Hidden Garden is the Scene for Orchid Talk

Spring arrives early in the backyard setting belonging to Sue Boudreau during the February meeting of the UC Garden Club. Boudreau has lovingly cultivated her garden since moving to UC in 1982, which includes a full-sized greenhouse and bird aviary. Orchid loving attendees listened to Orchid Society’s Nico Goossens discuss the history of, the many species of, the pollination of, and the caring of the orchids.

Goossens didn’t have time to cover all of the 25,000+ varieties, but everyone came out with a much better understanding of how to care for orchids, especially secrets on how to maintain flowering. The secret is common sense – know where your particular species was originated and mimic that environment. Some types need multiple daily misting, while others can easily be ignored. All need fertilization. The March 14 meeting will discuss Native plant gardening.

The Garden Club discussed ways to give back to the community, much in line with the beautification goals of Imagine UC 2020. Ideas included a meditation bench, and area stepping stones. They are also planning a future plant sale. For Garden Club info, go to: universitycitynews.org/uc-garden-club/. They encourage sharing photos of your beautiful gardens too, send them to ucgardenclub@gmail.com.
Be the Eyes and Ears of UC:
The University City Community Newsletter is comprised of information sent to the editor. The association does not have reporters, photographers or staff. You are welcome to write and submit articles and story suggestions that pertain to community and residents.

Guidelines:

- Your article should be approximately 250 words or less, typed in a document and attached to email or pasted inside the email.
- Be as brief and concise as possible. Editing may result in errors. Type in plain text format; no pdf formats.
- Include who, what, why, where, and how.
- UCCA does not guarantee publication.
- The information contained in submissions may be edited and/or combined with others; for example: upcoming events.
- The Editor reserves the right to edit articles as needed.
- Name the file appropriately so it can be identified.
- Attach photos separately in a picture format at high resolution or straight from camera as a jpeg or png.
- Send to UCCAEditor@gmail.com or jemmasamala@gmail.com; email any questions.

Deadline for the April 2015 Newsletter Publication is March 19

Please send your submission as early as possible. The deadline for the April issue is March 19, but the newsletter can fill up before the deadline. Articles and news items are reviewed as they are received. Priority may be given to UCCA members and time sensitive material. Articles may also be edited for allowed space. UCCA does not discriminate against nor endorse all information in the monthly newsletter.

The University City Community Association Newsletter receives information and advertising from a variety of sources. UCCA cannot and does not guarantee the accuracy of the information or the complete absence of errors and/or omissions, nor does UCCA assume responsibility for same. Publication does not constitute an endorsement.

UCCA President
Barry Bernstein’s Column

Spring is almost here...and it seems we've been very fortunate to be able to enjoy a rather mild winter compared to other areas of our country. Our local athletic fields are busy these days...particularly on weekends with baseball, softball, Tee-ball, and soccer in full swing. Padres Spring training will once again generate high hopes for a very competitive and successful 2015. And let us not forget the collegiate “March Madness" basketball competition which we hope will include our San Diego State Aztecs.

The San Diego City Schools, UCCA, and Improve UC proposal, “Imagine UC 2020”, was presented to our larger community at a meeting at Standley Middle School in February. Reaction and results from that meeting can be found on our back page. We will keep you updated on the progress of "Imagine UC 2020 and will continue to welcome your ideas and suggestions.

After much discussion, UCPG, (University Community Planning Group), voted NOT to approve the Regents Road home building project, but did vote to approve the Genesee East Apt. addition after major downsizing and other community concerns were addressed. The San Diego City Council will weigh in on those projects sometime in the future. A full report on those issues can be found on page 13.

Our Neighborhood Watch, (jointly conceived and supported by UCCA and SDPD), has now expanded its reach thru our website: universitycitynews.org. Special kudos go out to Barbara Gellman, UCCA’s liaison and Diane Ahern for creating a new link on the UCCA website for current and future users. If your neighborhood does not have a Neighborhood Watch program, please contact Barbara for the "how to" information.

Our March UCCA meeting will highlight info from CalTrans and SANDAG regarding new projects and their traffic impact on our community. In April, we will have an update on the planned expansion of UTC and the adjacent mid-coast trolley elevated rail line down Genesee Ave. Mark your calendars...and plan to attend.

Finally, if you have forgotten to renew/join UCCA for 2015, please do so. Membership applications can be found on page 12. Remember, help us help others in our community by joining...after all, we are "more than just a neighborhood".

~ Barry

EDITORIAL CORRECTION: In the February 2015 issue, the back page article was inadvertently edited to read that the Standley Marching Band played “Singing in the Rain” and “Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head.” The band played other holiday classics. We apologize for the error.
EDITOR’S NOTES…

By Jemma Samala

So much in this issue, can’t say much this month. Yeah, yeah, hold your applause. This page reflects some of the UC events that I am connected to: Centurion Foundation, EdUCate!’s Taste of the Triangle, and Grad Nite. But it’s all worth it for the community. That’s what UC and UCCA is all about. Actually, everything in this issue is important to me. We have a thriving and very active community. And I was especially proud of our little community when I attended the Imagine 2020 meeting, looked around and saw attendees from all walks of UC life.

As I walked around the tables, the interests and concerns of everyone there were varied and equally important to that neighbor. They were all good: central meeting area like a big tree, community gardens, senior center (I’m an AARP member now), dog park, solar energy use, and my absolute favorite – ice cream kiosks!

All were good ideas, and if even a handful of them become a reality, UC in 2020 will be an amazing place to live. I think we should have the community, young, old, and us in the middle, fill up a time capsule with what we envision UC will be like in 2020. We’ll plant it underneath the gathering tree. Who’s in?

I would not be fulfilling my duties as Chair of EdUCate’s 21st Taste of the Triangle if I did not mention the event. More info next month, but the gist is: Saturday, May 2, 7:00 pm. at the UCSD Faculty Club. Tickets go on sale April 1 (not a joke) at uc-educate.org. There will be 20 restaurants providing tastes, a silent auction, local entertainment, and dancing under the stars. Be there my friends!

And you know it’s coming, if you would like to be a sponsor, or make a donation to the auction, or volunteer, contact me at jemmasamala@gmail.com. Thanks!

THE UCHS GRAD NITE COMMITTEE IS HAVING A SHOE DRIVE NOW THROUGH APRIL 10. The goal is to collect 2000 pounds of shoes. Bring gently used unwanted shoes in pairs that are in wearable condition (no skates or golf shoes). Please make sure they are rubber banded, tied or buckled together (please do not tape them) and drop them off at the UCHS Front Office. Please call Michele Hagstrom at 619.851.4464, if you need a pick up. Grad Nite receives no funds form the school or district, and is fully funded by donations. Thank you for your support.

UCHS NAMES PHILLIP HUSZAR 2015 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Phillip Huszar, UCHS Math teacher, was recently selected as UCHS 2015 Teacher of the Year and was nominated by his fellow teachers and counselors for demonstrating a high level of professionalism as an educator, effectiveness in the classroom, and dedication to his students. Mrs. Maureen Quessenberry, Science teacher at UCHS, received the honor last year. Both of these teachers exemplify quality teaching and a strong commitment to students and their learning.

In recognition of Mr. Huszar, an anonymous donor has contributed $1,000 as seed funds to start the Phillip Huszar Scholarship Award, and will match an additional $500 of donations received by June 15 through the Centurion Foundation. The scholarship award will be selected by Mr. Huszar and will go to a senior who exemplifies extracurricular academic success through involvement in such programs as the UCHS Academic League, UCSD Mathematics Field Day, and the MAA Putnam Exam. To make a donation, go to uc-centurionfoundation.com and click the tab marked Phillip Huszar Scholarship Fund.
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH*

To start a Neighborhood Watch Group on your street, contact U.C. Coordinator Barbara Gellman at bggellman@yahoo.com or 858-452-2326.

*U.C. Neighborhood Watch is sponsored by UCCA www.universitycitynews.org/

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Congressman Scott Peters (CA-52) is calling attention to twelve locations in the 52nd Congressional District where residents who qualify can receive free tax filing assistance. The resources offered through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program are available to all Americans with less than $52,000 in annual income.

Volunteers at each VITA site are IRS-certified and help consumers prepare their basic returns and determine their eligibility for tax credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, which they might not otherwise have known they were qualified to receive. The program also allows consumers to electronically file their returns at no cost. VITA service centers are found across San Diego County, including:

- North University Community Library - 8820 Judicial Drive
- North Clairemont Library - 4616 Clairemont Drive

If constituents have any questions they can also reach out to the San Diego office at (858) 455-5550.

The Preuss School Is Looking for Mentors

By Vince Reardon

Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American to serve as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, once said, “None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody...bent down and helped us pick up our boots.”

Justice Marshall was describing the role of a mentor. The Preuss School is currently seeking mentors, ranging in age from college students to retirees, for its mentorship program.

Located on the campus of UCSD, the Preuss School is a unique charter middle and high school for low-income students who strive to become the first in their families to graduate from college.

If you have one hour a week to commit to being a mentor, please contact Sandra Gutierrez, mentor coordinator, at preussvolunteer@ucsd.edu.

Inside SDPD: Do You Have What it Takes?

Some of University City’s finest, members of UC Neighborhood Watch groups, recently attended a dynamic, behind-the-scenes experience at the Police Academy, sponsored by the San Diego Police Foundation. They found out what it’s like to walk in the shoes of a San Diego police officer.

Don Danner, Phylis Speer, Debra Coleman and Barbara Gellman participated in use-of-force, vehicle stops, SWAT team, firearms and TASER training activities. They also observed police dog K-9 teams in action.

The training was designed for all ages, and the Police Academy was packed, according to Don. “I was pleased to see a lot of young people interested in what goes on in police work.” And Phylis felt the classroom discussion and simulations that focused on use-of-force situations were time well spent. “I thought it was a terrific opportunity to see the education and training that our police force goes through,” she said.

Debra (pictured), as part of the vehicle stop simulation, was faced with stopping a man holding a mock gun to his head. Wearing a bullet proof vest and carrying an imitation gun of her own, she shouted orders to the bad guy as he continued to advance. “Frightening? Absolutely,” she said. “What went through my mind, heart pounding, adrenalin rushing, was an unbelievable experience. It helped me understand the real life and death situations our police officers face daily to protect us,” she said.

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Barbara Gellman, reported that the SD Police Foundation will host a second Inside SDPD training in April. Visit the Police Foundation’s website http://sdpolicefoundation.org/ for more information.

Everyone’s A Reader

Spreckels is starting a new volunteer tutor program called Everyone A Reader. Designed by the San Diego County Office of Education, Everyone A Reader has proven to be a highly successful way of supporting children in the process of learning to read. Reading tutors receive 2-hour training and then work 1-2 hours per week with “their” students on developing fluency in reading. Become a part of a wonderful team of moms, dads, grandparents and members of our community who give the gift of reading to a child. If interested, please contact spreckelsreaders@gmail.com.
Library on Governor March Event Highlights
4155 Governor Drive, San Diego, CA 92122 | 858-552-1655 | sandiegolibrary.org

Events for Children/Families

Preschool StoryTime for Kids - Every Thursday @ 10:30 AM. Join us for stories, crafts, finger plays and songs.

Events for Tweens/Teens

Go Gaming - Every Tuesday @ 2:30 pm—3:30 pm. Learn the ancient mind game of Go from the President of the San Diego Chapter of the American Go Association. All ages.

Kendama Club - Every Wednesday @ 1:30 pm. Kendama is a traditional Japanese toy which consists of a ken (sword) and tama (ball) connected by a string. Test your skills against others, learn new tricks and just have FUN!!!

Video Game Friday’s - Every Friday @ 3:00 pm. Wii gaming with your friends! Teens! Get your game on!

Events for Adults/Seniors

Chair Sit Yoga - Tuesday, March 3rd & 17th @ 2:00 pm. Get fit where you sit! Chair yoga is a gentle form of yoga that is practiced sitting on a chair, or standing using a chair for support.

Adult Yoga - Every Tuesday @ 4:30 pm. Gentle exercises to aid flexibility and improve concentration. Bring your own yoga mat or towel.

Movie Matinee - Wednesday, March 11 @ 2:00 pm. Call the library for the title.

North University City Library March Event Highlights
8820 Judicial Drive, San Diego, CA 92122 | 858-581-9637 | sandiegolibrary.org | friends.northculibrary.org/

Events for Adults/Seniors

Job Help Assistance - Wednesdays @ 3:30 pm. Dr. Adolfo Sanchez offers help with resume writing and job searching. Appointments available by calling the library.

ESL Conversation - Wednesdays @ 5:00 pm. Improve English conversation skills in an informal, small group setting.

Backyard Gardening - Saturday, March 7 @ 2:00 pm. Organic farmer and soil expert Dr. Sling Hsu will teach the most practical, low cost, effective, easy and fast ways in improving the soil in your back yard. This lecture and Q & A session will be presented in English and Chinese.

Page Turners Book Club - Wednesday, March 11 @ 5:30 pm. The Book Club will be discussing The Paris Wife by Paula McLain.

New Cultures on Vegetarian Cooking/Dieting - Saturday, March 21 @ 2:00 pm. Instructor Jean Wang, will share with us how our diet can affect our health, animals, environment and the world. She will also demonstrate cooking and DIY with lots of fun. This lecture and Q & A session will be presented in English and Chinese.

Adventures on the Pacific Crest Trail - Sunday, March 22 @ 2:00 pm. Local hiking enthusiast Dana Law will share his adventures on and tips for hiking the legendary Pacific Crest Trail. This multimedia talk should interest both armchair adventurers and outdoor enthusiasts who may be interested in one day experiencing some or the entire trail.

Events for Children/Families

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! - Tuesday, March 3 – all day! Celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday with a variety of crafts and other fun activities.

Memoir Writing Class - Thursday, March 12 & 26 @ 1:15 pm. Find guidance, inspiration and acceptance of the past in this writing group.

Accordion Club - Saturdays, March 14 & 28 @ 9:30 am—11:30 am. New members are always welcome!

Kick Procrastination to the Curb: Four Strategies to Take Back Your Time - Thursday, March 19 @ 2:00 pm. A free OASIS seminar for you.

Scrabble Club - Tuesday, March 17th @ 5 pm. All welcome! Bring your own board and meet new friends!

Concert - Classics for the Piano - Wednesday, March 25 @ 6:30 pm. A rare treat from concert pianist Irina Bessanova. From Kiev, Ms. Bessanova has performed extensively throughout Europe and the United States.

Note from Sharon Thomerson, Branch Manager at sthompson@sandiego.gov or 858-552-1655: In addition to the current services and free programming your University Community Library currently offers, we always look forward to suggestions and comments from the University City community as well. If you have an idea for a service or program you would like to see offered at your Library, I would appreciate a call or email. We are here to serve you! Thank you.

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Events for Children/Families

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! - Tuesday, March 3 – all day! Celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday with a variety of crafts and other fun activities.

Family Yoga - Monday, March 9 and 17 @ 6:00 pm. Basic homework help for all grades and subjects. For more information please call the library.

STEAM 2 Academy - Tuesday, March 10 @ 3:30 pm. Science-based educational activities geared to students in grades K-3. This month’s topic is Garden Fun!

Robotics Demonstration - Saturday, March 14 @ 1:00 pm. Local robotics team Stuffed Dragons 6565 will be on hand to demonstrate their latest projects.

Paws to Read - Monday, March 16 @ 4:30 pm. Practice reading out loud to a furry friend! Certified therapy dogs provided by Love on a Leash, San Diego Central Chapter.

LEGO Club - Saturday, March 21 @ 9:30 pm. Recommended for ages 5 – 13. No sign up needed. Parent supervision required for younger children.

Family Movie Night - Wednesday, March 31 @ 5:00 pm. Enjoy a family-friendly movie in our Community Room. Please call the library for more details.

Story times:

Hebrew – on hiatus in March

English – Thursdays @ 10:30 am

French – Thursdays @ 11:15 am

Chinese – Saturday, March 7 & 21 @ 11:00 am

Sign Language – Thursday, March 12 @ 12 noon

Note: All San Diego Public Libraries will be CLOSED Tuesday, March 31, in honor of César Chávez, Civil Rights Leader. Many thanks to the Friends of the Library for their generous sponsorship. You, too, can be a Friend; ask at the Check Out Desk. Please call the library to confirm any given program. Changes are rare, but may occur.
**Brown Bag Opera**

Giacomo Puccini: La Boheme
San Diego, March 8, 2001

Our Mother of Confidence Church will offer the UC Community and San Diego, at large, a free screening of Giacomo Puccini’s Opera: La Boheme. The production is from the Metropolitan Opera's catalog of Opera on Demand. The screening will take place in the church hall, located beneath the church at 1:00 pm on Sunday, March 8 on a 14-foot wide screen through a high definition projection system equipped with a high quality sound system. Guests are invited to bring a sack lunch, snacks, and your beverage of choice and come enjoy an afternoon of great music.

The story is about Vittorio Grigolo, the poor poet Rodolfo, who falls head over heels for his neighbor, the seamstress Mimì, sung by the radiant Kristine Opolais. Susanna Phillips is the flirtatious Musetta, Massimo Cavalletti is her sweetheart Marcello, and Patrick Carfizzi as Schaunard and Oren Gradus as Colline complete the ensemble. Stefano Ranzani conducts.

The event is FREE and all are welcome. No prior registration is required.

**3rd ANNUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL AT UCHS**

The UCHS Music Department, under the direction of Mr. Brandon Corenman, is hosting their Third Annual SCSBOA (Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association) Music Festival. The judged music festival will occur Saturday, March 21 in the UCHS auditorium from 9:00 a.m. to about 4:00 p.m. Come and watch San Diego high schools, including UCHS and Standley Middle School, perform. The event is free for spectators. For more information contact Sharon Joe-Hom at homscouts@gmail.com.

**...A SHIFT OF YOUR COMMUTE**

The SD Association of Governments (SANDAG) and the CA Dept. of Trans. (Caltrans) have launched ShiftSanDiego.com, a source for transportation solutions, trip planning, and up-to-date construction information. The purpose of Shift is to help the traveling public make informed transportation choices during construction. The new web portal has all the tools and resources needed to plan a better commute and navigate through construction with real time traffic and transit information, a multi-modal trip planner, and constructions updates. Shift also provides info on incentives and resources that make it easier to try a new commute.

A number of transportation improvements are currently underway. One is the construction at the I-5/Genesee Ave. interchange that broke ground in mid-February. The project is anticipated to take three years to complete, and will replace the existing six-lane bridge with a ten-lane bridge. Along with replacing the overcrossing, the project will widen freeway access ramps, add an auxiliary lane in each direction on I-5 between Genesee Ave. and Roselle St., and construct a new, separated bike path that connects the Sorrento Valley Coaster station to UCSD. Check out ShiftSanDiego.com.

**Drive a Robot @ N. University Library**

By David Flores

The North University Community Library is hosting Teen Tech Week from March 8-14 where there will be different activities/events focused on technology. On Saturday, March 14, the Stuffed Griffins will be at the library from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm and will answer questions. A robot will be available for attendees to drive.

In 1989, Dean Kamen founded FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), with the goal “…to create a world where science and technology are celebrated… where young people dream of becoming science and technology heroes.” FIRST includes several programs for students ranging from 6 to 18 years of age. The Stuffed Griffins 8489 are a FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) team for grades 7-12, and are part of the Stuffed Robotics Program at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater San Diego, Linda Vista Center. Students throughout San Diego are invited to join the Stuffed Robotics Program. For info about the Stuffed Robotics Program contact: stuffedrobotics@gmail.com. For info about FIRST: usfirst.org.
Buy Local* Business Briefs

**Mark Powell** of Powell Brothers Realty, www.PowellBrothersRealty.com, has been recognized as the “2014 REALTOR® Of The Year” by the Greater San Diego Association of REALTORS®. He also received the San Diego Magazine 2015 FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENT AWARD for the 5th time in 5 years. Award winners represent fewer than 5% of real estate agents in the San Diego area.

**Lorna’s Italian Kitchen** has been a favorite of San Diegans throughout the county since 1988, as described on the website www.lornasitalian.com. Lorna’s is a proud supporter of all University City Schools and a regular participant of the Taste of the Triangle annual fundraising event. At Lorna’s, they pride themselves in using the freshest and highest quality produce and products that are available. They have worked hard to adjust their prices so customers get the best value for the food and the atmosphere. Menu items include pasta, pizza, chicken, veal, paninis, salads and beverages. Too tired to cook or do the dishes? Planning a big shindig? Take a look at their catering menu. Delivery is available and they can cater any event, large or small. Their staff is professional and courteous, the food delicious and fresh.

**Outcast Grill** is a family restaurant offering seasonal menus with international flare from around the world, as described on their website www.outcastgrill.com. Try out your favorite local draft beer and wine. A Carnivore or a Vegetarian, they have something for everyone. Try their Best Beefburger made from 100% Angus Beef or a Delicious Southwest Salad. Amenities include a dog-friendly patio, free wireless Internet, seasonal menus, weekly specials, Happy Hour Tuesday through Friday 3 PM to 6 PM, 10% discount for Heroes, 10% discount senior citizen lunch Tuesday through Sunday, and breakfast Friday through Sunday, 9 AM. Their menu features burgers, salads, appetizers, soups, sandwiches and pizza. Dinner entrees include beef kabobs, chicken parmesan, fish ’n chips and more. They even feature a kids menu.

**Round Table Pizza** stands for freshness, innovation and crave-able flavors in everything they serve, as described on their website www.roundtablepizza.com. Most pizza chains use primarily frozen dough, and often skimp on both the quality and quantity of their toppings and ingredients to cut costs. Not at Round Table. They roll dough fresh, from scratch, every day. That dough is made from wheat grown on family farms in Idaho. Cheddar cheese is aged to perfection, and combined with whole milk mozzarella and provolone in their famous three–cheese blend. They use only premium meats and vegetable toppings are freshly cut at each restaurant. With appetizers like Garlic Parmesan Twists, and salad bars offering an array of fresh selections, Round Table guests can choose to dine in, carry out, order catering or home delivery.

**Hewitt Watershapes** specializes in the design & consultation, maintenance, and repair of swimming pools and spas. Founded by Paul Hewitt, a Curie Elementary, Stanley Jr. High, and UCHS alumni, Hewitt Watershapes is a state licensed, bonded, and insured company. With over 25 years of experience in the pool and spa industry, they can simplify the complex issues that come with watershapes. If you are considering installing a pool, remodeling an existing pool, or looking for someone to maintain your pool, please consider Hewitt Watershapes for all your needs. Customers receive a free consultation and estimate for any pool or spa matters. Contact Paul Hewitt at phewitt151@juno.com or 619-733-5223.

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*UCCA members are welcome to “Buy Local” at these nearby neighborhood businesses. To view the current Buy Local specials for UCCA members, visit the UCCA website at the www.universitycitynews.org. Would you like to participate in the Buy Local offers? Go online to join UCCA today or complete the membership form included in this issue.*

- AlphaGraphics on Governor, Scott Weathers
- Better Than Home Placement, Merle Berman
- Chabad Center of UC
- ComForcare Home Care
- Craft Pizza Company
- Cycle Quest
- Dance 9
- Discovery Property Group, Mark Powell, Realtor
- Fine Art in Copper
- Gray Loan Team, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Steve Gray
- Helping Hands Senior Concierge Services
- Hewitt WaterShapes
- Kelly Johnson Fitness
- Klassen Painting
- Lori Miller Homes, Lori Miller, First Choice Properties
- Lorna’s Italian Kitchen
- Outcast Grill
- Pacific Sotheby’s International Realty, Diane Medina
- Remcon Design Build
- Roberts Carpets Cleaning
- Round Table Pizza on Governor
- Save Their Story Video Biographies
- STUDIO A SALON
- Terri Day, Realtor, First Choice Properties
- UCSolarClub.org
- Unitive Consulting Conflict Resolution and Performance Coach
4th of July Celebration could use a little help here...

By Terry Jones

This year will be the 27th annual 4th of July Celebration in Standley Park...pretty impressive, right? It will be, thanks to the volunteer committee dedicated to putting this event together and ensuring that it happens.

The 4th of July Celebration is a community event. It has been going on for years. It’s a nice party to come to on that holiday – you don’t have to drive far, there’s a trolley that will pick you up at certain times, there’s a pancake breakfast and a beer garden, there’s a bike parade and a pet parade, there’s a 5K, there are games and activities for all ages, there’s a concert in the afternoon. It’s a community event in our own back yard.

I volunteered for the first time last year, working to secure the vendors and the food booths at the event. I was “talked” into volunteering by a good friend – so that we could give back to UC and have fun doing it. I am impressed with the amount of people who want to sponsor a booth, or want to have a food booth, and especially with the volunteer committee - it’s a lot to put together. But on the morning of the 4th – to see it all come together and know that all the hard work has paid off - WOW! And you know what – it was fun!!

We need more volunteers from our own community!

Next UCCC meeting for the 4th of July Celebration is March 12, 6:00 pm at the Standley Rec Center. Come by and volunteer or contact: Terry Jones, T17Jones@roadrunner.com

...Speaking of the Rec Center

By Diane Ahern

Volunteer Opportunities: If you would like to make a difference in our community, there is a place for you at Standley Rec. Each year, volunteers of all ages and abilities help with a number of programs, special events, and grounds maintenance. Students (at least 13) who need credit for community service hours are especially welcomed. For more info, call the Rec Center at 858-552-1652.

Online Registration: You asked for it, you got it! For the first time ever, online registration will be available for Spring Programs. For more information, inquire at the front desk.

Recreation Council: This group of concerned residents volunteer their time to advise Park and Recreation staff on matters related to park and recreation programs, community events, equipment and improvements. They plan, promote, publicize and help provide recreation opportunities for residents in the UC community. Groups, clubs and leagues using the parks are encouraged to send a representative. Meetings are open to the public and are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Rec. Center.

Amenities: Standley Park and the Rec Center is free and open to the public during designated hours. Amenities include: Indoor basketball/volleyball courts*, table tennis and foosball table, two racquetball courts, three meeting rooms*, large playground, picnic areas, picnic shelter*, barbecues, Outdoor basketball court*, Multi purpose field*, and horse shoe pit. (*Open for paid rental reservations, pending availability.)

WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

Spring is ‘Sprung,’ so it must be time for baseball, soccer, swimming and more. This is the time that crusty but benign Coach Larry Yandel Jr. would normally be scrounging though the garage to find baseballs, gloves, bats, bases, tennis rackets, golf clubs, etc. He would be calling anyone and everyone, lining up players and coaches and umpires and scorekeepers and faithful field maintenance experts. He would be thinking about sprucing-up fields; and, mostly looking for boys and girls to play baseball. He knew in his heart that one day some of these kids would be in some professional training camp fighting to “move up.”

Larry Jr. always gave to the UC programs all that he could and has helped many UC kids. In his honor, his family created the Larry Yandel Jr. Memorial Youth Sports Fund. The Fund has and continues to donate to the local sports and school organizations (UCLL, La Jolla Pop Warner Football, and UC Del Sol, Centurion Foundation and EdUCate!). The fund is to help support youngsters who may not otherwise be able to play, help suppliers, other needed assistance.

Fundraising efforts began with the Spring co-ed softball tournament, and the 4th Annual Larry Yandel Jr. Memorial Youth Sport Fund Co-Ed Softball Tournament will be on April 18 and 19. For info, contact DawnYandel@hotmail.com. We hope to see you all out on the field playing, watching and supporting the Fund.

If you are unable to attend the softball tournament, please consider donating to: Larry Yandel Jr. Sports Fund found at www.charitysmith.org.

SAVE the date for the 2nd ANNUAL UC SPIRIT RUN

Saturday, April 25

The Centurion Foundation of UCHS is pleased to announce the 2nd Annual UC Spirit Run. All schools in the UC Cluster are invited to participate. The purpose of this event, a 5K and 1 mile fun run is to promote health and fitness for all UC schools, while at the same time allowing each school to raise funds for their own school purpose. Plan on April 25 to run, walk, or simply to enjoy the festivities on the campus of University City High School, all while supporting our UC schools! For more info: ucspiritrun.org.

VOLENTURES NEEDED to help on the day of the race with registration, handing out t-shirts, setting up water stations, lining the course, and clean up. Go to ucspiritrun.org/volunteer/ to help support this event!
UCHS was selected as a finalist in the Battle of the Fans competition. UCHS was the only SDUSD high school selected to compete against the top selected schools in the County.

KUSI, the CIF Commissioner, Superintendent Marten, Board members were on hand to watch the spirited student body show their stuff at the last home varsity basketball game.

Tasty Showdown at Spreckels

The inaugural Cupcake Showdown at Spreckels Elementary took place at the Valentine’s Day Dance. Judges included Jesse Rubin, EdUCatE!, Jemma Samala, UCCA and Yanette Rocha, Spreckels. Students, parents and teachers participated, offering the judges 16 delicious varieties to test. It was a tough job, but someone had to do it. Mrs. Alessio, Kindergarten teacher, won with her Peanut Butter Cup recipe.

"UC Nuts and Bolts" Qualifies for First Tech Challenge SD Regional Championship

by Wendy Remington

Six Standley 8th graders -- Will Gallegos, Josh Pitman, Alexander Remington, Brandon Sutton, Matt Thomson and Adam Turken -- competed in three FTC Robotics competitions over the winter months and have qualified for the SD Regional Championship by winning the runner up honors for the Inspire Award, which is given to the team that the judges felt truly embodied the ‘challenge’ of the FTC program. This team serves as an inspiration to what this program, and the young minds involved, can accomplish. The team that receives this award has performed well in all judging categories and was chosen by the judges as a model FIRST Tech Challenge Team. The judges use match performance, observations made during interviews and in the pit area, the Team’s Engineering Notebook, and performance on the playing field in determining the winner. The boys have spent 2-8 hours a week since June under the guidance of Coach Mike Remington and Roger Gallegos to create a robot that can autonomously put balls in a tube and in addition can be driven to pick up balls and place them in scoring regions. The boys have learned and applied computer programming and the engineering design process.

Congrats to UCHS National Merit Finalists

UCHS Seniors Timothy Notestine, Eric Wilkinson and Ashlyne Youn were chosen as finalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition.

They are in a select group of students chosen for this honor. The students will continue on to compete for scholarships and financial rewards based on their PSAT scores from their tests they took at school their junior year, including the prestigious Merit Scholarship Award.
Curie Elementary has three beautiful gardens and a new Garden Committee Chair, Ms. Gwenivere Maxwell. The entire UC community including teachers, students, staff, Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts, SDUSD, the SD Union Tribune and parent volunteers have come together to beautify, maintain and help students learn sustainability while incorporating core curriculum in the Curie Gardens.

A second grade class had a raised bed that was overgrown, students decided they wanted to grow some vegetables and have done the math, science and garden tending to prep their raised bed. Learning and using the scientific method, their plot now has a proper soil Ph and is ready to grow. They enlisted the help of the Union Tribune for recycled newspapers for their project and parent volunteers. They are so excited to start growing spring veggies.

The Curie Kindergarten has their own garden filled with nasturtium, peas, and lettuce. Students grew and ate their own salad. Other classes have broccoli, squash, tomatoes, peas, and strawberry projects in their raised beds.

A Local Eagle Scout family, the Woodworths, constructed a beautiful garden kiosk and benches for the school.

The school is a green campus, with a green waste recycle bin, completely organic gardens and a rejuvenated awareness by students and teachers alike of the importance of sustainability, conserving water resources and most important bringing communities together.

Curie Gardens are planning to open the gardens for community involvement so families can come and tend the gardens afterschool because they have had requests from students, teachers and community members.

They have so much fun during lessons, Ms. Maxwell feels “it’s awesome when I take a class out for a lesson in the garden and they have so much fun learning that time flies. The only downfall I’ve heard from students doing garden projects is ‘can we stay longer?’”

Students at Spreckels enjoy garden-based educational opportunities in two gardens on campus including an orchard in the Kindergarten playground area and planter beds in the main garden. Teachers incorporate the garden into lesson plans where the children plant, grow, harvest and finally prepare items from the garden to eat.

The photo above shows Girl Scouts watering the main learning garden at Spreckels Elementary.

The Spreckels Garden Club enjoys the fruits of their labor and is also enjoying funds from a Whole Foods grant that has allowed the group to purchase two small greenhouses, garden bed covers, and other supplies for the garden.

The UC Garden Club March meetup will take place in the native landscape garden of Tish and Tom Berge at 5471 Stadium Street, on Saturday, March 14, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Our speaker will be Arne Johansson, a prominent member of the San Diego chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Arne will talk about native plant gardening and the upcoming Native Plant Garden Tour. Tish will discuss using worm castings as fertilizer.
University City Community Association 2015 UCCA Membership Application*

2015 Members will receive our new membership card and a special thank-you gifts for joining.

___ Individual Member $20 ___ Community Supporter $40 ___ Community Angel $60

Gold Membership $100

2015 Gold category members will receive the UCCA shopping bag, along with other gifts.

Please print Name(s) ________________________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________________

Business name _____________________________________________________________

Phone ____________________________ E-mail ______________________________________

Individual and Business members’ names will be listed in the newsletter.

Please indicate if you do NOT want your name to be listed. ___ Do NOT list my name.

Make your check payable to UCCA. Mail to UCCA, 3268 Governor Drive, Box 121, San Diego, 92122. Payment is also accepted through PayPal on our website www.universitycitynews.org

Your UCCA membership dues make a big difference in our community.

These funds help support our many worthwhile organizations, (i.e. public schools’ fundraising, Standley Park, EdUCate, Neighborhood Watch, Garden Club, ImproveUC, Buy Local) as well as many special projects and activities such as median beautification, painted electrical boxes and street banners, 4th of July Celebration, summer concerts, December holiday tree lighting, and of course our monthly newsletter delivered to your home and/or business.

*This membership is valid for the 2015 calendar year. Thank you for joining UCCA.

If you have any questions, please contact our membership chairperson Hallie Burch at UCCAmembership@gmail.com.

JANUARY and FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2015

Thanks to the following new and renewing UCCA members!

INDIVIDUAL
Jamie Chapel
Marilyn Gallegos
Thomas & Katie Hekman
Paul Hewitt – Hewitt Watershapes
Margaret Jenson
Robert & Linda Kochanski
Daniel Linder
Marijane & Carl Moon
Brian & Pam Murray
Danna Olson
Deanna Ratnikov
Jenna Scarafone
Mary Weinbrecht
Patricia Williams
Margaret & Konrad Witt

COMMUNITY SUPPORTER
Marana Adan
Katherine Alix & Vincent Bartolomucci
Ron & Irene Anuskiewicz
Joan Boggs
Dr. Robert & Hella Brown – Mediation Solutions
Teddie Brown

Verena Fisher
Robert & Jill Harvey
Doug & Marilyn Hunter & Bella
Kim Knouse & Imad Ghandour
Joshua Kordasiewicz
Harry & Mary Mathis
Chocko McConnell
Pattie & Dave Meyers
Rick & Debbie Morris
Richard Perkins
Joy Richey
Arthur Samora
Robert Starkey
Virginia & Merton Taylor
Kathleen Wallace
Roberta Westdal
Art & Lan Wolfkind
Karle Wright

GOLD
Tom & Laura Cartier
Beth Crawford & Bob Crahan
Liz & Scott Jones
Peter & Virginia Graham – Land Search
Elaine Hanseon & Bruce Robbins
G.R. Henderson
Joni Lee
Michael & Cathie Lester
Terry & Sandy Moore
Kimberly Morsch
Valerie Ramey
Connie & Craig Rooten
Mary & Bill Scheffel
Daniel & Anne St. Louis
Eugene Swick
Carol Uribe
Darlene & Tom Ventimiglia

SILVER
Grace Tao

COMMUNITY ANGEL
Feroza Ardeshir & Suresh Subramani
Ana Maria Corsack
Lynn Daniel – Fine Art in Copper

Harry Griswold & Stephanie Webber
Charley Herheld & Paul Rogers
Karen Martinez
Wendy Remington
Bill & Mary Sexton
Dori & Dick Vidosic
Over the past few weeks, many residents of UC have noticed the construction of several pairs of vertical poles that are connected with overhead cables across certain streets. It is part of an Eruv.

What’s an Eruv? Under Jewish law on the Sabbath, it is forbidden to carry anything from a “private” domain into a “public” one or vice versa. Private and public do not refer to ownership, rather to the nature of the area. An enclosed area is considered a private domain, whereas an open area is considered public for the purposes of these laws.

It became obvious even in ancient times, that on the Sabbath, as on other days, there are things people wish to carry with them when getting together with friends, including their babies. An Eruv also allows those with canes and wheelchairs to leave their homes on the Sabbath.

Given the design of many communities in the past, many neighborhoods or even cities were walled. As such, the whole area was regarded as “private,” and carrying allowed. Today, it is an obvious impracticality to build walls throughout portions of cities, crossing over or through streets and walkways.

The answer is a technical enclosure which surrounds both private and hitherto public domains, creating a large private domain in which carrying is permitted on the Sabbath – the Eruv.

The Eruv in UC is 99% natural boundary, as the neighborhood is surrounded by steep slopes. Some existing fences are being utilized as well. “Doorways,” are being constructed in the four areas where the natural boundary is interrupted by roads. There are poles placed on each side of the street and a thin cable connecting the poles overhead. The combination of the “doorways,” steep slopes and some fences completes the technical enclosure.

This project was submitted, reviewed and fully approved by the City of San Diego and was also approved by the UCPG. The Eruv was designed to be unobtrusive. Please note that our original design did not include the reflective tape that has been attached to the cables. This revision to the plans was recommended by the UCPG when concerns were raised about the safety of birds.

Eruv in the United States (and throughout the world) is not unique. There are two other Eruvin (plural for Eruv) in San Diego already. One is in La Jolla and the other is near the SDSU campus. Los Angeles, New York City, Washington DC, Seattle, Chicago, Kansas City (my hometown), Houston and hundreds of other cities in the United States have Eruvin.

The Eruv project is being managed by the Chabad Center of UC, a synagogue near the intersection of Governor Dr. and Genesee Ave. The synagogue includes Jewish individuals and families of all levels of religious observance and does not require membership to attend services. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the synagogue at 858.455.1670 or email info@chabaduc.org.

Rabbi Yudell Reiz, Associate Rabbi at Chabad of UC

In an effort to be good neighbors, the portable classrooms in front of Standley Middle School have been removed. That area is going to be landscaped as a grassy knoll for outdoor use by classes at the middle school. This is the first small step towards enhancing the central school/park area of UC.

We had a great turnout at the community brainstorming meeting for Imagine UC 2020. With community support we hope to be able to combine resources through the school district, the city and our community to develop projects that will benefit the schools and the community simultaneously in the area from Standley Middle School to Spreckels Elementary along Governor Drive. Besides the main ideas of a pavilion, an aquatics center and a jogging path, many other ideas for enhancements were generated by the participants in small groups.

Our schools and community have great organizations of volunteers who support us including the UCCA, ImproveUC, UC Schools Cluster Comm., EdUCate!, Centurion Foundation, PTSA, youth sports organizations and many others. The UC Cluster Comm. will be working on coordinating the continued academic improvement at our UC schools by making sure that the academic programs from kindergarten to 12th grade are aligned at every school. Good schools and strong communities go together.

THE UC PLANNING GROUP REPORT

by Nancy Groves, UCPG Rep District 1

At the February meeting, UCPG Chair Janay Kruger announced that on March 10 from 5:00-8:00 pm members of the community belonging to UCPG will vote to seat their three business representatives and four resident representatives; three of these are new reps and the others are renewals. To be eligible to vote you must have attended one or more meetings and have signed in. Vote starts before the UCPG meeting (6:00 pm), which will be upstairs in Forum Hall above the Wells Fargo Bank in UTC.

Janie Hoover, Councilperson Sherri Lightner’s rep, explained that the southwest UC odor problem, which was reported by residents, was tracked down and fixed. And big news for UC is that Swanson pool will now open March 9, much earlier than planned because of a generous supplement from Lightner’s budget.

The vote of the UCPG members on the Alegria Real Estate project proposal on Regents Road just south of Our Mother of Confidence Church was 10 nays, 4 yeas, and 1 abstention thereby denying approval of the project. Alegria has the option now of returning to the UCPG with changes, trying to get approval of the Planning Commission without our approval, and residents would then have the right to appeal to the City Council.

The other pressing item concerning south UC was the University Terrace East Apartments on Genesee, just behind the gas station and next to Curie school. In October, the vote of the UCPG had been to recommend denial of the proposed 3-story. Wisely not wanting to go forward without the UCPG blessing they had amended the project and application, reduced the height, and number of units, and changed the architecture. This new presentation was presented, and the vote of the UCPG was 8 yeas, 4 nays, 2 abstentions for approval of the project.
Imagine 2020 Meeting Draws A Crowd

By Sandy Lippe

Over 100 interested and enthusiastic UC residents, school/community leaders, and city officials, attended this meeting at Standley Middle School on February 11th to discuss “Imagine UC 2020.” The meeting was co-sponsored by UCCA and ImproveUC. Dr. John Lee Evans, a trustee of San Diego Unified Board of Ed and a resident of UC, was the primary speaker. Dr. Evans explained the focus of the meeting was two parts: to look at 8 ideas proposed and share reactions; the second part of the meeting was to brainstorm creative ideas to improve University City, with emphasis on the heart of the community, Standley Park area, including the area from Stadium Street east to Radcliffe.

The table-talk sessions in groups of eight were designed to discuss high-lighted projects: a pavilion, an aquatics center, walking/jogging path around perimeter of the park, more green space and more parking, a community gathering place, bike and pedestrian friendly Governor Drive, and safe crossing at Governor and Genesee, medians and entrance to our community. Dr. Evans’ advice was to “dream big.” The Standley Middle School library was full of loud, productive exchanges.

In the second part, participants chatted about new ideas for possible inclusion in the planning effort. Below are some of the ideas that resulted from the conversations. Most important was having a master plan rather than a piecemeal approach. The idea of traffic safety and changes in the intersection of Governor and Genesee to make it pedestrian and bike friendly were universal among the groups. Some other ideas were use of solar heating for pool and rec center, a 2-story rec center, more permanent restrooms and open at night, better lighting (LED), signage to list events, arboretum at park, community garden, roundabout at Governor at Mercer to calm traffic and upgrade of ball fields.

The host groups, UCCA and ImproveUC, were energized by the people who participated in this critical conversation, remembering that famous line from Woody Allen: “Ninety percent of being successful is showing up.” If you have ideas about improving UC, please email info@improveuc.org.

*In April a follow-up community wide meeting for all interested UC residents/businesses/schools is being planned.

A Surprise for Sandy

UCCA board members gathered at the lovely home of Hallie Burch to recognize a number of dedicated UCCA board members that have for more than a decade served the UC community and UCCA in various capacities. Pictured above are: Terri Day, Hugh Pates, Andy Freeburn, Sandy Lippe, and Carole Pietras. Special recognition was given to Lippe for her extraordinary contribution of time, effort and determination in making University City "more than just a neighborhood”. We all wish her well and thank her for a job well done.

It’s a Ruff Life for UC Dogs

Outcast Grill recently hosted a Dogs Night Out where local pooches were able to mingle with other UC dogs under the outdoor twinkling lights. The special night was organized in conjunction with HappyDogs.com, and 10% of proceeds were donated to animal rescue programs. UC resident Erica Arvanitis, and writer for Petbox, was enjoying the evening with her dog Gus. Other pampered pets were Kia, Ziggy, Scarlet, and Maria. Diners (dogs and humans) were all looking forward to another Dogs Night Out at Outcast.