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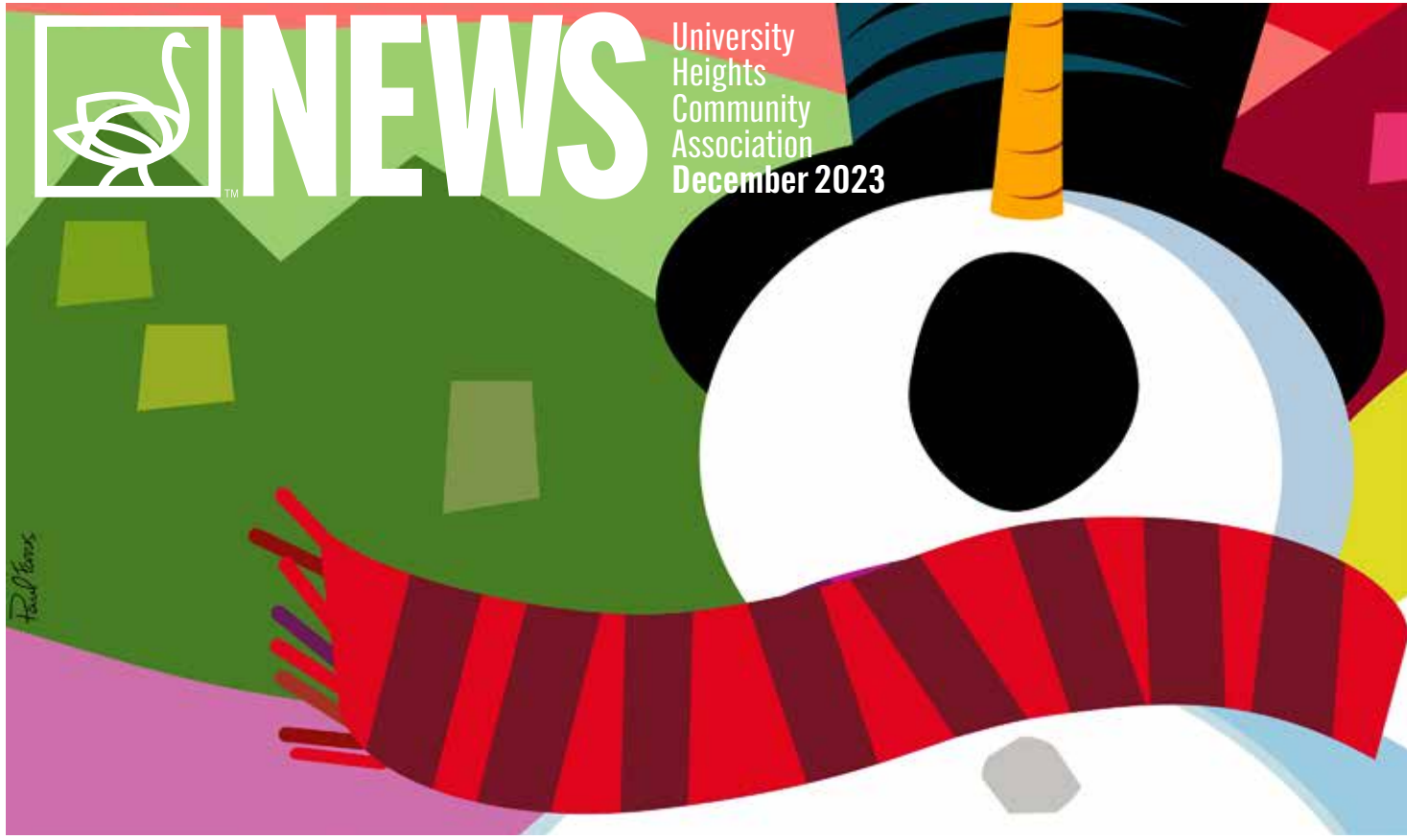
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NEXT UHCA MEETING

# DEC 2 CAROLING HOLIDAY PARTY

5-7pm Big Front Door 4075 Park Blvd.

Get ready for a jolly night of "Caroling in the Heights" with the Rockin Cranberries at BFD. This special event will also be our monthly December meeting. Join us for the delicious food, festive fun, and chances to win delightful raffle prizes! Don't miss out on all the holiday cheer!

## WARNING! THIS COULD GET UGLY



UHCA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## HEY NEIGHBORS!

BY STUART MCGRAW

I wanted to take this opportunity to chat about something near and dear to our hearts: our amazing community. We've seen University Heights grow and thrive, attracting new faces and businesses that add an exciting energy to our neighborhood. We have a golden opportunity to ensure that the heart and soul of our community stays strong amid all this growth.

In the spirit of our growing neighborhood, I'm calling on each and every one of you to join hands in making a positive impact. Whether you're a longtime resident or a fresh face in town, your unique skills and energy can contribute to our shared success. Let's tap into our collective potential and show the world that University Heights is not just a place to live; it's a community that cares.

Volunteering allows us to give back to the community that has given us so much. It's a chance to meet new people, forge lasting friendships, and be a part of something bigger than ourselves. Studies show that volunteering reduces stress, boosts happiness, and even improves physical health. Together, through volunteerism, we can build bridges, break down barriers, and ensure that our community remains a shining example of unity, warmth, and shared purpose.

There are many ways to contribute. Everyone brings different talents to the table, and at UHCA, you are appreciated. Please join the volunteer movement, email me at [volunteer@uhsd.org](mailto:volunteer@uhsd.org), and let's make University Heights the best it can be! Thanks again for supporting our beloved community.



Photo: Andy Lange

## Second fire this year under the Vermont Street bridge.

BY ANDY LANGE

POP. That was the sound heard echoing through our neighborhood just before 9 pm on Sunday, October 22, as another fire broke out under the north end of the Vermont St. Bridge.

Despite the bridge being located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, per [www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov), and a written commitment from the mayor's office to remove chain link fencing installed by the city under the bridge after a similar encampment caught fire in July '22, the fencing was still very much intact when someone moved in and was living under the bridge. However, this tenant truly made themselves at home. They hacked into the electrical wiring powering the acorn street lights across the bridge and installed an electrical outlet to run their microwave oven and an MP3 player! The encampment also had a plywood floor, storage bins, and a propane stove.

Multiple Get-It-Done reports, including photos, were filed and forwarded to Councilmember Whitburn's office weeks before the fire broke out, warning of the EXTREME fire danger from the hacked

Cont' on page 9



Please consider contributing to Alice Birney Elementary School's Giving Tree, donating gift cards ranging from \$5 - \$25 from stores such as Target, Lowe's, Sprouts, Rolph's, or Trader Joe's. Alice Birney staff discreetly include gift cards in packets going to Birney families that need them the most this holiday.

### IT'S EASY TO CONTRIBUTE!

Simply purchase a gift card and drop off at any of these locations:

**UHCA Holiday Party**  
Dec 2, 5-7 pm BFD 4075 Park Blvd

- Mystic Mocha
- Cecilia's Fine Jewelry
- BFD (Big Front Door)
- J.A. Cooley Museum
- Serpentine Cider

### DONATE ON VENMO

Easiest of all. SCAN THE QR CODE.

Pick an amount, \$5 - \$25 or more! (Tag Birney Giving Tree) We will purchase gift cards in your name.



This year's lights in the heights will once again showcase the best of the best! Have your decorations ready by Sunday **Dec 17** at 4pm so our judges can see your creativity shine! Winners will be announced **Dec 20** on social media, receive bragging rights via a certificate, and be featured in the Feb UHCA News issue. Happy holidays and good luck!

## LOOKING AHEAD

# FEB 1 FRANK SANTANA

Are you passionate about nature and sustainability? We're excited to announce our Native Plants Donation Drive, where you can make a difference in your community!

**OUR VISION**

UH is a rare community, a village within the larger city of San Diego. We take pride in our historic past. And for the future envision a new library, a secure and pedestrian-friendly community, considerate growth accompanied by well-planned infrastructure to sustain that development. Additionally, we foresee a remarkable transformation of the Board of Education property, featuring a substantial park to accommodate assured future growth. Our village aims to be renowned for its amicable and unique character, distinctive business community, commitment to canyon preservation, and active citizen participation.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Yearly Membership**

- ( ) Feather – give what you can \$\_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) \$36 Plume (Household)
- ( ) \$120 Golden Ostrich (Household)
- ( ) \$100 Business Plume

**Donor**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Donation for Keeping Up the Good Work (Donate as a member or non-member)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Referred by \_\_\_\_\_  
 NEW  RENEWAL

**NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS**

**GOLDEN OSTRICH**

Nan & Stu McGraw, Marcia & Greg Sorini, Joshua Eckels, David Jesme, *(new member)* Kevin Farinha, Susy & Dave Holts Patti & Peter Roehrs, Jennifer Colosimo, Michael & Suiko Nyman Sharon Ritchie & David Morgan.

**HOUSEHOLD**

Pamela Isaacs, Nancy Grano & Kathleen Shade, Tayde & Marvin Randall, Lee Wahlert & David Machado, Ellen Dodson, Wendy Murphy, Tina & Justin McGlathery, Priscilla & Terry Dickson, Bridget MacConnel & Linda Hotchkiss, Karen Rosen & John Chan, Peggy & Craig Bentley, Taylor Gray.

**FEATHER**

Lee Sherwood



**JOIN, RENEW, DONATE, OR VOLUNTEER TODAY ONLINE AT UHSD.ORG.**

**OR RETURN WITH CHECK BY MAIL: UHCA PO BOX 33032 SAN DIEGO, CA 92163**

**Volunteer Your Time on a UHCA Committee!**

- Beautification & Planning
- Blockwalker/Deliver Papers on your Block
- Marketing / Merchandising
- UHCA News
- Program & Events
- Neighborhood/Zone Watch
- Membership
- More info @uhsd.org/volunteer

**OUR MISSION**

The University Heights Community Association (UHCA), founded in 1983, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, member-supported community association dedicated to improving the quality of life and the sense of community in San Diego's University Heights.

A portion of your membership is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more info, email membership@uhsd.org

**UHCA NEWS**

Published 10 times per year by the University Heights Community Association. We welcome articles, letters, and announcements about issues and events relating to University Heights. Submission deadline is the first of the month. Send submission of articles, announcements etc. to: [news@uhsd.org](mailto:news@uhsd.org) See [www.uhsd.org/submissions](http://www.uhsd.org/submissions) for details.

**EDITORIAL TEAM** Nan McGraw, Lisa Getz, Paul Farris, Stu McGraw

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS** Judith Annicchiarico, Lisa Getz, Kelly Hillock, Andy Lange, Sarah Layne, Nan McGraw, Stu McGraw, Sarah Richardson, Jon Von Erb, and Alexandra Webber.

**ART DIRECTOR** Paul Farris

**PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS** Judith Annicchiarico, Paul Farris, Lisa Getz, Andy Lange Sarah Layne, Weston Riffle.



**UHCA OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT** Stuart McGraw  
**VICE PRESIDENT** Lisa Getz  
**SECRETARY** Nan McGraw  
**TREASURER** Mark Brlej

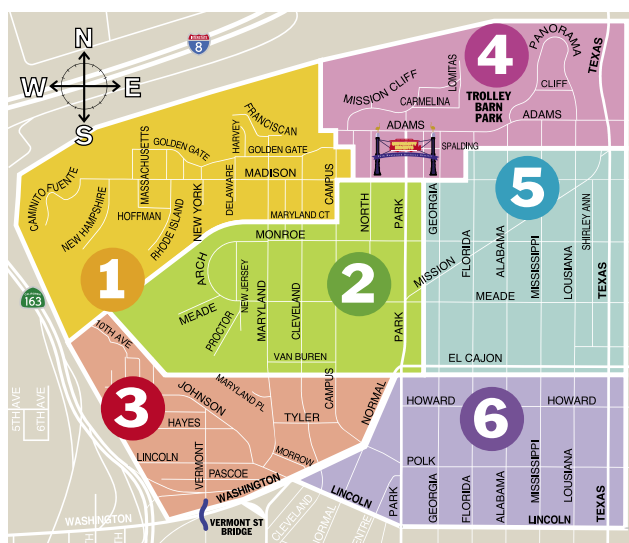


**WEBSITE** [uhsd.org](http://uhsd.org)

**FACEBOOK** @universityheightscommunityassociation

**INSTAGRAM** @universityheights\_sdcommunity

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOUNDARIES AND ZONE WATCH**



- 1 Nan McGraw** nmcsan@aol.com
- 2 Pam Isaacs** pamisaacs1@gmail.com
- 3 Mary Lange** mlangeuhcazone3coordinator@gmail.com
- 4 Heather Wilcox** zone4watchuhca@gmail.com
- 5 Tamara Zyhylij** tamara@tamarezrealestate.com
- 6 Nan McGraw** nmcsan@aol.com



Zone Watch Coordinators manage email lists of participants wishing to receive University Heights crime watch information and updates. Download more on the UH Zone Watch program at [uhsd.org](http://uhsd.org) or contact your zone's coordinator or Nan McGraw.



**CRIME WATCH SIGNS**

There are 60 signs in UH. If you know of a location that could use a sign, or one needing replacing please email [signs@uhsd.org](mailto:signs@uhsd.org).



**SLOW DOWN SIGNS**

Speeding in UH continues to be a problem. Shaving time off by speeding has small benefits and high risks. PLEASE SLOW DOWN!



**FILE A POLICE REPORT ONLINE WITH SDPD**

[tinycurl.com/SDPD-Online-Report](http://tinycurl.com/SDPD-Online-Report)

**UH PHONE BOOK**

- Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical** 911
- Non-Emergency** Suspicious Activity, Homeless Outreach Team, etc. 619-531-2000  
 Online: non-emergency problems: [www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done](http://www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done)
- SD City Services Emergency & Non-Emergency** 619-527-7500  
 Street lights, pot holes, etc.  
 Online: [www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments](http://www.sandiego.gov/city-hall/departments)
- Alert San Diego** readyсандiego.org/alertсандiego/  
 Reverse 911 mobile phone evacuation emergency notifications
- 2-1-1 San Diego** 211 or 858-300-1211  
 Free Resources: CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered California, etc.
- Alice Birney Elementary Office** 619-497-3500
- Brush and Weed Abatement** 619-533-4444
- Code Violations** 619-236-5500
- County Dept of Environmental Health** Public Health / Rats / Rodents 858-694-2888
- Crime Stoppers Tip Line** 888-580-TIPS (8477)
- Downed Power Lines / SDG&E** 800-411-7343
- Domestic Violence Hotline 24/7** 888-385-4657
- Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes** 619-515-3525
- Get-It-Done** sandiego.gov/get-it-done  
 Download this City of San Diego app for reporting all non-emergency problems: abandoned vehicles, code violations, graffiti, over watering, potholes, and dangerous sidewalk issues.
- Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)** 5am - 3pm M - F 619-446-1010

- Narcotics** Suspicious drug house / anonymous 619-531-2468
- People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)** path@epath.org 619-810-8600
- Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP)** 619-692-4945  
 Vacation home / welfare of home-bound check / Homeland Security support
- National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** 988
- SDPD Community Relations Officers:**  
 Officer Michael Hayes mfhayes@pd.sandiego.gov  
 Officer David Surwilo dsurwilo@pd.sandiego.gov
- SDPD Western Division** 5215 Gaines Street 619-692-4800
- Shopping Cart Pick-Up Service** 800-252-4613
- UHCDC** University Heights Community Development Corporation 619-297-3166
- University Heights Public Library** 4193 Park Blvd 619-692-4912
- UH Zone Watch Coordinator** Nan McGraw nmcsan@aol.com 619-260-0668
- Graffiti** In Progress Emergency: 911  
 Report Online: [sandiego.gov/get-it-done](http://sandiego.gov/get-it-done) Graffiti Hotline: 619-527-7500
- SD Vector Control** mosquitoes / ticks / rats 858-694-2888  
 Online: [vector@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:vector@sdcountry.ca.gov)

**If all else fails, email Malik Thornton**  
 ThorntonM@sandiego.gov with Councilmember Stephen Whitburn's office.



**DISASTER CONTACTS**

In a major disaster, have two out-of-area contacts handy. Landlines may not work in power outages. Keep cell phones charged. Call 211 for updated info.

# Happening in the Heights

Fitness, music, and adventure without leaving your zip code.

## Madison Live Jazz

**Tuesday Nite Jazz Series**  
Every Tuesday nite 6:45 pm

**Sunday Nite Latin Jazz**  
with Irving Flores & Kaylee Daugherty  
6-8 pm 4622 Park Blvd.  
madisononpark.com



**Flavors of East Africa**  
**Open Mic Night.** Music. Stand-up. Poetry.  
First and Third Mondays, 7 pm  
2322 El Cajon Blvd  
flavorsofeastafrika.com  
@flavorsofeastafrika



**Mud Lily Clay Studio**  
**Holiday Market. Shop Local and Handmade.**  
Sunday Dec 10, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm  
2888 Adams Avenue  
mudlilyclay.com

## Hsifang Temple

**Fall Meditation Courses**  
Every Saturday, thru - Dec 9,  
2-3 pm \$20 Donation 4536 Park Blvd.

## Serpentine Cider

2311 El Cajon Blvd

**Trivia Tuesday**  
6:30-8:30 pm

**Paint Your Pet!**  
Thu, Dec 15,  
6-9 pm

\$67 per person.  
Includes a glass of cider  
all supplies, and instruction.  
Sign up & info:  
lovejoycreations.com



**Art Form San Diego**  
Creative Reuse Workshops (Grades 2-10)  
and Store.  
2888 Adams Avenue  
Wed, Thur, Fri, 12:30pm - 6:30pm  
Sat, 11am-4pm  
artformsandiego.org



## Park and Rec

Happy Hour Mon - Fri, 4-6pm  
Live DJs and nightly events  
4612 Park Blvd @parkandrecsd

**Make Park Games Again**  
Monday Night Football at Park & Rec!  
Lawn Games all Day!



## Diversionsary Theatre

On Stage:  
**Wally & His Lover Boys**  
Written & Directed by Michael Mizerany  
Dec 8 - 17

**Diversionsary Theatre Clark Cabaret**  
Drinks and live entertainment.  
Wed Sat 5pm to close, Sun 12 - 7pm.

**Nightly Happy Hour**  
5 - 6:30 pm & 10 pm to close.

**Friday Karaoke Night**  
Sign ups start at 9pm. Singing starts  
around 9:15 pm



## OUTDOOR ICE SKATING

Rady Children's Ice Rink Liberty Station  
Thur - Jan 7, 2024 10am - 10pm

Skating by the Sea® Hotel del Coronado  
Thur - Jan 7, 2024 10am - 10pm\*

\*Dec 24 & 25: 10am - 8pm

## Kairoa Brewing Co.

4601 Park Blvd kairoa.com

## Sono Fest 2023

Sun, Dec 3, 11 am - 5 pm  
Fundraiser for McKinley Elementary.  
Chili, live music, arts & crafts, indie goods  
and lots of good vibes.  
sonofestchilicookoff.com



## Further Afield

### December Nights

Balboa Park House of Hospitality  
Fri Dec 1 3pm - 9pm.  
Sat Dec 2 3pm - 9pm.



## Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas!








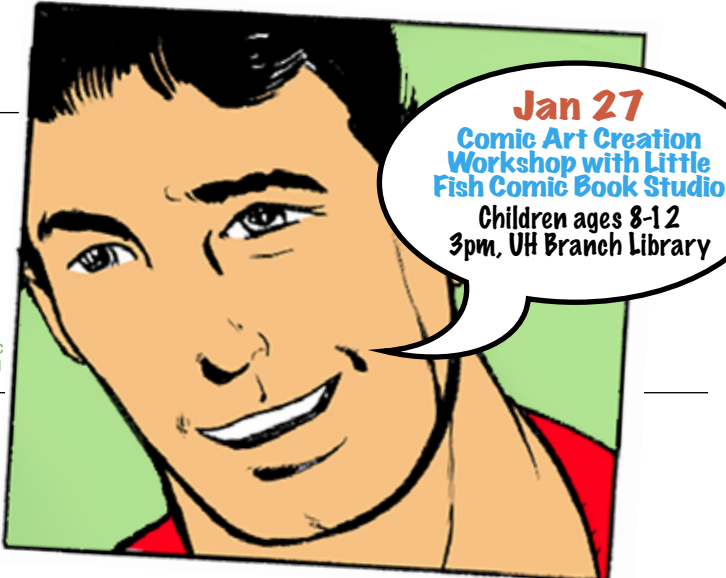


Old Globe Theater  
November 8 - December 31, 2023  
1363 Old Globe Way  
theoldglobe.org

Send submissions for your  
event to: lisagetz@uhsd.org

# Dec 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>31</b> New Years Eve Hillcrest Farmers Market 9am - 2pm <b>2024</b>						<b>2</b> <b>UHCA Holiday Party</b> 5-7pm Big Front Door 4075 Park Blvd <b>Winter Yummyville</b> UH Branch Library 3:30 pm
<b>3</b> Hillcrest Farmers Market 9am - 2pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Uptown Planners</b> 6pm Joyce Beers Center	<b>6</b> <b>UHCA Beautification Committee</b> 6pm uhdsd.org for location <b>UHCDC Meeting</b> 6pm uhcdc.org	<b>7</b> <b>UH Rec Council Meeting</b> 5:30pm Alice Birney Library  	<b>8</b> <b>Hanukkah</b> (1st day)	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Hillcrest Farmers Market 9am - 2pm <b>VERMONT ST. BRIDGE 29th ANNIVERSARY</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Children's Signing Storytime with Miss Jennifer</b> UH Branch Library 12:30 pm	<b>12</b> <b>Friends of UH Library</b> 6pm Via Zoom: https://06web.zoom.us/j/5100631733	<b>13</b> <b>Baby &amp; Toddler Storytime</b> 10am UH Branch Library 	<b>14</b>  	<b>15</b> <b>Last night of Hanukkah</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Friends of the Library Book Sale</b> 9am-3pm UH Branch Library
<b>17</b> <b>Farmers Market</b> 9am - 2pm <b>Friends of the Library Book Sale</b> 12-3pm UH Library <b>Lights in the Heights Judging 4pm</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>North Park Planning Committee</b> 6:30pm NP Christian Fellowship, 2901 North Park Way <b>Children's Storytime &amp; Craft with Miss Helene</b> 6pm UH Branch Library	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Solstice</b> 	<b>22</b>  	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>Hillcrest Farmers Market</b> 9am - 2pm UH Branch Library Closed Dec 24-25	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Kwanzaa</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

# Jan 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> New Years Day 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Baby & Toddler Storytime 10 am UH Branch Library UHCDC Meeting 6 pm uhcdc.org UHCA Beautification Committee 6 pm uhsd.org for location	<b>4</b> UH Rec Council Meeting  	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> UHCA Holiday Party 5-7pm Big Front Door 4075 Park Blvd
<b>7</b> Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Children's Storytime & Craft with Miss Helene 6 pm UH Branch Library	<b>10</b> UHCA Beautification Meeting 6 pm Joyce Beers Center	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Hanukkah (1st day)	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	 <b>15</b> Martin Luther King Day Library Closed	<b>16</b> Kamishibai Family Storytime UH Library 6pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Friends of the Library Book Sale 9am-3pm UH Branch Library
<b>17</b> Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm Friends of the Library Book Sale 12-3pm UH Library	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> North Park Planning Committee 6:30 pm NP Christian Fellowship, 2901 North Park Way	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>21</b> Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  		
<b>28</b> Hillcrest Farmers Market 9 am - 2 pm	<b>29</b> Children's Signing Storytime with Miss Jennifer UH Branch Library 12:30pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	 		

## PLUME JUDY RIFFLE

For over 16 years, Judy Riffle has been the driving force behind the vibrant cultural landscape emerging of University Heights, especially through her remarkable dedication in organizing the annual UH Arts Open and Taste of University Heights.

Judy is a founding member of the UH Arts Association which promotes artists in UH. In collaboration with the University Heights Community Development Corporation, Judy has transformed our area into a hub of creativity and community, bringing together local artists, businesses, and residents in celebration of culinary and artistic expression.



Weston Riffle, 4 cups from there, Oil on Canvas, 40x30

This year's event featured a dazzling array of art hosted by 21 participating restaurants and businesses.

On behalf of the residents of University Heights, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Judy for her tireless efforts which have inspired a tapestry of art, culture, and cuisine throughout University Heights.

## Marigold Flower Bizarre

BY ALEXANDRA WEBBER



UHCA and Birney Parents collaborated to raise just over \$1,100.00 for Alice Birney Elementary School, which will directly support the "Specials" curriculum. At Birney, students participate in art, music, library, garden, and Spanish language classes, collectively known as "Specials." It's important to note that these classes are not funded by the San Diego Unified School District.

Students at Birney thoroughly enjoy the content of their Specials classes and the

time spent with their Specials teachers. Additionally, classroom teachers benefit from this arrangement as it provides them with extra, student-free time during the work week to enhance their preparations and attend to administrative tasks. This framework helps prevent burnout for both teachers and students.

Local graphic designer Paul Farris designed the captivating graphics that caught our attention, celebrating Día de los Muertos, highlighting the beauty of marigolds and reminding us of the vibrant community we live in. A special thank you goes to Paul, the Birney Parents, and Neighbors who generously donated their time to set up and manage the BAZAAR, as well as to everyone who purchased MARIGOLDS!



# Cheers to 40 years!

BY SARAH RICHARDSON



Photos: Sarah Richardson

Cheers Bar, located at 1839 Adams Avenue, is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. A special celebration was held on October 21st, where we had the opportunity to express our gratitude to our old and

new friends, whom we fondly refer to as our “Cheers Family.”

Cheers was originally established in 1983 at its current location. The Cheers Bar building and business have a unique and rich history dating back to as early as 1913 when it served as a hardware and general store for trolley engineers and passengers. At that time, the Adams Trolley Barn and Harvey Bentley’s Ostrich Farm were located across the street from Cheers, which is now known as Trolley Barn Park.

Cheers Bar also has an interesting historic connection with the community. The original owner of Cheers previously owned Diablos, a famous gay dance club located on El Cajon Blvd (near Texas St) in the 1970s. We take pride in still having and displaying the original neon Diablo sign at Cheers.

Today, Cheers is owned by the Richardson family, who have been University Heights residents since the early 70s. The Richardson family consists of three generations of UH residents. James Richardson and his daughter, Sarah Richardson, live nearby and appreciate the richness, diversity, and camaraderie of the community.

Cheers is a casual and friendly neighborhood bar with a pool table, jukebox, patio, and a variety of cocktails. The Richardson’s vision has always been and remains... “Open Hearts and Open Minds.”

We deeply value our Cheers family and friends and are proud to be a symbolic part of the UH community.

During the holidays, we host special celebrations, offer drink specials, and have unique gifts available, including gift certificates, t-shirts, hats, and flags. Feel free to stop by and say hello!

## SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS



Assorted Microgreens

Italian Cypress

Noble Fir

# Holiday Gifts that Keep on Giving

BY JUDITH ANNICCHIARICO

We sure generate a lot of garbage over the holidays!

We all diligently stuff our offcast packaging into our blue bins every week, which is a great habit. The cardboard, glass, aluminum, paper, and plastic we send to Miramar recycling does help keep some waste out of our landfills and some plastic out of the rest of our ecosystems, but it’s actually the very least we can do.

Keeping plastic out of our soil and waterways is vital, but stopping climate change is even more important, and one of the main ways we can help do that is via our green bins. If we’re not sending our organic waste to be composted, we’re sending it to the landfill where it generates greenhouse gas emissions, thereby failing our future selves and those young ones around us who count on the grownups to do the right thing.

Besides role modeling climate-friendly green bin habits, the holidays are a great time to go green in other ways. A couple of great gift projects that can be worked on solo or with friends and family include decorating a potted tree and creating “grow-your-own-microgreens” kits.

Local nurseries and big box stores sell all sizes of potted trees that can be decorated with homemade ornaments and gifted to friends and family, with an offer to plant the tree in the ground after the holidays, if

desired and possible. The giftee and gifters can enjoy watching the tree grow, if even for just a few years, as it brings back fond memories of fun holiday gatherings.

For the culinarily inclined, growing your own microgreens at home (instead of purchasing them in plastic clamshell packaging at the store) is an excellent, inexpensive practice that can also be turned into a gift. Create a “grow-your-own-microgreens” kit for holiday giving, and include a favorite sandwich or salad recipe featuring the finished product. Growing microgreens on the kitchen table or a windowsill is an almost-instant gratification project that results in super nutritious leafy greens that are easy to eat for young and old alike.

Of course, potted tree or microgreens scraps need to go in the green bin. Same with the sweet potato peels, turkey carcasses, floral centerpieces, used popcorn cranberry garlands, and any other compostable detritus our holiday celebrations generate. Correction: make that compostable detritus from every day of the week, all year long. That’s the gift that really keeps on giving.

Happy holidays!

[www.mastergardenersd.org/growing-microgreens/](http://www.mastergardenersd.org/growing-microgreens/)

[www.instructables.com/how-to-make-cinnamon-ornaments/](http://www.instructables.com/how-to-make-cinnamon-ornaments/)



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# Savoring the Heights! 16th Annual UH Artists' Creative & Culinary Celebration

BY KELLY HILLOCK



As many as 300 people strolled through University Heights, sampling delicious bites and visiting artists at the 16th annual Taste of University Heights and Arts Open. With over 15 restaurants located from University to Adams, attendees took advantage of the free shuttle — courtesy of the University Heights Community Association and Pemberley Realty to maximize their time sampling delicacies and marveling at art.

More than 20 local businesses participated, offering favorites such as vegetarian yellow curry at Plumeria or the avocado highway at BFD. Those who made it up to Rusticucina delighted in a taste of their handmade pasta tossed in a cheese wheel.

Five artists held open studios, allowing attendees to get a glimpse inside the artistic process. Serpentine Cider, Les-

tat's On Park, and Cecilia's Fine Jewelry, among others, showcased artists, and guests enjoyed art while sampling a sip of cold brew or a tasty treat. Music from Fast Heart Mart serenaded guests at Original Skin and Body Care as they roamed Park Boulevard.

For residents like Paige Kobdich-Raney, the event is a highlight of the season.

## “I look forward to the UH Taste every year!”

There's so much to enjoy in our neighborhood, and I love visiting my favorite, usual spots while getting to explore and try new ones, too.”

Friendly neighbors, delicious restaurants, and dedicated volunteers all made for a memorable event in our vibrant community.

# Norbert the Friendly Dragon: A Magical Highlight of Halloween on Maryland St.

BY LISA GETZ



Maryland Street's annual Halloween extravaganza has become a legendary event, drawing a massive crowd of 3,000 to 5,000 enthusiastic participants year after year, and it's all thanks to the visionary efforts of Andy Cameron. This epic celebration has transcended mere tradition and transformed into a must-attend spectacle. What began as a modest neighborhood gathering has evolved into a true community sensation, captivating locals and visitors alike.

Andy Cameron's dedication and creativity have been instrumental in turning Halloween on Maryland Street into a



Theatrical Lighting Designer Andy Cameron

jaw-dropping experience. Elaborate decorations, intricate costumes, and thrilling activities have all played a role in establishing this event as a hallmark of the holiday season. With an unyielding passion for Halloween, Andy has managed to unite people from all walks of life, creating a real sense of unity and camaraderie that goes beyond the spooky festivities.

Each year, participants eagerly anticipate the next edition of Halloween on Maryland Street, knowing they are in for an unforgettable night of frightful fun and unforgettable memories, all thanks to the tireless work of Andy Cameron.

# Vermont Street Bridge Celebrates 29 years

BY NAN MCGRAW



Vermont St. Bridge circa 1976

**1917** The first bridge connecting Hillcrest to University Heights was built following the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park. The wooden trestle bridge shortened the walk between the residences in the two neighborhoods and access to the streetcar lines running along University Avenue and Park Blvd.

**1952** Sears Roebuck and Company during construction south of the bridge in 1952. Opening in 1953, Sears was one of the first stores to abandon downtown, thriving in uptown until being eclipsed by the malls in Mission Valley a decade later.

**1978-94** Deemed unsafe, the rotting trestle bridge closed in November 1978 and demolished in the spring in 1979



leaving UH without a bridge for the next 15 years. Before its closure the city estimated that at over 400 people used the bridge daily. The Sears building was razed in 1988. Various uses for the 14 acre site were proposed including the new San Diego Central Library. Transformed into an infill, mixed-use mall, the Uptown District opened in 1989. Sold for 81.1 million in 2012, the complex was renamed the HUB in 2015 after a 3 million facelift.

**1994-2023** UHCA led a 15 year fight to have the bridge rebuilt, tirelessly lobbying city and state officials for help. Although funding was a problem and a battle ensued over rebuilding it, the present modern steel bridge was opened in December 1994. Local residents concerned about original proposals by CalTrans played a major role in shaping the design. City engineers hired the firm Stone Paper Scissors to develop what became one of the largest public art installations in California. Artists Lynn Sholtz, Aida Mancillas, and Gwen Gomez created 32 laser-cut panels that include pictographs and quotations about everyday life. Each holiday season, UHCA volunteers decorate and light the bridge with over 5,000 lights.

# Fab at Forty Celebrating Four Decades of University Heights Community Association Triumphs

BY NAN MCGRAW

UH residents Janice and Eric DuVall founded the University Heights Community Association (UHCA) in the winter of 1983, initially driven by the desire to halt the development of a proposed high-density apartment complex at the present location of Old Trolley Barn Park. They believed this site would be better suited as a community park. The inaugural UHCA meeting in January 1984 drew nearly 200 interested citizens, sparking a grassroots movement urging the City Council to acquire the land for a neighborhood park. This effort led to the completion of Old Trolley Barn Park in April 1991.



Proposed 150 unit apartment complex on site of current Trolley Barn Park.

UHCA went on to establish the University Heights Community Development Corporation (UHCDC) to serve as the



funding arm for future projects, resulting in various achievements. Among them was the revitalization of Park Boulevard, involving new street lighting, trees, and sidewalks, culminating in a lighted street sign identifying the University Heights Business District. Another notable accomplishment was the replacement of the Vermont Street Bridge, fostering connectivity among communities and neighbors. Perhaps most noteworthy is the ongoing circulation of over 4,500 newspapers by 65+ volunteer blockwalkers for ten months each year.

UHCA also implemented a sophisticated crime watch system, Zone Watch, connecting neighbors via email regarding crime statistics and other neighborhood concerns. The association's mission is to unite members and effectively communicate with the City's elected officials. UHCA aims to preserve the integrity and history of its neighborhoods, plan for the future, ensure a safe environment for residents and businesses, and enhance the overall quality of life in the community — all while having a bit of fun.

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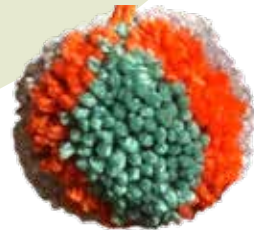
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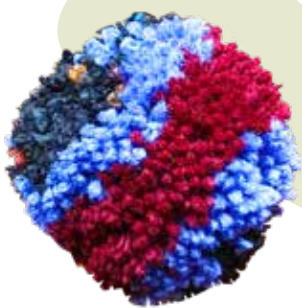
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# ROO NEWS



## There is a lot going on at Roosevelt Middle School this time of year!

BY ALEXANDRA WEBBER

**Big Grant Received.** Roo received a grant from Magnet Schools Assistance Program. The funds will promote Visual Media Arts in the existing IB Curriculum.

**Fall Festival.** Roo celebrated the arrival of Fall with the annual Fall Festival back on October 28, 2023. The students in the Associated Student Body class, with the ASB teacher, Mr. Fowler, created an amazing festival with games and food. The Fall Festival is an after-school tradition at Roosevelt.

**Music.** There will be a Roosevelt Winter Concert on December 6, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. at the school Auditorium. There will be a Fiddle Concert on November 17, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. at Clairemont High School. The San Diego Symphony and La Jolla Music Society donated free tickets to Roosevelt students to see Mao Fujita on November 19, 2023, at 3:00 P.M.

**Art.** Students are invited to submit original art related to “Teddy” (Roosevelt) Bears. The submissions are due by November 17, 2023. The winner will be announced over the Thanksgiving weekend and the winning art will appear in the yearbook. Ms. Lavelle is the point

of contact for submissions and can be reached by email (llavelle@sandi.net).

**Upcoming Fundraisers.** If you want to give a few hours of your time, you can participate in the Roosevelt Parking fundraisers that happen over weekends. The next opportunity is RooFriends’ most profitable fundraiser, Balboa Park’s December Nights which has the potential earning power of OVER \$20,000 ... but ONLY with the volunteer spirit of RMS Families & Friends, Students & Staff.

We can’t do this alone ... and neither should you! Please sign-up with family and friends. Represent your favorite RMS activity / organization and earn funds specifically for them. Sign-up link at:



# BIRNEY BUZZ



The Fall Harvest Festival was enjoyed by Birney students, families, and community members.

The University Heights Fall Harvest Festival, co-sponsored by the Birney Beekeeper Alliance and the University Heights Garden Club, was a smashing success. Birney families thoroughly enjoyed the festivities, which took place on the Alice Birney Joint-Use Field. Several activities, such as the bouncy houses and Dia de Los Muertos mask making, were free. Other activities, such as a petting zoo, flower crown crafting, and games with prizes, cost a nominal fee, and the proceeds went to support Birney Elementary. Third grader Sol L said her favorite parts of the festival were winning prizes “like the stuffed animals from the pumpkin bowling and the soccer.”

In other news, Birney’s annual Big Give, a one-day online community-wide pledge drive, is on December 7th this year. Big Give is one of the Birney Beekeeper Alliance fundraising campaigns that support Birney’s IB program, including their Specials Classes – garden, Spanish, art, and dance – and opportunities like field trips and assemblies.

Last year’s Big Give raised \$33,000, with around \$8,000 coming from the commu-

nity. Due to increasing costs, this year the Birney Beekeeper Alliance’s goal is set for \$40,000 and is hoping to increase community and business participation.

One such business that supports Birney in numerous ways is Mary Anne Stevens & Anastasia Brewer with Coldwell Banker Realty. Mary Anne and Anastasia are annual contributors to Big Give and were most recently sponsors of the Fall Harvest Festival. Mary Anne, who has lived in University Heights since 1984, says, “The success of a community is based on many things, but a well-functioning/highly respected school in the community is very high on the list. I read somewhere that ‘schools are essential for community involvement.’ I believe this to be very true. The more businesses and schools do things together, the more vibrant the community becomes, which equates to success for everyone.”

If you’d like to support Birney through the Big Give, please email [info@friendsofalicebirney.org](mailto:info@friendsofalicebirney.org).

*Sarah Layne, Proud Birney Parent and University Heights Community Member*

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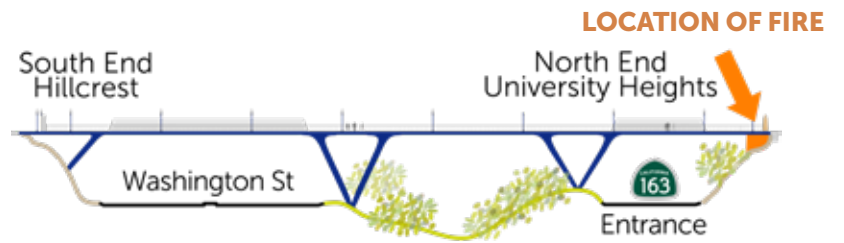
# CONGRATULATIONS ERIN WILSON

“I just celebrated my 35th anniversary with the library! It’s a pleasure to meet new community members, so my goal in 2024 is to meet more of our neighbors. Help me realize my goal and introduce yourself when you stop by the library!”

–Erin Wilson, Library Assistant II  
University Heights Library  
San Diego Public Library  
619-692-4912



Monday – Tuesday 11:30 am – 8 pm  
Wednesday – Saturday 9:30 am – 6 pm  
619-692-4912 /- UH Staff@sandiego.gov.



## Bridge fire from Page 1

electrical wiring. There was never any acknowledgment from Whitburn's office until after the fire, when, on October 24th, Malik Thornton, a Community Rep, finally responded, "Our office is working with the Mayor's Office and Caltrans to find a solution to this issue. I will get back to you with an update when I have one."

Within days of being notified that the lights were out on the bridge, a repair crew repaired the wiring. Kudos to those who made that happen so quickly! However, as of the writing of this article, the

several long-time burned-out bulbs have yet to be replaced.

On October 31st, just over a week after the fire under the bridge erupted, another fire broke out around 9:00 p.m. in the canyon at the end of Hayes, a few blocks from the Vermont St. Bridge. Due to the fortunate and early sighting by several neighbors, the fire, during dry Santa Ana conditions, was contained before any property damage occurred.

The fire is believed to have been started in an encampment overlooking the 163.

## A MERRY CHRISTMAS FOR ALL

This 2023 Christmas season greets Americans with a chance to open our souls and hearts to a new start. Let the silver of tinsel tickle our memories of past seasons filled with joy and love for one another.

This season is the perfect time to reunite in the harmony of solidarity. As we trim our trees, light our menorahs, we thank our ancestors for the wisdom they have shared. Let us unwrap the gifts of re-adopted principals and those of love and fellowship. They have made us strong, celebrating how great we have become united since our humble beginnings.

Let the 2024 New Year be celebrated with smiles, hand shakes filled with compassion and kisses with renewed understanding of togetherness for the brightest year ever.

–Jon Von Erb

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# Join Our Native Plant Donation Drive

BY FRANK SANTANA

The UHCA Beautification team is seeking your financial support to purchase native plants for our neighborhood. Native plants help sustain birds and insects while adding beauty to our streets. These plants will be installed along Meade Avenue, adjacent to the Birney joint-use field.

If you are interested in sponsoring a plant or two at \$15 each, please contact [info@uhsd.org](mailto:info@uhsd.org). If you prefer to donate your time and energy, please join us March 9, 8-11 AM during regularly scheduled mini cleanup event at Meade and Park Blvd.



Epilobium canum (California Fuchsia)

BY DONATING NATIVE PLANTS YOU'RE HELPING US CREATE A THRIVING HABITAT RIGHT HERE IN OUR OWN BACKYARD.

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# Sugar Rush:

Unwrapping the UHCA Candy Crawl Extravaganza!

BY LISA GETZ

The UHCA Candy Crawl on Saturday, October 28th, from 11 am to 1 pm was an absolute blast! It brought together neighborhood families and local businesses in the most delightful way. Kids and parents donned creative costumes, and the streets were filled with laughter and excitement.



The sheer joy on the faces of the little trick-or-treaters as they collected candy was heartwarming. It was an opportunity for the neighborhood to connect and create lasting memories. From spooky decorations to friendly conversations, the atmosphere was electric with a sense of community. The UHCA Candy Crawl proved once again that there's nothing quite like coming together for a fun, festive event right in our neighborhood.



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- Borrelli Design 4411 Park Blvd
- Aspenleaf 1730 Monroe Ave
- Meraki 1735 Adams Ave



# PET OF THE MONTH TOSHI

Toshi is a Japanese name that means unusually talented, large, and/or handsome. He's also a name you've likely heard being called out around the neighborhood by his many friends and admirers. Born on October 25, 2021, Toshi is a mix of 50% Akita, 38% Siberian Husky, 6% Alaskan Malamute, and 6% German Shepherd, all adding up to a remarkable companion who lives up to his name.



An intelligent, gentle giant who sees the world as a new friend waiting to happen, he's always eager to try to win over every dog he sees. The only thing that matches his excitement for his fellow four-legged friends is tiny humans; he loves kids. When not busy sleeping indoors, you'll usually find him out on his balcony watching the street, at a local park, or stubbornly planted on a sidewalk trying to direct the walk where he wants to go.

Instagram: @come\_on\_toshi



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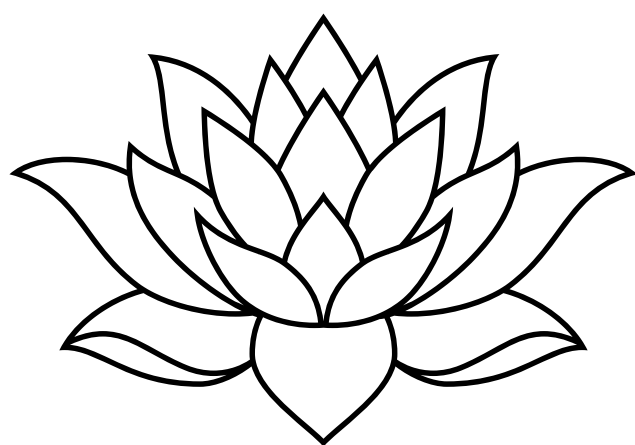


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# Happy Holidays!

We hope your holidays are filled with warmth, peace, and joy. Wishing you and your family a very happy holiday season. All the best to you in 2024!



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