the amount that it would have received through the class action case.

At the time of the settlement, James E. Hoist, general counsel of the Regents, said, "Judge Irving has been of great assistance to us and we are delighted his services and outstanding judgment will continue to be available for the benefit of the university."

"On every tough issue, you consult Judge Irving," Fairbank said. "He is the most respected human being, judge and mediator whom I have ever had the privilege of knowing."

In the Lincoln trial, the judge hearing the case asked Irving to take a seat "as the 13th juror," sitting next to the jury so he could get a real first-hand look at the opening statements, seeing how both the defendants and the jurors reacted to what they were hearing.

He also mediated a dispute between boxer Mike Tyson and

promoter Don King as well as a case between Shirley Temple Black and 20th Century Fox.

During his time on the federal bench in San Diego, Irving said there were 98 defendants in a Columbian cocaine ring case which came before him. Many of the defendants were young kids who had never been in trouble with the law before. Had the mandatory sentencing law been in effect at the time, he would have had to sentence each of them to a 10-year minimum mandatory and a six-year minimum release time. They all would have had to go to prison for six years.

"Back then you could give them what was called a split sentence. I suspended all but 90 days and told them that if they ever reappeared in court that I would have to impose the mandatory sentence. Not one of those kids ever came back into court," Irving said.

He has also had some very interesting San Diego cases while serving on the federal bench, including the one involving J. David Dominelli. But he also heard one involving John DeLorean and his lawyer, Howard Weissman. DeLorean had given Weissman his property in Pauma Valley for his fee in a cocaine case involving DeLorean. DeLorean was acquitted in the case, which put DeLorean in bankruptcy and the bankruptcy trustee sued DeLorean and Weissman to get the property back. Irving ruled against it.

The judge also had a case in which singer Wayne Newton sued NBC for defamation. The case was in Las Vegas but the judge who was to hear it had been indicted and kicked off the federal bench. By the time the trial was to start, Irving was under U.S. protection (because of threats) and in order for him to try the case, a special courtroom was going to have to be built. Irving said no thanks and recused himself.

Chuck Muncie, a former San Diego Chargers running back, appeared in Irving's court on cocaine charges. He went to prison for it.

Richard Silverman, who was married to Susan Golding, who later became mayor of San Diego, was convicted by a jury and Irving sentenced him to 30 months. Silverman was caught in a wiretap.

Despite all of the fame and attention that his marvelous legal career has bestowed on Irving, he said he is most proud of his family. He and his wife, Fran, have been married 52 years, live in Coronado and have two sons, Craig and Scott, and — spoken like a true grandfather — "eight perfect grandchildren."

Scott is a law enforcement officer in Seattle and Craig is a partner in the firm of Irving Hughes in San Diego.

Carla Scott, who has been Irving's legal assistant for 46 years, said working for the judge "was the best thing that ever happened to me. I could not have found a more caring, considerate and wonderful boss."

Irving holds both undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Southern California and started his law career in San Diego at Higgs, Fletcher & Mack before founding his own firms.

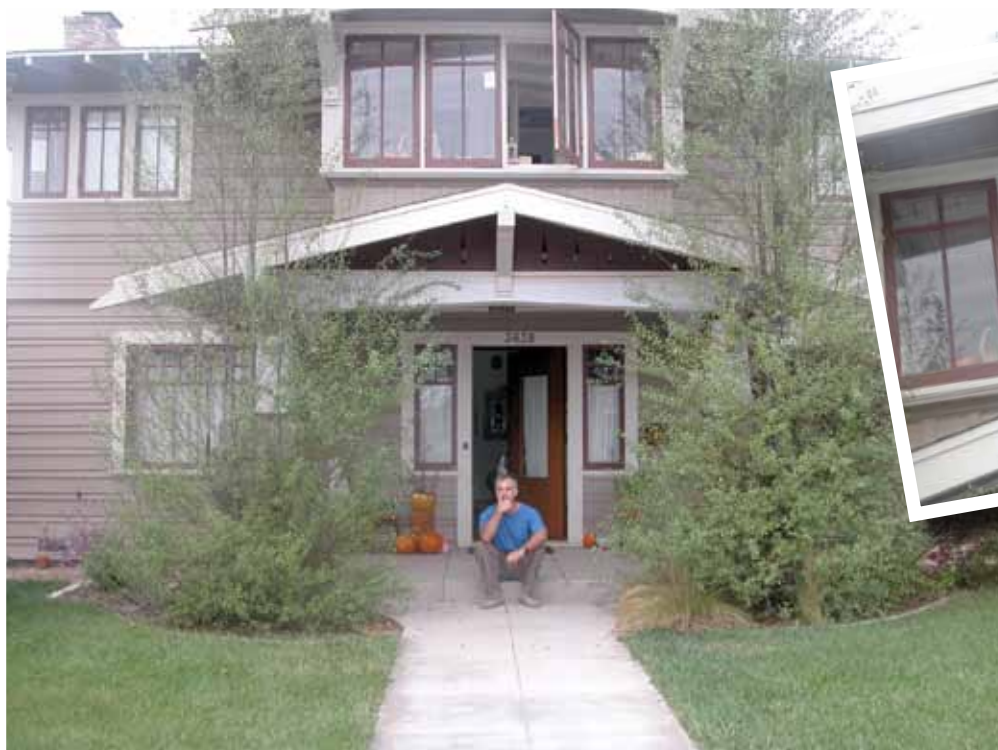
He has mediated or consulted on more than 60 cases in courts ranging from San Diego and Los Angeles to across the country.

He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, American Bar Foundation and chaired judicial screening committees for Gov. Pete Wilson and Sen. Barbara Boxer.

THE WEST COAST CRAFTSMAN

Heritage Begins at Home

Fixing one bungalow at a time



Above, Larry Salazar refinished the home at 3638 28th St. in 2005-2006.

Left, Larry Salazar reflects on the porch of the Craftsman house at 3638 28th St.

By Thomas Shess
Photos by Elizabeth Bradford

Larry Salazar, a husband and dad to two young girls, calls North Park home. He and his wife, Lisa, live on 28th Street in a two-story home built in 1916 by James Blaine Draper, a master builder, who built a dozen or so residences in San Diego — primarily in North Park.

They happen to be perfect neighbors.

And, perfection is achieved not because Lisa is an acupuncturist at Keller Clinic, or Larry owns Pacific Real Estate and Mortgage. Reason is, they've been restoring bungalows in North Park for 10 years. So far, the couple had a hand in taking six bungalows that were in sore need of maintenance and restored them to affordable living units and at the same time kept

the architectural integrity as best they could.

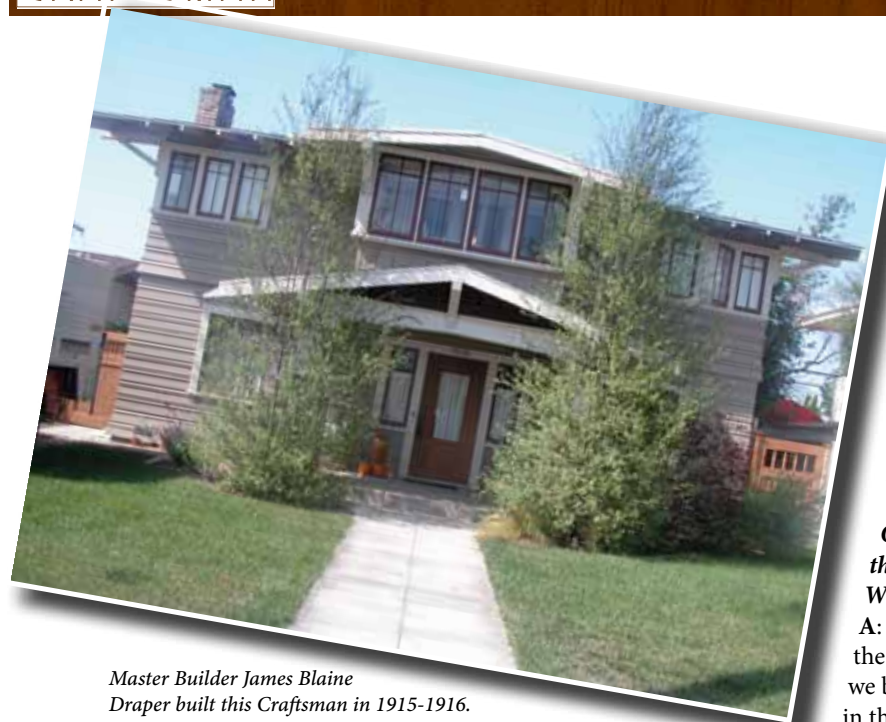
Lisa is the first to point to Larry as the muscle in the outfit. He's fearless when it comes to tackling any home improvement challenge, she says. He does all the work himself and if he needs help, he hires the best workers he can find. So far, his track record is very good.

Question: What attracted you to North Park?

Larry: Lisa was raised in Massachusetts and when it came time for us to buy a house, we wanted an old-fashioned neighborhood feel. We heard North Park was a place that had that front-porch atmosphere.

Q: Where you a Craftsman aficionado when you moved in?

continued on page 24



Master Builder James Blaine
Draper built this Craftsman in 1915-1916.

Bungalow Q&A

continued from page 23

A: Not really. Once we shopped around we began to educate ourselves on the heritage of the neighborhood. We fell in love right away with Arts & Crafts period architecture and design.

Q: What else convinced you to buy your first home in North Park?

A: It's so centrally located, especially to freeways and Downtown, and so far it has kept its family-oriented feel.

Q: What and where did you end up buying your first home?

A: We bought our first fixer-upper on Louisiana in 1999. The North Park real estate market then still offered a sizeable home at a fair price — if you were willing to make the upgrades. Most of the homes south of University near the park are turning 100 years old. They all needed work.

Q: How much work are we talking about?

A: Like all young couples buying for the first time, money was tight. We found a small bungalow with a cottage in back. It needed a lot of work, but it was what we could afford. I remember when Lisa's parents visited us from Boston and took a look at what we bought. They didn't say anything, but we could see it in their faces. They were wondering how in the world could we make a decision like that? We laugh about it, today.

Q: Now that you've restored six houses do you consider yourself a bungalow expert?

A: I'm not so sure I would consider myself a true restorer, in terms of how a purist would define restoration. Remember, we

started with our first property not really having any sense of the history of the neighborhood. But as we settled in we really began to appreciate the history and the architecture that North Park had to offer. So with each home we purchased that sense of keeping the history of the home became more of a priority. I think in the beginning because of our budget it was almost cheaper to fix the old windows rather than replace them with new ones. But as time went by I started to realize the value in restoring and how that kept the charm of the homes intact. Our current home (3638 28th St.) reflects our progress in the restoration process ... but, we still have a long way to go ... maybe on our next project we'll take it up a notch.

Q: North Park owes you thanks. You fixed up bungalows that could have easily been remodeled or even torn down. Why did you target fixer-uppers?

A: At the time I was doing this the market was great and the money was good. But I also took pleasure in the fact that we bought a distressed home that typically was an eyesore in the neighborhood and turned around and made it look nice again. This was my community and I felt that what I did added to the neighborhood.

Q: Did you have a lot of training as a handyman?

A: A lot of on-the-job training. I learned a lot about sewer, gas, water and electrical with my first home, because everything had to be replaced. I thought it was going to be a nightmare, but I found out the nice thing about these older homes is the crawl space and attic space, which makes it easier to work on electrical, gas, water and sewer. But the two projects I learned the most from where 3674 Louisiana and 3638 28th St. because both these homes were so neglected and in bad shape. Can't say that at times I didn't feel a bit overwhelmed. I remember the hardwood floors in 3674 Louisiana and how every person told me that they were shot and couldn't be saved. I couldn't accept that. I really wanted to save the floors, so I had Miller Floors, who I worked with before, take a look. They basically said it would be cheaper to replace all the floors, rather than stitch and fix all the damage. But they also said the repairs could be done. So we had them fix the floors and they turned out fantastic. Also, 3674 Louisiana was also my first experience at stripping paint from wood, which really brought to life all the baseboards, moldings, built-ins and picture rails. But this was long and tedious work. I never painted over stained wood after that.

Q: What were your goals once you started restoring?

A: Early on we couldn't afford what we knew someday would be our dream craftsman home. As we fixed one home and then another, our goal was to work up to restore what would become our dream home.

Q: Are you living in your dream craftsman now?

continued on page 26

The Salazar Touch

Homes revitalized by Larry Salazar of North Park in order of completion

1.) 3642-3646 Louisiana St: Bungalow. Built in 1925. Two bedrooms, one bath, 850 square feet and a 400-square-foot, one-bedroom cottage in the rear. Project timeline; 1999-2000.

2.) 2315 Dwight St: Bungalow. Built in 1925. Two bedrooms, one bath, 833 square feet. Project timeline: 2001.

3.) 3629 28th St: Craftsman. Built in 1933. Three bedrooms, one bath, 1,298 square-feet. Project timeline: 2003-04.

4.) 3674 Louisiana St: Victorian with craftsman influences. Built in 1920. Two bedrooms, one bath, 1,638 square-feet. Project timeline: 2005.

5.) 3638 28th St: Craftsman: Master Builder James Blaine Draper with early 20th century icon builder David Owen Dryden adding an over-the-front-porch sun room. Built in 1915-1916. Four bedrooms, three baths, 2,200 squarefeet. Project timeline: 2005-2006.



The bungalow at 3642 was built in 1925 and has a one-bedroom cottage in the rear.

*We do the cooking...
You take the credit!*

Company Parties
Request a Custom
Catering Scenario with
our Online Request.



**Bakery Treats & Wine
Boutique**
Gifts for Clients
Friends, Family and
Colleagues!



**Holiday Dinners at
Home**
Visit our Website and
see our Holiday-to-Go
Menus



Its always a delicious Holiday at...

THE FRENCH GOURMET

Catering • Restaurant • Bakery • Wine Boutique

960 Turquoise Street • San Diego, CA 92109
(858)488-1725 | www.thefrenchgourmet.com

Bungalow Q&A
continued from page 24

A: For now, yes, but who knows what the future holds. We're on the street that we wanted to be on. We have great neighbors and North Park has become exciting. When we purchased 3629 28th St., we knew that the home was too small for long-range plans that included raising children. As we worked on 3629, we kept staring across 28th St. at this big green house. We both knew deep down that two-story would be ours someday. Within three years, we made an offer to the green house owners and they accepted.

Q: That was the first two-story you purchased. Was it the toughest to redo?

A: Definitely, 3638 28th Street has been my biggest project... everything from the foundation to the chimney to the collapsing sun room had to be repaired on this property. The experience from my previous projects gave me the tools to tackle the rehab.

Q: What are some tips you can give others?

A: If you are buying a fixer, be sure the bones of the house are solid....foundation and framing. These homes are old and if those features are in good shape it's a good indication that the home was well built.

Q: Did you hire out a lot of the work?

A: Only what I couldn't do, but I do recommend Miller Floors for refinishing and repairs, Atlas Footing for foundation and Woodmaster Windows for building wood windows.

Q: Are you looking to fix up any new homes?

A: We have two young daughters and being a parent is a huge job. Besides, the real estate market has taken a significant hit over the past few years and North Park has not been immune to that. It's a good time to be on the sidelines. Right now, I'm helping others buy homes in North Park. Right now, I'm the realtor for the home across the street. It's a great house. Huge rooms, but the right buyer is still out there.

Q: How do you rate North Park's real estate market today?

A: Everyone in real estate has taken hard hits, but overall, North Park has fared a lot better than most communities.

CRAFTSMAN REVIVAL
Arts & Crafts Home Furnishings & Accessories

Store Hours: Tue-Fri 10-6, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 1-5, Closed Mondays

ARTS & CRAFTS STYLE
SAN DIEGO'S ONLY COMPLETE SOURCE

FURNITURE - LAMPS & LIGHTING
PLEIN AIR PAINTINGS BY LOCAL ARTISTS, POTTERY & TILES
ACCESSORIES AND MUCH MORE

985-A Lomas Santa Fe Drive
Solana Beach - California 92075
ph: 858.259.5811
www.craftsmanrevival.com

SDMETRO
your business your life

Chairman/CEO
Robert Page
BobPage@sandiegometro.com

Publisher
Rebeca Page
RebecaPage@sandiegometro.com

Managing Editor
Manny Cruz
manny@sandiegometro.com

Contributing Editor
Tom Shess

Art Director
Michael Novido
design@sandiegometro.com

Photography
Paul Clark
Manny Cruz

Contributors
Kirt Gilliland
Roger Hedgecock
Michelle Lyn
Jennifer McEntee
David Rottenberg
Margo Schwab
Thomas Shess
Katelyn O'Riordan

Director of Public Affairs
Cyndi Meeves
cyndi@sandiegometro.com

Get in the loop with SD Metro's Daily Business Report. Sign up for daily emails on the latest business at sandiegometro.com

3990 Old Town Avenue, Suite A-201
San Diego CA 92110
(619) 906-4104
Editorial: (619) 906-4105
Advertising: (619) 906-4104
FAX: (619) 906-4106

SD METRO magazine is published by REP Publishing, Inc. The entire contents of SD METRO is copyrighted, 2009, by REP Publishing, Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without prior written consent. All rights reserved. All editorial and advertising inquiries can be made by calling or writing to the above. Editorial and ad deadline is the 24th of the month preceding the month of publication. Mail subscriptions of SD METRO are available for \$50 a year for addresses within the United States. A PDF version of this issue is available at sandiegometro.com.

Additional information, including past articles, online-only content and the Daily Business Report can be found at sandiegometro.com. For reprints or plaques of articles published in SD METRO, please call Rebeca Page at (619) 906-4105.



The Victorian home at 3674 Louisiana has Craftsman influences. It was built in 1920.

The 1933 Craftsman home is at 3629 28th St. and was restored in 2003-04.

The bungalow at 2315 Dwight St., built in 1925, was revitalized by Larry Salazar in 2001.



Seaside Home
Stores Redwoodes, Fall 2010
to 1035 W. Hill Street, La Jolla
see seaside-home.com for details!

STICKLEY®
SAN DIEGO'S ONLY
AUTHORIZED DEALER

La Jolla (858) 454.0866 seaside-home.com
Complimentary In Showroom Design Consultations, Sheryll Jackman, ASID, CID

Santa Barbara's Sense Appeal

An indulgent weekend getaway to the American Riviera



By Michelle Lyn

Nestled 200 miles north of San Diego, between the lush Santa Ynez Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, sun-drenched Santa Barbara is the perfect weekend getaway for foodies to sip and savor, outdoor enthusiasts to surf, hike or bike along the coast or anyone who simply enjoys good weather and a European village experience without the hassle of getting on a plane.

For me, the drive to Santa Barbara always illicit memories of driving up the rugged coastline, past breaks like Malibu and Rincon where surfers dot the water, and through the fragrant strawberry fields before dropping me in the wooded enclave of Montecito.

Next time you find yourself planning a weekend escape, here are some recommendations that will appeal to all five senses.

Sleep

Tucked away a couple blocks from State Street, the secluded Inn of the Spanish Garden is a luxury boutique hotel that offers guests a private, quiet retreat in the heart of Santa Barbara's Historic Presidio District. Constructed in 2001, the hotel's Spanish-Colonial architecture of white adobe walls, red tile roofs, ornate ironwork, courtyard fountains, vaulted ceilings and arches conceals modern amenities. Centrally located, you are within walking distance of all shops and restaurants, as well as the beach.

The well-appointed rooms are posh, yet incredibly com-



Junior Suite at the San Ysidro Ranch.

fortable. Luxury is found in each guest room or suite, with gas fireplaces, soaking tubs with imported bath amenities, French press coffeemakers, decadent Italian linens and a private balcony or garden patio. A complimentary deluxe continental breakfast can be delivered to your room while you sit by the fire and read the local newspapers in privacy.

In the heart of downtown Santa Barbara is Canary Hotel, a modern hotel with eclectic Moroccan decor. The hotel's rooftop, "The Perch," is famous for its breathtaking 360-degree views of

continued on page 29

Santa Barbara.

The rooftop pool is the perfect place to unwind after a long day of shopping, eating and drinking. In fact, they make it easy to enjoy the view by hosting activities such as wine tasting with local wineries. Not a big wine drinker? No problem. On the weekends, happy hour goes until midnight and drinks can be taken to the roof while you dip your weary toes in the jacuzzi.

Another rooftop activity offered by the hotel is "Ready, Set Cook." Kitchen stations are set up and groups are broken into teams and led through the preparation and execution of the entire meal, learning tricks of the trade along the way in a fun atmosphere.

If there was ever a resort that you wanted to splurge on, San Ysidro Ranch, A Rosewood Resort is definitely worth the investment. Recently named the No. 1 resort in the U.S./Canada by Travel + Leisure, San Ysidro Ranch lived up to its reputation with an attention to detail that was beyond compare. Discreetly hidden in Montecito, at the base of the Santa Ynez Mountains, the hotel is a collection of cottages concealed in a garden oasis of lavender, rosemary and hummingbirds dipping into an array of flowers everywhere you look.

Serenity envelopes the property and invites you to take a deep breath, exhaling the stress of city life left. A private gate opened to our cottage, Pepper, where our last name was thoughtfully noted on the porch with wood letter chips, surrounded by hearts (for our anniversary).

Inside our cottage, we were welcomed by a bottle of wine, a piece of carrot cake and a thoughtful anniversary card from the hotel's manager. A fireplace, heated bathroom tiles, a deep soaking tub and candles provided just the right amount of coziness necessary for a chilly night. Our private patio boasted a jacuzzi and outdoor waterfall shower cloaked by a blanket of lush greenery.

Exclusivity, privacy and tranquility abound at this magical hideaway where JFK and Jackie O honeymooned and Hollywood royalty go to escape. Dinner at The Stonehouse, the on-site restaurant, is ambient and the irresistible mint gelato is made from mint grown in the property garden.

Indulge

A bike ride along Channel Drive will lead you along picturesque Butterfly Beach to the stunning property that is The Biltmore, a Four Seasons Resort. Housing modern-day comforts within original 1927 architecture, it emanates historic grandeur from every angle.

The Spa at The Biltmore has a reputation for the best spa experience in Santa Barbara and after our day of indulgence there, I concur.

Upon arrival, we were taken to a couples treatment room



with an ocean view, perfumed by breezes from the rose garden. Eager for an aromatic experience, I received Grape de Vine, their Signature Ritual that extracts the toxins with a Grape Seed Body Scrub native to Santa Barbara wine country. My skin was gently exfoliated, while the anti-oxidizing and relaxing benefits of grape seed were enhanced by rose gel. Lavender essential oil was then applied during a full body massage.

Next to me, my husband received the Stone Therapy and Energy Balancing Ritual that consisted of a full body massage with hot and cold stones combined with traditional Native American energy work and cleansing rituals that harmonize the emotions, calm the mind and the nervous system. His treatment began with a gentle ringing of meditational bells and the immediate burning of sage leaves to cleanse the space of evil and negative energies and influences.

At that moment I was grateful to be in the same room, so I too, could benefit from the vibrations of the bells and the cleansing affect of the burning sage.

continued on page 30

Travel

continued from page 29

Wine and Dine

Across from the arresting Santa Barbara Courthouse and Sunken Gardens, Elements is a great brunch option during your stay in town. The young, friendly staff is welcoming and the homelike patio view can't be beat.

The house specialty, brioche french toast served with strawberry maple syrup, honey creme fraiche and mint is decadent and one indulgence you shouldn't feel guilty about experiencing. A hike up Cold Spring Trail will make you forget you even had it.

Any visit to Santa Barbara would be remiss without a dining experience at Seagrass Restaurant. Proprietor Mitchell Sjerven and his gracious wife Amy were both on hand to welcome us as if we were old friends. The space is small, warm and cozy, decorated in earth tones with seagrass wallpaper appropriately covering the walls.

As Santa Barbara's first fine dining 'coastal cuisine' restaurant, their seafood is drawn from the Pacific Ocean and procured from the Santa Barbara Fish Market. The produce is as local and seasonal as can be, as the chef visits two local farmer's markets weekly.

To begin our experience, we sampled an amuse bouche of chilled watermelon consomme that was refreshing and flavorful, in contrast to its deceptive resemblance to water. Per the chef's recommendation, we moved on to Pacific Oysters on the half-shell with a banyuls mignonette. The freshness of the oysters paired nicely with a Roederer Estate Brut Rose.

Local heirloom tomatoes complemented by a salad of burrata cheese, mixed greens and a banyuls vinaigrette were then served with the highly rated Vogelzang 'Happy Canyon' Sauvignon Blanc. The flavor of an heirloom tomato in season is unparalleled, especially when paired with burrata that melts in your mouth.

For main courses, we selected the Local Red Snapper with Spanish chorizo, green zebra coulis and yuzu-clam emulsion, and the Local White Seabass, served with sorrel, caperberries and pancetta. Both fish had a nice golden sear, were well balanced and cooked to perfection. Our favorite wine of the night, Tyler Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay added the perfect finish to a lovely dinner.

When planning our journey to wine country, we decided to visit Palmina. Recently featured on the "Today" show, Palmina's tasting room is a standout in the Lompoc Wine Ghetto, an industrial park that has evolved into the next up-and-coming wine-tasting destination for wine aficionados who appreciate wonderfully crafted wines over sprawling romantic vineyards.

Palmina's passionate owners Steve and Chrystal Clifton have always considered wine to be "an extension of the plate," a philosophy rooted in food, cooking, gatherings of people around a table and all the goodness that comes from eating locally and



seasonally. Keeping their production small allows them to continue their strong commitment and zeal for creating high quality Italian varietals.

Just as in Italy, Palmina's focus is to craft wines expressly made to complement and enhance food. Palmina's recently expanded tasting room now includes a "Wines on Tap" refillable wine program (one of the first) that offers fresh and affordable wine with less packaging waste.

Plan

Appropriately described as America's Riviera, Santa Barbara shines amid long stretches of beach, palm trees, Spanish-influenced architecture and red tiled roofs. Green in every sense of the word, this walkable picturesque town offers mountains, beaches, farmer's markets and highly sustainable gastro-tourism programs.

Graced by a mild year-round climate, Santa Barbara is richly Mediterranean, with Spanish colonial heritage reflected in romantic architecture...perfect for a weekend retreat.

For more information, visit santabarbaraca.com.

SD METRO

is a
member
of



The University Club Reinvented

Photos and Story by Margo Schwab

The University Club Atop Symphony Towers celebrated a spectacular \$2.4 million dollar renovation and expansion with a party. And not just any party, this one was *Tops in Many Ways!* Themed “Black Tie + Blue Jeans + The Blues,” hundreds of members turned out to enjoy the evening dressed in theme appropriate tux jackets and fancy denim. A few accessorized in cowboy boots, one gent topped off his ensemble with a cowboy hat.

Some of the highlights...

Wine and champagne was served, but it was the signature drinks including the Club Sangria, Bourbon Street Shooters and Blind Lemon Johnson shots that rally added some fun spirit.

The new modern bar areas, a media room (perfect for movie nights and “Monday Night Football”), swank new private rooms and furnishings that blend the rich history of the University Club with a fresh modern spirit. A great job by architectural firm Delawie Wilkes Rodrigues Barker.

Guests perused the new wings ... the University Club now occupies the entire 34th floor with endless floor to ceiling views.

General Manager Tommy Trause hit the right notes with the music choices too. For music, in the Media Room was David Patrone and the Ballroom was entertained by the Mike Wofford Trio. Mike has been playing in our members’ dining room for years.

Tasty food by Executive Chef Eric Mauritzen included potstickers, vegetarian and pork, sushi, bacon-wrapped scallops and rosemary lamb chops. There was a decadent dessert buffet of bite-sized sweets in one of the new private rooms.

Among the many there were Stephen Sheedy, Audrey Geisel and Alex Butterfield, Rebeca and Bob Page, us newbie members, Margo Schwab and Scott Johnston, and staff members including Sommelier Stan Streblov, Private Events Sales Director Ed Nesfield, Member and Community Relations Director Casey Falkner and Food & Beverage Director Frank Polinsk.

This evening benefited the Lamp of Learning Scholarship in San Diego, Augie’s Quest/the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the ClubCorp’s Employee Partners Care Foundation, which aids ClubCorp employees and their families by providing financial assistance in times of crisis.

To learn more about the University Club Atop Symphony Towers, visit clubcorp.com.

To view more coverage of this event and other San Diego charitable events, visit thesocialdiary.com. To request coverage of your event, send an e-mail to mschwab@san.rr.com.

Margo Schwab is founder of The Social Diary.com.



Alex Butterfield and Scott Johnston and Audrey Geisel and Margo Schwab.



Casey Falkner and Tommy Trause



Bill and Shelley Whittaker



Michael Lea, who formerly taught at UCSD has been named the first director of The Corky McMillin Center for Real Estate at San Diego State. Lea said he is looking for mentors for his students, “for those who can provide case studies for our students to study, those who can provide meaningful internships for students and those who want to guest teach as well.”



Paul Dean Coker has joined the Chambers Group as program manager. Coker has more than 30 years of industry experience specializing in environmental regulatory compliance including the California Environmental Quality Act, Coker holds a master’s degree from the University of Notre Dame. He co-founded CEQAmapping.com, California’s only online, digital database of environmental planning and regulatory documents.



Richard D. Barton, partner in the law firm of Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch, has been appointed to the University of California President’s Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture and Inclusion. The council monitors and evaluates the progress of each campus in the university system in creating conditions of climate, culture and inclusion. Barton is the national chair of education for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).



Shawn Guffey has been appointed director of loss control and claims for Cavnac & Associates, a San Diego-based risk management and insurance brokerage. Guffey, is charged with designing, coordinating and delivering loss control and claims management services on behalf of the firm’s clients. Guffey previously was division safety manager for TruGreen LandCare. He also served as the director of safety, security and transportation for Alvarado Hospital.



Sandra J. Brower has joined the San Diego office of Sullivan Hill as an of counsel attorney. Brower, specializes in eminent domain litigation for both public and private owners. Brower focuses her practice in all aspects of real estate litigation, including eminent domain, inverse condemnation, land use and planning, environmental, contract disputes, broker liability, construction defects, title and boundary disputes, and title insurance matters.



Robert Coleman, a 20-plus year veteran of the nonprofit sector, has joined Second Chance as executive director. Second Chance serves former substance abusers, ex-offenders, homeless veterans and at-risk youth by providing job skills training and employment opportunities. Coleman was CEO of the YMCA and also held other executive positions at the YMCAs in Orange County and Riverside County.



5 Places to Take Your Out-Of-Town Guests

By Katelyn O'Riordan

1. C Level Lounge

880 Harbor Island Drive

For spectacular views of “America’s Finest City,” head to C Level Lounge, where views of the bay and Downtown San Diego skyline serve as the backdrop to your dining experience. Connected to steak and seafood restaurant Island Prime, C Level Lounge is more casual, while still offering the same flawless service, unparalleled views and fresh ingredients at a more affordable price. Chef Deborah Scott creates a delectable assortment of fresh seafood items, meat dishes and a list of appetizers great for sharing. Popular menu items include Kemo Sabe’s Famous Nut Crusted Brie, Seared Hawaiian Ahi Tuna Stack, Lobster Truffle Mac N’ Cheese and the Roasted Prime Rib Dip.

2. Searsucker

611 Fifth Ave.

Located in the heart of the Gaslamp Quarter, trendy new restaurant Searsucker is a fantastic eatery perfect for entertaining out-of-towners. Chef Brian Malarkey serves up New American Classic cuisine, emphasizing unpretentious and inspired dishes paired with local craft brews, handcrafted cocktails and a selection of wines. The 7,000-square-foot restaurant features an open kitchen, flowing dining space and consistently buzzing bar. Share a selection of dishes from the “Bites” and “Smalls” sections of the menu, such as the Duck Fat Fries and the Spicy Baja Shrimp + Bacon Grits, or choose from the larger “Ocean,” “Ranch,” and “Farm” dishes. Popular menu items include The Swordfish “Australian” Drunken with Cherries + Almonds, Pork Butt, Loin “Filet Mignon” with Lobster Butter and the King Sundae.





3. The Grant Grill

326 Broadway

Since 1951, The Grant Grill has been a premier dining choice for locals and visitors alike. Located inside one of San Diego's most prominent historic landmarks, The U.S. Grant Hotel, The Grant Grill has long been famous as the home of Downtown's business tycoons, the room where "deals were done." The Grant Grill serves breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner as well as a smaller Lounge menu. Popular menu items include Citrus Brioche French Toast, The Original "Mock Turtle Soup," the signature Jumbo Diver Scallops and the Chocolate Brioche "Pain Perdu." After your meal, walk the grounds or request a private tour of the 100-year-old hotel.

4. The Waterfront

2044 Kettner Blvd.

Established in 1933, The Waterfront opened shortly after Prohibition was repealed and has since established itself as one of San Diego's favorite watering holes. No matter what day of the week or time of day you visit this local haunt, it bursts with friendly crowds. Good people, great food and a selection of local brews, The Waterfront is a casual spot perfect for catching up with friends over a beer and one of their specialty burgers. Popular menu items include The Waterfront Burger, The Grilled Cheese Sampler, Chipotle Chicken Sandwich and the Charlie Jones Chili.



5. The Prado at Balboa Park

1549 El Prado, Suite 12

Located in one of Balboa Park's most beautiful buildings, The House of Hospitality, The Prado is complete with historic ambience, knowledgeable and welcoming staff and innovative dishes. After spending the day celebrating the abundant culture and history found in Balboa Park's museums and gardens, wind down with lunch on the outdoor patio or indulge in dinner in the dining room. Popular menu items include the Crispy Calamari Fries, The Lemongrass Grilled Ono, Grilled Chicken and Orrecchiette Pasta, and Chocolate Souffle Cake.



DINING GUIDE A-LIST

LEGEND

B = Breakfast

L = Lunch

D = Dinner

\$ = inexpensive

\$\$ = moderate

\$\$\$ = expensive

\$\$\$\$ = very expensive

DOWNTOWN/BALBOA PARK

Bankers Hill Bar & Restaurant

D | \$\$

2202 Fourth Ave.
San Diego 92101
(619) 231-2222
www.bankershillsd.com

Carl Schroeder's new nothing-over-\$20 spot in Bankers Hill. Gourmet on a budget. Everything from burgers to shortribs and just about everything in between.

Bencotto

L, D | \$\$

750 W. Fir St.
San Diego 92101
(619) 450-4786
www.lovebenecotto.com

Little Italy's newest and one of its best. Pair sauce with the pasta. You choose. Great design and atmosphere. Sells its own line of pasta, olives and oils.

Bertrand's at Mr. A's

L, D | \$\$\$

2550 Fifth Ave.
San Diego 92103
(619) 237-1377
www.bertrandtmisteras.com

Enjoy the most spectacular views in San Diego. Casual elegance. Rave reviews and award-winning dining. The ultimate special occasion spot but wonderful at anytime.

Bice Ristorante

D | \$\$\$

425 Island Ave.
San Diego 92101
(619) 239-2423
www.bicesandiego.com

Best known for its homemade pastas. Features a sophisticated cheese bar that offers a variety of Italian cheeses and salami plates. A cozy and luxurious atmosphere.

C Level Lounge

L, D | \$\$

880 Harbor Drive
San Diego 92101
(619) 298-6802
www.cohnrestaurants.com

The casual connection to Island Prime's upscale steak and seafood restaurant. Flawless service and unparalleled views. Waterfront dining at its best.

Cucina Urbana

D | \$\$

505 Laurel Street
San Diego 92103
(619) 239-222
www.urbankitchengroup.com

Casual Italian with cuisines of various Italian regions. Award-winning wine shop. Choose a bottle at retail price and pay a \$7 corkage fee. Resembles an old rustic country farmhouse.

The Cowboy Star

L, D | \$\$

640 10th Ave.
San Diego 92101
www.thecowboystar.com

A new addition to the East Village. Regional American cuisine. Great neighborhood hospitality. Features the finest in select natural products including Meyer Ranch all-natural beef.

Donovan's

D | \$\$\$

570 K St.
San Diego 92101
(619) 237-9700
www.donovanssteakhouse.com

Rich and intimate ambience with world-class unobtrusive service. Serves 100 percent USDA Prime beef 100 percent of the time. Over 300 wines from which to choose.

Donovan's La Jolla

D | \$\$\$

4340 La Jolla Village Drive
San Diego 92122
(858) 450-6666
www.donovanssteakhouse.com

The original Donovan's, opened in 1997, is every bit the same as Donovan's newest location in the Gaslamp. On a par. Excellent cuisine, excellent service.

Donovan's Circle of 5ths

D | \$\$

333 Fifth Ave.
San Diego 92101
(619) 906-4850
www.donovanssteakhouse.com

Great new addition to the Gaslamp. A martini lounge par excellence with live entertainment and a small but extensive bite menu. Great venue in which to relax while enjoying a great cocktail or glass of wine, light fare and live background music.

The Grant Grill

B, L, D | \$\$\$

326 Broadway
San Diego 92101
(619) 744-2077
www.grantgrill.com

Since 1951 it has been a premier dining choice for locals and visitors alike. Located inside one of San Diego's most prominent

historic landmarks, the U.S. Grant Hotel. Has long been known as the home of Downtown's business tycoons, the room where "deals were done."

Hexagone

L, D | \$\$

495 Laurel St.
(619) 236-0467
San Diego 92103
www.hexagone.thechamberworks.com

Offers a culinary tour of traditional French dishes with updated California cuisine. One of the most extensive French menus in San Diego, offering 20 appetizers and more than 20 entrees at reasonable prices.

Oceanaire Seafood Room

D | \$\$\$

400 J Street
San Diego, CA., 92101
(619) 858-2277
www.theoceanaire.com

Provides the perfect setting to enjoy ultra-fresh seafood, flown in daily from around the world. Dove sole to Alaskan halibut. Wonderful oyster bar.

The Prado at Balboa Park

L, D | \$\$\$

1549 El Prado
San Diego 92101
(619) 557-9441
www.dinecrg.com

Located in one of Balboa Park's most beautiful buildings, the House of Hospitality. Complete with historic ambience, great staff and innovative dishes. Lunch on the outdoor patio or indulge dinner in the dining room.

Searsucker

D | \$\$

611 Fifth Ave.
San Diego 92101
(877) 351-8073
www.searsucker.com

The Gaslamp's trendiest new restaurant under the direction of noted celebrity chef Brian Malarkey. Serves up New American Classic cuisine. Emphasizing unpretentious and inspired dishes paired with local craft beers.

The Waterfront

L, D | \$

2044 Kettner Blvd.
San Diego 92101
(619) 232-9656
www.thewaterfrontbarandgrill.com

Established in 1933, The Waterfront opened shortly after prohibition was repealed. Has long been established as one of San Diego's favorite watering holes. Great burgers, fun and friendly crowds. A true local haunt.

RANCHO SANTA FE

Mille Fleurs

L, D | \$\$\$

6009 Paseo Delicias
Rancho Santa Fe 92067
(858) 756-3085
www.millefleurs.com

The ultimate North County dining spot. Excellent French cuisine by award-winning chef Martin Woesle. The place where you go to be pampered by an attentive staff and fabulous food.

NORTH PARK/KENSINGTON

Bleu Boheme

L, D | \$\$

4090 Adams Ave.
San Diego 92116
(619) 255-4167
www.bleuboheme.com

Great food, great value. Now under the direction of new owner Ken Irvine, formerly the chef and owner of the award-winning Chez Loma in Coronado. Warm and inviting ambience.

Kensington Grill

D | \$\$

4055 Adams Ave.
San Diego 92116
(619) 281-4014
www.kensingtongrill.com

Features rustic American comfort food. Hip neighborhood eatery in the heart of historic Kensington. Sophisticated yet intimate.

Sea Rocket Bistro

L, D | \$\$

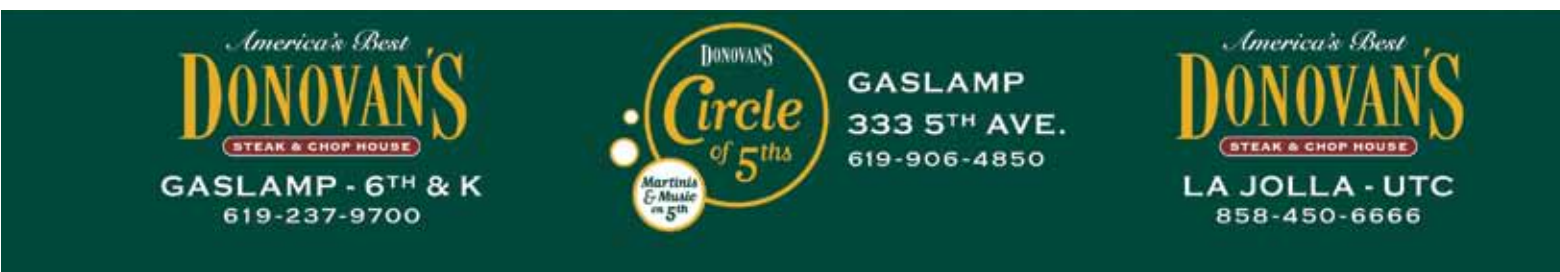
3382 30th St.
San Diego 92104
(619) 255-7049
www.searocketbistro.com

Farm-to-table restaurant focusing on sustainably harvested seafood, pastured meats and organic produce. Offers vegetarian and vegan options.

Urban Solace

L, D | \$\$

3823 30th St.
San Diego 92104
(619) 295-6464
www.urbansolace.net



Chef Matt Gordon serves classic American food with an upscale twist. All entrees under \$20. Don't miss the Cheddar-chive cheese biscuits. North Park's premier dining spot.

LA JOLLA

George's at the Cove

L, D | \$\$\$

1250 Prospect St.
La Jolla 92037
(858) 454-4244
www.georgesatthecove.com

Visitors and locals both flock to George's for the magnificent views and wonderful cuisine. The "rooftop" patio is outstanding for lunch or cocktails. Come to dine and watch the crowd. One of La Jolla's most popular restaurants.

Marine Room

D | \$\$\$\$

2000 Spindrift Drive
La Jolla 92037
(858) 459-7222
www.marineroom.com

The roar of the pounding surf just a few feet from the restaurant windows provide musical background to the culinary creations by award-winning chef Bernard Guillas. Elegant fine dining.

Nine Ten

B, L, D | \$\$\$

910 Prospect St.
La Jolla 92037
(858) 964-5400
www.nine-ten.com

Located in the Grande Colonial Hotel. Casually elegant dining room and patios overlooking ocean and shopping district. Executive Chef Jason Knibb presents tasty, simple dishes using fresh local ingredients. Pastry Chef Jack Fisher's treats are a perfect complement.

Roppongi Restaurant & Sushi Bar

L, D | \$\$\$

875 Prospect St.
La Jolla 92037
(858) 551-5252
www.roppongiusa.com

Award-winning Executive Chef Stephen Window focuses his travel experiences and training to create a perfect fusion of Asian and Continental cuisine enjoyed in comfortable surroundings made perfect by Oriental art. Sushi lovers will delight in the extensive menu, created fresh and tasty.

Tapenade Restaurant

L, D | \$\$\$

7612 Fay Ave.
La Jolla 92037
(858) 551-7500
www.tapenaderestaurant.com

Chef/Owner Jean Michel Diot creates some of the finest French cuisine this side of Paris, using both traditional family recipes and the exciting experience he gained at Michelin 3-star restaurant.

Restaurants in La Valencia Hotel

B, L, D | \$\$-\$\$\$\$

7612 Fay Ave.
La Jolla 92037
(858) 551-7500
www.lavalencia.com

With its stunning ocean views, La Valencia Hotel has delighted guests for 84 years with comfortable rooms and fine restaurants. Try The Sky Room for elegant evening dining, Lobby Lounge for casual dining all day long and the Whaling Bar for friendly cocktails and excellent California cuisine.

Trattoria Acqua

L, D | \$\$\$

1298 Prospect St.
La Jolla 92037
(858) 454-0709
www.trattoriaacqua.com

Imagine a coastal trattoria in Italy overlooking the ocean, with an ancient courtyard and glorious views. Add divine seafood, meats and pastas and the warm welcome of a family-owned restaurant. Trattoria Acqua is a local favorite.

Whisknadle Bistro & Bar

L, D | \$\$

1044 Wall St.
La Jolla 92037
(858) 551-7575
www.whisknadle.com

Popular Chef Ryan Johnson delights in creating wonderful, unique dishes to delight visitors and locals, who enjoy the patio dining and casual ambiance of the La Jolla scene. Excellent tapas and delightful weekend brunch.

UTC/TORREY PINES

Donovan's Steak & Chop House

L, D | \$\$\$\$

4340 La Jolla Village Drive
La Jolla 92037
(858) 450-6666
www.donovanssteakhouse.com

The finest steaks and chops, superbly prepared, are presented in a dark wood paneled club-like ambiance. Attentive service. Excellent wine list. Popular happy hour. Also located in the Gaslamp.

A.R. Valentien at Lodge at Torrey Pines

B, L, D | \$\$ - \$\$\$\$

11480 N Torrey Pines Road
La Jolla 92037
(858) 777-6635
www.arvalentien.com

Located in The Lodge At Torrey Pines, a five-star hotel, its restaurant offers breakfast, lunch and dinner to guests and visitors. Under the tutelage of Chef Jeff Jackson, menus change continually to feature the best and freshest of local ingredients.

La Jolla Strip Club – A Steak Place

L, D | \$\$

4282 Esplanade Court
San Diego
(858) 450-1400
www.lajollasteak.com

It isn't what you think. Great steaks, chicken and fish prepared the way you like it — because you do it yourself on special indoor grills. It is a unique and enjoyable dining experience. Part of the award-winning Cohn Restaurant Group.

The French Gourmet

B, L, D | \$\$

960 Turquoise St.
San Diego 92109
(858) 488-1725
www.thefrenchgourmet.com

Michel Malecot serves up California-influenced French cuisine in a quaint countryside environment. Remains a long time favorite of locals after three decades.

Truluck's Seafood, Steak & Crab House

D | \$\$\$

8990 University Center Lane
San Diego
(858) 453-2583
www.trulucks.com

Chef Brian Wubbena loves seafood and imparts his passion to his diners with some of the finest fish and shellfish you'll ever taste, all in an elegant upscale setting whose ambiance resonates with the cuisine.

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar

8970 University Center Lane
San Diego
(858) 535-0078
www.flemingssteakhouse.com

Prime steaks, aged to perfection, fresh seafood and decadent desserts go so well with an outstanding wine list and over 100 wine selections by the glass. High temperature ovens sear in the fine flavor of the meats.

DEL MAR/CARMEL VALLEY

Addison

D | \$\$\$\$

5200 Grand Del Mar Way
San Diego
(858) 314-1900
www.addisondelmar.com

The Addison, a five-diamond restaurant in the Grand Del Mar Resort under Chef William Bradley, presents contemporary French cuisine, succulent yet simple, intensely flavorful and seasonal. The setting is gorgeous.

Paradise Grill

L, D | \$\$

2690 Via de la Valle
San Diego 92014
(858) 350-0808
www.paradisegrille.com

Elegant resort-like atmosphere. Heated firepit, dining patio, bar and lounge. Indulge in chef Chris Sayre's California cuisine. Steaks, seafood, burgers, salads and more.

Del Mar Rendezvous

L, D | \$\$

1555 Camino Del Mar #102
San Diego
(858) 755-2669
www.delmarrendezvous.com
Combining traditional Chinese cooking with modern presentation, the restaurant presents Chinese and Asian regional dishes

in lovely surroundings and ocean views.

Market Restaurant & Bar

D | \$\$\$

3702 Via De La Valle
Del Mar
(858) 523-0007
www.marketdelmar.com

Chef Carl Schroeder, who once worked with famed Chef Bradley Ogden, has won numerous awards for his masterful dishes with their bright and fresh flavors, using the finest of seasonal products.

Kitchen 1540

(in LAuberger Del Mar Resort)

B, L, D | \$\$ - \$\$\$

1540 Camino Del Mar
Del Mar
(858) 793-6460
www.laubergedelmar.com

Chef Paul McCabe and his team are famous for their fine, award-winning cuisine in the lovely LAuberger Del Mar Resort featuring farm-to-plate fresh produce, seafood and meats.

2011 SD METRO MOVERS TO WATCH
is coming soon.

Cast your vote at sandiegometro.com
Winners are profiled in our January issue
For info. Call Rebeca Page • 619-906-4104 • rebecapage@sandiegometro.com



Dining with altitude.

*The beauty of the San Diego skyline.
Impeccable service. Innovative cuisine.
Why dine with less?*

Mister A's. The place to B.

*Conveniently located at the corner of 5th and Laurel.
619.239.1377. www.asrestaurant.com*



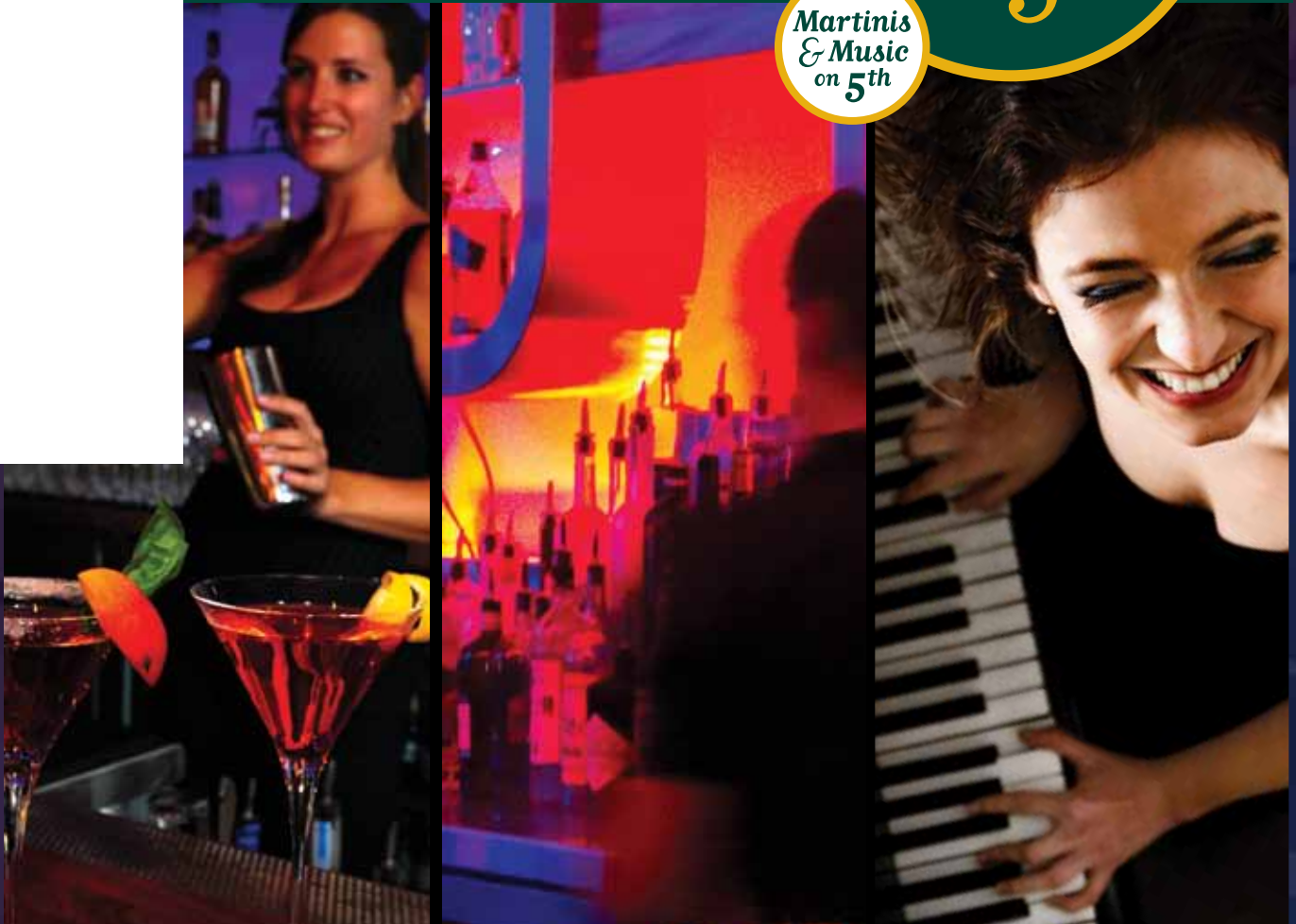
Martinis & Music

PostStd
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 2089
SAN DIEGO, CA

DONOVAN'S

Circle
of 5^{ths}

Martinis
& Music
on 5th



DONOVAN'S newest downtown experience brings live music into the mix. Fresh specialty martinis and an innovative small bites menu add to the classic Donovan's dedication to premium customer service. For business or pleasure, make Circle of 5ths your next Gaslamp destination.

333 5th Ave.
In The Gaslamp
around the corner from

America's Best
DONOVAN'S
STEAK & CHOP HOUSE

619-906-4850
donovanscircle.com

Mon.-Thurs. 4pm -12am
Fri. & Sat. 4pm - late
Closed Sunday
valet parking available