

NEWPORT BEACH

Magazine

DECEMBER 2013/JANUARY 2014 | OCINSITE.COM

Newport's Influencers

10 GAME-CHANGERS
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BACK TO NATURE

STUDENTS THRIVE AT
ENVIRONMENTAL
NATURE CENTER

MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING
GETS CREATIVE

A STYLISH SEASON

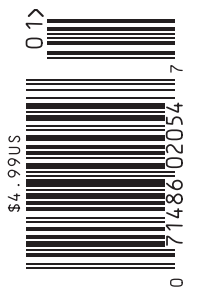
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42. ART



38. ACTIVE



32. TREND



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If You Don't Believe, You Don't Receive

Every year when the holidays approach, I begin to reflect on all my personal joys of this season as we live it here in Southern California. As I look out my window at the ocean and contemplate whether I need to bring a jacket to work—it's a teeth-chattering 65 degrees in the morning, after all—I remember that someone on the East Coast is shoveling their car out of the snow.

I'm a born-and-bred Orange County native, so a white winter wonderland during the holidays at home is an experience I've yet to enjoy (or maybe suffer through). Instead, my family has created our own West Coast traditions, best enjoyed on a warm day under the cloudless skies of Newport Beach and the neighboring cities.

Whether it's firing up the smoker to cook this year's meal or sneaking in a weekend paddle with family and friends, my favorite holiday memories are made possible only because of SoCal's coastal climate. I consider myself lucky to live in a place where winter equates to a morning spent stand-up paddleboarding in the harbor.

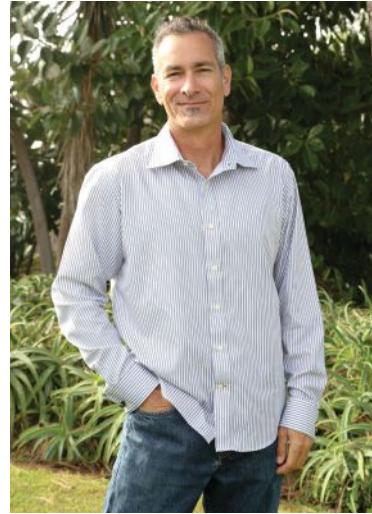
Likewise, the holiday displays put on throughout the city are quintessentially Newport, inspired by the sand and sea. Rather than being bundled up in down jackets and gloves, our locals throw on a pair of sandals and head down to the beach at Crystal Cove for the annual tree lighting. In fact, it's nearly impossible to escape the call of the ocean this time of year, as many of the season's celebrations take place with the beach as a backdrop. One annual event that shouldn't be missed is December's Christmas Boat Parade—2013 marks its 105th year, and the sight of festively adorned boats cruising through the harbor is one that everyone in the family can enjoy.

At times like these, I envy my two boys, who are just beginning to discover all that Newport has to offer during the holidays—although, at this age, they'd rather be discovering what gifts mom and dad are planning to give them this year. The boys have covered the refrigerator with lists of items they hope Santa will bring, and every day they review and adjust the sheet like day traders chasing that elusive stock buy.

Past the age of truly believing in Santa, they choose to pretend, which (for now) is fine with me. A regular chant in our house this time of year is “don't believe, don't receive”—really an empty threat, but it's a sentiment that I think can be applied to everything this season. It's a reminder to be grateful for this coastal community and to do what we love: cook, celebrate, and reflect on the times that have gone by and our hopes for the future.

So, believe in the beauty of this city, believe in the magic of this season—and you shall receive the endless bounties of a Newport winter.

*Sincerely,
Scott Sanchez
Publisher and Chief Technology Officer
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Newport's Influencers

Some might say that the word “influential” is subjective—and I agree. It’s a word with many different meanings: Is it a person’s prominence or the importance of their work that makes them an influencer? Is it the ability to make a monumental impression on a small group or having a global reach? As this is our second annual issue featuring a handful of the “most influential” people in Newport, these are all questions that arose when we sat down to finalize this year’s list (which is by no means inclusive).

When gathering inspiration for this issue, we asked a few people here at the office about the role models who have had the biggest impact on their lives. We received an array of responses that were both sentimental and silly, ranging from family members to pop culture icons.

The most influential person in my life growing up—though she probably doesn’t know it—was my mom, a woman who not only taught me excellent table manners but also pushed me to take responsibility for my own decisions. She let me fail and make colossal mistakes (like signing up for advanced chemistry in high school, only to drop the class a week later), but each setback made me that much more determined to prove that I could land on my feet. Because of her influence on my life, I was able to follow my passion and become the person and journalist that I am today.

I can’t say with as much certainty that the collection of men and women we feature in this issue are the absolute, most influential people in Newport Beach, but each of them has helped shape the community and world as a whole. Selected from your nominations, this year’s list includes a diverse group of 10 individuals—including legendary local businessman and philanthropist Wing Lam, who stays true to his surfer roots even after achieving success, as well as a new face on the scene, Kallie Dovel, the 26-year-old founder of global jewelry company 31 Bits.

Through in-depth interviews, our editorial team found that no matter how different their goals might be, all the people you selected as Newport’s top influencers this year have a few things in common: the motivation and drive to make a difference, passion for what they do and, above all, a love for the city they are proud to call home (“Making a Mark,” page 56).

We hope you enjoy the issue and that it inspires you reflect upon your own definition of the word “influential”—we’ll be waiting for your nominations next year.

*Warm regards,
Allison Hata
Group Editor
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Karlee Prazak

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CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Christopher Trela

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Peter A. Balaskas, Cynthia Jenkins,
Stephanie Nitsch, Patrick Mott, Somer Tejwani

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Trevor Hoehne, David Jakle, Dondee Quincena

DIGITAL MEDIA

CONTENT WRANGLER
Kim Zepezauer

DIGITAL MEDIA ASSISTANTS
Carly Layne
Chris Brady-Denton

PUBLISHER
Scott Sanchez

SALES
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
Cindy Byrne

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Katie Essendorf

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“My dad was a big influence in my life. He taught me the importance of working hard and never taking anything for granted.”



“My father was the most influential person in my life. He was honest, kind, had strong family values and was always someone you could rely upon.”



“My dad. He was genuine, warm and he had a discrete awesomeness about him—and an uncanny proclivity for fully being in the moment.”

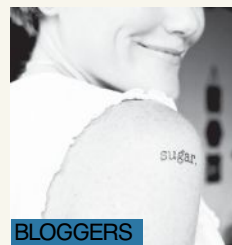
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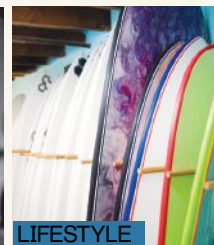
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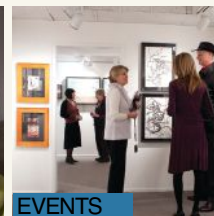
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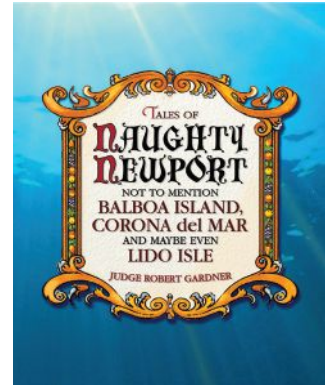
SEASON'S GREETINGS

The holiday season brings a plethora of activities to Newport Beach that will spread cheer among locals and visitors alike. With 20 themed holiday trees—including a frosted sugar plum tree and a nutcracker tree—the gallery at Roger's Gardens becomes a boutique filled with unique buys. Aside from ornaments and garland, visitors can purchase contemporary or traditionally designed linens, dishes, centerpieces and wooden toys.

For those hoping to enjoy the festivities while finishing up their holiday shopping, Corona del Mar's annual Christmas Walk returns Dec. 8, bringing with it live Christmas music, a vendor fair and a barbecue lunch from the Newport Beach Fire Department.

Crystal Cove State Park's tree lighting ceremony Dec. 7 features a visit from Santa, along with a plein-air art sale and a holiday bazaar offering ceramics and handcrafted jewelry from local artists. Crystal Cove Alliance will also provide a free lesson in wire-wrapping sea glass to make jewelry or ornaments.

Even if you're done with shopping for the season, be sure to stop by local shopping centers to enjoy decorations with extra twists. Fashion Island's tree will be lit each evening with twinkling lights synced to Disney music, while South Coast Plaza offers its usual majestic tree adorned with festive hangings. —A.R.



JUDGING A BOOK BY ITS COVER

The stories highlighted in "Naughty Newport," the second installation of satirical tales as told by the late Judge Robert Gardner (which was released in October), turn our coastal town on its head. Robert, who died in 1995, provides a watchdog-esque look into the day-to-day lives of Newport Beach's most notable and colorful people and places with an historical yet relatable account peppered with jokes. As he once described the project: "It will be an effort to portray the town, warts, wrinkles and all."

The Newport Historical Society felt now was the ideal time to release "Naughty Newport" as a follow-up to Robert's first collection of oral histories, "Bawdy Balboa," which was published just over 11 years ago. The society hopes the book will reignite interest in preserving memories told among friends over cocktails or around the dinner table. "Naughty Newport" is available at Lido Village Books and Martha's Bookstore on Balboa Island, and online at Amazon. (Lido Village Books: 949-673-2549) —K.P.

5

The Resort at Pelican Hill, which opened in 2008, marked its fifth anniversary Nov. 26, celebrating the five-diamond luxury resort's many amenities that include world-class dining, a five-star spa and a Tom Fazio-designed golf course with expansive ocean views.

MAKING HOAG HISTORY

The late Jeffrey Carlton's generosity is a remarkable testament to the power of giving. The Hoag Hospital Foundation announced Oct. 7 their receipt of a \$53 million estate donation, the largest contribution in the hospital's 61-year history. To recognize this giving spirit, Hoag will donate the first \$15 million to the aptly renamed Jeffrey M. Carlton Heart and Vascular Institute. The remainder will be used over the years to support various areas of the hospital, including advanced technology and maintaining its world-class clinical staff.

"This historic gift comes at a pivotal moment in the history of health care," says Robert Braithwaite, president and CEO of Hoag. "As we move into a new era of health care delivery where we must accomplish more with less, every Hoag patient and our entire community will benefit from Mr. Carlton's generosity." Jeffrey, who died in 2012, was founder of Press Forge, one of the largest U.S. providers of forging services and products. (949-7644624; hoaghospital.org) —B.B.



Jeffrey M. Carlton (1978)

MOVOTO.COM BLOGGERS RANKED NEWPORT BEACH THIRD ON A LIST OF "BEST DRESSED SMALL CITIES IN AMERICA" THIS FALL—BEHIND ONLY SANTA MONICA AND BOCA RATON, FLA.—BASED ON THE NUMBER OF HIGH-END CLOTHING, SHOE AND JEWELRY STORES, TAILORS AND DRY CLEANERS PER CAPITA.



YOGA GETS GRITTY

Yogis of Newport Beach now have another place to practice their downward-facing dogs. Grit Fitness Centers—which also owns Grit Cycle in Costa Mesa—now has a sister yoga studio, which opened mid-October at the Mariner's Mile shopping center. The state-of-the-art studio, managed by certified yoga instructor Alysa Osvog, offers classes in a wide range of yoga disciplines, from vinyasa (flow yoga) and Iyengar (focus on posture and alignment) to sculpt/Pilates and hot yoga. The spacious studio also boasts showers and locker rooms, as well as a retail section. With a host of talented yoga instructors, it won't be hard for yogis of all levels to find a class that suits them. Additionally, participants can give back while doing something they love: Grit Yoga hosts a karma class each week, with donations given to the John Wayne Cancer Foundation. (949-631-9642; grityoga.com) —A.T.



DECK THE HULLS

One of the city's most beloved holiday traditions—the annual Christmas Boat Parade—is hosted this year by The Commodores Club of the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce. The parade will illuminate Newport Harbor for five nights (Dec. 18-22) with the lights of more than 100 decorated vessels, including canoes and million-dollar yachts. Celebrating its 105th year, the nation's longest-running lighted boat parade will be marked with two firework displays that will bookend the weekend. Embodying the theme Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree, many of the boats will feature animated Christmas scenes and costumed carolers. The parade will follow its traditional route, beginning and ending at Bay Island. As always, the parade is free to watch, and early arrival is a must to ensure a great viewing spot. (christmasboatparade.com) —B.B.





Alixandra Collections recently opened on Westcliff Drive.



French scents fill the shelves at Diptyque.

GRAND OPENINGS

COOL AS A CUCUMBER

Venice Beach boutique Babakul has made its way to Orange County. The LA brand's hippie-inspired style is fresh, comfortable and beachy, the perfect combination for OC consumers. Already a presence in high-end department stores such as Fred Segal, the company's Fashion Island location is the latest move in the brand's planned worldwide expansion. (949-706-2555; shopbabakul.com)

SHOP AND SOCIALIZE

The space formerly occupied by Delano in Corona del Mar has a new, stylish tenant. Opened in October, Carol Rachelle Boutique is a new addition to the coastal boutique scene. The shop offers private fashion events multiple nights per week, allowing its customers to socialize, learn new trends and network with fellow fashion enthusiasts. (949-427-2321; carolrachelle.com)

GLOBAL MEETS LOCAL

Though the boutique first opened in Costa Mesa in 2011, Briana Ellison, owner of Briana Rene, recently has taken her shop to Fashion Island. The retail items are curated from all corners of the globe, from Barcelona to Australia, and include her own line of bohemian meets rock 'n' roll jewelry pieces. The boutique supports local designers, incorporating their lines with the many international labels carried at the shop. (949-395-6862; brianarene.com)

EAST COAST PREP

The classic styling of Brooks Brothers will be arriving to Fashion Island in the very near future. Carrying lines for men, women and boys, the retailer known for its timeless East Coast prep vibe has plans to open its second location in OC, the first being at South Coast Plaza. (brooksbrothers.com)

J'ADORE DIPTYQUE

Fans of Parisian brand Diptyque previously have had to search far and wide to find their favorite

candles and scents, but the revered fragrance house recently opened the doors to its first Southern California boutique this past October. Located near Macy's at South Coast Plaza, the new shop pays homage to the original Paris location, but offers a modern twist on tradition. (714-850-9995; diptyqueparis.com)

COMPRESSION CLOTHING

Fashion Island will get fit when 2XU opens its doors in 2014. The Australian makers of high-quality compression athletic clothing specialize in workout wear for athletes of all levels and stress the benefits of training in compression apparel. (2xu.com)

ALIXANDRA THE GREAT

Look no further than one of Newport's newest stores, Alixandra Collections, for some stylish sparkle. Carrying a wide array of jewelry and accessories to appeal to women of all ages and tastes, the newly opened Westcliff Drive boutique joins the company's locations in major

metropolises like Chicago and Phoenix. With pieces from local designers and big city brands alike, there is guaranteed to be something for everyone. (949-631-6816; shopalix.com)

SADDLE UP

Western-inspired clothing and accessories are the specialty of Burns 1876. Opening soon at Fashion Island, the company's high-quality leather pieces include hats, jackets, belts and custom-made boots designed in-house. A variety of materials—from traditional leathers to goat, crocodile and ostrich—satisfy the most exotic of tastes. (burns1876.com)

CHIC CLOSETS

Contemporary lifestyle brand Vince Camuto has been carried by department stores such as Nordstrom for years. Now fans of the designer will soon enjoy shopping all things Camuto in the new Fashion Island boutique, which will carry everything from shoes to clothing to fragrances. (vincecamuto.com) —B.B.

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Simon G.

COURTESY OF BLUSHINGTON MAKEUP & BEAUTY LOUNGE



MAKEOVER MECCA

Just in time for a holiday makeover, Blushington Makeup & Beauty Lounge is expected to open mid-December in Fashion Island's Atrium Court. The 10-chair salon, conveniently situated just steps from Drybar, will provide a variety of services, including makeup application with products by Stila, Becca, Julie Hewett and Kevyn Aucoin; eyebrow maintenance; faux lash application and lash tinting; and facial waxing. The new location—decorated in sumptuous shades of cream and, of course, blush—is the company's third, in addition to its West Hollywood and Dallas outposts.

"Newport Beach just seemed like the perfect fit for Blushington," says founder and CEO Stephi Maron. "We want to offer a truly unique service to our clients, and one way we do that is by strategically opening near our friends at Drybar. ... When we discovered that the space adjacent to Drybar was available in Fashion Island, we knew we had to jump on it—it's our ideal setup.

"Orange County women are ready to experiment with products, colors—you name it," she adds. "We want to provide them with the convenience of getting their makeup done by artists who aren't pushy salespeople, who are going to listen to their requests and enhance and freshen up their look." (blushington.com) —*T.E.*



STUDENTS AND SCIENCE TEACHERS AT HARBOR DAY SCHOOL IN CORONA DEL MAR ARE LOGGING HOW MUCH TRASH IS GENERATED ON CAMPUS—SO FAR ON TRACK TO AVERAGE APPROXIMATELY 71,748 POUNDS OF GARBAGE BY THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR—TO RAISE AWARENESS AND FIND WAYS TO REDUCE THEIR WASTE.

SCORING A TOUCHDOWN

Although college football's biggest game will be played in Pasadena, Newport Beach holds a pivotal role in the upcoming VIZIO Bowl Championship Series (BCS) National Championship. Newport will host more than 10,000 visitors the week before the Jan. 6 game day, including players, coaches, fans and media.

Previously, the city hosted participants in the 2010 championship game, filling Newport's hotels and bringing a remarkable amount of revenue to local businesses. It was the biggest year for tourism in the city's history, but 2014 may be even bigger with expected revenue ranging from \$3 to \$6 million.

As chairwoman of the BCS host committee Amanda Kliem—Visit Newport Beach's national sales manager—may try to create events unique to the teams. Jeff Soto of Newport Beach and Co. says the company has encouraged local restaurants to host team-specific nights or specials.

This year's BCS event is a momentous occasion, as 2015 marks the start of the College Football Playoff system, thus ending the former championship game. —*A.R.*



> happenings

HOLIDAY EVENTS

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Dec. 6; Newport Coast Community Center

Children are invited to join Santa Claus at the Newport Coast Community Center for a special breakfast beginning at 9:30 a.m. (949-644-3151; newportbeachca.gov)

LIGHTING OF THE BAY

Dec. 6; Newport Dunes

Venture out to Newport Dunes to experience a different kind of tree lighting ceremony. Santa Claus will illuminate the bay by flipping a switch to turn on a sea of electric Christmas trees at 6 p.m. Sing along to holiday carols and indulge in seafood chowder and hot chocolate from Back Bay Bistro for a small fee. (949-729-3863; newportdunes.com)

35TH ANNUAL CORONA DEL MAR CHRISTMAS WALK

Dec. 8; throughout Corona del Mar

Support the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses by purchasing raffle tickets or hot dogs barbecued by the Newport Beach Fire Department. Kids can get their picture taken with Santa, visit a petting zoo or play in a bounce house from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring an unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots. (949-673-4050; cdmchamber.com)

NUTCRACKER TEA HOLIDAY PARTY

Dec. 15 and 22; The Resort at Pelican Hill, Newport Coast

A performance of the classic holiday ballet, "The Nutcracker," will be presented in a ballroom at the resort from noon to 3:30 p.m. Guests also will be invited to indulge in holiday tea, sandwiches and treats. (855-315-8214; pelicanhill.com)

CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE

Dec. 18-22; Newport Harbor

Experience the joy of Christmas as boats decorated with lights and animated holiday scenes make their way across the harbor. Make a night of it and dine at a waterfront

restaurant while watching the show. Be sure to catch one of the spectacular fireworks displays that will open and close the five-night event. The parade starts off Bay Island at 6:30 p.m. nightly. (christmasboatparade.com)

FUNDRAISERS

CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

Dec. 6; Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Costa Mesa

The Segerstrom Center for the Arts' 40th anniversary Candlelight Concert aims to raise funds for artistic and educational programming at the center. The event features an evening on the red carpet and a candlelit dinner followed by entertainment from distinguished performers. (714-556-2121; scfta.org)

NEW YEAR'S EVE BLACK TIE GALA

Dec. 31; Balboa Bay Resort, Newport Beach

Welcome the new year with an elegant night to remember. Savor a five-course meal in the grand ballroom while enjoying live entertainment from a 12-piece party band. And, of course, a New Year's celebration would not be complete without noisemakers and celebratory Champagne at midnight. (949-630-4145; balboabayresort.com)

CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE AWARDS DINNER AND AUCTION

Jan. 24, 2014; Island Hotel, Newport Beach

Winners from the Christmas Boat Parade and Ring of Lights (a contest for decorated bayside homes and businesses) will be recognized; both live and silent auctions are planned to help raise money for next year's event. (christmasboatparade.com)

ACTIVITIES

XTERRA TRAIL RUN

Dec. 8; Crystal Cove State Park

Get a workout at the beach while you run in the third of seven races along the California coastline. As part of the Xterra SoCal Trail Run Series, participants can choose from beginners or expert distances. (trailrace.com)

NEWPORT BEACH RESTAURANT WEEK

Jan. 17-26, 2014; throughout Newport Beach

Foodies can celebrate their love of all things culinary with this beloved 10-day event taking place throughout the city. Local restaurants offer special three-course prix fixe lunch and dinner menus to tempt the taste buds. (877-462-3463; newportbeachdining.com) **NBM**

COURTESY OF THE RESORT AT PELICAN HILL



Nutcracker Tea Holiday Party at Pelican Hill

SOCIETY

Z COLLECTION FALL FASHION PARTY

1 Scott Sanchez, Brian Wade, Mark Scott, Leyla Finkle, Denny Muusse, Daniel Luna **2** Jacque and Tim Rogers, Kristie and John Haugh, Heather and Chris Pullis **3** Sarah Nedelman, Kristie Haugh, T.J. Fink, Kristi Deutsch **4** Z Collection fashions **5** Jacqui Zehe, Greg and Vanessa Hawkins, Caroline Taylor **6** Heather Welther, Carlos Gomez, Leyla Finkle, Gordon Randall



JODY TIONGCO AND CARLY LAVNE

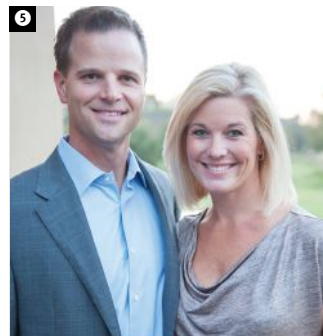


Newport's best dressed walked the red carpet at Z Collection's elegant fall fashion party Oct. 17 at the boutique's premier Newport Coast storefront. A vibrant red sports car from Ferrari and Maserati of Newport Beach stood sentry outside the front doors, where Z Collection owner Kristie Haugh greeted guests upon arrival. Attendees browsed designer selections—including apparel by Porter Grey, Cynthia Vincent, Rebecca Taylor and more—while sipping signature cocktails from Ion Vodka and sampling home-style gourmet Mexican dishes from Javier's, also located in the Crystal Cove Shopping Center. Swiss Watch Gallery was on hand with a pop-up display of jewelry, offering guests an opportunity to try on bracelets, rings and necklaces adorned with dazzling diamonds and other eye-catching gems. —A.H.

SOCIETY

THE WOODEN FLOOR'S WINE TASTING BENEFIT

1 John and Heidi Oswald, Tim and Amber Smith **2** Sarah and Thom McElroy, Yvonne and Damien Jordan **3** Allie Atwood, John Votava **4** Bill and Barbara Yingling **5** Greg and Cassandra Richardson **6** Ginny and Rich Hunsaker **7** Janice and John Markley



Wine enthusiasts and arts patrons came together at the annual Keep the Promise Wine Tasting Benefit, which netted more than \$260,000 for The Wooden Floor, a nonprofit that brings dance and performance education year-round to students across Orange County. Held at Big Canyon Country Club, the sold-out event welcomed more than 280 guests and marked the organization's 30th anniversary year. Guests sipped a selection of 14 highly rated, rare wines from around the world, which were donated by honorary co-chairs and premier sponsors John and Janice Markley. Following a Champagne toast, students shared their personal stories of time spent at The Wooden Floor. Executive Director Dawn S. Reese also thanked attendees; with their support, the organization has helped 100 percent of its program graduates complete high school on time and enroll in higher education for the past nine consecutive years. —A.H.

SOCIETY

PACIFIC SYMPHONY OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION AND CONCERT

1 David and Michelle Horowitz, Sheila and Jim Peterson **2** Dr. Richard Afable, Julie Afable, Michele and John E. Forstye **3** Joann Leatherby, Greg Bates **4** Sally Anderson, Tom Rogers **5** Mike and Jan Lowther, Patricia and Bill Podlich

NICHOLAS KOON PHOTOGRAPHY



More than 270 guests in black-tie attire gathered at the Center Club in Costa Mesa on Sept. 26 in celebration of the Pacific Symphony's 35th anniversary season opening night. The event, *Rachmaninoff—From Russia With Love*, began with a grand dinner, cocktail reception, and a performance of Russian folk dances from UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts. Raising \$165,000 in support of the Pacific Symphony's artistic and educational programs, the evening's true celebration began at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall with a dramatic recital of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3, led by music director Carl St.Clair and performed by pianist Conrad Tao. At the conclusion of the performance, guests savored Champagne, Russian chocolates and music by the Joey Sellers Quartet. —A.T.

SEGERSTROM CENTER FOR THE ARTS CANDLELIGHT CONCERT LUNCHEON

1 Jackie Glass, Deborah Bridges, Betty Huang **2** Designer Zang Toi **3** Twyla Martin, Elizabeth An **4** Zang Toi designs on the runway **5** Judy Chang, Elizabeth Tierney



DOUG GIFFORD



Celebrating the 40th anniversary of its Candlelight Concert gala this year, Segerstrom Center for the Arts held a special pre-event Oct. 4 at South Coast Plaza for committee members and other VIP guests. Nordstrom hosted attendees for the luncheon catered by Creme de la Creme, in addition to presenting a preview of designer Zang Toi's spring 2014 looks. Toi, who has attended a previous Candlelight Concert, is a patron of the arts—particularly dance—and showcased his Ballet Babe collection featuring high heels inspired by pointe shoes and graceful color palettes reminiscent of dancers' costumes. Segerstrom Center for the Arts' 2013 Candlelight Concert takes place Dec. 6 at Segerstrom Hall, featuring a special performance by The Beach Boys and paying tribute to past committee chairs. —A.H.

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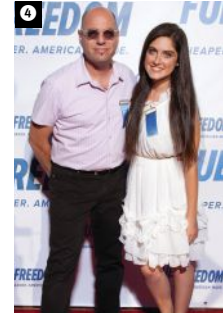
www.galleryofcosmeticsurgery.com

See our before & after photo gallery.

SOCIETY

FUEL FREEDOM GALA

1 Yossie Hollander **2** Uri Ben-Ezer, Oded Ben-Ezer, Eyal Aronoff **3** Catered hors d'oeuvres at the event **4** Eyal Aronoff, Leya Aronoff **5** Mike DiSanti, Matthew Moore, John Kempt, Stefano Capobianco



Fuel Freedom co-founder Eyal Aronoff opened his Newport Coast home to more than 300 guests for the second annual gala held Sept. 28. Attendees admired sporty vehicles converted to run on natural gas and met members of the advisory board, including John Hofmeister, former president of Shell Oil. The night featured a spirited live auction, which included three trips to Africa (each raising \$40,000). The 100 Club, a membership program granting priority access to Fuel Freedom's programs to supporters who donate varying levels of money, also launched at the event. Funds raised will go toward the organization's efforts to promote cheaper, cleaner, American-made fuels and end U.S. dependence on foreign oil. —*L.D.*

LITERACY PROJECT FOUNDATION LUNCHEON

1 JoAnn Albers, Sue Tucker, Gregory Swift, Aimee Richter **2** Todd Vinson, Emmanuel (a student) **3** Sandy Segerstrom Daniels, Ed Arnold **4** Marian Bergeson, Christina Romney **5** Annie Foster Freedland, Nashonda (a student)



The What Dreams Are Made Of luncheon, held Sept. 25 at Big Canyon Country Club, raised \$70,000 for the Literacy Project Foundation's (LPF) mission to help at-risk children increase their reading level skills. The event brought 275 guests together in celebration of the Corona del Mar-based organization's biggest champions. Among those honored were Gregory Swift, brand president for North America at Omega watch company; Aimee Richter, general manager of Tourbillon Boutique at South Coast Plaza; Ed Arnold, KOCE news anchor; Doug Freeman of First Foundation; Christina Romney, LPF's master teacher of the year; and Barbara Shangraw, Dream Maker honoree. The highlight of the event was a presentation by five Orange County students who recently completed the organization's reading program and shared "dream cards" and illustrations of their perfect jobs. —*A.H.*

BOB HODSDON PHOTOGRAPHY



Over 50 years the 911 has become a fixture of popular culture. Ironically, considering it has never once stood still.

Movies. Television. Music. The Porsche 911 has influenced culture for half a century. Which is no surprise to drivers who know, first hand, why it's become an icon. A reputation it built on a legacy of motorsport dominance and innovation. That legacy lives on in every street-legal version we produce. The seventh-generation 911 is no exception. It's designed to deliver the kind of inspiring sports car performance celebrated by culture. And more importantly, its driver. Porsche. There is no substitute.

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PORSCHE

SOCIETY

SOUTH COAST REPERTORY 50TH SEASON GALA

1 David Emmes, Paul Folino, Martin Benson **2** Yvonne Jordan, Sophie Cripe, Julianne Argyros, Bette Aitken **3** Jerry and Maralou Harrington **4** Sophie and Larry Cripe **5** Bill Peters, Debra Gunn Downing, Kathryn Cenci, Michael Moser



In celebration of its golden anniversary, South Coast Repertory closed its stages at the Folino Theatre Center (recently renamed the David Emmes and Martin Benson Theatre Center) for the first time to host the Theatrical Gold gala on Sept. 21. Raising a net total of more than \$1 million, the annual ball brought together 420 patrons in support of the arts. After walking the gold carpet, guests enjoyed signature Golden Fiftinis from Bluewater Grill and Taittinger Champagne in gold-trimmed flutes as they were greeted by honorary chairwoman Julianne Argyros and vice chairs Bette Aitken, Sophie Cripe and Yvonne Jordan. A surprise show, "The Second City's Salute to South Coast Repertory," delighted attendees before they were invited to savor an elegant dinner and kick up their heels on the Julianne Argyros stage, transformed for one night only into "Club Argyros." —A.H.

GIRLS INC. ANNUAL FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON

1 Lucy Santana-Ornelas, Gena H. Reed, Gianna-Drake-Kerrison **2** Olivia Almeida, Nicole Funsch, Maribel Maldonado, Jamie Gwen **3** Pam Adams, Scharrell Jackson **4** Jeff and Cheryl Osborn **5** Roseanne Levan, JoAnn Fanticola, Valarie Van Cleave

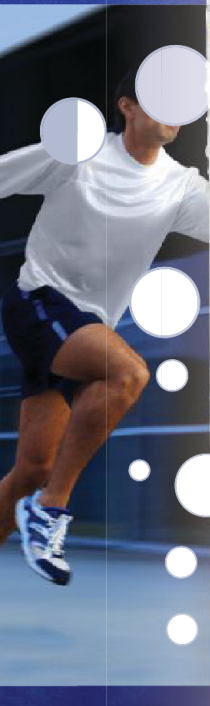


The Girls Inc. of Orange County's My Bold Future luncheon was a celebration of the nonprofit's mission: ensuring that the girls in its programs have bright, successful futures. Taking place Oct. 24 at the Island Hotel, the event welcomed 300 guests. A highlight of the afternoon, three current and former Girls Inc. members shared how the organization has helped them achieve their dreams. College freshman Maribel Maldonado spoke about how her externship experience at a local animal hospital and a scholarship helped set her on a path to become a veterinarian; 11-year-old Nicole Funsch shared how she's learning to become a leader; and 13-year-old Olivia Almeida told the touching story of her struggles with school bullies. Approximately \$225,000 was raised at the event, 80 percent of which will go directly to Girls Inc.'s year-round programs. —A.H. NBM

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PRECIOUS GEMS

The season sparkles with ruby and diamond jewelry.

SECTION BY JULIE FRENCH



Ruby ring featuring 18-karat white gold and rose gold pavé-set diamonds with 2.15 carats of brilliant-cut diamonds and an 8.50-carat Burmese ruby, price upon request, at Swiss Watch Gallery & Fine Jewelers, Laguna Hills Mall (949-458-1962; swisswatchgallery.com)



Feu d'Artifice necklace from the Une Journée à Paris collection featuring a 1.52-carat pear-shaped diamond, with rubies and diamonds set in 18-karat white gold, price upon request, at Van Cleef & Arpels, South Coast Plaza (714-545-9500; vancleefarpels.com)



Ruby ring featuring an 11.08-carat Thai ruby, 10.64 carats of oval diamonds and 2.25 carats of round and baguette diamonds set in platinum, price upon request, at Black, Starr & Frost, Newport Beach (949-673-1771; blackstarrfrost.com)



Floral ruby and diamond earrings with 10.23 carats of marquise-cut rubies and 1.55 carats of round diamonds set in white gold, \$18,800, at Lugano Diamonds, Newport Beach (949-720-1258; luganodiamonds.com)



Ruby and diamond bracelet with 49.37 carats of rubies and 10 carats of diamonds set in platinum, price upon request, at Harry Winston, South Coast Plaza (714-371-1910; harrywinston.com)



Pure velvet double-breasted suit, \$2,225, pure silk handkerchief with deco pattern, \$110, silk viscose scarf with deco pattern, \$495, polished calfskin laced ankle boot, \$850, all at Canali, South Coast Plaza (714-662-1800; canali.it/en)



Jack Victor Super 100s suit woven in Italy, \$895, at At Ease, Crystal Cove Shopping Center (949-759-7979; ateaseclothing.com)

SUIT UP

Velvet and Jacquard add luxurious texture to men's winter formalwear.



Navy double-breasted overcoat with mink collar, \$7,200, black Jacquard silk tuxedo jacket, \$5,350, waistcoat, \$1,250, silk trousers, \$1,750, white cotton shirt, \$1,250, black silk bow tie, \$411, black suede and patent leather loafer, \$950, all at Brioni, South Coast Plaza (714-427-0945; brioni.com)



Black velvet evening duke jacket with velvet shawl collar and faille detail, \$2,450, white piece-dyed poplin evening skinny shirt with mother-of-pearl studs and quartz buttons, \$545, black and gray botanic Jacquard skinny pant, \$1,595, all at Gucci, South Coast Plaza (714-557-9600; gucci.com)



Tuxedo suit jacket in devore velvet with dot effect and shawl collar, \$1,850, pleated trousers, \$700, white shirt with pleats and French cuffs, \$445, matching cummerbund in devore velvet with dot effect, \$350, solid oxford shoes in black polished calfskin with tapered toes, \$795, tie, \$250, all at Ermenegildo Zegna, South Coast Plaza (714-444-1534; zegna.com) NBM

GLOBALLY INSPIRED

A Corona del Mar den is transformed into
an intimate and familiar space.

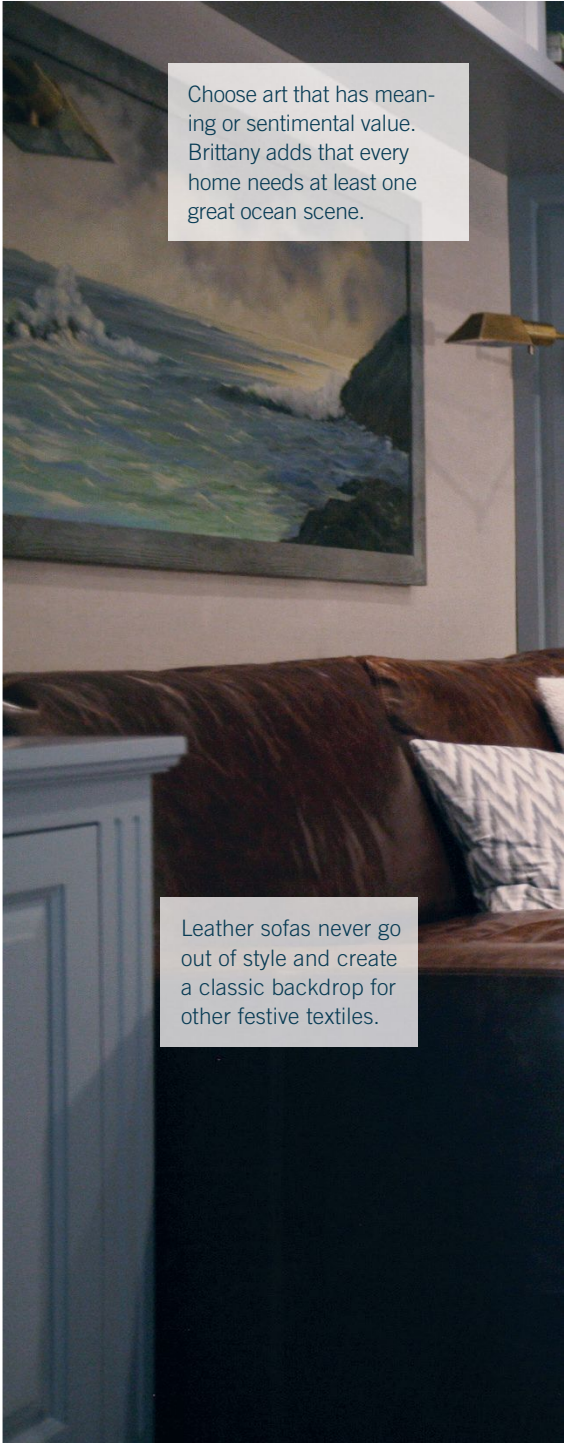
BY SOMER TEJWANI

BRITTANY STILES SPENT SUMMERS GROWING UP AT THE BEACH—NOT AT A Parisian flea market or choosing new drapes with her mother like the stories you hear from so many other emerging designers. In fact, she didn't start her own personal journey of discovering design and her aesthetic until college. But since then, the Newport local hasn't looked back. "I have come to truly appreciate how much better life is when it is beautifully designed," she says.

Now at the helm of her own eponymous design company, Brittany works with clients throughout Newport Beach to create everything from tablescapes and kitchens to small retail. She notes that a just-completed project she did for a couple in Corona del Mar—a den space that needed reimagining—was unique even for her, in that the well-traveled clients wanted ethnic design touches to remind them of their journeys.

"We accomplished this with traditional wood paneling that we painted gray and infused rugs and textiles to the space to add pattern, color and texture," Brittany says. The result is a space that is intimate, welcoming and familiar. A little designer luck also helped with the redecorating as subtle details that were already present in the room, like the window and fireplace, also make the space feel much larger and warmer than it is.

With Brittany's carefully curated additions—like a pair of brass wall sconces and shelving for functionality; an oil painting of sentimental value; and a mix of vintage African pillows, Indonesian-inspired ikat print and a Turkish rug—the design brings the exotic journeys back home. **NBM**



Choose art that has meaning or sentimental value. Brittany adds that every home needs at least one great ocean scene.

Leather sofas never go out of style and create a classic backdrop for other festive textiles.

Transform traditional neutral walls with color; changing the white wood paneling here to a blue-gray hue accomplished a more sophisticated library aesthetic.

Cover a fireplace in contemporary limestone brick to blend with the color of wood-paneled walls, while still adding a little contrast.

Textiles can add depth to a room—don't be afraid to mix colors and patterns within a theme, such as these vintage African pillows, Indonesian-inspired ikat prints and Turkish rugs.

HAUTE WINTER AT HOME

Cozy up this season and fall in love with bold takes on classic living.

BY SOMER TEJWANI



Wine storage just may be the ultimate modern luxury. This full wall of storage with cubbies and a rolling ladder is made even more useful with two **WINE REFRIGERATORS** and two **REFRIGERATOR/FREEZERS** BY SUB-ZERO, approximately \$39,500 for full unit, through Roomscapes. (949-448-9627; roomscapes.net)



The graphic pattern and bright pop of color of the **NOMAD CHAIR** turns seating into a work of art, \$175, by Brown Jordan, Costa Mesa. (949-760-6900; brownjordan.com)



Ditch the traditional square shape and opt for a burst of gilded design with this **MIRRORED BURST MIRROR** hand-crafted of stone and resin with inlaid glass, \$99.95, at Pier 1 Imports. (949-497-7428, pier1.com)



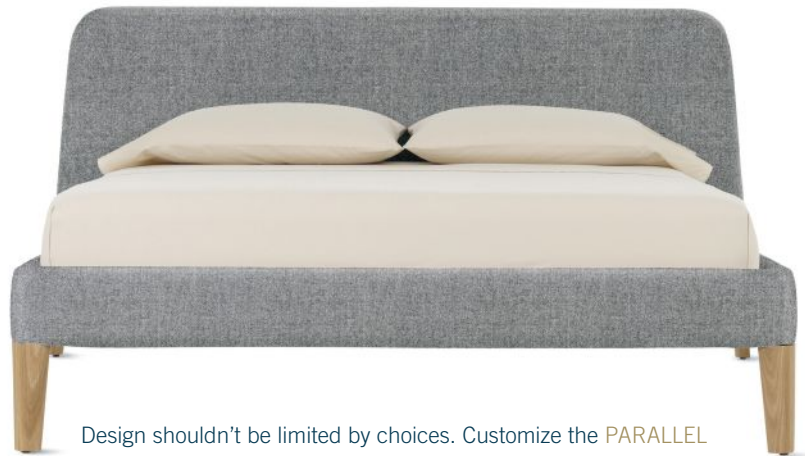
The Paola Navone collection **RIVIERA FLOCKED PENDANT LAMPS** are a fresh and unexpected new take on typical lighting options, from \$129, at Crate & Barrel, South Coast Plaza. (714-825-0060; crateandbarrel.com)



This season, play the perfect holiday host or hostess with an updated serving tray. The **CINCHWAIST OVAL IRON AND MIRROR TRAY** is a fresh take on typical serving pieces, \$495, by Deco Home, Costa Mesa. (714-444-4040; decohome.com)



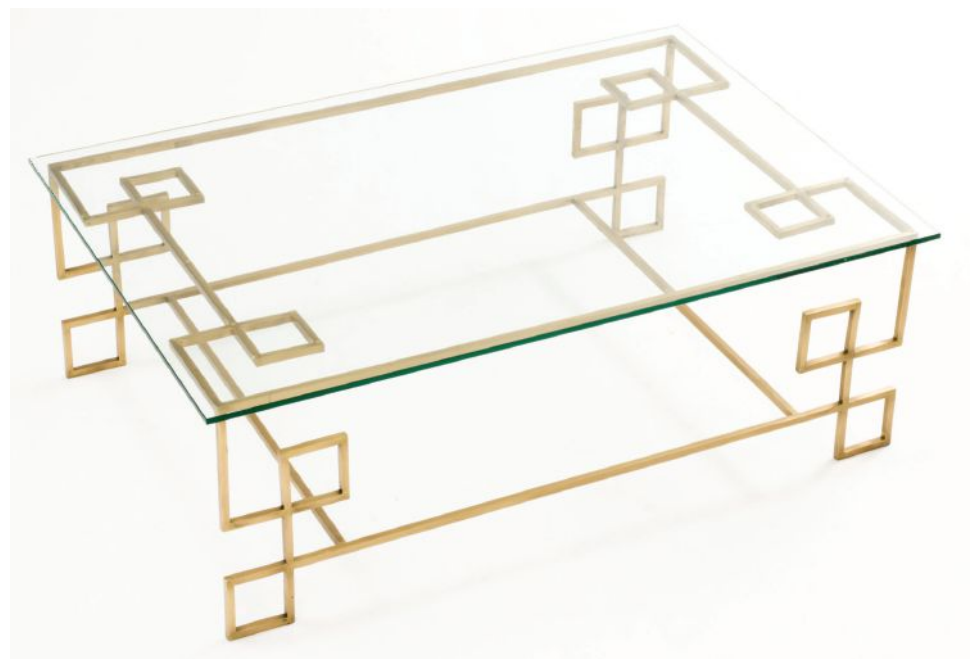
The scale of this reading chair and ottoman makes the piece great for even the smallest den. **IVORY KEY CRYSTAL CAVES** chair, from \$1,445, and **OTTOMAN**, from \$675, by Tommy Bahama Home, Fashion Island (949-706-9928, tommybahama.com)



Design shouldn't be limited by choices. Customize the **PARALLEL BED** in lama tweed heather with a standard or extra-wide headboard, oak or walnut frame and fabric or leather upholstery, from \$2,465, by Design Within Reach, Costa Mesa. (714-427-0628; dwr.com)



Drawing inspiration from high fashion runway looks, the metallic nailhead trim brings just enough attention to the simple black frame of the **FLIRT CHAIR** by Hancock and Moore, from \$1,521, at Von Hemert Interiors, Costa Mesa. (949-642-2050; vonhemertinteriors.com)



The clean lines and gold accents of the **CARLTON COCKTAIL TABLE** make happy hour more appealing, price upon request, through Brittany Stiles Interior Design. (949-891-2282; brittanystiles.com) **NBM**

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

Orange County's league reinvents competitive roller derby for a new generation.

SECTION BY TESS EYRICH

WHEN MOST PEOPLE THINK OF ROLLER DERBY, it's the retro leagues of the 1960s and 1970s—along with the 2009 movie “Whip It”—that first come to mind. Since the early 2000s, however, roller derby has enjoyed a contemporary revival, with leagues springing up across the country. Orange County is enjoying its own renaissance on wheels, with a league founded in 2006 composed of seven recreational and competition teams of all skill levels, including one based in Newport.

Since its inception, the OC Roller Girls league has grown to include women's, men's and coed teams, a juniors program and recreational classes for more than 150 members. As captain of the Newport Beach rookie team, the Back Bay Bombshells, Carrie Strom—known within the league as Maisie Maelstrom—leads members on frequent practice sessions on the boardwalk. Co-player Tara Kotchounian, who lives and works in Newport, recently joined the competition squad, the Crash Test Bunnies, under the moniker Hye Jinx.

Newport Beach Magazine caught up with both women at the league's indoor banked track to discuss roller derby's rising popularity across OC.

Newport Beach Magazine: *How did you get involved in roller derby?*

Carrie Strom: I saw an advertisement for reduced [competition] tickets on Goldstar, and I thought, “Wow, they still do that? That's cool.” I thought I would check it out, but it took me about six months to finally come down. I used to roller skate as a kid, and I just loved it. I was also looking for something alternative to do for exercise.



Back Bay Bombshells captain Carrie Strom

NBM: *What does a typical derby practice session entail?*

Tara Kotchounian: We usually do agility skills for half the practice... and then for the other half we'll do scrimmaging, where we break up into teams and then play each other. Or, we'll do drills that mimic a play during a game.

CS: We always start with endurance. It's hard, but it's really rewarding.

NBM: *What is most challenging about practices and competitions?*

CS: [It's most challenging] when you're physically tired and mentally not sure if you can keep going, but you push yourself to keep going anyway.

NBM: *What are some of the biggest physical benefits of roller skating?*

CS: I've lost some weight, but more than anything, I'm stronger. Honestly, I think the biggest benefits have been emotional. I feel more confident and able to take on anything because derby itself is really challenging.

TK: I definitely agree. It's about pushing yourself and knowing that you accomplished something, knowing that you stayed on your feet. When you tackle something new or play great in a game, it's an amazing feeling.

NBM: *Any other non-physical advantages of being involved in derby?*

TK: Definitely the camaraderie with the girls and the friendships. Everybody is so supportive, from your coaches to your teammates, and girls up and down the league as well. We're always trying to bring in new skaters and help the Fresh Squeezed [players], who are the beginning skaters. It's a really nice community.

CS: It's a fellowship, a family that we make here. Everybody is very encouraging [and we all] want to see everyone do well and get better.

NBM: *What advice would you give to someone who's interested in getting involved in derby?*

TK: Come out and skate. You can skate without the physical contact because we're starting up a [recreational] league where you can skate for fun and exercise.

CS: The Fresh Squeezed program we have is where people start, and it's all non-contact. [The instructors] will teach you how to skate. There's nothing to be intimidated by because everyone is so supportive. Just put on your skates and come on down.

TK: Or, come on down and then put on your skates.

BELLES ON WHEELS

Newport's OC Roller Girls share their top picks for derby practice and play.

OC ROLLER GIRLS LEAGUE MEMBERS CHOOSE GEAR AND equipment on the basis of protection and personal expression. Helmets, mouthguards and kneepads are par for the course, along with stylish skates, colorful clothing and sunglasses for seaside practice sessions. NBM



CAMELBAK EDDY GLASS WATER BOTTLE, \$25, at Athleta, Fashion Island (949-717-6650; athleta.com)



SHOCK DOCTOR NANO 3-D MOUTHGUARD, \$49.99, at Sport Chalet, Costa Mesa (714-424-9255; sportchalet.com)



KAENON MAYA POLARIZED SUNGLASSES, price upon request, at Lido Optical, Newport Beach (949-645-2020; lidooptical.com)



SURE-GRIP BOARDWALK SKATES, \$204.99, at OC Roller Skates, Santa Ana (714-847-9097; ocrollerskates.com)



TRIPLE EIGHT BRAINSAVER DUAL CERTIFIED HELMET, \$39.99, at Dick's Sporting Goods, Fashion Island (949-640-1107; dickssportinggoods.com)



WORK IT OUT DUFFEL, \$148, at Lululemon Athletica, Fashion Island (949-644-9642; lululemon.com)



My Little Pony

By Sugar Mama

Being loosely categorized as a humor columnist, I am asked on occasion to write about other people's funny experiences as if they were my own. And when I say "funny," I mean weird, disgusting or downright spooky.

The other day, a neighbor asked me to look at footage from her surveillance camera from the night before. On it, she claimed, was a ghost. Intrigued, I sauntered over in my bathrobe only to find an ominous image of a lady with a bun on her head, who never moved, even when cars drove right through her.

"You need to write about this," my neighbor said.

No, I thought to myself. I need to burn some sage and move a few more thousand miles away from Salem.

The day after that, a friend called about how her 5-year-old son had an offensive odor about him, only to discover that he had a month-old Band-Aid lodged up his nose that had apparently rotted, and wouldn't that make a great column?

No, I thought to myself. In fact, I'm hanging up now.

And then there are those cute "aw, shucks" moments about other people's kids who say the darndest things. So, in the spirit of authenticity, I often find myself wandering the streets searching for something weird, disgusting or downright spooky to happen to me.

Last week, I got lucky. While training for a 10K that I'm never going to run, I've taken to trotting around my neighborhood to justify the \$180 pair of shoes I bought to prepare for it. Because I've been known to choke on my own sweat while breaking a pace above the speed of grocery shopping, when I saw a pony in a neighbor's front yard, I figured I had simply died and kept running until I saw the light. But the light never came, and my shin splints were very much alive, which meant that I was indeed still breathing and



had really seen a pony.

As I retraced my steps, several cars passed me, people walking their dogs said hello, and no one—not one person—acknowledged this pony, which was now 8 inches away from me, nudging his nose over the fence.

"Hi," I whispered to him as I pet his nose. "Am I the only one who can see you?"

If he had answered, I'd be writing a book right now, not a column, and en route to the "Today" show. But he didn't. He just looked at me and swished his tail.

I've taken to running past him every day now, always to the complete obliviousness of those around us. Is he my muse? My running coach? The bun lady's long-lost pet?

I'll probably never know. But as the year comes to a close, I'm reminded once again that no matter what your story, don't forget to tell it before you turn the page.

Happy holidays. *NBM*



VIDEO

OCinSite digs deeper into the soft underbelly of coastal Orange County and brings the pages of Newport Beach Magazine to life. We've even got it on video.



BLOGS

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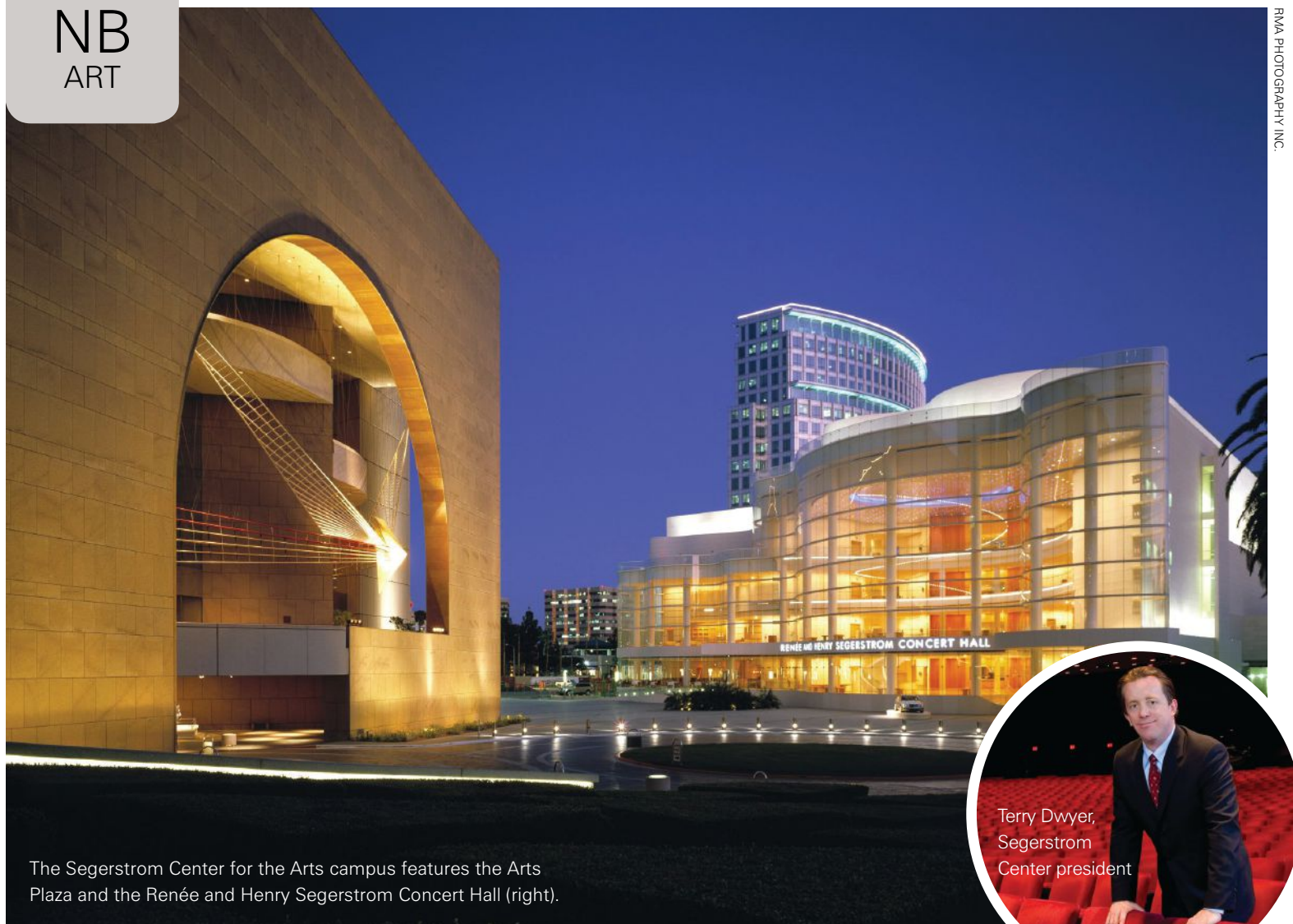


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The Segerstrom Center for the Arts campus features the Arts Plaza and the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall (right).

Terry Dwyer,
Segerstrom
Center president

A Cultural Campus

With its diverse theatrical venues and outdoor plaza, the Segerstrom Center for the Arts has become a live entertainment capital in Orange County.

BY PETER A. BALASKAS

When Swedish immigrant Carl Segerstrom and his family moved to Orange County in 1898, their primary goal was to buy and run a lima bean farm. The farm turned into a successful empire and beans transitioned into property development and management, which led to the family's most significant investment in 1967: financing and building South Coast Plaza.

But as Segerstrom Center for the Arts President Terry Dwyer points out, the Segerstrom family pursued another, more unique, land opportunity

in 1979. "There was ... a group of community volunteers that represented all of Orange County that had interest in [creating] a great performing arts center," Terry explains. "And then, of course, [there was] ... the Segerstrom family and their visionary philanthropy. When those two groups came together, then the wheels were sent [into] motion."

Sure enough, the Orange County Performing Arts Center (OCPAC) opened with the 3,000-seat Segerstrom Hall in 1986. This led to the creation of the 2,000-seat Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, the 500-seat Samueli Theater and

the 250-seat Founders Hall. The center also features a 46,000-square-foot Arts Plaza, which is used to screen free movies on the outer wall of Segerstrom Hall for Movie Mondays during the summer. OCPAC took on its current name, the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, in 2011.

Every season, the center features a diverse array of performances categorized by theme: International Dance, Broadway, Curtain Call, Jazz, Cabaret, Chamber Music and the Family Series. There is also the special event series, with past performers such as comedian Martin Short

and musician Alice Cooper. This winter, special event appearances include Southern California's own Beach Boys (Dec. 7) and Grammy-winning vocal quartet The Manhattan Transfer (Dec. 16).

The winter season also features The Hamburg Ballet (Feb. 7-9, 2014), Emerson String Quartet (Jan. 10, 2014) and three musicals: "Evita," "Chicago" and "The Wizard of Oz."

Terry is especially excited that B.B. King will be making his debut at the Segerstrom Center on Dec. 10. "It's a rare treat to be able to present an artist of that stature on our stage," he says.

An additional artistic inclusion to the season will be the third annual Off Center Festival (Jan. 22 to Feb. 2, 2014), which includes experimental theater, comedy, music and dance. The festival aims to attract more diverse audiences and also reinforce to the community the center's commitment to becoming a cultural center of the future, Terry explains.

"[The festival] ... conveys a sense that it's an adventure and challenge ... some of our other

series communicate in a completely different way," he adds. "So we thought it would help us reach new audiences and also just add to the programming profile of the center."

With the introduction of new events like the Off Center Festival, Terry is optimistic and enthusiastic about the future of the Segerstrom Center; in fact, a 1.64-acre parcel of land adjacent to the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall was transferred to the Orange County Museum of Art for plans of a future museum.

"That is part of the vision for the future of the Segerstrom Center to [not only] include a wide array of performing arts, but also [to include] a terrific visual arts museum," Terry explains.

With its high quality productions and variety of educational programs, the Segerstrom Center for the Arts is slowly becoming the community's "cultural campus." "It's an expansive vision," Terry says. "And it's a vision without limit to how much we can contribute to Orange County." *NBM*

RICHARD TERMINE



"Evita" debuts Dec. 10 at the center.

BROADWAY AT SEGERSTROM

Broadway shows need not be exclusive to New York anymore. Courtesy of Broadway Across America (BAA), Orange County theater aficionados can enjoy a performance at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. For more than 10 years, BAA has been the Segerstrom's principal contact in bringing many popular shows to its Broadway and Curtain Call series.

For the winter 2013/14 season, selections include "Evita" (Dec. 10-22), "Chicago" (Jan. 28 to Feb. 2, 2014) and "The Wizard of Oz" (Feb. 11-23, 2014), a pleasant surprise for Terry Dwyer, president of the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, and his staff. "We knew about [the first two musicals] and wanted to talk to [BAA] about helping us get those productions. They said, 'Well, you might also want to look at 'Wizard of Oz.' " Terry says. "They found out about it before we did, and it shows how well we work together."

Terry feels the collaboration between the cultural center and BAA will continue to thrive as time goes on. "We, of course, have our own direct contacts with Broadway producers and commercial agents," Terry explains. "[But BAA] is very knowledgeable and sophisticated about American musical theater and they're also just great people." (714-556-2787; scfta.org)

JOAN MARCUS



Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" comes to the Segerstrom Center in mid-January.

Coming soon to the Segerstrom Center for the Arts 2013/14 winter season:

The Okee Dokee Brothers (Dec. 7-8)
Kahane Swensen Brey Trio (Dec. 12)
McCoy Tyner and Joe Lovano (Dec. 13-14)
Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" (Jan. 14-19)

Arts Calendar

"A Christmas Carol"

Through Dec. 27; South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa

Resident artist Hal Landon Jr. returns as Ebenezer Scrooge for South Coast Repertory's 34th annual production of the classic, bringing 19th century London to life on stage. (714-708-5555; scr.org)

"Ex-pose: Richard Kraft"

Through Jan. 19, 2014; Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach

In its fifth exhibition of the "Ex-pose" series, the Laguna Art Museum presents LA-based artist Richard Kraft's latest work: a creative accumulation of films he made beginning the summer of 2012. The films capture the essence of several diverse locations, including New York and India. (949-494-8971; lagunaartmuseum.org)

"Revolution to Romanticism: Freedom of Expression in 19th Century European Painting"

Through March 23, 2014; Bowers Museum, Santa Ana

The Bowers Museum presents this visually captivating collection, including works by Rudolf Ernst, Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, Herbert Draper, Francesco Hayez and William-Adolphe Bouguereau, whose classic "La Tricoteuse" ("The Little Knitter") is the exhibition's signature image. (714-567-3600; bowers.org)

Festival Ballet Theatre: "The Nutcracker"

Dec. 13-24; Irvine Barclay Theatre, Irvine

A magical tale—featuring toy soldiers, giant mice, a growing Christmas tree and a little girl named Clara—comes to life to the timeless music of Peter Tchaikovsky in the Festival Ballet Theatre's dazzling production. This colorful Christmas performance cast features professional dancers and more than 100 Southern California children. (949-854-4646; thebarclay.org)



"Revolution to Romanticism" exhibit at Bowers Museum, Santa Ana

"California Landscape Into Abstraction: Works from the Orange County Museum of Art"

Dec. 15 - March 2, 2014; Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach

OCMA presents an exhibition drawn entirely from its own collection. It explores recurring themes in Southern California art throughout the past century, ranging from the naturalist landscape painters to modernism. (949-759-1122; ocma.org)

Christmas with LeAnn Rimes

Dec. 19-21; Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, Costa Mesa

Christmas comes early to Costa Mesa as two-time Grammy Award-winning musician LeAnn Rimes combines her charm and talent with holiday cheer. The performance will include songs from her 2011 holiday album, "What a Wonderful World," as well as her popular hits like "Can't Fight the Moonlight" and "Blue." (714-755-5799; pacificsymphony.org)

"Trudy and Max in Love Or, That Forever Feeling" and "The Light in the Piazza"

Jan. 5-26, 2014; South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa

The Tony Award-winning theater company celebrates its 50th anniversary with playwright Zoe Kazan's romantic comedy "Trudy and Max in

Love Or, That Forever Feeling" on the Julianne Argyros Stage. The world premiere of the musical showcases a funny take on an unconventional romance between two writers. On the Segerstrom Stage beginning Jan. 25, "The Light in the Piazza" by Craig Lucas follows the Italian travels of a mother-daughter duo. (714-708-5555; scr.org)

"The Children's Hour"

Jan. 24 - Feb. 23, 2014; Newport Theatre Arts Center, Newport Beach

Opening the new year at the Newport Theatre Arts Center is Lillian Hellman's provocative drama, "The Children's Hour." Written in 1934, the play tells the tale of two young teachers at an elite boarding school. (949-631-0288; ntaonline.com)

"MAMO: Nathan Aweau and Jeff Peterson"

Feb. 8, 2014; Irvine Barclay Theatre, Irvine

A taste of Hawaiian culture visits Irvine as Na Hoku Hanohano Award-winners Nathan Aweau and Jeff Peterson perform their exotic songs, featuring traditional hula standards infused with a little jazz. Part of the Hawaiian Music Masters Series, "MAMO" is the duo's first appearance together at the Irvine Barclay Theatre. (949-854-4646; thebarclay.org) NBM

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REINVENTING AN ICON

Balboa Bay Club, a beloved Newport Beach landmark, celebrates 65 years of storied history as it steps forward into a new era.

BY KARLEE PRAZAK

IT BEGAN WITH A CLASSIC NEWPORT SUMMER DAY—BLUE SKIES, TURQUOISE waters, the sun's gentle warmth and a slight ocean breeze. Two visionary young gentlemen, Tom Henderson and Hadd Ring, were meandering along the then-desolate 1940s Newport coastline when they came across a series of abandoned Army Air Corps shacks, part of the Santa Ana Army Air Base training drills facilities that were long forgotten. It might have been the azure skies and fading summer months or the desire to capture and share the moment, but an idea began to take root. By 1946, Tom and Hadd purchased the nearly 27 acres that would soon be home to Balboa Bay Club, one of the most sought-after clubs in the country.

Through the Years

It wasn't until Ken Kendall acquired the property in 1948, however, that the passing idea came to fruition. With Ken's enthusiasm, courage and charm, the necessary permits were acquired and the city was on board, with construction beginning May 1, 1948.

Soon thereafter, iconic stars like Humphrey Bogart, Ruby Keeler and Harry Owens became regulars at the members-only Balboa Bay Club. It was common to see celebrities lounging around the centerpiece of the club, with its aquamarine pool overlooking the glassy marina waters. It was during this era that tales were told about people leaving their rooms with a party going on, and coming back days later to find the same antics still underway.

No celebrity became better known around the club than "the Duke"—John Wayne. Stories place the Duke sitting on the balcony playing cards with fellow members, cruising the harbor on his yacht, the Wild Goose, and just enjoying his role as an unofficial "governor" for the timeless Balboa Bay Club. It became a sort of safe haven for public figures, notes 20-year member John Wortmann. John says it isn't uncommon for the club to host celebrity guests and, most notably, past and current presidents, including Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and Richard Nixon.

Then, in 2003, the Balboa Bay Club opened to the public under the ownership of the Ray family (after changing hands several times), adding the new Balboa Bay Resort to its grounds and emerging under a new name—the Balboa Bay Club and Resort. As more social events began taking place in the new facilities, the exclusive nature of the Balboa Bay Club and Resort

TREVER HOEHNE



CEO Todd Pickup (left) and President Kevin Martin of Balboa Bay Club and Balboa Bay Resort's parent company, International Bay Clubs, are also brothers-in-law.



began to teeter. Guests attending events mistakenly ventured into the private club, while local community members didn't recognize the resort as a public destination. All that changed, however, in summer 2012.

In recent months, the well-known guard tower that once prominently stood at the entrance was torn down, a "public welcome" notice was posted and new signs marketing the Balboa Bay Resort and Balboa Bay Club as two separate entities went up. This signifies a new chapter for the club, which began in June 2012, when the Newport-based Pickup family closed on the property with one goal in mind: "To put the 'club' back in club," explains Todd Pickup, son of purchaser Richard Pickup and CEO of the club and resort's parent company, International Bay Clubs.

A New Era

Initially, a Chinese businessman had plans to purchase the Balboa Bay Club and Resort, something that Todd—a longtime visitor of the club—felt strayed from its local ties. But around

Thanksgiving in 2011, he received word from his good friend and business partner, Tim Busch, CEO of Pacific Hospitality Group, that the deal fell through.

Within a few months, the family picked up the Newport Beach landmark—a feat Todd attributes to the Pickups' local ties: Richard was born in Whittier, but raised his family in the Newport and Laguna Beach area.

"We were living in North Laguna at the time, so we [were not yet] members, but I remember always coming to [Balboa] Bay Club events with friends," Todd says. "BBC is one of a kind. It's not really a yacht club—it's just a special place."

The club needed a local's touch to "carry on the tradition of the past," as Todd put it, and move the facility as a whole to a more contemporary, family-oriented lifestyle—a point that Todd's brother-in-law Kevin Martin, who is the president of International Bay Clubs, agrees with wholeheartedly. As fathers with kids of their own entering a business venture with their father (Richard), it makes sense.

"It was so nice this summer when ... I wanted

to go out and get a meal—this was my first choice, and I could bring my kids," Kevin says. "There's a sense of community. It's so nice to have [that] in today's world."

The Pickup family is adamant about staying true to this sense of community, which became apparent when they hired a consultant to record nearly 7,500 members' requests about how to improve the club, explains Director of Club Operations Malcolm Smith.

"The new regime, they've come in and realized the need for change," he says. "It takes time, but they're doing it the right way. They're not just making a flippant decision."

Upgrades to Watch

The No. 1 desire of club members as of late was a casual, affordable eatery, followed closely by the desire for more access control—which was easily addressed by issuing card keys and increasing security.

The former was handled during one of the management team's first visits. "When we walked [into the previous club members-only

Living History

1946:

Tom Henderson and Hadd Ring purchase the plot of land that will become the club. Two years later, Ken Kendall acquires the property and opens his members-only Balboa Bay Club.



1955:

Clint Murchison, owner of the Del Mar race track, takes over.



1957:

Edward J. Crowley, then-president and director, marries his wife at the club with guests such as Phil Harris and Bing Crosby in attendance.

1950s:

Hollywood stars begin lining the Balboa Bay Club's pool, including Ruby Keeler, Victor McLaglen, Lana Turner, Humphrey Bogart, Bonita Granville, Harry Owens and, of course, John Wayne.



1960:

Television producer Jack Wrather of "Lassie" and "The Lone Ranger" acquires ownership. This same year, Jacques Cousteau spends a vacation at the club.

TOP FAR LEFT COURTESY OF SHERMAN LIBRARY;
RIGHT AND BOTTOM COURTESY OF ORANGE COUNTY ARCHIVES

restaurant], there was a hallway to a pool and an empty restaurant,” Kevin explains. “The first thing we said was, ‘Let’s take care of our members’—they’re our bread and butter.”

The result was a complete overhaul to the existing Members Grill. Prior to the upgrade, a total of nine pillars, all 3 feet in width, monopolized the view of the marina. This has been reduced to three pillars and paired with modern, nautical-inspired decor and an open-air seating plan, resulting in more member enjoyment, according to six-year club resident Sue Edelman.

“[The Members Grill] is gorgeous; ... there’s good food; and ... the members are showing up,” Sue says of the restaurant, where she now eats several times a week. “It’s just more of a happening place.”

To complement the family-friendly atmosphere of the grill, a children’s area adjacent to the restaurant replaced what was previously two guest rooms. The children’s facility features a relaxed seating area where kids and teens can do anything from play on an Apple computer



One of the first tasks Todd and Kevin’s team completed was a renovation of the Members Grill to create an open seating plan and an unobstructed view of the members-only pool.

1971:

William D. Ray buys the newly renovated club.



2013:

The reinvention of the entirely separate Balboa Bay Resort and Balboa Bay Club is announced after the entrance guard tower is removed and entry signage is replaced. Renovations are expected to be completed by Memorial Day 2014.

2012:

The Pickup family purchases International Bay Clubs, the parent of the Balboa Bay Club and Resort.

1963:

The First Cabin opens as a buffet-style restaurant.



2003:

The 160-room resort becomes open to the public, and the new members-only pool is built.



The resort's new classically trained executive chef, Vincent Lesage, will lead the kitchen at 1221 Prime when it opens in early 2014.

to challenge one another at Wii video games. Other improvements around the club include new patio furniture, trimmed shrubbery permitting views of the marina and pool, upgraded fitness equipment and soundproofing of the indoor basketball court, which can now be used as more of a multipurpose room.

As a result, Malcolm says he is seeing more involvement now from members than ever before—but there's still plenty happening on what some jokingly refer to as "the other side of the driveway."

The resort began undergoing modernization improvements in October, which are scheduled to be complete by Memorial Day weekend 2014. Among the most noteworthy upgrades are the installation of a restroom in the main lobby; a singular, revamped retail store; and the introduction of a coffee shop and bakery called Blend, slated to open in late December.

The First Cabin fine dining restaurant also is undergoing a soft remodel and is scheduled to reopen in early 2014 as a contemporary steakhouse and upscale wine bar called 1221 Prime. Following the retirement of former Executive Chef Josef Lageder, 1221 Prime is led by the resort's new classically trained Parisian executive chef, Vincent Lesage. Just down the hall, Duke's Place welcomes indoor and outdoor seating, as well as a revamped lineup of talent to

complement both the history behind the Duke and the crowd celebrating the upgrade from two taps to six.

Maintaining the Commitment

Since the ownership change in 2012, an annual slew of roughly 40 charity events have taken place in the resort ballrooms. General Manager Dieter Hissin says he can see the members taking a renewed pleasure in their "new" facility, and he

believes this will reveal itself in the event calendar for both the club and resort.

"Members look at their club [and resort] now and take a certain pride in what has changed," he explains. "They like to bring their events to the club [by hosting events at the resort]. It's a social tradition and I think we will be seeing more of that."

In addition to the varying charitable fundraisers hosted at the resort, the Pickups also are reinventing the members-only events held on the club side, which were "kicked off" in a sense by the 65th anniversary luau last summer. This paved the way for a summer full of sold-out concerts, a chili cook-off (re-established after a 10-year hiatus) and a series of movies on the lawn.

These family-friendly events are leading the way into a future of holiday-themed parties, casual club get-togethers and all-around fun times that the Pickups hope will breathe some fresh life back into what had become a somewhat stagnant status quo.

As Balboa Bay Resort Marketing Manager Kevin Gasparro puts it: "You can still be prestigious and be comfortable."

As for the future of the club, it's a place where a father wanted to share with his family, so they can share it with their children. Because of this, what lies ahead for the Balboa Bay Club and Balboa Bay Resort is really predicted the best by the owner himself, Richard Pickup.

Richard says: "Our goal is to enhance the members' experience and to provide the community and the public [with] the best bay resort in California." NBM



The waterfront Balboa Bay Resort hosts many charity events in its ballrooms.



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AN EDUCATIONAL OASIS

The Environmental Nature Center celebrates more than 40 years of teaching and an even brighter future.

BY PATRICK MOTT

HIDDEN AWAY IN A POCKET OF LAND ADJACENT to Newport Harbor High School is a former dumping ground, which today is home to no less than 15 separate plant ecosystems, from desert cactus to giant sequoias. Only blocks from dense residential development and one of the busiest highways in California, it is an oasis of calm, quiet and serenity.

The Newport Beach Environmental Nature Center entered its fourth decade in 2013, and for

many schools, teachers and students throughout Orange County, particularly those from the Newport Beach and south county districts, it has become a highly anticipated yearly field trip and an indispensable tool to advance various curricula in the primary grades.

A unique one-stop outdoor classroom, the staff of naturalists and volunteers specializes in educating children about the immense variety of flora and fauna in California—an education

the students would otherwise have to travel hundreds of miles to get.

“The center is magical,” says Kelly Siegel, a kindergarten teacher at Woodland Elementary School in Costa Mesa. “My kids walk away with a sense of wonder about the world afterwards. ... We’ve been shown animal and plant adaptations, mammals versus nonmammals, living things and nonliving things and butterflies. My own two children have been there and loved it.”



The center's "eco-explorers" can walk along trails to learn the role of seeds, roots and green leaves in the lives of plants.

A Favorite Field Trip

Many of the educational programs at the center—designed mostly for grades kindergarten through seventh—adopt a “learning disguised as play” approach. The programs are specifically tailored to supplement required subjects that are taught in each grade. For example, a visiting fourth-grade class that is studying the history of Native Americans in either social science or physical science (ecology) will find those subjects presented in greater depth in a hands-on natural setting.

Activities are widely varied, from opportunities to perform with primitive musical instruments to learning how indigenous Californians fought head colds with eucalyptus leaves. In addition, programs for all grade levels teach students easy conservation and sustainability practices that they can incorporate into their lives.

“We do these programs to help schools satisfy the state requirements for these subjects,” says the center’s executive director, Bo Glover. “The students are encouraged to do all sorts of hands-on activities as they go through the



Programs for children as young as 3 feature opportunities to hold live animals—including snakes—as well as interact directly with natural ecosystems.



center, and they’re learning concepts that they need to know to go back to their schools and take their tests. We work hand-in-glove with the school curriculum. There’s so much emphasis on standardized testing that the students don’t have the opportunity to get out of their classrooms very often.”

Eva Fast, 9, a fourth-grader from Laguna Beach, enthusiastically describes her visit to the center. “I really liked how we got to see all the plants and got to see the redwood trees and learn how the Gabrielino tribe used them for canoes,” she says.

“I really liked learning to make string. There were plants and ... one person held two pieces together by the tips and the other two started twisting, and when they were done twisting you ended up making string. It was really cool.”

Today, the center receives about 21,000 students a year on school field trips and “tens of thousands” of visitors of all ages who participate in various organized programs, Bo says. Others simply show up to eat a quiet lunch or take a leisurely stroll through the 2.5 acres of lush greenery.



Students use the scientific method during ENC programs, which includes conducting background research, testing hypotheses by doing experiments and analyzing data.



The aquatic ecosystem is an important part of the education program at ENC.



Humble Beginnings

Four decades ago, however, the majestic greenery that visitors see today was far more humble. Newport Harbor High School had just constructed an Olympic-sized swimming pool, and the soil and materials excavated from the construction site were dumped in a gully adjacent to the campus.

“We’re really a unique facility in that we’re all man-created,” says Bo, who has worked at the center for 20 years. “Our hills, our contours out there, [they] were created from the old dirt from the high school. Luckily the teachers at the time had the vision of creating this

outdoor classroom. Classes were established at the high school and they had students come over here and actually create what you see at the facility—15 different plant communities of California, from redwoods to the desert.

“You can imagine what kind of fantastic classroom that is, where you can be in the desert one minute talking about the adaptation of plants and animals and the next minute you’re in a redwood forest,” he continues. “... Our redwood trees here are over 100 feet tall. You’d never know you weren’t in Northern California. And then you’re walking along a stream and a pond and you’re looking at sycamore or alder or

cottonwood trees. It’s a fantastic classroom that gives kids who come here a good overall look at what California has to offer.”

While the center’s main focus is on various plant communities, hundreds of species of birds and other animals have also made their homes on the grounds.

“It’s amazing, but it’s like if you build it, they will come,” Bo says. “We’ve seen [more than] 140 different species of birds here. We had a family of bobcats in here a couple of summers ago. There are coyotes. ... There are raccoons, possums, skunks, squirrels, lizards and snakes. We do provide this little oasis for the critters who are here.”



Students observe aquatic organisms and test samples using microscopes.

Connecting with Nature

Though beautiful, all of the nature at the center can be very strange to many of the city-dwelling kids, Bo explains.

"You might call it nature deficit disorder," he says. "Being in front of computer screens all the time, and texting and such, they can develop this disconnect with the natural world, and it's one of our aims to address that, to kind of turn the tables a bit and re-establish that connection with the outdoors. We say we're not a video game here, we're the real world."

"I notice the excitement of the children when they first get here. It may be the first tree they've seen besides the palm tree in the courtyard of their apartment complex," Bo continues. "And just seeing that first reaction is probably what has kept me around here for so many years. I can read about things in a book all I want, but [here] I actually have a butterfly land on me or turn over a rock and find a lizard there and maybe try to catch it; those are memories that will last a lifetime."

To see the layout of the center, with its inviting woodchip-covered trails, canopies of limbs and leaves and little nooks of natural beauty everywhere, it would be easy to imagine a class of elementary school children running riot in the place. Hardly, says Patricia Rabun, a teacher at Top of the World Elementary School in Laguna Beach.

"The children are ready with a little bit of information [from their school classrooms] when they get there," she explains. "They get split up into groups and the center people take them through these various learning stations. Children get the experience of repeating, so they learn



Tools like binoculars are made available to help students observe nature up close.

so much. It's very hands-on, and the kids really get caught up in it. Their behavior is absolutely impeccable because they're so engaged. And they always want to go back with their parents. All of the teachers agree that it's one of the best things we do all year."

A visitor might take a brisk walk through the entire center—from the self-sustaining main building constructed with recycled materials and powered by solar cells and wind turbines, through the entire 15 plant communities and back to the butterfly pavilion (which is open from May through September)—in only a few minutes. But, even with the close encroachment of houses and the high school, the center begs the hiker to slow down and observe.

"You go out in the back and if you don't focus too hard on the fence, you get the idea that you're out in a much bigger space," says Alice Apkarian, a former college chemistry teacher and a center volunteer.

A Preschool Playscape

The back-to-nature philosophy is expected to expand when the center builds what Bo calls "the first nature preschool" on a 1.3-acre plot adjacent to Dover Drive.

"Our vision is that the school will be a nature playscape where kids can kind of get dirty at



Redwoods offer students an opportunity to study a type of tree typically not seen in SoCal.

various play areas," he says. "Once again, it deals with that nature disconnect, and our goal is to provide the children with the same educational programming of the traditional preschool but using the outdoors as the classroom for the majority of their day, not spending all their time in a four-wall classroom."

The center closed escrow on the future site of the preschool in December 2012, and continues to raise money for the estimated \$5 million construction project through a capital campaign. Once completed—no date is set as of yet—the preschool will focus on outdoor engagement for up to 48 children per year.

Driving by, the center is an easy spot to miss on a daily drive around Newport Beach, but staff members say that one trip almost guarantees future visits, particularly for children.

"Seeing the wonderment in their eyes is, I think, one of the most valuable things for all of us here," Bo says. "We're in the middle of Newport Beach, surrounded by houses and lots of stuff and, from the street, you really don't understand what's back here—but when people see it they can't believe it. I don't think there's any better feeling for an educator than to see that." NBM



MAKING A MARK

FROM LEGENDARY FIGUREHEADS TO FRESH
NEW FACES, THESE 10 INFLUENTIAL INDIVIDUALS
ARE PROUD TO CALL NEWPORT HOME.

BY BRIA BALLIET, LINDA DOMINGO, TESS EYRICH, ALLISON HATA,
KARLEE PRAZAK AND SHARON STELLO

WITH HUNDREDS OF BUSINESSES, RESTAURANTS AND NONPROFITS, Newport Beach is a thriving community filled with people determined to make a difference in our coastal enclave. Whether these men and women work diligently behind the scenes or step forward into the spotlight to advocate for change, no one can doubt the lasting impact they're creating through their work.

For the second consecutive year, Newport Beach Magazine scoured the coast to find a sampling of the city's influential individuals. From philanthropists to community activists to seasoned business executives and entrepreneurs, these 10 men and women represent this year's top trailblazers in their respective fields.



THE FOODIE

Wing Lam

Best known for: Wing co-founded the now-international restaurant chain Wahoo's Fish Taco with his brothers, Mingo and Ed. The first Wahoo's location opened in Costa Mesa in 1988, and began serving up what Wing calls "surfer's food"—the result of combining Mexican, Asian and Brazilian cuisines. But beyond this, Wing says his commitment to the town he lives in is what makes him one-of-a-kind—what's beyond the board-short-clad, sandal-wearing surfer. "Around town, what I'm best known for is my involvement in the community," Wing says of his efforts to sit down with local nonprofits to review their business models.

Little-known fact: It isn't uncommon for Wing to be approached and asked if he is "Mr. Wahoo"—and for good reason. The restaurateur eats at Wahoo's somewhere between three to five times a week, which fluctuates depending on his schedule. Aside from being "Mr. Wahoo," Wing is part of a very entrepreneurial-minded family. His wife is co-founder of a corporate wellness company—The Whole Purpose—and his son recently launched an Internet-based company called Kneon. According to Wing, he knew it was a big deal when his son no longer had to use dad's connections.

What he would like to see change in Newport: For someone so involved in the consumer- and tourism-oriented sides of Newport Beach, Wing wants to see the barriers between the "haves" and "have-nots" break down. "If everybody pitched in more, I think you could get a lot more done because a lot of people out there are still struggling," Wing explains. "It's not money—it's advice, it's time, it's all these other things that are more important than just giving them money. Nobody wants a handout. ... It's about the sharing because we are so privileged to live in Newport."

What he would like to see change in his field: Wing says he'd like to see real estate costs lowered for businesses. "If we could pay less rent, the consumer doesn't have to pay as much," he explains. It's unnerving for Wing to see potential customers travel out of Newport to get a delicious, inexpensive meal, but he says this is all a natural progression in supply-and-demand.

Future plans: The future is simple for Wing—"We're just opening stores as people are coming to us with proposals," he says. So look for several soon-to-be locations in California, Las Vegas, the East Coast and overseas—you never know where a new Wahoo's location will wash ashore.

THE YOUNG ACHIEVER

Kallie Dovel

Best known for: Far from the model of a typical Newport business leader, Kallie has planted a seed for change and grown her socially conscious business, 31 Bits, exponentially in just five years. She founded the company in August 2008, empowering women in Northern Uganda to rise above poverty by creating popular paper bead jewelry that's sold in nearly 400 stores across the country, including several here in Newport Beach. With just a small idea and a network of six Ugandan women, she launched a nationwide philanthropic jewelry movement. The demand has grown so much that 31 Bits has recently welcomed more than 100 additional Ugandan designers into the program, allowing women in need to develop careers and support their families independently.

Little-known facts: "I was not expecting to start this company at all," Kallie says. During her first visit to Uganda in 2007, the orphanage where she was volunteering closed and she was left with three months before she could return home. She stayed with a group of friends who were in the early stages of building Krochet Kids, another OC-based nonprofit supporting Ugandans, and met local women who asked her to take their jewelry home to sell in the U.S. Today, she's happily married to one of the Krochet Kids leaders who was on that trip.

What she would like to see change in Newport: Kallie, who loves the city's beach-casual lifestyle, would like to see the community come together more as a whole. "Villa Nova [restaurant]—I want something like that back," she says. "All different types of people come together, older [and] younger, with live bands. ... It was my favorite place in the world."

What she would like to see change in her field: "I would love our communication to get better. Uganda is like another world. To connect the two is so difficult," Kallie says. "I would like our customers to really understand the development and the change that's happening through the products that they're purchasing."

Future plans: Kallie, who today serves as 31 Bits' international director, is in the works of opening a second facility with her team in Uganda's capital.





THE LEADER

Steve Rosansky

Best known for: A city councilman for nine years and mayor for one term, Steve's new goal is keeping the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce relevant since stepping in as interim president and CEO in January 2013 (he was appointed to the permanent position in August). During the past year, he has significantly boosted attendance at chamber events like the monthly Government Affairs Committee meeting, which was recently rebranded as Wake-Up Newport. A new Leadership Circle program—10 large businesses taking on a higher level of sponsorship and participation—generated \$100,000 in revenue, and within nine months, the chamber reduced debt by \$90,000.

Little-known facts: Steve does all the grocery shopping and cooking for his family; his best dish is linguine with clam sauce. He also knows how to let loose—during law school at UCLA, he organized a weekly dance club, the Lizard Lounge, which had a tag line of “slither in, crawl out.”

What he would like to see change in Newport: A city resident with his wife since 1985, Steve says, “It’s so perfect here, what would you want to change? ... I’d want to see the relationship between the city and the business community enhanced. I don’t think it’s a bad relationship, but I think it could be even better.”

What he would like to see change in his field: Times have changed and the challenge is to see how the Chamber of Commerce stays relevant in the coming years, Steve says. He’s making the chamber influential in the community by engaging in an education program about the city’s General Plan Land Use Element update. Finally, the chamber is talking with Newport Beach & Co. (umbrella company for Visit Newport Beach) about how to elevate the Christmas Boat Parade to the next level.

Future plans: The longtime civic leader and real estate broker is starting coastal commission consulting with Schmitz & Associates and he’s interested in getting into mediation services. He was accepted into the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University and took his first class two weeks before starting at the chamber. As Steve says, “I like to stay busy.”



THE PHILANTHROPIST

Victoria Collins

Best known for: Victoria, who helped establish First Foundation, a wealth management firm that oversees \$2 billion in assets, has authored or co-authored seven books on managing wealth and building family legacies. For six years, *Worth Magazine* has named her among the 250 best financial advisers in the U.S. and she was among National Philanthropy Day Orange County's 2013 outstanding honorees. "I've been so blessed in my life. ... I want to do whatever I can to help those who are less fortunate," Victoria says. Her charity work focuses on empowering women with financial capability and confidence. She was a founder of United Way's Women's Philanthropy Fund and the World Vision Women's International Loan Fund, and serves on the board for Human Options.

Little-known facts: Victoria spent part of her childhood in South Africa, where she learned to speak and write Afrikaans. Her father, a Pan Am pilot, would fly to exotic places and share stories of his adventures, inspiring in her a love of travel and an appreciation for different cultures.

What she would like to see change in Newport: "There is always room for improvement. ... [but] there's so much I like. I think it's the best place in the world to live," says Victoria, a Corona del Mar resident since 2002.

What she would like to see change in her field: "I would like to see more women involved in the financial services industry," Victoria says. She hopes women will be inspired by the recent nomination of Janet Yellen to chair the Federal Reserve when Ben Bernanke retires in January, which would make her the first woman to hold that position.

Future plans: Victoria is considering writing another book, this time on the importance of preserving a family's legacy. She is also instilling her values into the next generation by sharing her views with her eight grandchildren. At Christmas, she asks them to purchase chickens for a family or malaria treatment for children through World Vision, rather than buying her a gift. "I really want them to get into the habit of thinking of other people and making a difference," she says.

THE PROMOTER

Gary Sherwin

Best known for: Gary wrote the book on promoting a community to potential visitors—literally. Since co-authoring “Destination BrandScience” (2005), he’s spoken around the country on the topic. As president and CEO of Visit Newport Beach, Gary sells the city as a lifestyle destination. Since taking the helm in 2006, he has positioned Newport as an international travel destination, opening offices in London and Sydney. Gary and his team also successfully negotiated for Newport Beach to serve as the host city for the NCAA’s Vizio BCS National Championship Game on Jan. 6, 2014, at Pasadena’s Rose Bowl Stadium. “Every hotel in Newport Beach will be filled,” Gary says.

Little-known fact: As teens in the San Fernando Valley, Gary and a friend developed a way to sneak onto Hollywood studio lots by penning a newspaper column about famous actors who lived in the area.

What he would like to see change in Newport: Rather than a change, Gary seeks a continued tradition of “good civic leadership” as four Newport Beach City Council seats come up for election in November 2014. He says the city has been blessed with council members who think like entrepreneurs and understand the importance of infrastructure maintenance. “My hope is whoever comes to the council will continue that type of thinking,” he says.

What he would like to see change in his field: Collaboration is key, Gary says. “It’s about maximizing the use of our assets,” says the 25-year industry veteran who also has worked in Palm Springs, Long Beach and LA. “My hope for my industry is that more communities embrace this approach.”

Future plans: Gary seeks to make the Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade more guest-friendly by adding bleacher seating and possibly TV coverage. He’s also talking with city leaders about promoting Newport as a filming location and managing Newport Beach TV, the local government access channel. He’d like to add shows that celebrate the local lifestyle by featuring chefs and events like the Fourth of July at Newport Dunes. “It will be a paradigm shift,” Gary says. “It’s kind of revolutionary, but it makes sense.”



JODY TIONGCO/LOCATION PROVIDED BY HORNBLOWER CRUISES

THE SPORTS ENTHUSIAST

John Hamilton

Best known for: John channeled his love of sports and knack for collecting into something that the whole community can benefit from—the Newport Sports Museum. He opened the shrine to sports memorabilia 20 years ago after his personal collection, which started in 1953, began growing exponentially. Today, Newport Sports Museum regularly hosts athletes as guest speakers for youths from varying backgrounds. “It’s been my contention for a number of years that in spite of some of the antics of athletes today, that athletes still are better role models than politicians and rock stars,” John explains. “Bringing an athlete in, in my opinion, ensures us at least that a majority of the kids are going to pay attention because of who they are.”

Little-known fact: John is also the chairman and co-founder of the Pacific Club Impact Foundation, which awards the Ronnie Lott Impact Trophy, an annual collegiate football award that gives weight to both athletic performance and character.

What he would like to see change in Newport: It’s no secret that sports are John’s passion—he also played sports growing up and encouraged his now-grown children to do the same—but he believes there are some changes that need to be made at the formative young age levels on the field. “I’d like to see the coaches and the parents focus more on character and learning and less on winning,” John says.

What he would like to see change in his field: Making an impact is at the forefront of the museum’s mission statement, and achieving this would admittedly be easier with an influx of several key components, John explains. “We could always use more kids, and we could always use more athletes,” he says. “I’d like to have better fundraising ... as you and I know, there’s no free lunch; we have to find the money someplace, and fundraising is a huge task for us.”

Future plans: John has scored, so to speak, with his ideal Newport Sports Museum location and set-up, so beyond rotating memorabilia throughout the display cases, he says all he’d really like to see change in the future is the acquisition of even more notable collectables and volunteer athlete speakers.



A full-page photograph of Scott Burnham, a middle-aged man with dark hair, wearing a light blue striped dress shirt, a dark blue patterned tie, and dark trousers. He is standing outdoors with his hands in his pockets, smiling slightly. In the background is a modern building with a prominent wooden structure and blue panels, and some tall grass in the foreground.

THE DEVELOPER

Scott Burnham

Best known for: Scott is chairman of the board and CEO of Burnham USA, the Newport Beach-based commercial real estate construction, leasing and management company whose portfolio includes a significant number of the buildings in Newport Center, such as the one that houses the Newport Beach Athletic Club, in addition to many of the buildings where Newport's residents work, eat and play, such as the South Coast Collection in Costa Mesa.

Little known facts: For a man whose career is centered on buildings, Scott enjoys the outdoors. He explains that he's always out walking and appreciates all that Newport has to offer.

What he would like to see change in Newport: Scott is a fan of unique restaurants and he'd like to see more in Newport. "... [I] really think there is a strong 'appetite' here for more independent chef-driven restaurants that provide for unique food options, thus fewer chains."

What he would like to see change in his field: As a property owner in Newport Beach, Scott believes those in his industry should focus on making a lasting positive impact on the community. "[Our projects] are all very personal to us," he says. "We are very hands-on and we want each property we own to somehow improve the demographic that it serves."

Future plans: Scott's family takes priority over all else, and his plans include perfecting the balance of work and personal time. "Life is fleeting and, the older I get, the more I realize how important work-life balance really is," he says. But he doesn't plan on slowing down anytime soon.



THE EDUCATION ADVOCATE

Marian Bergeson

Best known for: A force in the Newport Beach political circle since the 1960s, Marian is a longtime champion for the betterment of education, serving locally as a Newport Beach City Council member and later making history as the first woman to serve on both the California State Assembly and state Senate. She served for three years as the California secretary of education and continues her work to this day, partnering with various programs to improve the state's education system.

Little-known fact: As a prominent figure in Newport Beach for many years, there is very little that the public does not know about Marian (she is well-known for her love of skydiving, and has gone five or six times). One fact, however, stands out above the others: "I have an aquatics center named after me," she shares, "... and I don't know how to swim."

What she would like to see change in her field: "We need to get more flexibility in the classrooms," Marian says, referring to the top-down management style employed by the public education system. "I've always felt that teachers are the solution to almost every one of our problems if we get the right teacher in the right place."

What she would like to see change in Newport: "Education is always top on my priority list," Marian says. She is also concerned with beach safety. Marian would like everyone, especially children, to learn to be more aware of their surroundings to prevent tragic accidents.

Future plans: Marian has a great deal to keep her occupied. She is offering her support to a number of education groups, including the Environmental Nature Center's Capital Campaign for its new nature preschool and The Academy, Orangewood Children's Foundation's new charter high school, for which she serves on the board of trustees. Marian says The Academy is a "phenomenal" program for kids who need the kind of education that the charter school will be able to provide.

THE ACTIVIST

Eyal Aronoff

Best known for: Eyal is a Newport Beach resident who's set on changing the world on a global scale. He's co-founder of Quest Software, a company purchased by Dell in 2012, and now helms the Fuel Freedom Foundation. The organization's goals include reducing the cost of fuel in the U.S. by introducing competition—in the form of cleaner, American-made fuels—to the market and ending the country's dependence on foreign oil.

Little-known fact: Eyal starts his workday around 6:30 a.m. and usually finishes between 8 and 10 p.m., so his favorite activity may not come as a surprise. "The thing I like to do the most is to sleep," he says. "The brain still thinks; I'm just not conscious. It's a form of meditation."

What he would like to see change in Newport: There are many successful people in Newport, Eyal says, but the area isn't known as one that is effecting change on the world. "We are known around the country as a very materialistic, kind of shallow society," he explains. "And I don't think that's the case. I think there are people here that are very thoughtful and caring, but ... we have not concentrated resources on specific ... visions. I would really like to challenge [Newport] to find common passion and bind together to achieve bigger goals."

What he would like to see change in his field: Fuel Freedom's entire mission is about changing the fuel industry. Eyal describes the ideal price of fuel as between \$2 and \$2.50 per gallon, and would like more fuel to be made from natural gas.

Future plans: Through his organization, Eyal is working to change U.S. regulations that require an expensive and lengthy certification process in order to convert a vehicle to run on natural gas.



THE CINEPHILE Gregg Schwenk

Best known for: In 1999, Gregg co-founded the Newport Beach Film Festival (NBFF), a weeklong celebration of cinema that welcomed an unprecedented 53,000 attendees in 2013. Each year, the festival screens more than 350 films, hosts 20 galas and receptions, presents a highly acclaimed seminar series and integrates hundreds of local restaurants, hotels and businesses into its proceedings, boosting local commerce across several industries.

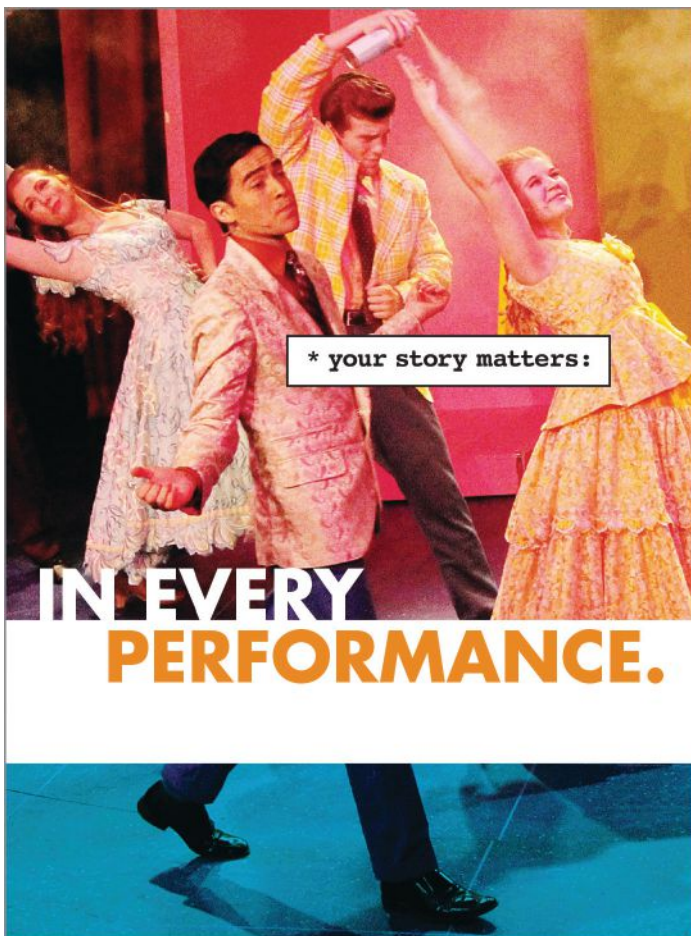
Little-known fact: "I've been an adjunct faculty member at California State University, Fullerton, for the last 14 years," he says. "The College of Communications, department of communications, and the entertainment and tourism program ... provide our students with a unique advantage in the hypercompetitive marketplace."

What he would like to see change in Newport: "Newport Beach is the best place to live," Gregg says, suggesting that locals simply take time to experience more of the city. "I've made a personal commitment to take the time to enjoy the many special amenities that our city has to offer ... and, yes, [that includes] watching a movie for fun at the Lido, Port or Big Newport [theaters]."

What he would like to see change in his field: Gregg hopes to see local nonprofits be able to thrive despite difficult economic conditions. "As a small, nonprofit charity, we've been challenged with the same burdens as most businesses over the past several years," he admits. "As the economy and industry improve, we are hopeful that the stresses placed on the nonprofit community will also improve."

Future plans: Gregg will continue to prepare for the upcoming 15th anniversary of the NBFF, which is slated to run April 24 to May 1, 2014. "We'll be adding several special events and screenings," Gregg says. "The festival and our partners are building an amazing lineup of films, fashion shows, gala events and celebrity tributes." NBM

COURTESY OF NEWPORT BEACH FILM FESTIVAL



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Into the Woods

EMBRACE THE HOLIDAY SEASON'S
ETHEREAL SPIRIT WITH GAUZY GOWNS
AND WHIMSICAL PRINTS.

PHOTOGRAPHER: DAVID JAKLE

FASHION DIRECTOR: JULIE FRENCH

LOCATION: LAGUNA COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN





Silk satin
butterfly print
dress, \$3,990,
necklace,
\$2,460, cuff,
\$2,195, all
available at
Lanvin, South
Coast Plaza



Printed minidress
with paneling
and flared skirt,
\$1,835, by Peter
Pilotto, available
at 11th Moon,
Laguna Beach

Opposite page:
Cream embel-
lished gown, price
upon request,
available at Donna
Karan New York,
South Coast Plaza





Black lace dress, \$3,345, mesh open-toed booties, \$930, all available at Barbara Bui, South Coast Plaza; 18-karat rose gold pave-set diamond earrings (19.32 carats), \$35,832, available at Swiss Watch Gallery and Fine Jewelry, Laguna Hills Mall

Opposite page:
Striped coat, \$1,895, by Pauw, available at Saks Fifth Avenue, South Coast Plaza; cross necklace with diamonds and center stone cognac diamond, \$7,216, available at Swiss Watch Gallery and Fine Jewelry, Laguna Hills Mall



Bird print maxi dress,
\$435, by Twelfth Street
by Cynthia Vincent; wool
hat, \$145, by Phoebe
Price, all available at Z
Collection, Crystal Cove
Shopping Center



Halter-neck gown, \$3,280, and matching cape, \$3,950, by Tom Ford; metallic heels, \$1,200, by Prada, all available at Neiman Marcus, Fashion Island

MODEL: LINDSAY
BELANGER,
HOLLYWOOD
MODEL
MANAGEMENT;
HAIR AND MAKEUP:
CHRISTINE NELLI,
CELESTINE
AGENCY;
DIGITAL TECH:
JOHN TEICHERT;
FASHION
ASSISTANT:
CRYSTAL JANKE;
LOCATION:
LAGUNA COLLEGE
OF ART & DESIGN
(LCAD.EDU)



Making Spirits Bright

*Simplify shopping this holiday season
with a gift for everyone on your list.*

BY NEWPORT BEACH MAGAZINE STAFF

THE SEASON FOR GIVING IS UPON US, AND NEWPORT'S NUMEROUS SHOPS HAVE A treasure trove of specialty items perfect for holiday giving. Skip the traditional gift cards, wine and ties this year, and get creative with a thoughtful offering that stands apart from others beneath the tree. Whether you're shopping for a fashion-focused friend, die-hard foodie or avid adventurer, you'll find something for every personality in this carefully curated selection of local gifts from Newport Beach Magazine.

COURTESY OF BLOOMINGDALE'S, FASHION ISLAND



The stylish musician will fall in love with these vintage-inspired **Turnbull & Asser Beatles pocket squares** featuring prints from the group's hit albums, \$1,995 for the box set or \$150 each, at Bloomingdale's, Fashion Island. (949-729-6600; bloomingdales.com)

DESIGNER INFLUENCE

Inspired by the vibrant and classic collections at Newport's best boutiques, this stylish collection of gifts will ignite the flames of fashion.



AnQi by Crustacean offers a made-to-measure fashion and food experience for men that includes customized men's shoes from **The Left Shoe Co.**, a bespoke shirt from **Rod Alan** and a \$100 gift certificate to AnQi at South Coast Plaza, \$620, available through AnQi. (714-557-5679; anqibistro.com)



For those who prefer their drinks stirred, with a side of fashion, they can take a sweet sip of Italian liqueur from a limited edition **Moschino Loves Disaronno bottle**, \$24.99, available at markets throughout the city. (disaronno.com)

Four-legged friends can travel in style with a **Louis Vuitton monogram canvas dog carrier**, featuring a breathable mesh window and zip-around enclosure, from \$2,430, at Louis Vuitton, South Coast Plaza. (714-662-6907; louisvuitton.com)



TASTE TEMPTATIONS

This season, share the best of Newport's dining scene with specialty offerings from restaurants, shops and bakeries that will delight the senses.



SHANNON STURGIS

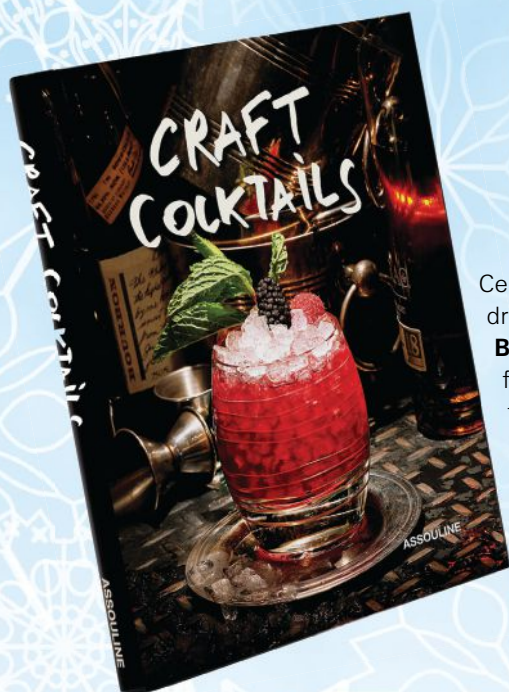
Give the gift of bread with **an intimate baking class at Le Pain Quotidien**, where participants can learn to create artisanal breads, puff pastries, pies and more, \$75, at Le Pain Quotidien, Fashion Island. (949-287-5592; lepainquotidien.us)



Ideal for a hostess gift, **'lette macarons** offer a colorful—and flavorful—addition to any holiday party, \$11-\$129 for gift boxes, at 'lette macarons, Fashion Island. (949-706-8299; lettemacarons.com)



Book a romantic **gondola dinner cruise for two** and share a post-holiday sunset with a multicourse gourmet meal from a local restaurant and Champagne to mark the occasion, from \$299, at Gondola Adventures. (855-466-3652; newportbeach.gondola.com)



Celebrate the golden age of specialty drinks with **"Craft Cocktails" by Brian Van Flandern**, which features famous recipes and informative tips for at-home drinks, \$50, at Assouline, South Coast Plaza. (714-557-1882; assouline.com)



Study the culinary arts in classes that range from chocolate and pastry to savory sauces and country-style cooking, from \$69, at Sur la Table, Corona del Mar Plaza. (949-640-2330; surlatable.com)

GIFTS THAT GIVE BACK

Perfect for those with a generous spirit, these companies offer a way to spread the holiday joy through philanthropic donations.



Each pair of **Freewaters footwear** provides clean drinking water to people in need and has a lifetime guarantee, from \$60, available at Island Sole, Fashion Island. (949-760-0300; islandsoleca.com)



Buy a T-shirt (or other specialty item) and help change the world with **Sevenly's** campaigns that benefit a new charity each week, prices vary, at sevenly.org. (949-892-3542; sevenly.org)



Northern Ugandan women design the paper beads used in the OC-based **31 Bits jewelry** line, providing a creative way for them to rise above poverty, from \$10, at 31bits.com. (949-612-7295; 31bits.com)



For every pair of **TOMS shoes** purchased, the company donates one to a child in need; a large selection of women's and kids' styles are available in Corona del Mar, from \$32, at Jack's Surfboards. (949-718-0001; jackssurfboards.com)



Keep warm this winter with crocheted hats and accessories by Costa Mesa-based **Krochet Kids International**, which employs women in Northern Uganda and Peru to help them become self-sufficient, prices vary, at Deer Lovely, Costa Mesa. (949-705-7878; www.deerlovely.com)

LIFE'S AN ADVENTURE

For the person who enjoys trekking to exotic locales, taking on the biggest wave or feeling the wind in their hair, these gifts are all about embracing the experience.



Quiksilver Fluid II men's sunglasses (pictured), \$70, and **Roxy Laguna women's polarized sunglasses**, \$99.95, feature shatter-resistant, wrap-around lenses and Grilamid-injected frames, at Roxy and Quiksilver, Laguna Beach. (949-376-0245; quiksilver.com)



Land and water daredevils can capture video of their amazing feats using an **iClam case** for smartphones that's waterproof up to 30 feet and comes with mounts that can be attached to a bike, car, helmet or surfboard, \$89.99, available online only. (iclamextreme.com)



Experience "flying" over Newport Harbor with **the world's first recreational jetpack**—the perfect pick for thrill-seekers who like to let loose on the water, from \$159, at Jetpack America. (888-553-6471; jetpackamerica.com)



Designed for the true adventurer, the **Briggs & Riley BRX Excursion backpack** offers a rugged yet light-weight carryall to protect belongings while exploring the great outdoors, \$130, at Sunsatations Travel Store, Fashion Island. (949-640-0288)



For wildlife lovers, the Upper Newport Bay estuary beckons and one of the best ways to explore is by kayak, for rent from \$14/hour or \$50/day, at **Southwind Kayak Center Newport Beach**. (949-261-0200; southwindkayaks.com)



Whether drivers cruise the Newport Coast or head to the city, any auto enthusiast would enjoy taking a spin in a Ferrari, Fisker, Lamborghini, Maserati, McLaren or Porsche, for rent from \$89 to \$2,499.99, at **Beverly Hills Rent-A-Car in Newport Beach**. (949-250-4386; bhnewport.com)

COURTESY OF RESTORATION HARDWARE



A **vintage map of Paris** and **Stanford's 1859 map of Italy** (pictured) are sure to inspire wanderlust in restless globetrotters, from \$1,350, at Restoration Hardware, Fashion Island. (949-760-9232; rh.com)

AROUND THE WORLD

With this set of travel gear and global-inspired decor, jet-setters will be eager to start planning their next big trips.



Intrepid travelers can transform any iPhone image into an instant vintage-style photo print with **The Impossible Project Instant Lab**, preserving memories of lands far away even after they've returned home, \$299, at Nordstrom, Fashion Island. (949-610-0700; nordstrom.com)



The **Tegra-Lite medium trip packing case** combines the durability of a hard-shell suitcase and the lightweight ease of a fabric one with Tegrin, a polypropylene thermoplastic composite material used in lifesaving armor and NASCAR race cars, \$795, at Neiman Marcus, Fashion Island. (949-759-1900; neimanmarcus.com)



Staying connected on the go is a snap with the **Tumi mobile power pack**. Compact and reliable, it can charge two cell phones or other USB devices at the same time and is designed to work anywhere in the world, \$145, at Tumi, South Coast Plaza. (714-429-0997; tumi.com)



DK Eyewitness Travel Guides, featuring full-color photos, maps and graphics, are perfect for planning a trip to just about anywhere on the globe, with destinations ranging from Paris, London and Venice to Japan, Hawaii and even California, from approximately \$14 for city guides to \$30 country guides, at Lido Village Books. (949-673-2549) NBM

Holiday Gift Guide

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WINTERLOCKED IN THE WEST

Being snowbound in some of North America's most spectacular ski towns isn't such a bad thing after all.

By Stephanie Nitsch

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIANS IN SEARCH OF A WHITE WONDERLAND no longer have to head across the pond to ski the great mountains of the world. For those afflicted with perpetual wanderlust, this thankfully means less time spent in baggage claims and customs lines and more time dedicated to carving into fresh powder. Bordered by hiking trails, verdant evergreen groves and panoramic vistas, these picturesque resort towns offer local travelers top runs and luxury lodgings in their own backyard. And with a growing number of slopeside perks, family-friendly activities and after-hours diversions offered alongside the resorts' in-bound amenities, it seems the Western sky is truly the limit.

With more than half of Vail Mountain's 5,289 acres catering to advanced riders, a visit to this Rocky Mountain retreat should be at the top of any winter bucket list. Skip the long shuttle ride from Denver International Airport and instead fly directly from Los Angeles to the Eagle County Regional Airport in Gypsum, Colo., where a 30-minute drive connects travelers to Vail's alpine bliss. Once there, it may be difficult to choose from among the 193 trails, but the new Mountaintop Express Lift whisks riders to the resort town's seven legendary Back Bowls and the Blue Sky Basin. For rookie skiers, the Adventure Sessions program pairs small groups of beginners with savvy mountain guides who impart tips, history lessons and local knowledge of the mountain's best-kept secrets. Off the hill, village life is vibrant with blocks of shopping and more than 100 dining options to quell even the most particular appetites. Meanwhile, the city's nightlife comes alive when major events like the Burton U.S. Open Snowboarding Championships (Feb. 25 to March 2, 2014) bring the world's top winter sports athletes to nearby slopes.

SLOPE SECRET: Once the crowds have plundered the Back Bowls, heed the advice of smart locals and stick to the front side of the mountain's terrain to avoid the powder-induced chaos and snag fresh turns before anyone else catches on.

APRES-SKI SCENE: Stop by The Sebastian Hotel's chic Frost Bar, which boasts a wide array of beer, wine and spirits. The bar also carries the town's best throwback cocktails and an impressive scotch collection, perfect for apres-ski or a nightcap. For more formal dining, The Sebastian offers its new restaurant, Leonora, which debuted in December 2012. Inspired by the Alps, Executive Chef Sergio Howland serves up delectable tapas, crudo and alpine bistro fare using only fresh, organic ingredients.

MORE INFO: Opened Nov. 22; 800-805-2457; vail.com

DEER VALLEY RESORT

The “Deer Valley difference” isn’t just a motto at this ski-only resort in Park City, Utah; it’s an experience that redefines the expectations of five-star service. The unparalleled hospitality begins upon arrival, as curbside valets flock to assist guests with cumbersome equipment, and ends at the day’s finish with complimentary overnight ski storage. In between, fine rows of manicured corduroy are groomed to perfection each morning, and a limited number of daily lift tickets are capped at 7,500 to ensure quality experiences for all guests, regardless of skill level. While the limit guarantees astonishingly short lift lines on any day of the season, it also makes purchasing advanced tickets an absolute necessity if guests plan to visit over the holidays. Perhaps even more tantalizing than the hill’s near-empty ski slopes, though, is Deer Valley’s flair for extravagant indulgence at restaurants like Fireside Dining at Empire Canyon Lodge, which offers a four-course affair with classic favorites from the European Alps served beside large stone fireplaces, or Seafood Buffet at Snow Park Lodge, now famous for its colossal bounty of crustaceans, fresh fish, meats and decadent house-made desserts.



GO FOR GOLD

Why settle for watching the 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, on television this winter when you can experience the thrill of the competition yourself? Adrenaline junkies can ski, toboggan, snowshoe and more at Whistler Olympic Park, originally built for the 2010 games in Vancouver, British Columbia. (whistlerolympicpark.com)

Stateside, Utah Olympic Park offers activities including bobsledding, adventure courses, slides and scenic chairlift rides (utaholympiclegacy.com). Or, track your speed with Vail’s EpicMix lift pass and see how your skills stack up against those of Olympic skier Lindsey Vonn. Race times are automatically recorded online when visitors register their EpicMix tickets. (epicmix.com)

Rather keep your feet firmly planted on the ground? Cheer on Olympic hopefuls from the sidelines during the International Ski Federation’s FIS Freestyle Skiing World Cup at Deer Valley (Jan. 8-11, 2014) or one of two Sprint U.S. Grand Prix events at Northstar California (Jan. 6-12, 2014) and Mammoth Mountain (Jan. 14-19, 2014) as athletes vie for spots on the U.S. ski and snowboard teams. Thousands of people will turn out for these Olympic qualifying events, where spectators can watch future gold medalists defy the limits of human achievement in midair.



SLOPE SECRET: Seek out the best glades in the area from the Chair 22 lift. A favorite of local pro skier Chris Benchetler, this zone is a prime place to discover quality slopes. Even intermediate riders can challenge their abilities with gentler runs on the backside of the lift.

APRES-SKI SCENE: Fans of dive bars and jukeboxes will appreciate the Clocktower Cellar, where guests can enjoy more than 150 types of whiskey from around the world. For beer aficionados, the Mammoth Brewing Co. pours fresh-from-the-keg samples of its classic suds and seasonal specialties.

MORE INFO: Opened Nov. 7; 800-626-6684; mammothmountain.com



SLOPE SECRET: Start the day in the Mayflower area, where east-facing trails cascade toward the Jordanelle Reservoir and are the first to soften on an icy morning. Then, hit the Daly Chutes—flanked by skiable aspen groves on either end—for steep and narrow slopes.

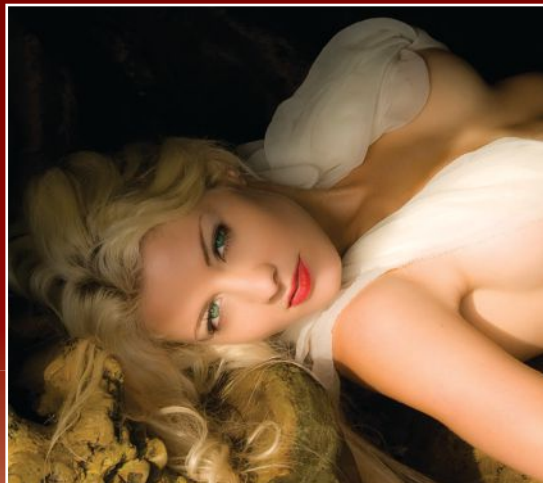
APRES-SKI SCENE: The St. Regis Deer Valley Resort stocks all the necessary confections for a gourmet, slope-side s'more. Thread a few airy stacks of marshmallows onto a skewer and toast to your heart's content in the hotel's outdoor fire pits before sandwiching them between layers of milk or dark chocolate, coconut and caramel.

MORE INFO: Opens Dec. 7; 800-424-3337; deervalley.com

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

Winter sports enthusiasts won't have to wait until the Olympics in February to salute the shred, white and blue. As the official training ground of the U.S. ski and snowboard teams, Mammoth Mountain has welcomed all-star athletes to its trails and terrain parks throughout the early season, and on its 60th anniversary, this legendary resort town couldn't have asked for a better birthday gift. Visitors can perform their own medal-worthy feats on the Super Duper Pipe, a behemoth of a ditch with expansive 22-foot-high walls. Even pint-sized shredders can mimic their idols in the Unbound Playground, a freestyle wonderland for newcomers. Meanwhile, Mammoth's sister ski area, June Mountain, will reopen its lifts after a period of quiet uncertainty, allowing children ages 12 and under to ski for free the entire season. Best yet, planning a vacation to Mammoth Lakes no longer requires a five-hour drive, thanks to new nonstop routes from John Wayne Airport to the Mammoth Yosemite Airport.

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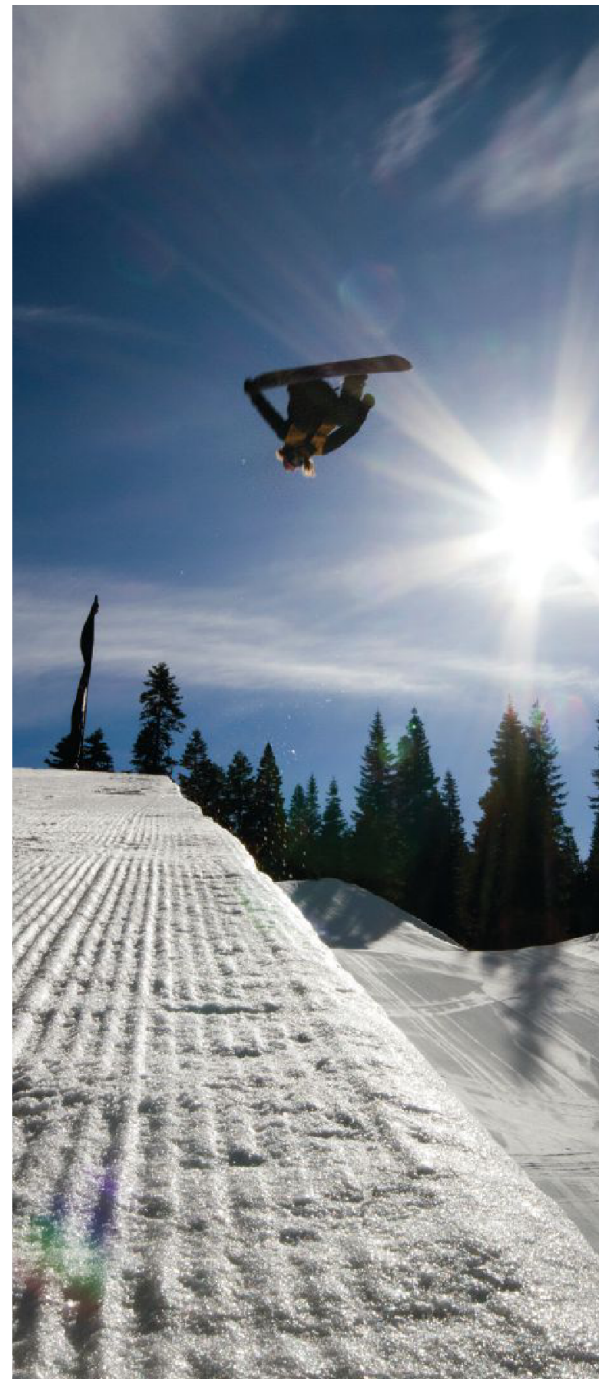


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NORTHSTAR CALIFORNIA

Set just beyond the north shores of Lake Tahoe's crystalline waters, Northstar California is a refreshing getaway from the lake's bustling south shores. The family-friendly resort has invested more than \$30 million over the past three years into transforming the skiable terrain and once-modest village into a luxury experience replete with adrenaline-fueled activities for visitors of all ages. Emerald forests of evergreen conifers separate pristinely groomed trails from areas for tree skiing, but it's the challenging terrain of Lookout Mountain that attracts the most ambitious thrill-seekers.

**SLOPE SECRET:**

Hiking the paths along Sawtooth Ridge feels like an adventurous backcountry jaunt and offers visitors scenic views of the surrounding area.

APRES-SKI SCENE:

Decadent desserts are the inspiration for nearly two-dozen cocktails at The Chocolate Bar. The bar and restaurant's selection includes tempting treats like the C Bar cocktail, muddled with vanilla vodka and creme de cocoa, which arrives in a glass rimmed in chocolate shavings. A savory menu of home-style classics balances out the sweet additions.

MORE INFO:

Opened Nov. 22;
800-466-6784;
northstarcalifornia.com

The sprawling resort features nine terrain parks, including the 22-foot superpipe, designed by Olympic gold medalist Shaun White, and The Stash, a collection of free-style obstacles made from reclaimed wood and other natural materials. Beginners can take a lesson at the world's only Burton Snowboard Academy, which offers a customized learn-to-ride program that guarantees to have every student linking turns by the end of the day. Afternoon activities in the village are geared toward unwinding, with slopeside hot tub sessions and daily s'more roasting always on the schedule.

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SNOWBIRD/ALTA

Commonly referred to as Little Cottonwood Canyon, the astounding alpine gorge that's home to Snowbird and Alta resorts is a bit of a misnomer. Despite its name, Little Cottonwood Canyon is revered across Utah for its big mountain skiing and technical challenges. Both Snowbird and Alta resorts frequently shatter snowfall records thanks to lake-effect weather patterns, but the atmosphere drastically differs between the two. At Snowbird, skiers and snowboarders mingle on the tram before descending from the summit at a lung-burning 11,000 feet. A newly installed Gad 2 lift has replaced the mountain's original lift for quicker access to the resort's finest tree skiing. Meanwhile, visitors will be hard pressed to find a single snowboarder linking turns on the slopes at neighboring Alta, which is proud to call itself the oldest ski area in the state. Steep bowls weed out the timid, but freshly groomed expanses invite beginners to skate across the soft, forgiving powder.



COURTESY OF SNOWBIRD/ALTA RESORT

WHISTLER BLACKCOMB

With 8,161 acres spread between two mountains, visitors won't exactly be competing for space at Whistler Blackcomb after a snowstorm. The sheer size and vertical amplitude of this British Columbia resort will make even the heartiest skier weak in the knees after a few modest runs. Eighteen million dollars have been dedicated to improving the resort's accommodations for the upcoming season; the recent additions include two new chairlifts, Harmony 6 and the Crystal Ridge Express, which shuttle riders to the peaks of powder-drenched bowls and glaciers that top out at more than 7,000 feet tall. Granite spires and jagged spindles surround the resort, but the rugged terrain doesn't necessarily yield palpitation-inducing descents at every turn. Instead, whimsical adventure zones entertain children's imaginations, and Whistler's Tree Fort elicits a smile from anyone who boards the twisting slides. The resort is the latest property to join the Mountain Collective, a 12-mountain grouping of North America's best slopes that offers a seasonal pass guaranteeing access to a cumulative 30,376 acres of skiable terrain for \$379. **NBM**

SLOPE SECRET: Dodge the crowds at Whistler Bowl and instead head to Bagel Bowl for exposure to steeper runs. On stormy days, the canopy of trees off Blackcomb's 7th Heaven Express lift provides low-light visibility to break up the blinding whiteness.

APRES-SKI SCENE: Unwind with a savory martini at the Fifty Two 80 Eatery + Bar at the Fours Seasons Resort and Residences Whistler. This season's signature libation, the Drunken Rabbit, combines sweet carrot juice and ginger vodka.

MORE INFO: Opened Nov. 28; 800-944-7853; whistlerblackcomb.com



PAUL MORRISON



SLOPE SECRET: Opt for the AltaSnowbird Pass, which allows skiers to sample the best of both resorts in a single day. Adventurous snowboarders can fulfill a rite of passage on the towns' shared ridgeline after a hike up Mount Baldy.

APRES-SKI SCENE: The town of Alta boasts a handful of nostalgic lounges that are dedicated to relieving parched skiers. Locally brewed beers, cocktails, and warm appetizers and entrees revive the weary at the Alta Peruvian Bar, while wood fires combat plummeting outdoor temperatures inside Alta Lodge's Sitzmark Club, which is almost as rustic as the 1930s-era building it resides in.

MORE INFO: Snowbird: Opened Nov. 16; 800-232-9542; snowbird.com. Alta: Opened Nov. 22; 801-359-1078; alta.com



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NEWPORT'S HABITAT BEACON BAY

The community of Beacon Bay cherishes the waterfront, docks, boats and, most importantly, its neighborly bond.

BY PETER A. BALASKAS | PHOTOS BY JODY TIONGCO



WHEN FIRST-TIME VISITORS DRIVE SOUTH ON HARBOR ISLAND ROAD AND MAKE A LEFT ON BEACON BAY, THEY WILL ENTER A COMMUNITY where the classic, custom architecture of the homes matches the kindheartedness of the residents. It's difficult to believe that all of Beacon Bay is leased land, but resident Anne Hoover says it has to do with tidelands. "Part of Beacon Bay was originally tidelands," she says. "Therefore, you cannot sell tidelands in California. And when it [was] transferred to the city [of Newport Beach] for management, the agreement was the land would never be sold." This doesn't deter people from making Beacon Bay their home, however, and residents of the tranquil neighborhood don't seem to mind. With houses located on the beach facing the scenic Harbor and Balboa islands, or on picturesque estradas, Beacon Bay is a place to be treasured.



FAMILY FACTS: John and Anne Hoover, and Dolly and Darla (Jack Russell terriers)
DAY JOB: Both John and Anne are residential real estate agents for Surterre Properties.
SPACE: 3,000 square feet, two bedrooms, 2.5 baths, with a one-bedroom, one-bath guest unit
TIMELINE: Built in 1992 and purchased in 2002
FABULOUS FEATURE: Located between the house and the backyard patio is a cozy loggia, which is enclosed with colorful curtains. It contains red polka dot cushioned lounge chairs, a coffee table and a mounted flat-screen television.



TRADITIONAL CAPE COD

ANNE AND JOHN HOOVER, WHO HAVE RESIDED in Beacon Bay for many years and work for Surterre Properties, were ready to upgrade to a larger house. Little did they know that their future home would end up being the one they were trying to sell.

"After showing [the house] many times, one day it dawned on me that this would be a perfect place for us," Anne explains. "So, I went home, told John, and he thought the same thing."

With hardly any significant renovations, the Hoovers easily moved into the two-level house

that is a classic Cape Cod style, courtesy of architect Don Stine. "It's traditional," she says of the signature shiplap, the light colors of the trim and the richness of the brick. "It's contextually appropriate for the neighborhood, being in the beachside lifestyle."

This carefree style is illustrated throughout the entire Hoover home, including wooden oak floors; a patio made of used brick; a spacious dining room with a polished wooden dining set that faces the fireplace; and a kitchen, which includes an intimate breakfast area and an island countertop

made of butcher block. In the backyard and above the loggia is the second level deck that leads to both bedrooms and the guest apartment.

After living in Bay Shores, Shore Cliffs, Lido Isle and Jasmine Creek, Anne knows that Beacon Bay is the place for her and John to spend their promising futures. "I really love the fact that it's such a small community," she says. "It feels like a family, where all the people that live here feel like cousins, nieces and nephews, or aunts and uncles, because that's how people treat each other. They care about each other."

FAMILY FACTS: Anthony, Erin and their two children, plus Rex and Jeff (miniature pinscher Chihuahuas)

DAY JOB: Anthony is an agricultural fund manager; Erin is an interior designer.

SPACE: 1,600 square feet, three bedrooms, 2.5 baths, with a one-bedroom, one-bath guest unit

TIMELINE: Built in 1949, purchased in 2003, renovations in 2003, 2006, 2008 and 2013

FABULOUS FEATURE: The new fire pit on the front patio—the most recent renovation—includes a built-in bench for reading or resting. A wood top can transform the fire pit into a table.



A FRESH, CLASSIC COTTAGE

WHEN ANTHONY AND ERIN FIRST DISCOVERED their Beacon Bay home, it was green stucco and had a wall facing the estrada and main sidewalk where a front door should have been. But courtesy of Erin's talents as a designer and Anthony's own creative touches, the couple performed a number of renovations to make their vision come true: a fresh, classic, coastal beach cottage.

That green stucco plain wall was replaced with white paneling and siding, as well as a quaint, pitched front entranceway with a barn door, adding a country flavor to the theme. Immediately inside the foyer are two rectangular niches on each side of the corridor walls,

where Erin adds decorations that reflect the present season; for example, in summer she chose a beach theme of starfishes, sand dollars and wooden toy blocks spelling out "summer."

The wooden floors lead to an intimate living room, with paintings and pictures of boats illustrating a sea theme that complements the calm atmosphere of the space.

The couple likes mixing materials, evident in the bookcases, coffee tables and other pieces of furniture made from reclaimed barn wood and steel. In the kitchen, a concrete floor surrounds an island with a white, blue-veined marble countertop that reflects the natural light.

The spacious backyard patio, where the ground is concrete with inlaid pebbles, contains a barbecue grill and outdoor oven, a walkway and stairs leading to the guest apartment and a "cheeseburger window," which is a window and counter that connects the kitchen to the patio, in the style of a 1950s diner.

Both believe that the Beacon Bay community and its natural ocean setting is a benefit for their children. "We do think it's a really healthy lifestyle," Erin says. "I think it keeps our kids grounded. We have a lot of outdoor time and that's what we love. Where else can you fish off the dock after school?"



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FAMILY FACTS: Scott and Shawn Cunningham
DAY JOB: Scott is a sales manager for Broadcom; Shawn is retired from working in electronics sales.
SPACE: 3,700 square feet, three bedrooms, six baths
TIMELINE: Purchased the lot in 2011, broke ground in 2012, moved into the home in 2013
FABULOUS FEATURE: The back patio doors open up the kitchen, living room, dining room and bar to the heated tile deck in the backyard, creating a 2,000-square-foot “downstairs entertainment room” perfect for family gatherings.



BUILDING A DREAM HOUSE

IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT A PADDLEBOARDING trip would result in the Cunninghams building their dream house in Beacon Bay—but that’s exactly what happened when Scott was stand-up paddleboarding through Newport Harbor one day and saw an empty lot on the waterfront with a “for sale” sign on the property. It was then that he met Anne Hoover, who was the real estate agent selling the property. The land was purchased and the Cunninghams hired architect Cynthia Childs and contractor Neil Longman to build their two-story dream home, done in a style that is a cross between contemporary and traditional farmstead.

“We knew we wanted contemporary,” Shawn says. “I always loved contemporary. I loved the clean lines; no moldings. Simple, but elegant.”

Both the contemporary and farmstead influences flow throughout the house, from the Pennsylvania bluestone front sidewalk to the white French oak floors. To the left of the foyer is a small bathroom where an LED light shines through a white onyx countertop, illuminating the petrified wood sink above it.

The foyer opens up into a downstairs entertainment room. The space includes a vast fireplace and plasma television, as well as a dining area with a wooden table made in Indonesia and

a bar with a backlit wineglass tiled wall.

On the second level, all the bedrooms have a clear view of the harbor, especially the master bedroom, which features a deck where the Cunninghams can gaze at the sunset.

Because of the perfect design of their dream home, the Cunninghams feel they are always on vacation—or something more profound. “You almost get the feeling ... this is the ultimate situation for retirement,” Scott says. “We’re no longer thinking of what are we going to do when we retire, because this is it. There is so much of a healthy, active lifestyle here. And I can see ourselves here for a long time.” NBM

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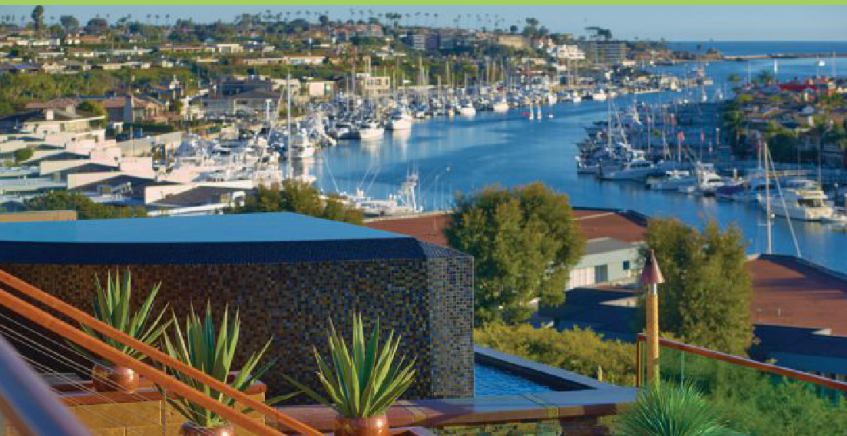
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1101 DOLPHIN TERRACE, CORONA DEL MAR



PRICE: \$9,995,000

Nestled atop Irvine Terrace bluff, this spectacular 4-bedroom/5-bath tropical resort-like custom estate offers 250-degree panoramic views including Newport Harbor, Balboa Island and Catalina vistas extending from Newport Coast to Long Beach.

44 GOLDEN EAGLE, SHADY CANYON



PRICE: \$7,950,000

Gorgeous custom estate with a stunning architectural Santa Barbara design located on a sprawling private lot in Shady Canyon. Featuring 5 ensuite bedrooms, custom wine cellar, theater, Great room, separate living room, dining room and game room home offers the finest living environments, finishes and amenities.

25 BOULDER VIEW, SHADY CANYON



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30 SCENIC BLUFF, CRYSTAL COVE



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PRICE: \$1,599,000

Located in Cliff Haven; one of Newport's finest neighborhoods. The lot measures 9,360 sq ft, the perfect opportunity to build the home of your dreams. This charming mid century custom, two bedroom and two bath home is open and bright. The living room, dining area and master bedroom all enjoy a view to the rear yard. You will immediately be drawn to the huge yard and its pool. Great for entertaining!

46 OCEAN VISTA, NEWPORT BEACH



PRICE: \$1,549,000

This gorgeous, highly upgraded custom home in Sea Island has amazing views of the golf course. Offering 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths this townhome features a custom bar, built in wine storage, custom crown molding, recessed lighting, vaulted ceilings, sky lights, new doors and windows throughout, travertine floors, gourmet kitchen, cast stone fireplace, custom cabinetry and many more custom designer features.

4051 HUMBOLDT, HUNTINGTON BEACH



PRICE: \$1,199,000

This very large lot with a private gated front patio and huge back yard is perfect, this property graciously includes three bedrooms upstairs and a huge bright bonus room, a kitchen attached to sunny breakfast room and family room, a spacious living room and dining room. The ground are outstanding and stretch to nearly 8300 square feet of backyard and patios.

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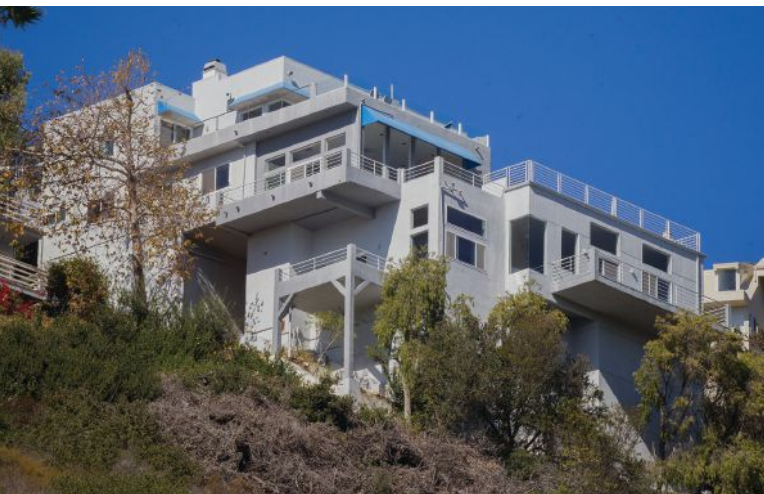
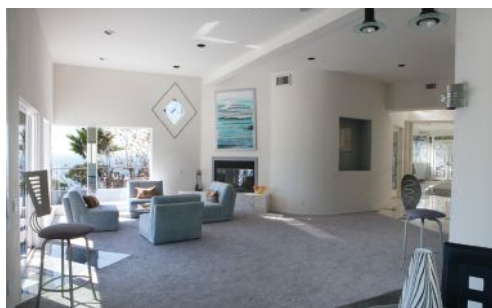
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FRESH FARE AT PELICAN HILL

Autumn got a late start in Orange County this year, but at Newport restaurants, there's still plenty of time to sample the fresh fall bounty. With a menu available through mid-January, the Coliseum Pool & Grill at The Resort at Pelican Hill brings fall into winter, offering plates that feature an array of seasonal produce from the Irvine Ranch.

Chef Marc Osier says more than three-quarters of the resort's vegetables come from the Irvine Ranch, with seasonal staples including squash, avocados, zucchini, beets, heirloom tomatoes and even strawberries. One must-try dish is the beet salad, featuring golden yellow and deep red beets complemented by arugula, apple, goat cheese and a balsamic reduction. Subtly sweet and refreshing, it's an ideal way to sample the season's best without the heaviness of typical fall/winter dishes. Other seasonal items: a grilled Meyer lemon and vanilla marinated Chilean sea bass, and a flight of desserts in rich, comforting flavors—if you're not tired of pumpkin, try the restaurant's spin on pumpkin cake layered in a petite glass.

Paired with a gorgeous sunset and views of the pool and golf course, a meal at Coliseum Pool & Grill offers a taste of the summer resort life perfectly suited for a Newport December day. (800-820-6800; pelicanhill.com) —A.H.



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NB EATS

RUDY'S PUB & GRILL



Baseball cut sirloin steak and three-cheese potatoes au gratin



Tangy bacon and jalapeno wings with creamy Gorgonzola

Game Time

Rudy's Pub & Grill, an upscale sports bar, scores with outdoor space and creative menu.

BY SHARON STELLO

WHEN THE GAME IS ON, RUDY'S PUB & GRILL IS the place to go in Newport Beach. With 31 flat-screen TVs—all over 40 inches—diners won't miss a minute of the action at this upscale sports bar. The bright, airy space sets it apart from the traditional dark and dingy sports bar model.

Owner Todd Carson, a Rudy's regular during his college days before he bought and renovated the place in 2004, says an update was sorely needed. The most prominent architectural feature is now a retractable roof, allowing guests to enjoy the sunshine while sitting in the outdoor space complete with artificial turf and umbrella tables.

Executive Chef Dave Baumann overhauled the menu by refreshing old favorites and adding inventive dishes. "We take things to another level and give them a little twist," Todd says.

For starters, Rudy's offers the classic sports bar staple: chicken wings with sauces from chipotle to Carolina barbecue. Kick it up a notch with the

tangy bacon and jalapeno wings, and cool down with the accompanying Gorgonzola cheese.

The baby Kobe burgers, an appetizer of three mini sliders, "by far outsells everything else on the menu," Dave says. Served on grilled King's Hawaiian rolls with house dressing and American cheese, the burgers have a slightly sweet taste accented by a pickle slice and sauteed red onion that provide the perfect amount of crunch. Those seeking a heartier meal may want to try the baseball cut sirloin steak served over three-cheese potatoes au gratin with roasted garlic and Gorgonzola thyme butter. With each bite, a thin outer crust gives way to the tender, flavorful meat.

The pub also offers creative burger toppings. Diners can select unusual ingredients like fried egg, peanut butter, jelly or fried pickles (also a standalone item, returned to the menu by popular demand after a brief hiatus).

While every team has all-stars, depth is equally

important. At Rudy's, a wide-ranging menu offers salads, soup, chili, burgers, sandwiches, pasta, tacos, fresh fish and more. Breakfast is served on Saturdays and Sundays, and everything—including the sauces—is made from scratch.

Of course, no sports bar would be complete without a frosty mug of beer—and Rudy's doesn't disappoint with 10 brews on tap and 18 in bottles. This fall, the eatery expanded its wine list and rolled out a healthy menu, with under-400-calorie options such as fried French green beans with a cherry pepper relish and curry chicken lettuce tostadas.

For a grand finale, Rudy's keeps it simple with an apple fritter a la mode—a dish that was created by Dave's 12-year-old daughter.

Delivering an innovative dining experience in an unexpected setting, Rudy's scores major points for its creative cuisine and relaxed atmosphere—an ideal combination for enjoying the game. **NBM**

Rudy's Pub & Grill, 3110 Newport Blvd.; 949-723-0293; rudyspubandgrill.com

➔ TASTE OF THE TOWN

JODY TIONGCO



NEW CAFE SLIDES INTO BALBOA

NEW

The Sliding Door Cafe and Bakery opened its doors Oct. 7 on Balboa Peninsula, bringing locals a new place to enjoy American food with a contemporary twist. The full-service restaurant offers a lunch and dinner menu featuring main course options like cabernet-braised short ribs and pan-roasted organic salmon, as well as the usual sandwiches, soups and salads. The in-house bakery provides a diverse dessert menu, including brownies, tarts and cheesecake. The cafe's co-owners, engaged couple Natalie Sarle and Kevin Cahalan, were childhood friends in New York who reconnected in California, opening the cafe in the span of a few months.

"It [has] seasonal comfort food," Kevin says of the menu. "I wanted to make food that people crave. It would be what your mom would make if she had a CIA (Culinary Institute of America) degree and 24 years of experience."

The small interior, big wooden tables and laid-back atmosphere make it the perfect place to relax with neighbors. The cafe also offers a take-out option, popular among customers headed out for a day of boating. (949-673-7173; theslidingdoorcafe.com) —A.R.

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LARK CREEK NEWPORT BEACH



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Comfort Cuisine

One of Fashion Island's newest restaurants offers a fresh, innovative take on classic dishes.

BY ALLISON HATA

AT THE HEART OF EVERY GREAT RESTAURANT IS A friendly, engaging staff, armed with quick recommendations and personal insight into the menu. People don't want to go out to eat and hear the same script from the servers every time, says Lark Creek Newport Beach general manager Chad Sisco. That sentiment is echoed in every moment of the dining experience at the recently opened Fashion Island restaurant.

After being seated in an intimately lit dining room, which exudes a quiet warmth with its dark wood furnishings and contemporary colors, we're greeted by Kyle, who jokingly promises that a fantastic server will be taking care of us that evening. He lives up to his word by sharing the menu's best offerings, beginning with some must-try cocktails.

Those who come just for the drinks won't be disappointed. Craft cocktails abound here, with old standbys that take on new life. For fans of the

classics, the Moscow mule can't be beat, served in a traditional copper mug; another top choice is the Unfashionable, an Old-Fashioned featuring Russell's Reserve small batch bourbon.

Though the cocktail menu is extensive, the restaurant also offers six wines on tap. "It's the closest you can get to actually drinking it from the barrel," Chad explains. Additionally, there's an impressive selection of craft beers, the only type the restaurant serves—no Budweiser to be found here.

Once drinks are served, Kyle is ready with another set of detailed recommendations on the chef-driven menu. One plate that's enjoyed by diners and servers alike is the signature barbecue chicken tamale pancake, served with avocado salsa and tortilla strips. Lighter options include the white shrimp ceviche with avocado, cilantro, jalapeno and lime, complemented by the subtle spice of the Tunisian pepper paste aioli that accompanies the inventive chickpea fries.

Though you could easily make a meal of the starters, leave some room for the main course—the duck confit and mushroom risotto blends tender pieces of meat seamlessly into the creamy rice. Another heartier entree, the cedar-brined pork chop, offers a smoky flavor that transfers to the side of butternut squash, which is deglazed in the pan with maple syrup.

With some encouragement from the servers, diners will find that dessert is a must at Lark Creek. New on the menu is a rich chocolate semifreddo, a decadent dish with chocolate mousse, buttery toffee pieces and toasted marshmallows that's reminiscent of a s'more. A favorite at every Lark Creek restaurant is the butterscotch pudding, served with Chantilly cream and a Mexican wedding cookie for a sweet but not overpowering finish.

Whatever you choose, this is a meal well worth being savored, made even better by the genuine warmth and hospitality of an excellent staff. **NBM**

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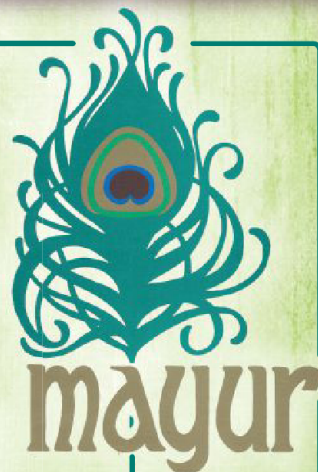
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Fall Finale

Autumn is enjoying a curtain call in restaurants across Orange County.

BY ALLISON HATA

BEFORE THE CRISP BREEZES OF fall give way to a cool Southern California winter, there's still time to savor the season's best ingredients. Thick cuts of meat, hearty vegetable blends and rich soups offer warm and comforting options as the weather cools down—but with this year's summer heat lasting well into October, fall menus have taken a backseat to lighter fare. This December, however, foodies can venture away from home to Newport's nearest neighboring cities and still sink their teeth into favorite fall dishes before it's too late.

IRVINE

American cuisine takes a contemporary twist at Paul Martin's American Grill. With a dark, sleek interior and floor-to-ceiling shelves of wine, it's hard to imagine a more inviting space for fall.

Though the restaurant's year-round dishes include traditional steakhouse options, its fall menu, which is available into the new year, is the true star this season.

All the choices sound decadent—like the beef ragu and papardelle pasta, made with short rib meat, ricotta cheese and extra-long noodles—but a classic meal of pork chop and soup takes dinner to a new level. To start, the roasted butternut squash soup transforms the fall vegetable into liquid heaven in a bowl. Creamy yet still light and flavorful, the soup is garnished with a Sonoma sage pesto, making for a nicely presented and hearty dish.

The hoisin-marinated pork chop is soaked overnight in the dark, savory sauce before being grilled, adding just enough flavor to enhance, but not overpower the tender piece of meat. Served



Hoisin-marinated pork chop at Paul Martin's American Grill



Pork osso buco at Splashes at Surf & Sand Resort

with an accompaniment of Brussels sprouts, it's the epitome of fall simplicity. (949-453-1144; paulmartinsamericangrill.com)

COSTA MESA

Even at the ultimate seasonal restaurant, Seasons 52, it's not too late to get a final taste of fall. Available through mid-December, the menu at the South Coast Plaza restaurant features rich, earthy ingredients, including mushrooms,

butternut squash, quail and Asian pears. Bite into a tree-ripened Subarashii Kudamono Asian pear in the organic baby spinach salad topped with toasted pine nuts and Gorgonzola cheese to start, or sample Seasons 52's take on the butternut squash soup topped with shiitake mushrooms and chives.

For a savory main course, the Manchester Farms quail is stuffed with creamy mushroom risotto and served roasted with spinach, bacon and aged balsamic vinegar. Simple autumn elegance abounds in the maple-glazed, roasted half-chicken, complemented with a vegetable medley of carrots, parsnips and cipollini onions. (714-437-5252; seasons52.com)

LAGUNA BEACH

A rising star in the culinary world, Executive Chef David Fuñe brings his creative vision to Splashes at Surf & Sand Resort, showcasing an inventive fall menu available into 2014.

While taking in the endless views of the Pacific at the restaurant (which boasts an indoor-outdoor feel), start off the meal with a bowl of grilled eggplant soup, topped with a crumble of everything bagel. The smoky yet smooth soup serves as a prelude to David's take on lasagna:

Belgian endive, filled with walnut butter, white bean chevre mousse and langoustine. Die-hard carnivores will enjoy the pork osso buco with Parmesan broth, served with pine nuts, spinach two ways and giant white beans. (949-376-2779; surfandsandresort.com/splashes)

Whether you're a vegetarian, meat-eater or something in between, just across Newport's border you'll find something fall-inspired to savor in these early winter months. **NBM**

PRIME DINING

The tides are certainly ebbing and flowing at the iconic waterfront Balboa Bay Resort. After welcoming new owners in 2012, there has been a significant focus on revamping the eateries offered throughout both the resort and club. Among those changes, the resort's fine dining establishment, the First Cabin Restaurant, will be renamed 1221 Prime as a new chef is welcomed to the line—classically trained, Paris native Vincent Lesage.

This, of course, means Balboa Bay Resort will say farewell to longtime Executive Chef Josef Lageder. "We are sad to see chef Josef go, but we are thrilled to welcome chef Vincent," General Manager Dieter Hissin says. "He is bringing with him new, fresh ingredients and a depth of knowledge."

The restaurant will officially reopen under the new name in early 2014, debuting a soft remodel as well. Guests can expect several of the resort's classic dishes to remain on 1221 Prime's new menu, but they will now be accompanied by French-inspired cuisine as well as steakhouse-type items. (949-645-5000; balboabayresort.com) —K.P.



JODY TIONGCO

Café Beau Soleil

953 Newport Center Dr.; 949-640-4402; cafebeausoleil.net

Canaletto Ristorante Veneto

545 Newport Center Dr.; 949-640-0900; ilfornaio.com

Fig & Olive (Opening Soon)

151 Newport Center Dr.; 949-877-3005; figandolive.com

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar

455 Newport Center Dr.; 949-720-9633; flemingssteakhouse.com

Great Maple

1133 Newport Center Dr.; 949-706-8282; thegreatmaple.com

Lark Creek Newport Beach

957 Newport Center Dr.; 949-640-6700; larkcreeknb.com

Lemonade

987 Newport Center Dr.; 949-717-7525; lemonadela.com

Mariposa Restaurant

Neiman Marcus, 601 Newport Center Dr.; 949-467-3350; neimanmarcus.com

Muldoon's Irish Pub

202 Newport Center Dr.; 949-640-4110; muldoonspub.com

Native Foods Cafe

1091 Newport Center Dr.; 949-760-9999; nativefods.com

R+D Kitchen

555 Newport Center Dr.; 949-219-0555; hillstone.com

Red O

143 Newport Center Dr.; 949-718-0300; redorestaurant.com

Roy's Restaurant

453 Newport Center Dr.; 949-640-7697; roysrestaurant.com

Sam & Harry's

Marriott Newport Beach, 900 Newport Center Dr.; 949-640-4000; marriott.com

Shor American Seafood Grill

The Hyatt Newport Beach, 1107 Jamboree Rd.; 949-729-1234; newportbeach.hyatt.com

Taco Rosa

2632 San Miguel Rd.; 949-720-0980; tacorosa.com

True Food Kitchen

451 Newport Center Dr.; 949-644-2400; truefoodkitchen.com

Wahoo's Fish Tacos

401 Newport Center Dr.; 949-760-0290; wahoos.com

Yard House

849 Newport Center Dr.; 949-640-9273; yardhouse.com

Newport Coast/Crystal Cove

Andrea

The Resort at Pelican Hill, 22701 Pelican Hill Rd. S.; 800-820-6800; pelicanhill.com

Babette's

7962 E. Coast Hwy.; babettesrestaurant.com

The Beachcomber Cafe

15 Crystal Cove; 949-376-6900; thebeachcombercafe.com

Bear Flag Fish Co.

7972 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-8899; bearflagfishco.com

Bluefin Fine Japanese Cuisine

7952 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-7373; bluefinbyabe.com

Coliseum Pool & Grill

The Resort at Pelican Hill, 22701 Pelican Hill Rd. S.; 800-820-6800; pelicanhill.com

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modomiocucinarustica.com

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mustardcafe.com

PALM TERRACE

The Island Hotel, 690 Newport Center Dr.;
866-554-4619; theislandhotel.com

PELICAN GRILL

The Resort at Pelican Hill, 22800 Pelican Hill
Rd. S.; 800-820-6800; pelicanhill.com

TAMARIND OF LONDON

7862 E. Coast Hwy.; 949-715-8338;
tamarindoflondon.com

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21123 Newport Coast Dr.; 949-760-9687;
zovs.com

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ameliasbalboaisland.com

BAROLO BY THE SEA

305 Marine Ave.; 949-675-6193

BASILIC RESTAURANT

217 Marine Ave.; 949-673-0570;
basilicrestaurant.com

PASTU

216 Marine Ave.; 949-566-9525;
pasturerestaurant.com

SHANGHAI PINE GARDENS

300 Marine Ave.; 949-673-3802

TRATTORIA MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE

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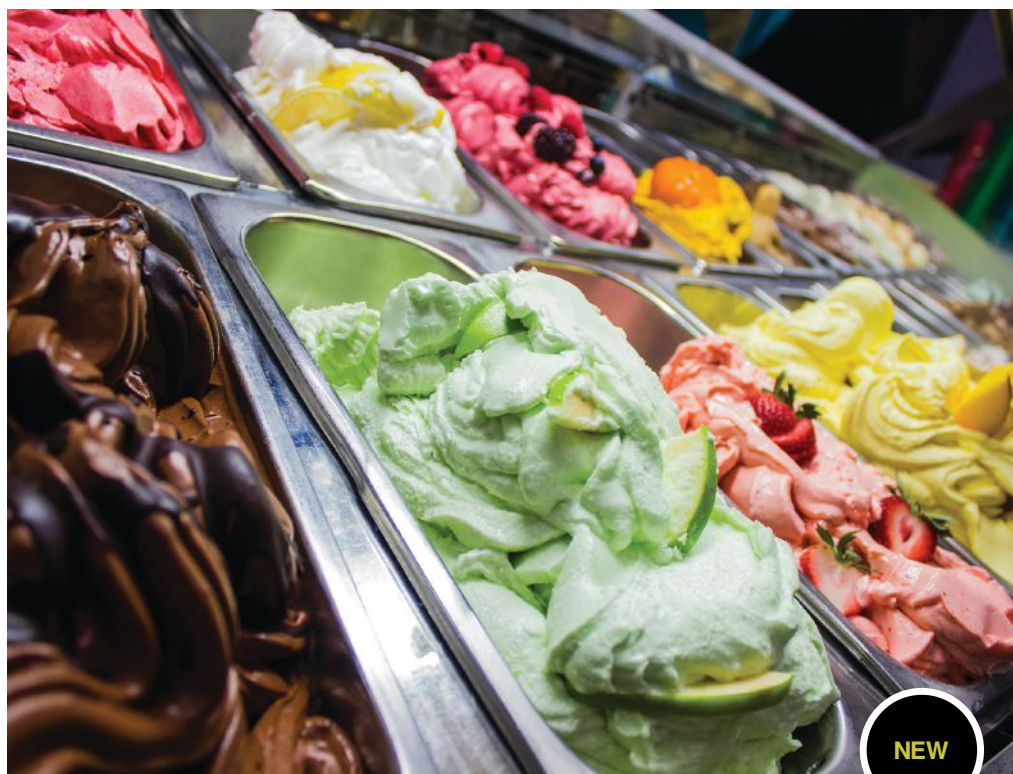
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21oceanfront.com

THE ALLEY RESTAURANT & BAR

4501 W. Coast Hwy.; 949-646-9126;
thealleynewportbeach.com



ISLAND PARADISE

Gelato Paradiso opened its long-awaited Newport Beach shop Oct. 25 at Fashion Island's Atrium Court, much to the delight of local fans who were disappointed when the Corona del Mar Plaza location shut its doors in 2012. The new shop boasts Old World decor modeled after the company's flagship location in Laguna Beach, as well as bold flavors handcrafted by the company's master gelato maker. Up to 30 flavors are available daily, made fresh from authentic Sicilian recipes passed down through the generations; highlights include pistachio, "gianduja" (milk chocolate hazelnut) and "mandorla" (toasted almond) made from nuts, chocolate and extracts from Italy. Customers may select a cup, cone, shake or "affogato" (drenched with Italian espresso). Seasonal offerings include pumpkin and peppermint on the winter menu. (949-718-9800; gelatoparadiso.net) —S.S.

AKROPOLIS

2201 W. Balboa Blvd.; 949-270-6310;
akropolisnewportbeach.com

AURORA MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT

2307 Balboa Blvd.; 949-642-1073

AVILA'S EL RANCHITO

2800 Newport Blvd.; 949-675-6855;
avilaselranchito.net

THE BLUE BEET

107 21st Place; 949-675-2338;
thebluebeet.com

BEAR FLAG FISH CO.

407 31st St.; 949-673-3474;
bearflagfishco.com

BLUEWATER GRILL

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bluewatergrill.com

BUDDHA'S FAVORITE

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buddhasfavorite.com

THE CANNERY

3010 Lafayette Rd.; 949-566-0060;
cannerynewport.com

CHARLIE'S CHILI

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charlieschili-newportbeach.com

CRAB COOKER

2200 Newport Blvd.; 949-673-0100;
crabcooker.com

THE DOCK

2816 Lafayette Rd.; 949-673-3625;
eatatthedock.com

FLY 'N' FISH OYSTER BAR & GRILL

2304 W. Oceanfront; 949-673-8400;
flynfishoysterbar.com

HARBORSIDE RESTAURANT

400 Main St.; 949-673-4633;
harborside-pavilion.com

IL FARRO

111 21st Place; 949-723-5711; ilfarro.com

MALARKY'S IRISH PUB

3011 Newport Blvd.; 949-675-2340;
malarkysirishpub.com

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MUTT LYNCH'S

2300 W. Oceanfront; 949-675-1556;
muttlynchs.com

NEWPORT BEACH BREWING CO.

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tapasnewportbeach.net

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tenoc.com

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champagnesdeli.com

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mozambiqueperiperi.com

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wasasushi.com

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wildfishseafoodgrille.com

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118 DEGREES

2981 Bristol St.; 714-754-0718; 118degrees.com

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3333 Bristol St.; 714-557-5679; anqibistro.com

THE CAPITAL GRILLE

3333 Bristol St.; 714-432-1140;
thecapitalgrille.com

CHARLIE PALMER

3333 Bristol St.; 714-352-2525;
charliepalmer.com

DIN TAI FUNG (OPENING SOON)

3333 Bristol St.; dintaifungusa.com

ECCO PIZZERIA & BAR

2937 Bristol St.; 714-444-3226; eccopizza.com



NEW BISTRO BOSS

Back Bay Bistro, a contemporary restaurant specializing in fresh, sustainable seafood at Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort & Marina appointed Eric Tabon as its new general manager this fall. Eric, a 15-year restaurant veteran from Huntington Beach, previously held management positions at Huntington Beach's Izakaya Zero and Atlanta Lounge, both now closed, and Newport's Bluefin and Fit Foods 4 Life. At Back Bay Bistro, Eric recently rolled out a new menu by Executive Chef Kurt Schaeffer, with new dishes that include steamed littleneck clams with garlic white wine lemon butter, a crabcake sandwich with citrus tartar sauce, seared rare ahi with mild wasabi mashed potatoes, and swordfish with sundried tomato tapenade and pesto orzo. (949-729-1144; backbaybistronewportbeach.com) —S.S.

GREENLEAF GOURMET CHOPSHOP

234 E. 17th St.; 949-200-3950;
greenleafchopshop.com

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hautecakescaffee.com

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marchemoderne.net

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mastrosrestaurants.com

MESA

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mesacostamesa.com

MI CASA

296 E. 17th St.; 949-645-7626; micasa1.com

NELLO CUCINA

3333 Bear St.; 714-540-3365; nellocucina.com



RESTAURANT WEEK

Newport Beach residents and culinary fans should prepare to stretch their waistbands—but not their wallets—when the eighth annual Newport Beach Restaurant Week returns Jan. 17-24, 2014. Restaurants all over the city will offer select prix fixe menus at discounted prices that allow food lovers to sample a variety of culinary creations. Last year, lunches were offered for \$10 to \$20, with dinners running from \$20 to \$40. This year, similar pricing is expected, which makes the experience a great value to patrons and provides the best opportunity to discover a favorite new eatery. (949-675-0501; newportbeachdining.com) —B.B.

OLD VINE CAFE

2937 Bristol St.; 714-545-1411;
oldvinecafe.com

PINOT PROVENCE

686 Anton Blvd.; 444-5900; pinotprovence.com

PITFIRE PIZZA

353 E. 17th St.; 949-313-6333; pitfirepizza.com

PIZZERIA ORTICA

650 Anton Blvd.; 714-445-4900;
pizzeriaortica.com

SCOTT'S RESTAURANT & BAR

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rooftoplagnabeach.com

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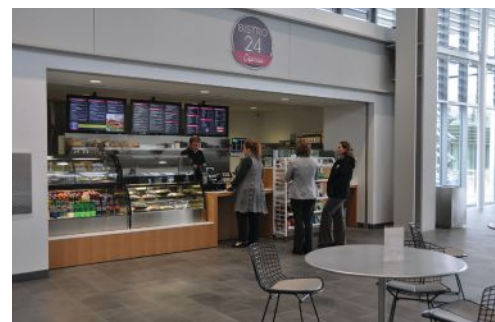
Montage Laguna Beach, 30801 S. Coast Hwy.;
949-715-6420; studiolagunabeach.com

A CULINARY CHAPTER

Newport Beach Public Library visitors who work up an appetite after hours of reading or studying may now buy a meal or snack without ever leaving the building. An on-site cafe, Bistro 24 Express, opened Oct. 7 on the second floor of the Central Library branch at 1000 Avocado Ave.

The cafe—which is run by the Irvine-based catering company 24 carrots—offers a range of breakfast items, fresh fruit, pastries, flatbread pizzas, hot meals and more. Bistro 24 Express also serves Kéan Coffee products that include the brand's signature holiday lattes and cappuccinos. Since opening, the cafe has even experimented with weekly specials like short rib tacos, and caprese paninis.

"Our new cafe, Bistro 24 [Express], adds elements of quality and convenience to the experience of visiting the Newport Beach Public Library," says Tim Hetherington, library services director. "We like to think that we offer excellent resources, collections and services to the public, and we feel that Bistro 24 [Express] reflects that commitment to quality." (949-467-9631; bistro24express.com) —T.E. NBM



WHY NOT IN NEWPORT?

A Newport Beach Magazine editor contemplates the need for a 24-hour restaurant in the city.

BY TESS EYRICH



Mae's Cafe in Garden Grove



Café Westminster



Harbor House Café in Dana Point

I won't hesitate to tell you that I'm not a morning person. In fact, prior to landing my position as an editor here at Newport Beach Magazine, I deliberately chose to work jobs that allowed me to roll out of bed around 11 a.m. each day and work—like some kind of vampire—into the questionable hours of the night. As a result, most of my dinners were eaten at ungodly hours: midnight, 2 a.m., oftentimes even later.

I held a few successive jobs in Newport Beach, but found the city presented me with a dearth of late-night dining options. And despite my youthful exuberance, I realized early on that there were only so many doughnuts I could eat from shops like boardwalk institution Seaside Bakery—which never closes—without endangering my health.

Instead, I longed for something more inviting: an all-night, sit-down restaurant, much like the iconic Harbor House Café. The diner's two locations, in Dana Point and Sunset Beach, flank the outer edges of Orange County's coastline. Both embrace the highest level of kitsch with classic film posters—all framed, some lining the ceilings—hung alongside 1960s Hawaiian tourism paraphernalia and personal photographs of locals and celebrities alike. Eating a late-night meal at Harbor House is an experience that can't be

replicated, but one that feels so overwhelmingly traditional, you'd swear you remember having done it before.

It's an experience I'd like Newport locals to enjoy. I suggest we broaden the city's dining scene, which becomes largely obsolete past 11 p.m., by opening a 24-hour restaurant. Adding such an establishment to Newport's culinary landscape will make it only more diversified, and thus more appealing to a wider audience.

Newport is known for its thriving nightlife, but offers few places to grab quality food after an evening spent with friends at a bar, lounge or dinner party. An ambitious restaurateur who resolves to give the people what they need—and has his intentions approved by the city's seven-person planning commission—most likely will be rewarded with substantial success, especially on weekends.

"There are a lot of people out there who eat late dinners," says James Liu, who oversees operation of the 24-hour Mae's Cafe in Garden Grove. "Our late-night customers are a younger demographic. I would say the age range is between 18 and 40."

"Like all 24-hour establishments, we will have the post-partying crowd," he adds. "But we also have customers who are looking for a place to eat, sip coffee and have dessert with friends at night."

Similarly, Frankie Lopez, manager of the Westminster-based Café Westminster (which he claims doesn't even have locks on its doors), notes of his restaurant's clientele, "We have a few local bars and lounges that send us frequent business. Mostly young students visit us at night to study."

Over time, all-night restaurants tend to become vehicles for bringing locals together, leading owners to speak of their customer bases as insulated communities: "People know us by name," Frankie continues. "We have our regulars who come in daily, once, twice or up to three times a day. The Café Westminster is like [fictional hangout] the Peach Pit from 'Beverly Hills, 90210.' Everyone who visits becomes friends of the family."

The kind of place I'm proposing, hopefully, will share this same sense of community, but it doesn't have to be a typical diner. In fact, I envision it being something more like the gourmet eateries that have popped up across the county over the past few years: The Crow Bar and Kitchen in Corona del Mar, The Crosby and Lola Gaspar in downtown Santa Ana and, most recently, The Blind Pig Kitchen + Bar in Rancho Santa Margarita. Think smaller plates, seasonal ingredients and an intimate environment—all offered 24 hours all day. *NBM*

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