

UHCA MEETING APRIL 3rd - BIRNEY



P.O. Box 33032 • San Diego, CA 92163

April 2008



SPECIAL THANKS TO

The Contributors of the articles for this issue.

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Nan McGraw for organizing the News Delivery Team.

You, the Reader, for reading the UH News and supporting UHCA. Without all of your help, this issue wouldn't be possible!

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UHCA MEETING AGENDA FOR APRIL 3, 2008

Join us on Thursday April 3rd for an evening with local restaurateur Claudia Kouza. Claudia will share her stories of growing up in Iraq, the food and culture she was surrounded by and how she has brought this to California and University Heights.

- **6:30 - 7 pm - Crime Watch Meeting**
- **7 - 7:30 pm - UH Community Association Business Meeting**
- **7:30 pm - Guest Speaker: Claudia Kouza - Reflections on cultural Iraq**

The UHCA will meet at the Birney Academy Auditorium, located at 4345 Campus Avenue. Parking is available in the lot just south of the school. As always, coffee and snacks will be provided. And be sure to check out our University Heights T-shirts! We look forward to seeing you!

UH ARTS OPEN 2008



The third annual UH Arts Open is scheduled for September 6th & 7th, 2008. This year's free community event will include an open art studio tour of UH artists, as well as music, play readings and performances by local talents. Please help make it a success. We need help with event planning! Please join us for a meeting on Friday, April 25th, 7 pm at Swedenborg Hall, 1531 Tyler Avenue. For info, contact Rev. Carla Friedrich or Judy Riffle: (619) 508-4075/judy@uharts.org. All are welcome.

CAFÉ DELIGHT ON PARK BLVD. IS A DELIGHT *by J.D. Abercrombie*

Café Delight definitely has the great homemade food, interesting drinks, and wonderful atmosphere that all of our UH eateries have. BUT ... here, on Monday or Thursday, between 1 pm and 3 pm, the co-owner, Claudia Kouza, will read your coffee grounds from your cup of Turkish coffee. It is great fun (no bad news) and she is good at it.

Claudia and her son, Marvin, own this business together. It was Claudia's life-long dream to own a café. And her son found University Heights on the

internet! Marvin says what is special about Café Delight is, "mom's great cooking". So many people come in and say, "this is the best food I've had". Claudia says what is special is, "the gourmet food made from scratch". Crushed lemon lentil and coconut curry soups, fresh garlic or curry sauces for the entrees including lamb shank and fresh falafel (just one of several vegetarian foods on the menu) and so much more is made by Claudia. Homemade hummus (including red



Café Delight - Claudia Kouza

pepper), artichoke salad, and the unbelievable desserts including tiramisu

CAFÉ DELIGHT *continued on page 3*

'THREE CUPS OF TEA' LECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BRANCH LIBRARY



Donald M. Gragg, M.D.

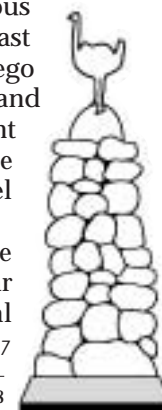
The Friends of the UH Library will be featuring an illustrated lecture by Donald M. Gragg, M.D. at 6 pm on Wednesday, April 16th, downstairs at the UH Branch Library located at Park Boulevard and Howard Avenue. Dr. Gragg's illustrated lecture recounts the experiences of Greg Mortenson in his adventurous attempt to climb K2, the earth's second highest mountain in a remote area of Pakistan, and his subsequent building of a rural village school as detailed in his best-selling book "Three Cups of Tea," the San Diego Public Library's One Book, One San Diego selection. Mortenson's efforts resulted in the building of over 55 schools in remote mountain areas with a focus on providing basic education for girls.

Dr. Gragg traveled through these areas of Pakistan at the time the first school was built and will share his

photographs, highlights from the book and insights into the significance of Greg Mortenson's ambitious efforts. Dr. Gragg is a past president of the San Diego World Affairs Council and will include some comment on the importance of the author's work as a model for foreign assistance.

Dr. Gragg spent the remainder of his 23-year naval career in medical

LECTURE *continued on page 7*





University Heights Community Association

N E W S

THE OSTRICH STORY

University Heights, one of the oldest districts in San Diego, is a historic community. Mission Cliff Gardens, San Diego's premiere park during the early part of the 20th century was situated at the intersection of Park Boulevard and Adams Avenue in University Heights. Its Trolley Barn was the destination of San Diego's first trolley line.

Adjacent to Mission Cliff Gardens was the Harvey Bentley Ostrich Farm. In the early 1900's the ostrich farm became prominent due to the immense demand for lady's ostrich-feather hats and garments. The farm was a popular attraction for park visitors who were allowed to ride on the backs of the great birds.

The ostrich is brought back, on these pages, as a reminder of the color and character of our community's proud heritage. The Trolley Barn Park is a beautiful achievement due to the University Heights Community Association. Capturing the style of the original Mission Cliff Gardens, the park was awarded the prestigious AIA Orchid award in 1992.

OFFICERS

Please contact any officer of the University Heights Community Association if you have any questions or wish to volunteer a service.

President	Greg Sorini gshuca@att.net
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The *University Heights News* is issued twelve times a year by the volunteers of the UHCA. We welcome articles and announcements about events in the greater University Heights area. We do not pay for articles or return disks. The Editor reserves the right to edit for length. Articles not time-sensitive may print in a future issue. Deadline is the 10th of each month. Send typed articles to:

University Heights News
P.O. Box 33032 San Diego, CA 92163

PRESIDENT'S CORNER *by Greg Sorini*

Spring has sprung! It seems like just the other day we were taking down Christmas decorations and now it's already March (April when you read this). We've set the clocks ahead, which as of now is great in the evening, but torturous in the morning. Due to the extra rain this winter, grass (and burr clover) is growing like crazy and freeways are abloom with Lupine and Poppies.

A California Towhee has discovered that there are bugs in the flower bed next to the driveway. I couldn't figure out why there was always mulch on the concrete. I thought it was our pups, or a nighttime skunk visit. But then I saw the Towhee busily scraping and scratching at the ground, kicking up a shower of cocoa bean shells. We've also got two mourning doves building a nest on the platform we put in the eaves. It's time to start thinking about house projects again, and our Fruitless Mulberry is ready for it's annual trimming. Yep, the neighborhood is alive with springtime. Hay fever aside, it's a good time to be out and about in UH!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT *by Lisa Jordan, Secretary*

MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 2008, UHCA MEETING

Crime Watch – 6:30 pm - 7 pm

Nan McGraw opened the meeting at 6:30 pm. Nan indicated that crime seemed to have been somewhat quieter over the past month. There was some graffiti on the Vermont Street Bridge. Nan reiterated that when you see graffiti, please take a picture of the graffiti and email the pictures to Officer Hewitt at: bhewitt@pd.sandiego.gov. Please indicate the time and location of the graffiti. You can also call the Graffiti Hotline at (619) 525-8522.

UHCA Meeting – 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm Vice President Marie Long opened the meeting.

POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES

April Chesboro *from Toni Atkins' office* The State of the District address will be held on April 24 at 6:30 pm, location to be determined. Earth Fair will be held on Saturday April 26th. Toni is working on the parking of oversized vehicles (RV's, boats, buses, etc) on our neighborhood streets. She is against parking these vehicles on the street.

Rebecca Leester *from Ron Roberts' office* Their office has a new Chief of Staff, Jim Duffy. He comes to them with a background in law enforcement. Ron is co-chair on a committee that is looking to establish a Regional Fire Dept. This committee meets once a month. Ron is chair for the March of Babies and there will be a walk/run in Balboa Park on April 26 to support this effort.

Nick Norvell *from Susan Davis' office* Susan is actively working on keeping the Health and Human Service Warehouse in Miramar here in San Diego. HHS wants to move the warehouse to Los Angeles. This warehouse stores emergency supplies in case of a disaster.

Joe Kocurek *from Lori Saldaña's office* Lori is working on creating a bureau in regards to Home Owner Associations. Currently there is no recourse for a homeowner to make a complaint or a claim against their homeowners association. This bureau would collect and respond to complaints brought by home owners.

UH Community Development Corp Mary Wendorf indicated that the 120th Birthday for University Heights is this year. There will be a birthday celebration in Trolley Barn Park on Sunday, October 12th from 2 pm - 5 pm. Please bring your ideas to the meeting on April 10th.

Blockwalkers Needed If you would like to walk the neighborhood and deliver our Newspaper, we have plenty of routes available. Please contact Nan McGraw at (619) 260-0668.

The Meeting's Program: Community Plan Update – Steve Satz Recently the city allocated funds in order to rewrite our community plan. Steve Satz is heading up the committee to help our community have input and write our new community plan, as we would like it to be written. This is our opportunity to make our community the way we envision it. This will be a two-year process. The committee meets the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at Birney Auditorium. All of the community is invited to attend. Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm.

MEMBERSHIP

NEW

Margaret Coughlin.

Thanks for joining!

RENEWALS

Jeannie Hine, Marvin

& Tayde Randall, Judy

& Weston Riffle, Phyllis

Kessel, Todd Gloria,

Jay Colosimo,

Mary Ann McCarthy.

Thanks for renewing!

The UHCA appreciates your

continued support. And a

special thanks to those who

made extra donations!

PICK UP YOUR UH NEWS AT ONE OF THESE DROPS

- American Market • Bourbon Street Cream • European Market & Deli Kadan • Mission Hills Library
- Monica's at the Park
- Mystic Mocha • Park Blvd. Deli
- Quality Market • Shearz, the Salon
- Summer's Market • Terra Restaurant
- Texas Market • Twiggs
- UHDCDC Office • UH Library
- Well Spring Tea Room

Visit University Heights on the web at www.uhsd.org or www.neighborhoodlink.org!

MEMBERSHIP/TEAM SIGN-UP

Support your UH Community Association! Clip and return to: UHCA P.O. Box 33032, San Diego, CA 92163

- NEW RENEWAL Membership Team Sign-up *(check all that apply)*

Name _____ Address _____

City/ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

I Have Enclosed: *(*Includes Membership with these Categories)*

- \$10* 1 year Senior Rate
- \$15* 1 year Single Rate
- \$20* 1 year Family Rate
- \$25* 1 year Membership with *News* mailed to me
- \$30* Friends of Trolley Barn Park
- \$50* Vermont Street Bridge Builders
- \$100* *Golden Ostrich Elite*
- \$ _____ Donation for 'Keeping up the Good Work'

Become Part of The Team! The success of the UH Community Association has been largely dependent upon the volunteer efforts of area residents. If you would like to volunteer your time as a team member of any of the following special interest areas, please sign up below:

- Blockwalker Team *(Help to prepare & deliver this newspaper to homes on your block)*
- Neighborhood/Zone Watch Team *(Join neighbors to help keep our community safe)*
- Historic Team *(Help to research and preserve UH's history)*
- UH Park & Rec Council *(Participate in overseeing UH's recreational facilities)*



JULY 4th - START OF 'SUMMER IN THE PARK' CONCERTS

The University Heights Community Development Corp. is starting its 12th Annual *Summer in the Park* concert series this year on Friday, July 4th, and continuing each Friday thereafter through August 15th. Naturally, Sue Palmer and her band will perform at the final concert. The other six bands are still being reviewed and will be finalized in early April. If you have a band you would like us to review, please call Ernie at (619) 297-3166.

Co-Sponsors again this year will be Tony Azar, Friends of the UH Library, Mary Anne Stevens, Twiggs and UHCA. Each concert costs \$2,000, which covers the stage, bands, sound system as needed, porta potties, tables, chairs, promotion and printing. Concert flyers will be available in the June *UH News*.

Early donations welcome in any amount: Friends Level \$25-49; Buster Level \$50-99; Patron Level \$100; Crew Level \$250 per event; Mobile Stage Level \$600 per event; Band Sponsor \$750; & All Events Co-Sponsor \$1,500-\$2,000. Checks payable to UHCDC, P.O.Box 3115, San Diego, CA 92163. UHCDC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit org., so donations are tax deductible based on one's tax status.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE STAGES 'BLUEBONNET COURT'

Diversionary Theatre is presenting *Bluebonnet Court* by playwright Zsa Zsa Gershick. The production opened March 20th and runs through April 13th.

Bluebonnet Court is set in 1944, against the background of World War II and the waning days of Hollywood's glamour era. The play tackles issues like race, religion and sexuality within the context of a forbidden romance.

Winner of the 2007 GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Los Angeles Theatre, *Bluebonnet Court* has also received two NAACP awards and critical acclaim from *Variety* and *The Advocate*.

Tickets are sale at the Diversionary Theatre at 4545 Park Blvd. For info on show dates, & ticket availability, contact the Box Office at (619) 220-0097.

CAFÉ DELIGHT *continued from page 1*

and put your seatbelt on, "Better than Sex", one of Claudia's own recipes.

Claudia moved here 22 years ago from Baghdad, Iraq, where she was born and raised and married. I am pleased that in addition to eating alot more of her food (she and Marvin also cater), we will be able to have her speak about Iraq at our April UHCA meeting. (Ed note: see agenda on page 1)

Café Delight at 4646 Park Blvd., (619) 298-5248, is open Monday, 10 am to 4 pm; Tuesday - Saturday, 10 am to 10 pm; and Sunday, 12 noon to 9 pm.

NEW THEATRE FESTIVAL LAUNCHES IN SAN DIEGO

Motivated by the cancellation of the San Diego Actors Festival for 2008, a group of theatre artists has been working behind-the-scenes to launch a new festival. The all-volunteer staff includes Kelly Lapczynski, Sally Stockton, Kristina Meek, Jennie Olson, Dori Salois, Paola Hornbuckle, Robert DeLillo, Lloyd Weston, and Kevin Six. The New Perspective Festival will be produced in association with Vantage Theatre, well known for its commitment to new plays, local artists and presenting productions with a different vantage point. Rev. Carla Friedrich of Swedenborg Hall is pleased to be hosting this festival and hopes this will energize the space as a performance venue and solidify a relationship with the arts community of San Diego.

Twenty-four original scripts have been selected for inclusion in the festival, with three separate programs each being performed twice. The selected plays run the gamut of styles and genres, and are anywhere from two to fifteen minutes long. Auditions are set for April 20th and April 21st. Anyone interested in participating should email perspective-fest@gmail.com.

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**UH EARLY BEGINNINGS:
CABLE CARS COME TO
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS**

by Kristin Harms

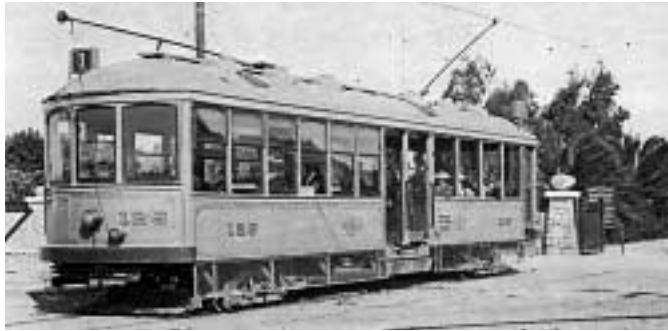
Although some distance from downtown San Diego, UH was an early "streetcar suburb," a residential area whose development was closely tied to direct access to downtown San Diego's commercial and business center by cable, then electric powered, trolleys.

Just like the more famous San Francisco cable cars, the San Diego Cable Railway traveled south along Fourth Street through University Heights all the way to L Street in downtown San Diego. Here, connections could be made with several steam-powered interurban railroads and the Coronado Ferry.

A steam-powered powerhouse and car barn was located at Fourth and Spruce. The cable railway's tracks entered University Heights at Fourth Street and Fillmore Avenue (today's corner of Fourth and University in Hillcrest), where it traveled eastward until jogging northeast along University Blvd. (today's Normal Street) to Carolina

Street (today's Park Boulevard).

This article is one of a continuing series provided by the UH Historical Society in celebration of the community's 120th anniversary. The University Heights Historical Society (UHHS) was established in 1997 to preserve the architectural, cultural, and historic resources in University Heights through research,



University Heights Cable Cars

Photo courtesy UHHS

education, and advocacy. If you would like to support the work of the University Heights Historical Society, please contact Ernie Bonn: (619) 297-3166 or uhcdc@netzero.net.

**120th ANNIVERSARY
PLANNING MEETING**

UH will be celebrating its 120th Anniversary in October 2008. A second meeting to plan that celebratory event is scheduled for Thursday, April 10th, 6 pm, at Grace Lutheran Church. The church is located at the corner of Park Blvd. & Lincoln; park-

ing available in back of the church.

We want the 120th Anniversary to be a fun and exciting occasion for the community so be sure to attend the meeting & bring your great ideas!

**UH OPERATION
'NIP IT IN THE BUD'**

Please join Operation Nip it in the Bud! There is evidence of possible gang activity in UH with the recent appearance of graffiti on our Vermont Street Bridge and at "The Point". If you see graffiti vandalism in progress, dial 911.

If you spot graffiti please:

- Take a picture and forward it to Officer Brian Hewitt at bhewitt@pd.sandiego.gov with the location. Call Brian too at (619) 531-2561. Brian tracks gang activity and their monikers. And walkers: please carry your camera with you. You are an excellent patrol for our community.
- Report it to the Graffiti Hotline at (619) 525-8522. City Code Compliance officers must notify the private property owners of graffiti on their property and it is the property owner's responsibility to remove it. The City will remove

graffiti from public property. If we as concerned neighbors and residents of UH can remove it quickly, it discourages additional tagging.

- For additional info and to report graffiti online at the City's website: www.sandiego.gov/graffiti/

It costs the taxpayers of San Diego more than \$1 million annually to remove graffiti from City property. Graffiti costing more than \$400 to remove is a felony. San Diego's "Spray and Pay Rewards Program" rewards citizens up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of graffiti vandals. If you suspect that your child is involved in graffiti, call the SDPD's DARE Program at (619) 531-2270.



The 'graffiti busters' at "the point" (l to r): Mona Burke, Jean Beaucher, Mary Rybarczyk, Mary Embertson, Nan McGraw, Mary Beth Chrudden, Michele Morgan and Maisie.

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UH PARK & REC COUNCIL

The next meeting of the UH Park & Rec Council is Thursday, April 3rd, 5:30 pm in the Birney Academy Library. One of the action items on our agenda will be to vote on continuing the name of "Willie Serrano Field" for the joint-use park at Birney.

Many readers may remember the old sign that hung on the fence at the entrance to the ballfield: Willie Serrano Field. A few may know the history behind the name. At our last meeting, the Park & Rec Council was fortunate to hear the story from the siblings and fellow classmates of Willie Serrano.

It was June 14, 1978. Willie Serrano was a sixth-grade student at Alice Birney Elementary School. Willie was a good student, a terrific athlete, a chess champion, and well-liked by all who knew him. In recognition of his talents, he was given the honor of delivering the commencement speech for the sixth grade promotion ceremony. But suddenly that night he started coughing up blood, and the next day he died on the operating table. His unexpected death captured media attention and hit the school community hard. The sixth-grade promotion ceremony became a memorial to Willie. The school principal, Carl Olson, proposed that the name of Alice Birney Field be changed to "Willie Serrano Field." On June 27, 1978, the Board of Education voted unanimously to rename the field in honor of Willie Serrano. Oscar Serrano, Willie's father, said he hoped the naming would inspire other children to emulate the qualities of his son: "I hope it will give inspiration to children to realize that even as young as they are, they can gain the love, admiration and respect of the community if only they practice what they learn at school like Willie Serrano did."

Please join us at our next meeting. For more info, contact Chair Marcia Boruta at (619) 255-6111, sdecc@igc.org or Park & Rec Area Manager Debra Jones, (619) 235-1161, djones@sandiego.gov.

BUZZ FROM BIRNEY

MR. O'MALLEY - BIRNEY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Please join us in congratulating our 4th grade teacher Mr. Thomas O'Malley for the honor of being voted by his peers Birney Teacher of the Year for the 2007-2008 school year. We all recognize his dedication to the craft of teaching as well as the achievement and well-being of his students. He was elated by the news. Mr. O'Malley will be recognized at a meeting of the school board with a plaque along with his fellow teachers of the year from other schools in the district.



BIRNEY 2nd ANNUAL SWAP MEET AND RUMMAGE SALE

Oops! The date of March 3rd as the Birney 2nd Annual Swap Meet & Rummage Sale was incorrect in the March UH News. It's actually scheduled for May 3rd. This is great, because it gives extra time to round up all the treasures that take up too much space in your home and bring them to Birney to become another person's treasure!

If you participated in or visited last year's event, you know what a good turnout we had and how much fun it was meeting neighbors and finding new stuff! This year's sale will again be held on the Birney campus and is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd. For more information on space rentals (still available), and event details, contact us at ptabirney@yahoo.com. See you there! -Birney Academy PTA

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS PET OF THE MONTH

To have your animal companion be the UH Pet of the Month, send a brief description and a photo to University Heights News Pet of the Month, P.O. Box 33032, San Diego, 92163. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you'd like to have your photo returned.



The Plume Award

The University Heights Community Association

Proudly Salutes

THE CITY'S OPEN SPACE DIVISION AND THE SYCUAN GOLDEN EAGLES

Kudos to the City's Open Space Division and the Sycuan Golden Eagles for the brush removal at the Trolley Barn Park canyon. The Fire-Rescue Department studied and assigned a fire hazard rating to the open space in the canyon. The work at the TBP canyon took approximately four days to complete and about 2.3 tons of brush was thinned and removed from the site. A special thanks to the Sycuan Golden Eagles, a non-profit group made up of trained firefighters. Thanks to Mr. George Flores for coordinating and scheduling the project. Also, thanks to both Mr. Javier Melendrez and Mr. Milton Clark for managing the project on site. The neighbors surrounding the park and residents of University Heights appreciate your hard work and a job well done!

BLOCKWALKERS NEEDED

Blockwalkers are needed for the 4300 - 4499 blocks of Georgia Street, 1800 - 1900 of Mission Ave., 1800 - 2099 Monroe Ave. & 1600 - 1799 blocks of Adams Avenue. Please call Nan McGraw at (619) 260-0668 to volunteer.

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STATE OF THE THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT

Join Councilmember Toni Atkins as she looks back at accomplishments and looks forward to future projects in her State of the Third Council District address on Thursday, April 24th at 6:30 pm. The event will be held at the War Memorial Building at 3325 Zoo Drive in Balboa Park. All Third District residents are invited to attend!

FRIENDS OF BUCHANAN CANYON

We had a nice turnout to do the Willow Planting project in February. Thanks to the planners and the crew. Our April outing will be moved to the 4th Saturday, April 26th, to be in conjunction with the



Cameron
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Creek to Bay day. We will hike down the canyon picking up litter on the way. A lot of things were washed downhill with the rains. We can check out how all of our recent plantings are doing, as well. Bring water, gloves, sunscreen and meet at 9 am at the Johnson Avenue canyon side, between Lincoln and Hayes. We always have a fun time at whatever the project of the month is. Come share a few hours with your neighbors. *-Jeannie Hine*

UH POINT: AN ABUNDANT SPRING SENTENCE

Spring is in full swing at University Heights Point, bursting, emergent, growing out of control on the deep green hillsides overlooking Mission Valley, and the abundance of sprouts, blooms, seeds, and new life is testament both to nature's rainy bounty and to the dedicated efforts by an abundance of volunteer help over the past two months, starting with February's crew (the boundlessly energetic Catie Fyfe of the Canyon Coalition - who brought her mother all the way from Cape Cod to help us plant fifty new natives, now buried under weeds but still healthy - and her crew of volunteers, including Carrie Kale and Christian Quinones; Parks and Recreation Ranger Jason Allen; neighborhood activists Terry Weiner,

Marcia Boruta, and Jim Ricker, and others, including ReCon Environmental Inc., who donated the seedlings) who not only set out new shrubbery but began the daunting task of weeding our native garden of its exotic botanical guests (which can at times overstay their welcome with overwhelming spring-time growth), continuing with the March group of dedicated Friends of UH Point who tirelessly weeded, picked up trash, and admired the new weeds with trepidation and the new seedlings with wonder, and culminating with volunteers for next month's weeding frenzy - you could be one if you bring sturdy shoes, some gardening gloves, and dedication to the natural beauty of the Point at one o'clock on April 5th at the corner of New York and Golden Gate Avenues - who will, we are sure, have a marvelous time tending the fresh native wonders of flowering habitat we have seen emerge from 2007's



This photo was taken at the March 1st UH Point clean-up. Pictured from left to right are: Jim Ricker, Jason Allen, park ranger, and Christian Quinero.

PHOTO: Terry Weiner

wintry gray-brown to 2008's bursting, viridescent energy; to participate, call Jim Ricker (619) 847-3069 for information about the monthly Friends of UH Point habitat restoration, or come to the Point this month and join us as we participate in the spring abundance all over, but especially in our own neighborly Nature Preserve. *-Jim Ricker*

Happy 17th Birthday to our Trolley Barn Park, dedicated on April 6, 1991!
And Happy 11th Birthday to the University Heights Street Sign, lit for the 1st time on April 3, 1997!



TWIGGS
BAKERY AND
COFFEE HOUSE

university heights
4590 PARK BLVD [619] 296.0616

With the advent of April 1st, Charlie lists his Community Headlines for all fools:

- 1 - 'Blackwater Training Facility to be Established in Canyons Around University Heights'
- 2 - 'Asphalt Patches to Sidewalks Declared Historic! Must be Preserved!'
- 3 - 'Parking for UH Businesses to be Established in Mission Valley. People to be Catapulted Back and Forth.'
- 4 - 'Charlie to Run for UH President! Promises A Squeaky Toy for Every Resident!'
- 5 - 'Twiggs About to Open on Adams and Idaho!' *Stay Tuned... No Fooling!!*



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FROM THE LIBRARIAN'S DESK *by Pat Benefiel*

UH Librarian Vy Tu has accepted a transfer to the College Heights/Rolando branch. February was her last month at University Heights branch. Staff and friends will miss her and wish her much happiness and success in her new position.

Message to the UH Community:

It is my privilege to have served the University Heights Community, and I appreciate having had the opportunity to work with you.

Even though I will miss the library staff, the Friends, and the patrons at the University Heights branch, I am looking forward to starting a new phase of my career.

I would like to thank you for the support you have provided me over the past two years. I wish you all the very best. - Vy Tu

METROPOLITAN OSTEOPOROSIS SUPPORT GROUP for men & women, meets the first Tuesday of each month, 10 am - 11:30 am, Joyce Beers Center in Uptown, Ralph's Shopping Center. FOR INFO CALL (858) 279-1016

FRIENDS OF UH LIBRARY

The Friends of the UH Library will meet on Saturday morning, April 5th at 10 am, in the downstairs room of the library, 4193 Park Blvd.

Become a Friend! Applications are available at the check-out counter - fill one out the next time you visit. Support your local library!

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BOOK CLUB & SALON IS THUNDERSTRUCK IN APRIL

The Book Salon selection for April is "Thunderstruck" by Erik Larson. For those readers who enjoyed Larson's "The Devil in the White City," this true story of love, murder and the end of the world's great hush won't disappoint them. "Thunderstruck" tells the interwoven stories of two men - Hawley Crippen, a very unlikely murderer, and Guglielmo Marconi, the obsessive creator of the wireless. The story surrounds an era of seances, science, and fog, inhabited by inventors, magicians, and Scotland Yard in the time of Edward VII.

This non-fiction selection should make for interesting discussions when the Book Salon meets on Wednesday, April 30th, at 6:30 pm downstairs at the UH Library, corner of Park & Howard Avenue.

Book club selections are always available at the UH Branch so stop in to pick up a copy and make sure to go to the discussion on the 30th! New readers are always welcome!

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS LIBRARY TASK FORCE

UH Library Task Force plans to meet on Wednesday, April 9th, 6:30 pm, in the downstairs room of the library.

For further information about the task force, or to add your name to the email list, please contact Chair Ron Johnston at (619) 683-7600, or email to alfaron@yahoo.com.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS T-SHIRTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

UHCA has T-shirts for sale! A new version of the popular UH street sign neon design is now available at all community association meetings and events.





The shirts are black with the University Heights name in green neon. There are short sleeve styles at \$15, and long sleeve at \$20. Sizes are Large, Extra Large, and Extra Extra Large. The shirts will sell fast so be sure to attend the April 3rd UHCA meeting at Birney Academy to purchase yours!

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS PLANNING GROUP MEETING

The University Heights Community Planning Update Committee will meet on Tuesday April 22nd at Birney Academy Auditorium at 6:30 pm. We spent the first two meetings gathering our thoughts and laying out what aspects of the Community Plan we want to attack. In our last meeting we started to look at specific blocks of streets and map out our plans - we will continue this effort in April - don't miss it! - Steve Satz

LECTURE *continued from page 1* education design with the U.S. Navy and the Dept. of Defense in Bethesda, Maryland. After his retirement from the Navy and move to San Diego, he became a resident of Rancho Bernardo where he became involved with the Continuing Education Center for which he began organizing and lecturing in the Great Decision course in the '90's until the present.

Please join the Friends in what will be a journey into places that inspired an individual, Greg Mortenson, to help young girls climb their own personal mountains through providing the educational tools to do so. For additional information call Ernie Bonn at (619) 297-3166.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mail calendar happenings to uhnewsed@yahoo.com or: UH News P.O. Box 33032 San Diego, CA 92163 All meetings are open to the public unless otherwise noted.		Uptown Planners 1 6 pm  Joyce Beers in Uptown April Fool's Day	UHDCDC Meeting 2 6:30 pm 4452 Park Boulevard Suite 104	UH Park & Rec Council Mtg. 3 5:30 pm Crime Watch 6:30 pm UHCA Meeting 7 pm Birney / Curbside Recycling	4	Friends of the UH Library 5 10 am UH Point Clean-up 1 pm
6	7	8  Street Sweeping	9 UH Library Force Task Meeting 6:30 pm / UH Library	10 UHHS 120th Planning Meeting 6 pm Grace Lutheran Church <i>see article on page 4</i> UH News DEADLINE!	11	12
13	14	15 North Park Planning 6:30 pm 2901 North Park Way Library Week	16 UH Library Lecture Donald M. Gragg, M.D. <i>see article on page 1</i>	17	18	19 UH Library Book Sale 8 am - 3 pm 
20	21	22 UH Planning 6:30 pm / Birney <i>see article on page 7</i> Earth Day Street Sweeping	23	24	25 UHAA Meeting  <i>see article on page 1</i>	26 Friends of Buchanan Canyon 9 am
27	28	29	30 UH Book Club & Salon 6:30 pm / UH Library	Note Curbside Recycling Dates: Thursday, April 3rd & Thursday, April 17th APRIL 13th - 19th is <i>National Library Week</i>		

AcousticMusicSanDiego.com
CONCERTS – NO FOOLIN',
THEY'RE FUN!

by Michael A. Johnston

This month at AcousticMusicSanDiego.com, located at 4650 Mansfield, there will be five sure to please concerts from old favorites, and a couple new to our area performers that should bring back memories.

First up on April 3rd is singer-songwriter **Susan Werner**. With six albums released and loads of accolades from the East Coast press, Ms. Werner has developed quite a following that is doing nothing but growing. Inspired by Nancy Griffith, Werner started her career in Philadelphia in 1995. Her mixture of jazz, cabaret and folk, along with her very topical and somewhat biting lyrics show her raconteur style. Her latest album, "The Gospel Truth" deals with America's views of the Church in these divided times. This is sure to be one of those concerts that will leave quite an impression.

April 12th brings the return of an AMSD fave, **David Wilcox**. Compared to James Taylor and John Martyn, Wilcox has been earning accolades and adoration for his body of work. His latest album, "Airstream" will be released shortly, and will probably add to that ever-growing following. Wilcox success-

fully mixes folk with jazz sensibilities and a wonderful stage presence. Come see why he has been a favorite with sold out shows every time he has played here.

April 17th brings another returning favorite, **Ramblin' Jack Elliott**. Ramblin' Jack always brings the house down for his sold out shows when he plays here, and this promises to be no different. His self-made cowboy image and songs of the rural life have made Ramblin' Jack quite a legend. He has crossed paths with many who were influenced by him such as Pete Seeger and Bob Dylan, and Ramblin' Jack used to pal around with Woody Guthrie as well, which gives him more than enough credibility in my book. Get your tickets soon, they always go fast.

April 19th debuts the 60's folk-pop band, **We Five**. Known for their massive hit, "You Were On My Mind", We Five has had a career that has spanned more than 40 years. Founded by the late Michael Stewart, (the brother of the recently passed on John Stewart) and Jerry Burgan, (who still leads the band to this day), We Five won the Grammy for the best new artist in 1965. Since then they have continued performing their unique brand of harmonized folk-rock that at the time rivaled The Byrds. The current band consists of original guitarists Jerry

Burgan and Bob Jones, second lead vocalist Debbie (Graf) Burgan, who replaced original lead vocalist Bev Bivens in 1968, Terry Rangno on bass, Jimmy Dunn on piano and keyboards, Chris Burgan (Jerry and Debbie's son) on drums and lead guitar and Tom Murry on drums. This promises to be a fun show.

Finally on April 27th will be the reunion of Austin's **Hot Club Of Cowtown**. Vocalist and violinist Elana James and guitarist and vocalist Whit Smith have played a number of shows for us before, but with the return of bassist and vocalist Jake Erwin to the fold, the band now has all of the members together again, so be prepared. Mixing Western swing and jazz, The Hot Club has always delivered the goods on their material. Whether it be an original composition from Whit and/or Elena or a song from the great Bob Wills, or another of their idols, The Hot Club always makes a song theirs.

All shows start at 7:30 pm. Tickets for Susan Werner are \$15-\$20 with a \$45 dinner package, David Wilcox tickets are \$25 and \$50 for the dinner package, tickets for We Five and Ramblin' Jack are \$22 with a \$47 dinner package and The Hot Club Of Cowtown are \$20 with a \$45 dinner package. For info and tickets, please call (619) 303-8176, or go to: www.acousticmusicsandiego.com.

JAZZ IN THE PARK
PRESENTS LOCAL
FAVORITE PETER SPRAGUE

Jazz In The Park will present a performance from local jazz bassist Peter Sprague and his String Consort April 2nd at 5:30 pm at the James S. Copley Auditorium. The band combines a classical string quartet with a jazz trio. Their eclectic sound encompasses Brazilian mambo and jazz swing. Highlights will include compositions by Sprague, Chick Corea and a unique arrangement of Bach's "Prelude No. 9". Tickets are \$18 for members, \$22 for nonmembers and \$10 for students.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE
LECTURE THIS MONTH

This month at the San Diego Museum Of Natural History, the next of the lecture series "Global Climate Change: Species And Places" discussion will be on April 23rd at 6:30 pm. This lecture, "Polar Bears, Seals and Climate in Hudson Bay and The High Arctic" will be led by Canadian professor Iain Stirling, Ph.D. from the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Since 1981, the life of the polar bear has been considerably tenuous as steadily warming spring air has been increasing over the past fifty years. Learn what is being done, and what

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can be done about the polar bears and arctic seals. Lecture is free with museum admission. For information, call (619) 255-0203.

4 WALLS GALLERY HIGHLIGHTS
KIMBERLY TOMNEY

As part of this month's Ray At Night an exhibit that premiered last month will be having a reception this month on April 12th from 6 pm to 9 pm. Kimberly Tomney: Silver Lining showcases Tomney's mixed-media works of lined notepaper and reflective silver paint and ink to create outdoor leisure scenes of swimming pools without people. Tomney received a BFA from SDSU and has had her work exhibited at the Oceanside Museum Of Art and galleries in Santa Barbara and Los Angeles. The reception is free to the public. The gallery is located at 3813 Ray Street in North Park. For more info, please call (619) 501-0879.

SAN DIEGO NORTH COAST SINGERS PRESENT WORLD PREMIERE "MICE AND BEANS: THE OPERA"

"When there's room in the heart, there's room in the house". This is the inspiration and theme of "Mice And Beans: The Opera", which will receive its world premiere on Saturday, April 26th and

27th at the Birch North Park Theatre.

Celebrating their 15th anniversary, the San Diego North Coast Singers commissioned New York composer Cary Ratcliff to write the opera based on the award-winning children's book, "Mice And Beans" by San Diego author Pam Nunoz Ryan. The opera will feature North Coast Singers' children's chorus in an innovative, audience-friendly format.

Composer Cary Ratcliff has worked for many years composing vocal and theatrical music of beauty and power. He is currently at work on "Elini: The Opera" based on the award-winning book by Nicholas Gage and will be featured in New York City Opera's VOX showcase of new operas later this year. Author Ryan has written more than 25 books for young people, winning awards for many of them including, the Willa Cather Award for "Riding Freedom", and the Pura Belpre Medal for "Esperanza Rising". Ms. Ryan received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from SDSU, and now lives in north San Diego County with her husband and four kids.

The performances are at 7 pm on April 26th and 3 pm on the 27th at the Birch North Park Theatre located at 2891 University Ave. Tickets are \$20-\$40, children under 17 half price. For more info, or for tickets, please call (619) 231-5714, or visit: www.birchnorthparktheatre.net.

WHERE TO EAT IN UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Looking for a Good Meal? Try one of these UH Restaurants!

- Adams Avenue Grill • 2201 Adams Avenue • 619-298-8440
- Bistro d' Asia & Sushi Bar • 4628 Park Blvd. • 619-295-5750
- Brians' American Eatery • 1451 Washington St. • 619-296-8268
- Café Delight • 4646 Park Boulevard • 619-298-5248
- Cream • 4496 Park Boulevard • 619-260-1917
- El Zarape • 4642 Park Boulevard • 619-692-1652
- European Market & Deli • 4135 Park Blvd. • 619-298-8661
- Gulf Coast Grill • 4130 Park Boulevard • 619-295-2244
- Lei Restaurant & Lounge • 4622 Park Blvd. • 619-813-2272
- Lily's Garden Café • 1817 Howard Avenue
- Monica's at the Park • 1735 Adams Avenue • 619-665-2162
- Mystic Mocha • 2105 Mission Avenue • 619-688-0858
- Park Boulevard Deli • 4504 Park Boulevard • 619-295-1362
- Parkhouse Eatery • 4574 Park Boulevard • 619-295-7275
- Pomegranate • 2302 El Cajon Boulevard • 619-297-4007
- Red Fox Steak House • 2223 El Cajon Park Blvd. • 619-297-1313
- Soltan Banoo • 4645 Park Boulevard • 619-298-2801
- Summer's Market • 4602 Park Boulevard • 619-296-0504
- Terra, in Uptown • 1270 Vermont Street • 619-293-7088
- Twiggs • 4590 Park Boulevard • 619-296-0616
- Underground Café • 3922 1/2 Park Blvd. • 619-296-2906
- Vinbladh's • 4651 Park Boulevard • 619-269-4620
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**SOHO'S 3rd THURSDAY
AUTHOR LECTURE
SERIES CONTINUES**

At SOHO's (Save Our Heritage Organisation) Third Thursdays Author Series, lectures about San Diego history, architecture and culture, featured authors discuss their passion, and guests learn how each community or topic is uniquely San Diego's own.

The events are held at 6 pm, at the Adobe Chapel, 3950 Conde Street in Old Town San Diego. The one-hour lectures include a question and answer period followed by a book signing and light refreshments.

The April 17th lecture is Early Escondido: The Louis A. Havens Collection by author Stephen A. Covey. Covey acquired 60 original glass-plate negatives, and realizing the significance of this treasure, began printing them in 2000. The result, along with photos from other collections, is a volume of over 200 images of early Escondido. Many of photographer Louis A. Havens' work from 1911-1944 is featured in the book.

Tickets are \$35 at the door for the lecture and book, or \$15 for the lecture only. Please call (619) 297-9327 to reserve in advance at the \$25 discount rate or if you would like more information.

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Once again, in an exclusive to the University Heights News, our very own Renaissance guy Dan Freed shares his observations on our life and times.

NEW UH HISTORICAL LANDMARK A long vacant and rundown log home on North Avenue has just been placed on the National Registry of Dilapidated Eyesores according to Save Our Heritage's Dan Freed. The home has long been a bone of contention to the owner who wants to tear the home down and preservationists who value the home's historical importance as the only surviving log home in the North Park area. The home has been vacant and abandoned so long that it's now valued for its long history as an eyesore. "The National Dilapidated Eyesore designation is a relatively new one," said Freed. "We preservationists want to preserve everything – the good and the bad. This designation should ensure that the property remains a blight for future generations to curse."

OSTRICHES RETURNING TO UH! Many UH residents might be surprised to learn that our community was home to an ostrich farm in the early 20th century. The ostriches were raised for their plumage which was a popular accent in women's clothing of the time. When the fashion trend passed, so too did the ostrich farm.

As luck would have it, the San Diego Zoo's breeding program has produced an over-population of ostriches at the Wild Animal Park. The zoo has decided to release some of the ostriches into the wild, their former home of University Heights! On July 1, 2008, the zoo

will release 175 ostriches into the streets of UH. Residents are advised to admire our new neighbors from a safe distance. If cornered, the ostrich can cause serious injury or even death with kicks from its powerful legs.

CITY PERMIT PROCESS TO BECOME MORE CUMBERSOME San Diego City Councilman, Dan Freed, announced Monday that the city permitting process for construction will become more cumbersome. "Our studies showed that the city permitting process only delayed projects an average of 8 months, only increased project costs an average of 75% and only caused 25% of business owners to declare bankruptcy due to cost overruns. I'm aiming for an average of 18 months delay, 125% cost overrun and 50% bankruptcies."

Freed plans to achieve these lofty goals by adding 25 new plan checkers and giving them no standards or guidelines to follow. "What they ask of developers and business owners will be completely arbitrary and change with each different person who reviews the plans – just like the current process. Only adding new untrained people will just multiply the frustration factor," said Freed.

Freed also looked into making the environment at the city plan check office more life draining. After a four month study, however, Freed concluded that there was no way to make the environment more soul crushing.

AREA MAN RUNS OUT OF GAS LOOKING FOR PARKING SPACE Area resident, Dan Freed, ran out of gas Saturday evening driving around Park Boulevard and North Avenue

looking for a parking space. "I'd just filled up earlier in the day," said Freed. "I thought for sure I'd have enough gas to drive around and around in circles until I found a parking space within one block of where I was going." Instead, Freed ran out of gas and had to be pushed back to the gas station.

SUMMER IN THE PARK LINE-UP BEING FORMULATED Every summer brings seven Friday evenings of music and community togetherness in Trolley Barn Park with our annual *Summer in the Park* concert series. Each year has brought more and more people to the park. This year, community gadfly, Dan Freed, plans on making the concert series bigger than ever. "I'd love to open with Britney Spears. There's just so much interest in that poor girl and what's she's been through. I think our park would be the perfect setting for her to start her come back. This is such a nurturing environment."

Following Spears, Freed envisions concerts featuring Barbra Streisand, the Rolling Stones, Garth Brooks, the American Idols Season 7 tour, opera diva Renee Fleming, blink-182 and concluding with the New York Philharmonic. "It's all still in the planning phases," said Freed. "We actually haven't spoken to any of the artists representatives yet. We've left several messages, but haven't gotten any call backs. But I'm super excited. Won't it be great?"



... APRIL FOOLS! –Dan Stringfield

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CLASSIFIEDS The 'UH News' classified ads section is a great opportunity to advertise a home-based business, rental, household items for sale or a garage sale. The classified section offers small affordable ads for our community. Cost is \$12 for 2-lines. Ads must be received with payment no later than the 10th of the month. Mail ads to: 'UH News' Classifieds, P.O. Box 33032, San Diego, CA 92163. For information please call Susan Holts at (619) 295-3950.

BLOCKWALKERS NEEDED: 4300 – 4499 blocks of Georgia, 1800 – 1900 of Mission Ave, 1800 – 2099 Monroe and 1600 – 1799 blocks of Adams. Please call Nan McGraw at (619) 260-0668 to volunteer.

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 Non-Emergency *(Police, 24 hours)* 619-531-2000
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 Narcotics *(suspicious drug house / property – anonymous)* 619-531-2468
 Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) 619-291-8228
 SDPD Community Relations Office Linda Lafond or David Surwilo *(Ocean Beach Storefront)* 619-531-1540
 SDPD Western Division 5215 Gaines Street 619-692-4800
 San Diego Crime Statistics <http://www.sannet.gov/police/>
 San Diego City Services
 Downed Power Lines / Gas Leaks / Tree Limbs in Electrical Wires 1-800-411-7343
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(pot holes, streetlights and signals, flooded streets, fallen trees, clogged storm drains)
 Emergency Water / Sewer Repair / Sink Holes *(press #1 for water / press #2 for sewer)* 619-515-3525
 Environmental 858-492-5060
(recycling, uncollected trash & litter control and pickup, household hazardous waste)
 Rats / Rodents *(Dept. of Environmental Health)* 858-694-2888
 Dangerous Animals *(emergency dog attack, etc.)* 619-236-2341
 Graffiti Hotline 619-525-8522
 Brush & Weed Abatement 619-533-4444
 Code Violations 619-236-5500
 Stolen Vehicles 619-531-2000
 Vehicle Abatement *(junk cars, abandoned cars, etc.)* 858-495-7856
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 UHDC Office 4452 Park Boulevard, Suite 104 619-297-3166

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