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# NEWS

University Heights Community Association  
November 2023

## UH ARTS OPEN & TASTE OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

### Enhancing Pedestrian Safety: UHCA Community Meeting Results

At the September 7 University Heights Community Association (UHCA) meeting, residents and community members convened to address the pressing concern of pedestrian safety. This gathering generated a multitude of ideas and suggestions aimed at improving pedestrian infrastructure within the neighborhood, focusing on eight of the most problematic intersections. Below are the key takeaways from the workshop:

#### Mission Ave

Residents emphasized the necessity for enhanced safety along Mission Ave. Several suggestions received support, including the installation of stop signs at Mission and Florida, Monroe and Mississippi, and the creation of a traffic circle at Mission and Mississippi.

#### Madison Ave

also served as a focal point for pedestrian safety enhancements. Proposed improvements encompassed improved lighting at intersections along the **Cleveland Maryland** Campus from Madison to Washington, the introduction of speed bumps between **Maryland and Park**, and the consideration of stop signs, speed bumps/tables along Cleveland Maryland Campus, and stop signs on Madison west of Maryland. Furthermore, participants expressed interest in additional roundabouts and advocated for improved crosswalk safety at **Madison and Mississippi**.

#### Lincoln Ave

Residents voiced concerns about traffic backups due to the 163 on-ramp and recommended measures such as removing parking near Great Maple, extending pedestrian crossing times, and introducing a roundabout at **Maryland and Lincoln**. Additionally, the installation of a speed hump at **Lincoln and Johnson** was suggested.

Participants explored the potential construction of a roundabout at **Adams and Alabama**. Other ideas were also considered, including the addition of speed humps at Adams and OTBP. *Cont' on page 7*

### UH Arts Open and Taste of University Heights

#### Sunday Nov 12

marks the 16th annual UH Arts Open and Taste of University Heights.

Sample delicacies from our diverse restaurants and enjoy a free self-guided tour of the arts. Free shuttle to artist studios, restaurants and venues sponsored by the UHCA and Pemberly Realty. Purchase tickets online before they sell out: [UHCDC.org](http://UHCDC.org)

### End of an Era for Twiggs Coffeehouse



After more than 30 years in business, Twiggs Coffee abruptly shuttered its two San Diego locations on Tuesday, Oct 10.

"Lindy and Angela have worked at Twiggs for years and been amazing to our community," reads the GoFundMe page made to raise funds and awareness. "Their energy and light has touched us all. They were abruptly fired this morning and told Twiggs would close in 2 days. That's all the notice they received. This isn't okay. Please help raise some money so they'll have something while they search for new employment."

Twiggs Coffee was opened on Park Boulevard in University Heights in 1992 by composer and arranger Michael Roth and his wife, artist Jill Moon. After 5 years of running the business, Michael and Jill wanted to pursue other interests, so they sold the coffeehouse in 1997 to Dan Stringfield and Bernie Horan. The cafe eventually opened a commercial bakery about a half a block away, which they soon outgrew. In 2008, they launched a new cafe and bakery space on Adams Avenue sited at the western end of "Antique Row." In March 2022, Adrian Arancibia and his wife Delia completed a nearly 10-month-long process becoming the new owners of the two locations of Twiggs.

"We would love to continue investing in this community institution, but buying Twiggs was in fact a labor of love," explained Arancibia, who wrote an Op-Ed on San Diego's economic situation for the Union Tribune back in July. "My children grew up eating our pastries and drinking our steamers. I wrote my dissertation there. Unfortunately, the economy, especially in San Diego, has not been kind to small business. From

*Cont' on page 7*

Next UHCA Meeting

### Nov 2 Redevelopment of the Board of Ed Property

6:45pm 4345 Campus Ave.

Please join us for this golden opportunity, to discuss the future of our library, and a new park for UH.

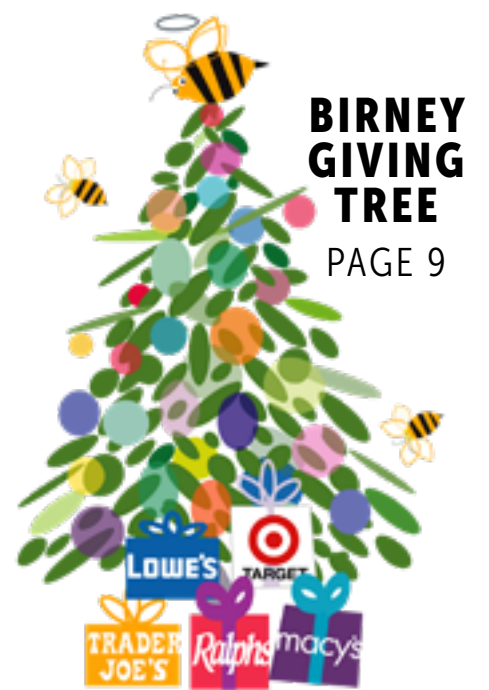


### LOOKING AHEAD

## Dec 2

### UHCA Holiday Party

Please join us for special night of singing, food, and fun for the holidays at BFD, **Big Front Door**, 4075 Park Blvd, 5-7pm. Sing along with the **Rockin' Cranberries** as we ring in the holiday season. Raffle Prizes. Snacks, Cookies, Treats and good cheer all around!



OUR VISION

UH is a community, a village within the larger city of San Diego. We pride ourselves on our historic past with a vision for the future. The future will hold a new library, a safe and walkable community, thoughtful growth, infrastructure to support that growth and a stunning development of the Board of Education property including a substantial park to support future growth. Our village will be known for its friendly neighborhoods, unique business community, care for its canyons, and citizen involvement.

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

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 See www.uhsd.org/submissions for details.

EDITORIAL TEAM Nan McGraw, Lisa Getz, Paul Farris, Stu McGraw
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Judith Annicchiarico, Ashlee Baker, Lisa Getz, Peggy Goings, Helene Idels, Pam Isaacs, Sherrill Joseph, Marc Johnson, Sarah Layne, Nan McGraw, Stu McGraw, Marc Johnson, Sarah Layne, Melinda Pajak, and Jon Von Erb.



ART DIRECTOR Paul Farris

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOUNDARIES AND ZONE WATCH



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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 or contact your zone's coordinator or Nan McGraw.

UH PHONE BOOK

Emergency • Police • Fire • Medical 911
Non-Emergency Suspicious Activity, Homeless Outreach Team, etc. 619-531-2000
SD City Services Emergency & Non-Emergency 619-527-7500
Alert San Diego readyсандiego.org/alertсандiego/
2-1-1 San Diego 211 or 858-300-1211
Alice Birney Elementary Office 619-497-3500
Brush and Weed Abatement 619-533-4444
Code Violations 619-236-5500
County Dept of Environmental Health 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
Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) 5am - 3pm M - F 619-446-1010

211 or 858-300-1211
619-497-3500
619-533-4444
619-236-5500
858-694-2888
888-580-TIPS (8477)
800-411-7343
888-385-4657
619-515-3525
sandiego.gov/get-it-done
619-446-1010

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

GOLDEN OSTRICH
Theresa Friederich & Wayne Takasugi, Milton & Judy Cross

HOUSEHOLD
Joshua Oderlin & Nancy Lents, Michael Galarneau
David Almada & Art Deighan
Anne Feingold



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
• Neighborhood/Zone Watch
• Program & Events
• 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.

UHCA OFFICERS

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

WEBSITE uhsd.org

FACEBOOK @universityheightscommunityassociation

INSTAGRAM @universityheights\_sdcommunity



Happening in the Heights

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

Madison Live Jazz
Tuesday Nite Jazz Series
Sunday Nite Latin Jazz



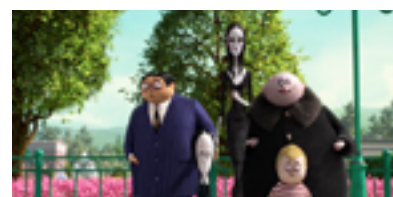
Hsifang Temple
Fall Meditation Courses
Serpentine Cider



Paint Your Pet!
Thu, Nov 16, 6-9 pm
\$67 per person.

Nov 2023

Calendar table with columns for SUNDAY through SATURDAY and rows for dates 1-30. Includes events like Native American Heritage Month, Election Day, Thanksgiving, and various library programs.



Park and Rec
Happy Hour Mon - Fri, 4-6pm
Live DJs and nightly events

Dia De Los Muertos ofrenda/altar set-up 10/30-11/2, for those celebrating
'Movies in the Park' Wednesdays

Diversory Theatre
On Stage: The Glass Menagerie
Diversory Theatre Clark Cabaret
Nightly Happy Hour



Collins & Coupe
Cocktail Class
Celebrating Our 6 Year Anniversary

Kairoa Brewing Co.

4601 Park Blvd kairoa.com
Throwback Nineties Trivia
\$5 Let's see how much you remember about the 90's!

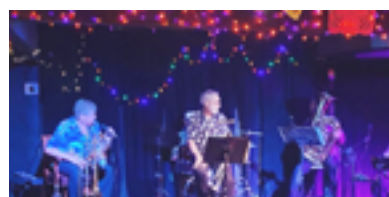


Sip & Style
A Circular Fashion Event
\$45 - \$65 (Earlybird - Last Minute)

Morning Rooftop Yoga with Ash
By Tennessee Williams
Diversory Theatre Clark Cabaret

Further Afield

San Diego Jazz Fest Swing Extravaganza
Town & Country Convention Center



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

# Jazz San Diego

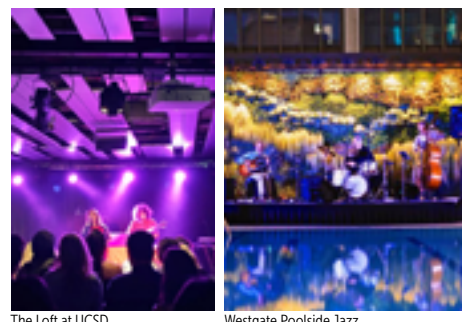
BY DEBORAH WELSCH-MORRISON



Robert Dove and Gilbert Castellanos onstage at Seven Grand.



Seven Grand San Diego



The Loft at UCSD



Negociant Winery

Jazz music engages us emotionally and brings joy to our souls. Its roots started as a uniquely American sound. It was born from a melting pot of cultures in the south with its blend of New Orleans Creole culture and African traditions.

When you think of Jazz, New Orleans, New York, and Chicago come to mind.

But did you know Jazz is alive in our own San Diego backyard?

There are many different types and styles of jazz music which include the Dixieland Jazz style of Louis Armstrong and Big Band Jazz (mainstream jazz), which some may argue, is the most impressive in all of jazz history. There is also Bebop, Gypsy Jazz, Hard Bop, Latin Jazz, Modern, Free and Fusion Jazz, and Cool Jazz. Whatever your jazz choice, there is a chance you can find it here in San Diego.

In my search for live music, I found Negociant, a little place at 1263 University Avenue featuring a live band every Thursday night with a Sunday Jazz Brunch. negociantwinery.com

I also found the talented Gilbert Castellanos who performs with the Young Lions Series. The group appears at Balboa Park's Panama 66 restaurant as well as other venues throughout San Diego. www.ylic.org.

I highly recommend attending the entertaining San Diego Jazz Party event held annually at the Del Mar Hilton, February 23-25, 2024. This is a must-attend event for any jazz enthusiast who enjoys Mainstream Jazz. Check out their website for more information. www.sdj.org

I am looking forward to discovering other venues such as:

**Seven Grand** sevengrandsd.com  
3054 University Avenue

**Prohibition Liquor** prohibitionsd.com  
548 5th Avenue in the Gaslamp

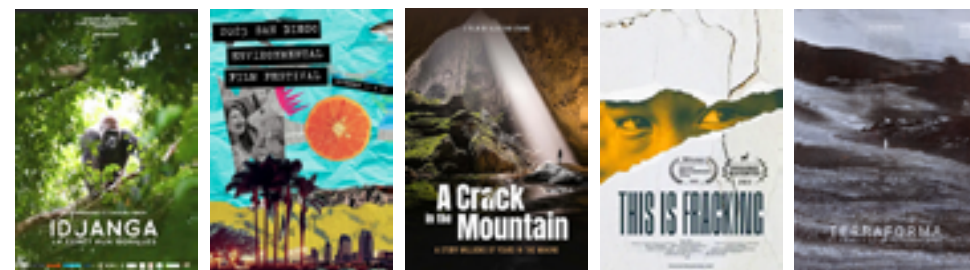
**Westgate Hotel** westgatehotel.com  
1055 2nd Avenue at Broadway

**The Loft at UCSD** theloft.ucsd.edu  
9500 Gilman Drive, Dept. 77

Check all their websites for details.

I hope you will discover the joy of jazz as you find places to enjoy it in San Diego.

## SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS



### The San Diego Environmental Film Festival Is Back!

BY JUDITH ANNICCHIARICO

Inspiring members of our huge and diverse Southern California region to work with others in supporting and healing our environment is not always easy. "What if it all starts with a good story at the movies?"

That question galvanized a group of policy analysts, scientists, and academic researchers who launched the San Diego Environmental Film Festival last year. The 2nd annual event returns to UCSD on November 18 with new films and a mission to turn inspiration into action.

Caroline Hobbs, a key mover and shaker responsible for organizing the SDEFF, happens to be one of our many excellent University Heights neighbors. Caroline's "day job" as an analyst and researcher for the Port of San Diego, as well as her experience directing the Environmental Film Festival at Yale while she earned a Master's degree at the Yale School of the Environment, led her to team up with a diverse group of San Diego area leaders to launch the SDEFF, which was accomplished quite rapidly last year thanks to the group's hard work and expertise, plus a donated venue at UCSD.

To achieve their mission of inspiring "fun, creativity, and action in the environmental, conservation, and artistic space," the film fest will offer panel discussions with filmmakers, allowing audience members to ask questions and learn more about the background of each film. Additionally, break-out group conversations and networking

opportunities will help audience members connect with others and grow their ideas for how to take concrete steps toward the changes they are inspired to see happen.

Last year's films focused on a wide range of subjects, from diversity in the dive industry, to the inherent wisdom of trees in Mexican forests, and even a "Zero Waste" San Diego family's experiences. This year's film subjects will range widely once again and will engage and inspire environmentalists of all ages, as well as budding filmmakers developing their own craft.

Caroline and the rest of SDEFF's board "believe that it takes a big, big village to help make things happen." Please check out last year's films and learn more about this year's festival by visiting the website: <https://sdeff.org> or emailing Lindsay or Cindy at [hello@sdeff.org](mailto:hello@sdeff.org).



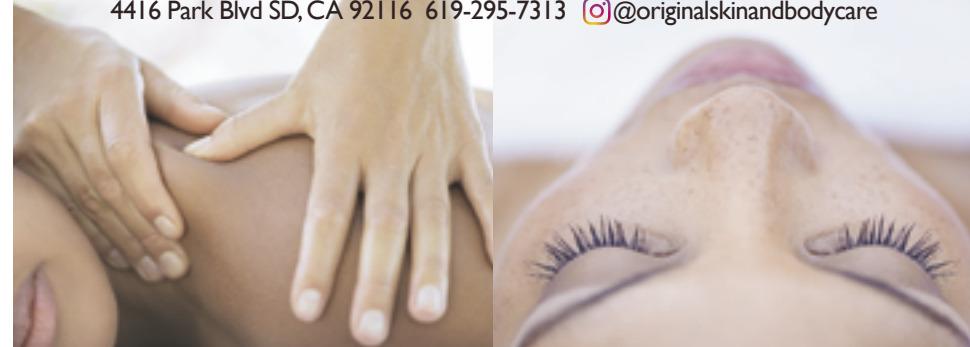
• **Friday, Nov 17, 6pm:**  
**Opening Night** at the new Digital Gym Cinema in Downtown San Diego. 1100 Market St, SD, 92101

• **Saturday, Nov 18, 11am-9pm:**  
**all-day Screenings**  
UC San Diego Suraj Israni Cinematic Arts Center. 9500 Gilman Dr, La Jolla, 92093

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**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12 2023**

16th annual

**UH ARTS OPEN & Taste**

of university heights  
noon to 3pm

Information Booth and ticket will call:  
**Diversionsary Theatre 4545 Park Blvd**

Taste at local Restaurants & Venues!

Madison on Park · Park & Rec · Plumeria · Red House Pizza  
Pop Pie Co. · Stella Jeans's Ice Cream · Cecilia's Fine Jewelry  
Buddha's Light Bookstore & Tea Room · Big Front Door  
Serpentine Cider · Pemberley Realty · Original Skin & Body Care  
Lestat's on Park · Yipao Coffee · Grains · Kairoa and others

Limited tickets: \$30 in advance/\$35 event day  
**Free Shuttle**

compliments of UH Community Association & Pemberley Realty

Raffle Win gifts from UH businesses and Artists

To purchase tickets: [UH CDC.org](http://UHCDC.org)

**UH CDC** 619.297.3166 · **uhao** 619.508.4075



artist images-top(R) clockwise- Ansley Pye • Michael Carini • Sarah Hughes • Weston Riffle • Michael Wheelden • Eil Treese

### EVENT SPONSORS



# SALUTING UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS VETS

November 11 is observed as Veterans Day, the official holiday in the United States dedicated to honoring the courageous men and women who have served in the armed services. We deeply acknowledge the fact that many veterans, despite their pride, remain humble and silent about their invaluable contributions to our nation. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to individuals like Bill Wild, Mark Hodges, Ed Ross, Phyllis Charlton, Curtis Bauer, Rahim Panjwani, and countless other friends and family members of University Heights residents who have selflessly served. We are truly grateful. Additionally, we would like to express a special gratitude towards the active duty military personnel residing in UH, acknowledging the praiseworthy dedication they exhibit. In honor of all veterans, we take a moment to highlight three exceptional individuals within our community.



## JEFF WYNNE – A Lucky Life

Jeff Wynne was born and raised in San Diego. In 1968, he was pursuing a master's degree at UCLA. Rather than waiting to be drafted, he volunteered for the Navy. He was stationed on the USS Long Beach in the Gulf of Tonken off the coast of North Viet Nam as an Intelligence Officer. During his third year of service, he was deployed to Saigon. Initially, his orders were for him to be an executive officer on a river patrol boat in a combat area. But once he arrived in Saigon, due to his ability to speak both French and Vietnamese, his assignment changed to working with the Vietnamese Naval Officers. His job was to evaluate and analyze the intelligence that was gathered and brief the senior officers of the Vietnamese Navy. While he sometimes had to sleep with a loaded gun under his pillow, he considers himself lucky to never have had to shoot anyone.

After three years his military commitment was complete and he was honorably discharged. Flying back home, Jeff spent a lot of time reflecting on his experience. He felt very lucky his position spared him the trauma of active combat. He realized that for him, it was important not to knowingly place anyone in a situation for increased risk of death. He decided to dedicate his life to helping others

After returning to San Diego, Jeff started a career in the field of Public Health. Working for the state department of public health, he became the Executive Director of Developmental Disabilities for San Diego and Imperial Counties. From

there, he moved to the San Diego County Department of Public Health – working in the areas that addressed alcohol and drug addiction, mental health disabilities, and AIDS issues.

Jeff retired 25 years ago from the County of San Diego and has been using his post-retirement years to volunteer. He assists with Grant writing for small, local, non-profit organizations. He also volunteers his time for UHCA exploring Grants that could improve the quality of life for UH residents.

Jeff bought his house in University Heights near Mystic Mocha 38 years ago. He loves the community and the friendliness of the people. He considers himself very lucky to live here.



## RENE CORTES – A Privilege and Honor to Serve

Rene Cortes grew up in Fallbrook near Camp Pendleton. As a young child, he remembers seeing the tanks drive by and the jets fly overhead. Many of his teachers and coaches were former Marines. It left a deep impression on him. After graduating from high school, he enrolled at UC Santa Barbara as a political science major. In 1991, as a 21-year-old college student, he watched on TV as our country entered the 1st Gulf War, stirring feelings of regret that he had not enlisted. Immediately contacting the ROTC on campus, he was disappointed to learn that all local units had already been deployed. Rene continued with his education, and upon graduating college in 1993, he was commissioned an officer in the Army.

His initial training was at Fort Knox, Kentucky and then he was given orders to report to Fort Lewis, Washington. From

there, he was sent to El Paso, Texas for Officer Basic Training. Rene graduated from Officer Training in April of 1994 and immediately went to airborne school at Fort Benning. In the summer of 1994, he was deployed to Germany as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd infantry division.

In 1996, at the age of 26, he was ordered to Bosnia-Herzegovina as a first lieutenant to lead his unit alongside NATO forces in Operation Joint Endeavor – a peacekeeping effort in the Balkan Civil War. Rene was stationed there for 6 months, then sent back to El Paso for Captain training. During his final year in the Army, Captain Rene Cortes served as the Director of Combined Arms and Tactics, a role that afforded him international travel and exposed him to the civilian business world.

September of 1998 marked the end Rene's five-year service in the U.S. Army. He had attended graduate school while he was stationed in Germany early in his military career. He decided to leave the military and enter the business world as a civilian.

He landed a job with Johnson & Johnson selling surgical devices to hospitals. In 1998, he was promoted, responsible for training other sales representatives. For the past 25 years, Rene has remained in the medical devices industry and has built a very successful career. He attributes his success in the business world to the discipline and hard work he learned in the military.

Rene bought his house on Massachusetts Avenue over two years ago where he lives with his wife, daughter, and various beloved pets. His property is a work in progress. It keeps him busy taking care of it. He has enjoyed living in UH and looks forward to more years at home in UH.



## SEAN AHLGREN – The Navy Offered Experience, Education, and a Bright Future

Sean Ahlgren never thought he would join the military; but in 2006 at age 20, he was still living in his hometown in Indio working in the family business. He knew he needed to do something different. Influenced by his grandfather (a former Marine) and curious to see the world, Sean decided to join the Navy.

After attending boot camp in the Chicago area, he was immediately stationed in San Diego. He was assigned to the helicopter squadron in aviation electronics. His job was to maintain the helicopter systems. After four years, he was promoted to parts technician.

Sean spent seven years in the Navy. While he never engaged in active combat, he did have deployments to various ports of call, such as Singapore and the Horn of Africa. In Africa, he was involved in protecting the ports from pirates and assisting in the humanitarian efforts in Mogadishu.

While in the Navy, Sean got married and had two kids. He didn't like spending so much time away from his family and so he ended his tenure with the Navy in 2013. Sean was grateful for the training he received and grateful for the military's benefit of paid college. Upon discharge, he took advantage of the benefit and enrolled at Cal Poly. He graduated with a degree in Information Systems and got a job with Deloitte back in San Diego. Sean was also grateful for the home loan benefit the military offered, and bought a home in Santee.

In the years since, Sean and his wife divorced. They share custody of their children who remain in the house in Santee. Sean has been renting a home in University Heights for the past two years. He continues to work at Deloitte in their cyber security division. Sean appreciates his time in the military and all that he it offered him, despite not making it a lifelong career.

Sean loves living in UH, especially the diversity and inclusiveness it represents. Eventually, he hopes to own a home in UH so that he can remain close to his favorite local places, Stella Jean's, Kairoa, and Bahn Thai.

## In Case You Missed It

From UHCA meeting on Oct 5:

### Rachel Esguerra, Branch Manager:

- Free Covid test kits are available at the UH Branch Library.
- Parking passes for state parks are also available for checkout at the UH Library

### Malik Thornton with Councilmember Whitburn's office:

- Stephen Whitburn is seeking funding for the UH library.

### SD Fire and Rescue discussed wildfire risks in University Heights and how to be prepared.

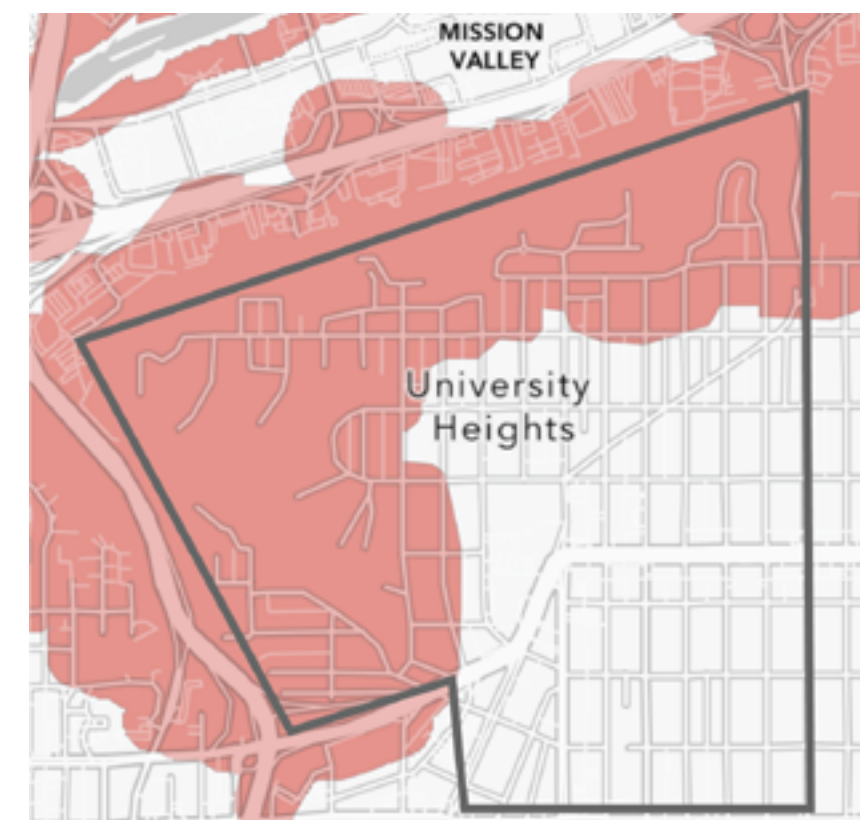
- Prune trees and bushes in September; put prunings in the green waste barrel.
- Sweep gutters, roofs, and eaves regularly. Remove dead branches around chimneys.
- If fire is approaching, remove combustible materials, including wood piles, lawn furniture, doormats, barbecue grills, and tarps, from around home.
- Locate your evacuation checklist and assemble the items in it. Place these items in your vehicle.
- Evacuate before the fire approaches your home. Back your car into the driveway and roll up the windows to allow for a quicker getaway. Plan to bring your valuables and your pets.
- Close and protect your home's openings, including attic doors and vents, windows, doors, and pet doors. Remove flammable drapes and curtains and close all shutters, blinds, or heavy non-combustible drapes. Do not lock the doors and windows in case firefighters have to make a quick entry to fight the flames.
- Close all the interior doors in your home and the fireplace screen. Open the fireplace damper.
- Shut off any natural gas, propane, or fuel oil supplies at the source.
- Connect garden hoses and fill any pools, hot tubs, garbage cans, tubs, or other large containers with water.
- Disconnect garage door openers so the doors will open if there is no power.
- Place a ladder against the house in clear view.
- Turn on the outside lights and at least one light in each room to make your house more visible in heavy smoke.
- Home sellers in the city need a fire-safe condition permit for their land.



City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department, left to right: Marisela Leyba-Gonzalez, Code Compliance Officer; Captain Alma Lowry, Community Resource Officer; Raquel Elias, Code Compliance Supervisor; Matthew Leyba-Gonzalez, Code Compliance Officer.

**More info at:**  
sandiego.gov/fire/safety/tips/wildland

## Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map



STU McGRAW

SAN DIEGO REALTY

(619) 793-7795  
SOLD@STUMCGRAW.COM  
WoodsRealEstateServices.com  
CA DRE #02014601

Twiggs from page 1

not been kind to small business. From inflation to interest rate increases, it has not been a supportive environment for small business. We have been hit especially hard by the industry slump in wedding cake sales. If there were any other way to keep this community cafe open, we would. We wanted to be certain that every employee would be paid hence the reason for the short notice. We lament it, but wanted to make sure that every worker was paid for their labor."

It has been reported that employees of both Twiggs locations were given notice on October 7, that Tuesday, October 10, would be the last day of business for the two cafes. Adrian and Delia Arancibia currently have a liquor license application for a Type 41 beer & wine license for the Adams Avenue property.

"We applied for a simple beer and wine license for mimosas and beer and wine," continued Arancibia. "We applied July which should not be that difficult nor expensive, but it labored in city development for over a month (for zoning clearance). And we have been waiting for approval from ABC now 4 months and though everything had been turned in, have had no word. We continue to look at options to maintain this community institution alive."

Twiggs Coffee has locations at 4590 Park Boulevard and 2804 Adams Avenue in San Diego's University Heights. For more information, visit twiggs.org.



Proposed Twiggs Rebranding from 2018

"The closing of Twiggs was as unexpected and abrupt for us as it was for the community. We are sad at this turn of events and touched by the number of sincere posts on social media mourning the loss of the business we built.

Hopefully, someone will revive Twiggs. We'll certainly support any new owner with the knowledge we gained from running the business for 25 years.

Regardless, we remain grateful to the UH community for supporting Twiggs for so many years and providing us with a wonderful life.

– Bernie Horan and Dan Stringfield



Safety from page 1

### Washington St

the community expressed support for complete sidewalks from 9th to Lincoln and the inclusion of bike lanes in the same area.

### El Cajon Blvd

Residents near El Cajon Blvd called for a protected crosswalk with flashing lights at Mississippi and ECB. They also proposed blanking out signals on both north and southbound intersections at ECB and Texas. Additionally, there was a demand for more crosswalks across ECB to enhance safety.

Enhancements near ECB and Park included suggestions to improve lane paint, introduce a flashing crosswalk, construct an overhead walkway, and explore the possibility of a roundabout or traffic circle.

Residents also called for better traffic lights on the north and eastbound lanes of Normal and emphasized the need for a traffic study.

These insightful ideas and suggestions exemplify University Heights residents' dedication to improving pedestrian safety within the community. The UHCA is committed to collaborating with relevant authorities to implement these recommendations and create a safer, more pedestrian-friendly neighborhood.

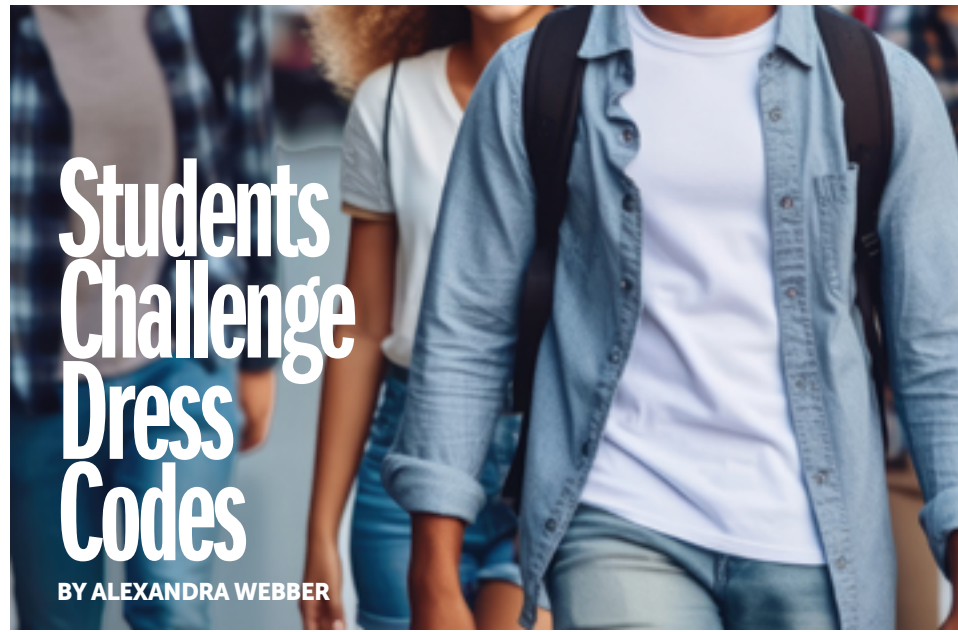
As these suggestions are considered and potential projects progress, the University Heights community will continue to play a pivotal role in advocating for improving the neighborhood's pedestrian infrastructure.

SOCKS FOR VETS

PLEASE DONATE NEW SOCKS FOR MEN & WOMEN  
BRING TO DEC 2 UHCA PARTY OR UH LIBRARY TILL DEC 16

VUSD UHCA

# ROO NEWS



Did you know Roosevelt has a dress code? Students that disregard or disobey it can be cited for being in violation. The dress code policy is authored by the Site Governance Team (SGT) for Roosevelt and was published in Spring 2021. This is the third year the policy is in effect. Up until 2021, Roosevelt students wore uniforms to school.

The policy includes regulations against undergarments from being shown, requiring shoulders to pant waist being covered, and no violent images.

On September 28, 2023, students organized a protest against the dress code policy and its enforcement. The event occurred during Spirit Week for Roosevelt during which students wear different themed clothes each day of the week. Themes included comfy, fall colors, school spirit, flamboyant, and fancy.

The protest garnered widespread attention. Students, teachers, and administrators observed the students-protesters walk out of classes during the second period to demonstrate their opposition to the policy and its enforcement. Hours later, Principal Bernard Steinberger circu-

lated an email to summarizing the protest.

A claim by student protesters stated that the dress code disproportionately affects female students. A concern by parents is that the dress code regulates female students to minimize male distractions.

Student protesters took an absence for the second period class because the absence was unauthorized. Principal Steinberger explained in his emails that taking an absence as a sacrifice for voicing your beliefs is an acceptable trade-off. He also explained that as an International Baccalaureate (IB) school, Roosevelt students' voices are encouraged to engage in student-civil engagement, such as this protest. The principal's email invited families to discuss the institutional policies and how to undertake changes to institutions.

There is a SGT meeting on Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 4 p.m. Students are encouraged to participate and voice their ideas during the public comments session of the meeting. This meeting is both in person and by Zoom. For more info go to: roosevelt.sandiegounified.org

# BIRNEY BUZZ



The annual Dia de Los Muertos display at 4314 Maryland Street is always a community highlight, and the location will be seeing marigolds on November 2nd to support Birney. Photo courtesy of the Shirk family.

The Birney Beekeeper Alliance has been busy raising funds to support Birney's International Baccalaureate (IB) programs. The programs include "specials" (art, dance, garden, and Spanish), assemblies, and field trips, and they are not funded by the district. According to Alliance board member and parent Vaychan Hallman: "Our costs have increased by \$30,000 due to overdue salary increases, increase in IB enrichment activities after COVID, and an additional UTK class." Because of this increase, the Alliance is seeking more community involvement and donations this year.

The Fall Fundraiser, a partnership with Charleston Wrap to raise funds through catalog sales, was extended to October 6. Students who reached a net profit of \$350 through catalog sales or donations earned a spot on the video game truck scheduled for January. At the time of publication, final fundraising numbers were not available, but they looked promising.



The Alliance also hosted their first Dinner Night of the year at local TapRoom Beer Co. on El Cajon Boulevard. 20% of attendees' dinner bills were donated back to the school. This was one of the most popular Dinner Nights on record, and \$1,150 was raised for the school. The second Dinner Night, including pumpkin carving activities, was at Kairoa on Park Boulevard on Thursday, October 26.

Another upcoming fundraiser is the Marigold Flower Bizarre on five different dates: Saturday, October 28 from 1-5pm in front of Original Skin & Body Care at 4416 Park Boulevard; before and after school on Monday, October 30, Tuesday, October 31, and Wednesday, November 1 in front of Birney Elementary; and Thursday, November 2 from 9am-9pm at 4314 Maryland Street, which hosts a Dia de los Muertos display each year. Stop by to pick up some beautiful marigolds and support Birney!

Sarah Layne, Proud Birney Parent and University Heights Community Member

## BETWEEN THE COVERS

### NOVEMBER AT THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BRANCH LIBRARY

Youth Services Librarian, Miss Helene

Greetings from the Youth Services Librarian for the University Heights Branch Library. We are offering several ongoing and special programs, some of which I would like to feature, for the month of November. In addition to the usual storytimes such as Write Out Loud's Kamishibai storybox theatre for the whole family, we will be hosting a children's Sugar Skull Craft with Miss Remi in honor of Dia de los Muertos. Along with my Tuesday evening children's storytime there will be a themed craft activity to commemorate Native American Heritage Month. For the first time, the library will be introducing a family storytime and craft presented by Empathy In Nature, "a non-profit on a mission to make nature-based preschool learning accessible and inclusive for every kid." We are happy to welcome back the return of the children's Signing Storytime and Pajama Signing Storytime presented by Jennifer Duncan of Signs at Play. We extend a heartfelt thank you to the Friends of the University Heights Branch Library for funding many of the special programs. Let's not forget, continuing from October through November 18th is the annual In-N-Out Burger "Cover to Cover" Reading Program for



children ages 4-12. Children can receive up to 3 burger certificates by reading up to 15 books. Be sure to look at this UHCA November newspaper's calendar page to make note of the dates and times for all programs. You can also acquire further details about library programs by following the University Heights Branch Library's Facebook page (@universityheightslibrary) and the SDPL online calendar of events (sandiego.librarymarket.com). We want to remind everyone that there is an outdoor ballot box that is accessible 24/7 until 8:00pm November 7th on Election Day. We would also like to thank our veterans for their service to our country and we wish everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving holiday.

-Helene Idels, Youth Services Librarian 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 / UHStaff@sandiego.gov



## BETWEEN THE COVERS

BY RACHEL ESGUERRA, BRANCH MANAGER

While I've been with the San Diego Public Library for almost 24 years, this month marks my third-year anniversary as the Branch Manager of the small but mighty University Heights Library! When I first arrived at UH, the library was still closed to the public due to the ongoing pandemic. Believe it or not, that extended closure was a huge blessing for the UH library. We were able to make some major changes including lots of weeding of outdated materials, shifting collections, as well as moving and adding some furniture thanks to our Friends of the University Heights Library to maximize our spaces. It's really looking good in here, please come take a look!

Fast forward to today and we're so happy and excited to serve our residents and businesses alike as there's always something new with the library! San Diego Public Library now supports the Free4ME pilot program featuring FREE menstrual products at City facilities



including the nearby North Park Library and North Park Rec Center. The Free4ME program supports San Diegans combating period poverty, destigmatizing menstrual hygiene, and eliminating barriers to services and programs. The UH Library is working on getting dispensers of our own, please stay tuned!



Also, did you know that the San Diego Public Library is now a proud member of Link+? is a union catalog of contributed holdings from participating public and academic libraries throughout California. San Diego Public Library cardholders can request book materials not currently in our catalog, free of charge. This is a service I personally use A LOT so feel free to ask me how it works!

It has been an absolute delight being a part of this wonderful and thriving community the last few years and I look forward to being here for many more years to come. Please be sure to visit your friendly neighborhood library for your next cozy Fall read!

-Rachel Esguerra, Branch Manager University Heights Branch Library San Diego Public Library

## FRIENDS OF THE UH LIBRARY

### HAPPY NOVEMBER!

BY PAM ISAACS

We are currently at risk of losing our library. Come to the UHCA meeting and show your support! Now is the time!

UHCA November Meeting  
Nov 2, 6:45 PM, Birney School, topic: potential UH Library at The Ed. Center property.

November Meeting  
Friends of the UH Library  
November 10, 6 pm via Zoom link at: <https://06web.zoom.us/j/5100631733>.



Giving Tuesday is on November 28. What better time is there to start or renew a membership in Friends of the University Heights Library?

For as little as \$10 for an individual, \$20 for a household, or \$5 for a student or senior, you can join us to help keep our UH Library going strong. Go to [www.friendsofuhlibrary.org/becomeamember](http://www.friendsofuhlibrary.org/becomeamember) to join the Friends of University Heights Library and please make a donation to our chapter. Membership and donations are tax-deductible. The Friends of the San Diego Public Library may match our funds!



Many families across San Diego are entering the holiday season without jobs or significantly reduced income as a result of personal or family difficulties. To help make sure all families are able to buy gifts and food, the University Heights Community Association is asking our neighbors to please consider contributing to Alice Birney Elementary School's Giving Tree.

The Giving Tree program invites community residents to donate gift cards in denominations ranging from \$5 - \$25 from stores such as Target, Lowes, Sprouts, Ralphs, or Trader Joes. The staff at Alice Birney will then discreetly include the gift cards in packets going to Birney families that need it the most this holiday.

Last year UHCA helped raise over \$1800 in donations! This year we would love to meet or exceed that amount.

IT'S EASY TO CONTRIBUTE!  
Simply purchase a gift card and drop off at any of these upcoming events:

**Candy Crawl**  
Original Skin and Bodycare  
Oct 28, 1-3 pm 4416 Park Blvd

**UH Arts Open & Taste**  
Original Skin and Bodycare  
Nov 12, 12-3 pm 4416 Park Blvd

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

**By Mail:**  
Birney Elementary  
Attn: Principal  
Amanda Hammond-Williams  
4345 Campus Ave SD, CA 92103

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# It's Lights in the Heights Time Again!

Join University Community Association for the annual tradition of "Lights in the Heights", the contest to determine who in the neighborhood has the best, the most creative, and the wackiest holiday lights on display for the holidays. Winners will be announced on December 20th! Best of luck to all participants.



## UHCA Beautification on Alabama Street

A few years ago, a resourceful member of the community took the initiative to transform a neglected half block parking strip adjacent to Alabama Street, near the intersection with El Cajon Blvd. The once abandoned space was transformed into a tiny oasis, filled with a mixture of native grasses, wildflowers, succulents, and newly planted trees, all designed to withstand drought conditions.

However, regrettably, over the past few months, the small garden had fallen into disrepair, seemingly abandoned by its creator. On Sunday, October 15, a dedicated team of volunteers from the Beautification Team joined forces to breathe new life into this miniature public garden. Their hard work involved the removal of weeds, trash,

and debris, while also tending to the pruning, mulching, and fertilizing of the space. Following their efforts, the crew then continued their mission by rejuvenating the nearby roundabout on Alabama at Meade Ave.

Please join us at the Vermont St Bridge Clean-Up on November 19, 8-11 am.

The Beautification Team welcomes your ideas and participation! Please reach out to us at beautification@uhsd.org. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!



# Pet of the Month Mochi



Mochi has been a UH fixture since his first days in 2019. He can be seen many mornings asking for a pupappuccino at Yipao or picking out new plants at Eden. Mostly, his best days are when he happens to meet up with his friends, Phantom, Shadow, Nugget, Bentley, Norma, and of course, big Kona & little Kona.

He loves his humans, too. His biggest challenges are when passerbys don't stop to pet him. He's easily spotted on his morning walks or slow jogs with his dad or late at night with mom & dad.

Mochi is half Siberian Husky and half Aussie Shepherd, or #Ausky if you're on Instagram. The best part about Moo Moo is that he's a sincerely happy pup and loves being around just about everybody.



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## Johnstons Closes after only Nine Months

FROM SANDIEGOVILLE

This past January, Johnston's bar & restaurant opened in the building long occupied by Small Bar in San Diego's University Heights, but the neighborhood pub will soon shutter after less than nine months in business.



In 2021, John Pani's ELE Collective bought the building that housed Small Bar for more than 11 years before the establishment shuttered in fall 2020 during the pandemic. Located only two doors down from Pani's Park & Rec, the 3,500 square-foot, indoor/outdoor space was redesigned to open the frontage up to the street with the addition of a large, alfresco patio on the back of the building.

Originally planned to be called The Regular, the name was changed to Johnston's as a nod to the history of the building. During renovation of the facade, an old hand-painted sign for Johnston's Variety Store was revealed under the former Small Bar signage. It turned out that there was once a family-owned department store at the space from 1926 until the store owner's passing in 1940.

After two years of development, Johnston's finally opened this past February. The restaurant offered a cocktail-fueled bar menu and American pub dishes from executive chef Peter Ziegler, previously of Lionfish at Pendry Hotel, Charles + Dinorah at the Pearl Hotel in Point Loma and Wolfie's Carousel in Little Italy.

Johnston's shuttered last month as ELE is listing the building for sale with local brokerage firm Next Wave Commercial. Pani, along with Regal Seagull and The Regal Beagle co-owner Matthew Guilbert, recently purchased Longhorn Bar & Grill in San Diego's Grantville, so he will likely turn his attention to the operations of his newly acquired property.

This isn't the first time ELE Collective has closed one of its San Diego restaurants. John Pani opened craft beer-focused Waypoint Public in 2013 within the 5,000 square-foot North Park corner unit that long housed controversial The Linkery. Pani opened a second Waypoint Public location within Del Sur Town Center in San Diego's 4S Ranch area, which operated for about a year before it shuttered in spring 2018. The North Park Waypoint Public closed in 2020, and the space is now a branch of Swami's Cafe. Johnston's last day of business was Saturday, September 23, at 4628 Park Boulevard in University Heights.

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# Happy Thanksgiving!

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