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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013 | OCINSITE.COM

Magazine

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BEST *of the* BEACHES ISSUE

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By Skip Snead

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ON THE COVER
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24. TREND



14. BUZZ



32. ART



28. ACTIVE



121. WHY NOT



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Growing Up Newport

Last year, I took my first sailing lesson in Newport Harbor. While I don't think the harbor would be safe with me at the helm of my own boat just yet, the number of young children captaining their own small crafts amazed and impressed me. Like schools of fish, they zigzagged and sailed throughout the harbor, completely at home on the water, the wind perfectly harnessed. While there are other parts of the country where children sail, growing up in Newport is a singular experience. In this special beach issue, we explore several aspects of that experience, from learning to sail at a young age with the local resources for going pro to meeting some of the area's most promising young groms who are ripping up the waves. We also take an insider look at The Wedge, a place where waves break unlike anywhere else in the world.

We hope you enjoy the issue and would love to hear from you.

Sincerely,
Micaela Myers, Group Editor
micaela@firebrandmediainc.com



Balboa Yacht Club summer sailing program



5 THINGS I LEARNED IN THIS ISSUE

Each issue, we explore new facets of Newport Beach. Here are a few of the fascinating things the July/August issue uncovers:

1. Newport Beach is home to more than 300 restaurants. (Page 58)
2. The Miami Beach Polo Club is the only U.S. club currently playing on the ocean sand. Why not in Newport? (Page 121)
3. Waves at Newport's famous Wedge can reach upwards of 20 feet. (Page 64)
4. Newport Beach resident Jim Abbott made it to the Olympics, became a first-round draft pick and succeeded as a pro player—all with one hand. (Page 36)
5. From National Scholastic Surfing Association to Western Surfing Association, Surfing America USA and ASP Pro Junior championships, Newport's groms are racking up the titles—doing more than their part to represent the next generation of Velcro Valley surfers. (Page 40)

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NEWPORT BEACH

Magazine

“What’s your ideal way to spend a summer day in Newport?”

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"If it was truly my ideal day, I would indulge in desserts all day. I'd give a nod to 'Arrested Development' with a frozen banana on Balboa. Then I'd hop on PCH and shoooby dooby down to Ruby's Shake Shack for a cookie dough shake. The end."

"A perfect summer day would start with breakfast at Wilma's Patio. Then I'd cruise over to CdM State Beach for a few games of volleyball with some friends. After working up another appetite, we'd go to TK Burger for a bite to eat. In the evening, I'd grab a bite and some drinks at the Crow Bar & Kitchen."

"Any day spent shopping is a great one, and there's literally a store in Newport for everyone. I like some of the smaller boutiques in Corona del Mar that have great summer dresses and swimwear, but Fashion Island is my favorite place to grab a bite to eat and walk around while shopping."

"I take my dog to the Newport jetty dog beach—there's nothing like it!"

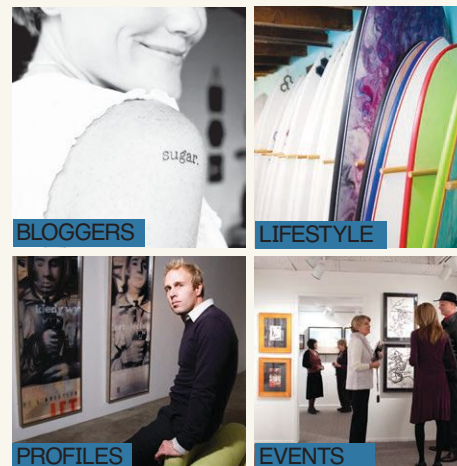
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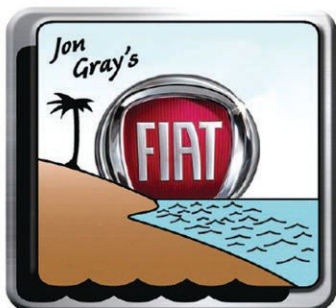
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HYATT REGENCY MAKEOVER

The 407-room Hyatt Regency Newport Beach recently underwent a \$15 million renovation just in time for the busy summer season. The hotel, opened in 1962, is a longtime favorite of celebrities and politicians, such as John Wayne, John F. Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe. The renovation began in November 2012, with guest rooms receiving an updated, contemporary look that blends modern lines with beach-inspired art. Guests can now enjoy a coffee or cocktail in a stylish new lobby lounge, which includes indoor and outdoor seating near indoor fireplaces and outdoor fire features. All aspects of the property were touched, including the pools, grounds and restaurants. Through Oct. 1, locals and visitors can also enjoy the updates in conjunction with the Hyatt Regency Newport Beach summer concert series, which will feature musicians such as Chris Isaak, Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, and Keiko Matsui with Hiroshima performing in the outdoor Back Bay Amphitheater at the hotel. See hyattconcerts.com for details and tickets. (949-729-1234; newportbeach.hyatt.com) —L.D.

8th
wonder

Balboa Island is in the running for the Eighth Wonder of the World; voting is open through Sept. 30 at virtualltourist.com.



NAIL TRENDS: BRIGHT SHADES AND CLASSIC FRENCH MANIS

Local nail salons have found some common ground with Mother Nature this season—cold and dreary is out, and vibrant and bright is in. “Sorbet is really hot right now,” says Virginia Williams, lead nail technician at Spa Gregorie’s in Newport Beach. “They are almost matte but with a shiny finish in pink, blue, green and yellow.”

The trend toward bright hues isn’t fading any time soon. “Neons are also huge ... unpredictable colors [like] bright green and emerald,” Virginia adds. French manicures are also timeless and coordinate with any outfit, in soft creams versus pinks. “During the summer, many of our clients enjoy the clean, sophisticated look of French polish,” says Robin Dunivin, director of spa at The Resort at Pelican Hill. Both Robin and Virginia note that gel manicures allow several weeks of chip-free nails. Virginia also recommends the growing trend of shellac polish, a simpler alternative to gel yet similar in durability. (949-644-6672; spagregories.com) (800-820-6800; pelicanhill.com/spa) —J.C.



LEAVE YOUR LEGACY BEHIND

With more than 30 years of experience in wealth management, Corona del Mar resident Victoria Collins aspired to start a company that could help people capture their life values, financial guidance and personal stories as a part of their legacies to their families. Recently, her vision became a reality with Your Legacy Project. "I came to believe that a well-told legacy letter on video, in which individuals can speak candidly to their loved ones, would resonate powerfully," Victoria says. With the expertise of husband and wife production team, Peter and Jane Shafron, Your Legacy Project serves to capture a legacy that is alive and honest—a life-like memoir that can be passed down generations. "It's a personal, visual, long-lasting document that can capture the twinkle in your eye, or the little smile that you always smiled," Victoria says. (949-683-6442; howyourstorywillbetold.com) —K.L.



ANN CHATLTON

BALBOA BAY CLUB TURNS 65

Members and guests of Newport Beach's iconic Balboa Bay Club donned their finest Hawaiian print accessorized with colorful leis to celebrate the club's 65th anniversary June 27. The luau-themed celebration was complete with pool/beachside tropical food and drink, traditional Polynesian dancing, fireworks and—the highlight of the evening—a speech reminiscing all the great times throughout the years by General Manager Dieter Hissin. From the most recent visits by President Obama to the years John Wayne could be found playing chess on the deck, the members of the club celebrated all the memories and history built within the past 50-plus years. The Balboa Bay Club also debuted a new club area complete with updated facilities and amenities, including a new computer lab. (949-645-5000; balboabayresort.com) —K.P.

OCEAN LITERACY CENTER MAKES A SPLASH

The residents of Newport Beach can now explore the wonders beyond the coast without having to don a wetsuit or goggles. Under the direction of Dr. Wendy Marshall, ExplorOcean's Ocean Literacy Center is a recent addition to the historic Balboa Fun Zone and offers visitors a novel glance into the world below the water's surface. The center is a walk-through exhibit built upon the seven principles of ocean literacy, which explain the relationship between the ocean and other elements of the environment. As visitors progress through the exhibit, they encounter hands-on activities and science experiments to reinforce lessons about the ocean. The Ocean Literacy Center also includes a touch tank, where children are encouraged to explore the mini-habitat with their hands. Just like the sea, ExplorOcean is changing, and another gallery displays the plans for expansion of the center and incorporating new facilities. (949-675-8915; explorocean.org) —L.M.





It'Sugar



The Land of Nod

Grand Openings

SUGAR RUSH

Find confections galore at the recently opened It'Sugar boutique at Fashion Island. Indulge your sweet tooth with walls lined with specialty candy, including the world's largest boxes of Nerds and Pop Rocks. For those more enthused by fashion, the boutique also offers an array of fun and offbeat novelty items, such as T-shirts with sayings inspired by candy favorites, scented nail polish, sugar fragrances and bath products. (949-640-0803; itsugar.com)

FAMILY-FRIENDLY FURNISHINGS

Opened in the Crate and Barrel wing of South Coast Plaza in June, The Land of Nod brings toddlers with taste an array of modern furniture, home decor items, bedding and gifts. From cribs, changing tables and blankets to bibs and burp

cloths, the store carries all of the essentials necessary for a well-stocked nursery. Treat your little ones to a fun surprise with one of the brand's unique plush toys—aardvarks, alligators and ostriches abound in this whimsical shop—or push the boundaries of their imaginations with one of the "imaginary play" gifts, such as a pint-sized debutante wardrobe for the pretty princess and a rocket-inspired tent for the budding astronaut. (714-754-1969; landofnod.com)

ALOHA SPIRIT

Celebrating its mainland debut just in time for summer, San Lorenzo Bikinis landed with a splash at Fashion Island in June. The contemporary boutique features more than 20 different styles of Brazilian bikinis, with options ranging from "extra-cheeky" to full-coverage bottoms. Racks of fun swimwear pieces, perfect for a sunny SoCal day, line the walls with a splash of bright colors and prints. Shopping is made easy with the option to mix

and match separates for a look that's all your own. In addition to San Lorenzo bikinis, the store is stocked with several other high-end brands offering apparel and accessories, including Mikoh Swimwear, Stone Fox Swim and Tiare Hawaii. (949-759-1504; sanlorenzobikinis.com)

HAVE BAG, WILL TRAVEL

Following a ribbon cutting ceremony in late June, Briggs & Riley Travelware at Sunsations Luggage opened in the Atrium Court at Fashion Island. This is the luggage maker's first partner store, featuring suitcases, duffel bags, business cases and more, all with a "simple as that" lifetime performance guarantee. (949-640-0288; briggs-riley.com)

FIND YOUR SOLE MATE

A leading shoe and sandal retailer in Hawaii, Island Sole, made its way to the mainland with its first California store in Fashion Island. The boutique will celebrate its grand opening event in September, but opened its doors to customers in July

for an early preview. Carrying a huge range of brands, including Ugg, OluKai, Sanuk, Island Slipper, Havaianas, Rainbow Sandals and more, the store features coastal-inspired footwear in hard-to-find styles and colors. The Fashion Island location stocks the largest selection of Ugg footwear for men, women and children outside of the brand's flagship stores, as well as casual shoes from Freewater, where each pair purchased helps provide clean drinking water to those in need. (949-760-0300; islandsole.com)

SEASIDE APOTHECARY

Opened June 17, the family-owned boutique pharmacy CDM Drugs offers prescription refills and vaccinations, in addition to a mini clinic and beauty bar with customized hormone replacement therapy, non-invasive cosmetic treatments and more. CDM Drugs has also provided concierge care services to Newport Beach residences for more than two decades. (949-644-7575) —A.H.

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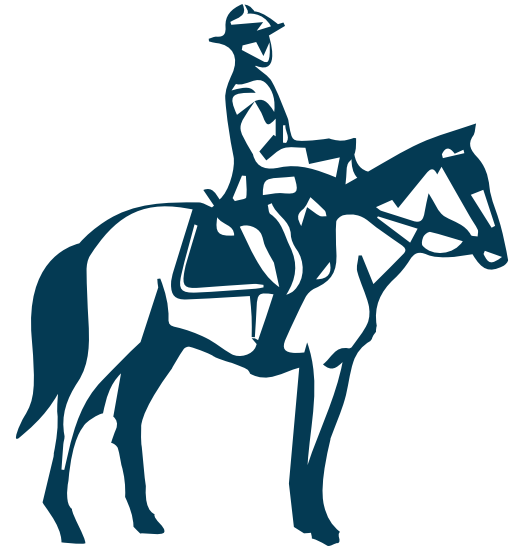
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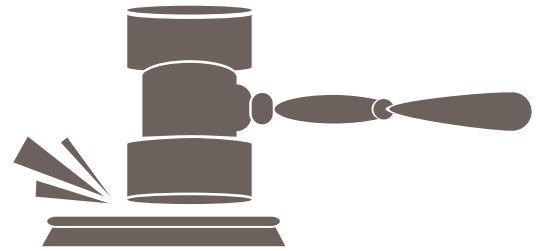


NEWPORT PALISADES DEBUTS

Newport Palisades, Newport Beach's newest housing community, opened in early June, offering an opportunity to live and breathe the unique, luxury lifestyle of the coastal city. Featuring 33 single-family detached homes, Newport Palisades, located on Orchard Drive, boasts two different floor plans to choose from, which range from 1,695 to 1,814 square feet. Each home (set to start in the mid-to-upper \$600,000s) features three bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, a two-car garage and veranda or loft. Additionally, these are "smart homes," which mean that with the touch of a button, residents can control the lights, home security, TV, climate and even music in different rooms. Each home in the Newport Palisades Collection has been pre-wired with the Control4 home automation system, so residents can operate all their electronics via an iPad or smartphone. The exclusive location of Newport Palisades also offers residents nearby access to a host of amenities, including the Newport Beach Golf Club, Santa Ana Country Club, John Wayne Airport and Back Bay trails. (newportpalisadescollection.com) —A.T.



GIDDY UP: A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN THE NEWPORT BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL MOUNTED ENFORCEMENT UNIT WILL BRING MOUNTED PATROLS TO NEWPORT FOR HEIGHTENED VISIBILITY AND EASIER ACCESSIBILITY.



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The price a 2008 Bugatti Veyron EB 16.4 sold for at the Russo and Steele annual Sports and Muscle Newport Beach Auction, which took place June 20 - 22.

PROGRAM SUPPORTS CHILDREN WITH DOWN SYNDROME

The Down Syndrome Foundation of Orange County, based in Newport Beach, recently launched a new monthly program, Teen Time. Geared toward children with Down syndrome ages 11 and older, the program helps address the lack of resources and services available for children and teens with Down syndrome. "Parents looking for services for tweens and teens reached out to us for ideas and assistance," says Dana Halle, co-founder of the Down Syndrome Foundation of Orange County. "Creating the Teen Time program was one way we could help support students." With a new teen-friendly space, Teen Time offers tweens and teens an opportunity to make new friends (with and without Down syndrome), and work on developing social skills and self-esteem. Dana and her team also coordinate activities such as sending supplies with letters to U.S. troops abroad. (dsfoc.org) —J.C.

> happenings

ACTIVITIES

LOBSTERFEST

Aug. 10; Newport Dunes, Newport Beach

Hosted by Newport Dunes, the fifth annual Newport Beach Lobsterfest celebrates the end of summer with live entertainment, games and, most importantly, lobster brought in from Maine, which is prepared fresh alongside a nice glass of wine while guests overlook the Back Bay. (lobsterfestatnewportbeach.com)

SUMMER "BARK-BQ" PARTY

Aug. 11; Corona del Mar Plaza, Corona del Mar

The dog days of summer are about to get literal at this dog-centered barbecue sponsored by Top Dog Barkery. With "wagging wading pools," bobbing for hot dogs and a best trick contest, this barbecue will entertain the whole family, including pets. (topdogbarkery.net)

COASTLINE CAR CLASSIC

Sept. 7 - 8; Big Corona State Beach, Corona del Mar

View a display of four-wheeled beauty when the Coastline Car Classic rolls onto Big Corona State Beach. On Saturday, a road rally begins at the state beach and ends at Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club. On Sunday, peruse vintage and dealer select automobiles while enjoying live entertainment, food and beverages, vendors and the awards ceremony. (cdmchamber.com)

FESTA DELL'AUTUNNO MMXIII

Sept. 20 - 22; The Resort at Pelican Hill, Newport Beach

Welcome the autumn harvest season with a three-day festival full of celebrating the traditions—both food and lifestyle—of Italy with live music, dancing and flag-bearing performances. (pelicanhill.com/festa)

GO PURPLE OC

Sept. 23 - 28; Throughout Orange County

For one week, popular landmarks across the county will be getting a makeover in support of

the Orange County chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Buildings—including Newport's own city hall—will be turned purple in support of the cause; to get involved you can wear purple too, or visit the association's website for more information. (gopurpleoc.com)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SOLAR DECATHLON 2013

Oct. 3 - 6 and 10 - 13; Orange County Great Park, Irvine

Twenty sustainably minded collegiate teams, coming from as far as Austria, will reveal to the public for the first time their entries into the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon. Each entry designed and built solar- and energy-efficient affordable homes over a period of two years and throughout a series of 10 contests. At the end of the event, the winner will be revealed. (ocgp.org)

LAST CHANCE: Orange County's legendary Orange County Fair ends Aug. 11, so if you haven't gone yet, make sure to do so soon—or you'll have to wait until next year!

FUNDRAISERS

15TH ANNUAL WOOD RACQUET CLASSIC

Aug. 31 - Sept. 1; Private estates, Costa Mesa

Don your classic tennis attire to witness the 15th annual Costa Mesa Wood Racquet Classic, benefiting the John Wayne Cancer Foundation. This international fundraiser, which draws celebrities, athletes and musicians among others, puts players in their best tennis gear, yielding wooden rackets for spirited matches. (woodracquetclassic.com)

KEEP THE PROMISE WINE TASTING BENEFIT

Sept. 26; Newport Beach (location is provided upon registration)

The 7th Annual Keep the Promise Wine Tasting Benefit will toast—and raise money—for the arts-based, youth development nonprofit

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The Wooden Floor. Attendees will have the opportunity to taste rare wines from around the world, from New Zealand to Chile and Italy. (714-541-8314; thewoodenflooor.org)

CRYSTAL COVE ALLIANCE GALA

Sept. 28; Crystal Cove

Themed "Wish You Were Here!" guests of this 11th annual gala will enjoy a gourmet dinner prepared by the executive chefs of The Resort at Pelican Hill, Montage Laguna Beach and The Beachcomber Café. In addition to silent and live auctions, there will be live music and the perfect ambiance to dance the night away. (949-376-6200; crystalcovealliance.org)

A SEGERSTROM RANCH DINNER

Oct. 1; Segerstrom Ranch, Costa Mesa

Join the Festival of Children Foundation for a true farm-to-table dining experience with paired wine and bourbon, prepared by chef Joachim Splichal. All proceeds will benefit the foundation's Festival of Children. (festivalofchildren.org)

AN EVENING IN HOLLYWOOD GALA

Sept. 28; Island Hotel, Newport Beach

The Orange Coast Memorial Foundation is channeling old Hollywood glamour at its 11th annual fall gala featuring live entertainment and auctions, as well as food and drink. Proceeds from the gala will go toward funding for the foundation's new Emergency Pavilion, expected to double the emergency department's current size. (memorialcare.org)

EVENING OF WISHES GALA

Oct. 25; Balboa Bay Club, Newport Beach

The Make-A-Wish foundation invites guests to its annual elegant affair, Evening of Wishes Gala, at the iconic Balboa Bay Club. The night will be full of fine wine and cuisine, as well as entertainment and auctions, all geared toward granting wishes. (ocie.wish.org) **NBM**

SOCIETY

CYSTIC FIBROSIS GUILD 30TH ANNUAL GALA

1 Kimberly Sanders, Sue Hook, Tim Rogers **2** Gayle Demsher, Debbie Johnson, Ken Johnson, Dan Demsher **3** Danny Carmona, Stacy Motenko
4 Gianna and Nick Stremick **5** Silent auction **6** Ron and Pat Harris, Danni and Dan Good **7** Loren Hall, Bruce Breitenbucher, Karen Hall



At the 30th annual Cystic Fibrosis Guild gala June 8, 375 guests helped to raise a net total of more than \$675,000 for cystic fibrosis research and care. Held at the Newport Beach Marriot Hotel & Spa, the gala included dinner, dancing and a lively auction emceed by Go Country 105 FM personality Shawn Parr, featuring items such as a Corum watch, which sold for \$10,000 and was donated back to be auctioned off a second time for \$7,000. Honored at the event were longtime supporters Ken and Debbie Johnson, who, along with their children, offered the organization checks totaling \$100,000 that evening. Gala chairpersons Gayle and Dan Demsher took the stage to welcome guests, while speaker Stacy Motenko shared a story about her own successful battle with cystic fibrosis. —A.H.

SOCIETY

HOAG'S SUMMER MOVIE CLASSIC BENEFIT

1 Bear Flag Fish Co. truck 2 Brian Horn, Richard Afile 3 Sabatino's Lido Sausage Company 4 The Hangar at the OC Fairgrounds 5 Roy's restaurant station



STEVE DAWSON AND DOUG GIFFORD



Donors enjoyed an evening of food, film and fun at The Hangar at the OC Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa during the Summer Movie Classic, a fundraiser put on by Concordia University, Irvine and Hoag Hospital Foundation's 552 Club. June 26 marked the 26th anniversary of the event, where moviegoers enjoyed a private screening of the classic "Casablanca" after munching on signature bites from more than 30 restaurants. Previously held at Edwards Big Newport Cinemas, more than 1,000 people attended the Summer Movie Classic in the new location, and the event raised more than \$130,000 for Hoag. —L.M.



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Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, photo by Sharon Bradford

SOCIETY

PACIFIC CHORALE CHAIRMAN'S DINNER

1 Carl St.Clair, John Alexander 2 Tom Slattery, Elizabeth Pearson 3 Tom Rogers, Sally Anderson 4 Frank Tichelli, Mary and Phil Lyons



Pacific Chorale's end-of-season celebration June 1 began with an intimate Chairman's Dinner held at the Center Club in Costa Mesa. Outgoing chairman Martin Hubbard was honored with a special recognition from incoming chairman Warren Coy. Pacific Symphony Music Director Carl St.Clair was presented with the Entrepreneur in the Arts Lifetime Achievement Award. The evening concluded with a premiere of a newly commissioned work entitled "The Moon, the Sea and the Stars," with a Champagne reception following. —A.H.

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A fashion advertisement for Chloé. Two models are featured against a dark background. The model on the left is holding a large, light-colored leather handbag with black leather straps and gold-tone hardware, including a chain tassel and a rectangular plaque. The model on the right is wearing a dark blue, textured jacket with gold-tone buttons and is holding a black leather handbag with a crocodile-embossed pattern and gold-tone hardware. The Chloé logo is visible on the bottom left of the image.

Chloé

ALL ABOARD

Bright colors and fun prints stand out in the water and on shore this summer.

BY JULIE FRENCH



Yellow Blade III 21-inch board shorts with interior compression shorts at Oakley "O" Store, Irvine Spectrum (949-788-0255; oakley.com)



Hurley black, white and orange striped Phantom Fuse 2 board shorts at Hobie Surf Shop, Corona del Mar (949-706-8090; hobiesurfshop.com)



Billabong Iconic stripe board shorts at Jack's Surfboards, Newport Beach and Corona del Mar (949-673-2300; 949-718-0001; jackssurfboards.com)



Ambsn Boris board shorts at American Rag, Fashion Island (949-760-1510; amrag.com), Hobie Surf Shop, Corona del Mar (949-706-8090; hobiesurfshop.com) and Thalia Surf Shop, Laguna Beach (949-497-3292; thaliasurf.com)



Lacoste Color Burst swim trunks at Bloomingdale's, Fashion Island (949-729-6600; bloomingdales.com)

COASTAL CASUAL

Bohemian-inspired threads are a natural fit for the beach.

BY JULIE FRENCH



Pack a Picnic picnic basket at Kate Spade, Fashion Island (949-219-0785; katespade.com)



L-Space blue tunic at The Shop, Laguna Beach (949-715-8308; theshoplaguna.com)



Coral print silk dress at Jessica Barkley Atelier, Laguna Beach (949-338-1408; jessicabarkley.com)



Arminta chandelier earrings in turquoise at Kendra Scott, Fashion Island (949-258-9285; kendrascott.com)



Nan Fusco bracelet with staurolite "Fairy Cross" at Adrift, Laguna Beach (949-497-8884; adriftlaguna.com) and nanfusco.com **NBM**

GO GREENER OUTDOORS

Corona del Mar landscape architect Bret Hanson gives tips for a more sustainable backyard.

BY SOMER FLAHERTY

BRET HANSON WAS BORN AND raised in Kansas but was always drawn to coastal California and surfing. After graduating from Kansas State University with a degree in landscape architecture and planning, he headed west to start his professional career and learn to surf.

Firmly planted in Newport Beach, Bret began to build a diverse project landscape portfolio of multifamily, retail, mixed use, entertainment, urban design and LEED projects. His creativity, attention to detail and green approach to landscape architecture won over Walt Disney Imagineering, and soon he was working with them to develop site designs for new attractions at their international and stateside parks, incorporating aspects of sustainability.

As a Corona del Mar resident, Bret currently commutes to downtown Los Angeles for work, helping design public transit projects across California and beyond. He's also an accredited LEED professional who sits on the board of the Orange County chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. Bret firmly believes that good landscaping can actually help to reduce the amount of resources we use. He says a landscape, if properly designed, should inherently be sustainable.



Newport Beach Magazine: *Your landscaping work has a strong focus on green landscaping choices. Can you tell us more?*

Bret Hanson: The USGBC calls it the triple-bottom line. Being "green" is good for people, planet and profit. Xeriscaping is more in tune with the soil, sun, climate and habitat specific to your location. Simply put, you are selecting plants, which fit your site conditions, thus reduc-

ing water use (irrigation) and maintenance. Depending on plant choice, xeriscaping can also contribute to the local habitat and invite nature into your landscape.

NBM: *What are the first steps?*

BH: Become educated about your own landscape. Discover what type of soil you have by using a soil testing kit. Take notice of what areas receive sun and which receive shade and take into

account your local climate.

NBM: *When it's time to choose plants, what are some good tips and advice for making the process easier?*

BH: Browse magazines and websites, collecting images of plant material and arrangements that excite you. Visit a local nursery and chat up the employees.

NBM: *We heard you have a passion for succulents.*

BH: Succulents are the Andy Warhols of the plant world; they can be a canvas of vibrant eclectic colors, shapes and sizes, or just simply subtle. But they always pop. Succulents are also versatile and seem to look hip, no matter the time or style—modern, garden or single specimen. They exude a cutting-edge attitude and coolness similar to the SoCal surf industry.

NBM: *Do you have any other favorite species?*

BH: Grasses are poetic, and they remind me of the Midwest. Functionally, their muted colors provide a backdrop, which highlight the color of other plant choices like succulents. As a bonus, both are compatible together and also usually water efficient, durable and low maintenance, fitting into the xeriscape concept. Cleveland or purple sage are native Southern California

salvias, which are great for massing and providing a sensory experience with aromas, texture, color and a habitat for butterflies. Sprinkle in some accents like agaves, and you're on your way to a Southern California xeriscape garden.

NBM: *Any species that you think we should stay away from?*

BH: Any plant species that are invasive, which can spread and take over an environment.



DIGZ GARDEN GLOVE at Home Depot, Costa Mesa (949-646-4220; homedepot.com)

HOME TRENDS

GREEN THUMB

Design your outdoor space with your surroundings in mind.

BY SOMER FLAHERTY

TAKE YOUR NEXT HOME RENOVATION PROJECT to the outdoors and consider a landscape overhaul. Whether it's a simple, intimate backdrop that serves to act as a gathering point for family and friends or acres of open space that gives you a sense of freedom, simple design choices like xeriscaping and native plant selection can make a lasting impression on the environment and your space. **NBM**



POTTED SUCCULENTS at Molly Wood Garden Design, Costa Mesa (949-548-1611; mollywoodgardendesign.com)



AGAVE at Tropical Vibe Nursery, Newport Beach (949-340-5444; tropicalvibe.com)



12-INCH GARDEN TROWEL, at Ace Hardware, Newport Beach (949-642-1133; acehardware.com)



CLEVELAND SAGE at Tree of Life Nursery, San Juan Capistrano (949-728-0685; californianativeplants.com)

BEACH WORKOUTS MADE BETTER

Local trainer Steve de la Torre gives his best tips for taking your fitness routine seaside.

BY SOMER FLAHERTY

PERSONAL TRAINER STEVE DE LA TORRE HAS been in the fitness industry for almost 15 years and currently trains seaside in Corona del Mar at his Personal Training Revolution studio. With a facility walking distance to the sand, we couldn't resist catching up and getting the inside scoop on creating the ultimate beach workout. Whether you're doing your own beach boot camp with friends or hitting the sand solo, Steve says it's the ultimate landscape for a workout because it gets you outside the box (think gym) and energizes you with ocean views, fresh air and tumbling waves. "The undulating sand dunes, stairs and hills, along with the ocean, provide challenging terrain to stimulate your muscles in an entirely different way that is unmatched inside the gym," he says.

Newport Beach Magazine: *What are your best beach workout tips?*

Steve de la Torre: Bring plenty of water. This tip is universal but applies even more when spending time in the sun, which can increase your dehydration rate. Wear sunblock—it's easy to develop sunburn when your mind is occupied with a tough workout. Remember that you're not in the gym. Even doing basic exercises, such as running, squatting and pushups, can lead to injuries if you approach them in the same fashion as you do in a controlled setting of the gym. Take the terrain and unsteady sand surfaces into account, and adjust your intensity accordingly.

NBM: *How much time is ideal?*

SD: Great workouts should be based on intensity and not time. For example, if you use the Tabata interval format of

20 seconds of work and 10 seconds of rest for eight sets, you can get an incredible workout in as little as four minutes, depending on the exercise and intensity. Always have a plan before you hit the beach and include a good warm-up and cool down. Your main set should typically be between 12 - 25 minutes. General rule of thumb is the higher the intensity, the shorter the workout.

NBM: *For beach workouts are shoes recommended or barefoot?*

SD: Shoes are always recommended for beach workouts. The constant pounding of your feet into the sand will act as sandpaper and will quickly and easily cause blisters.

NBM: *What are the extra benefits to a beach workout?*

SD: Working out in the sand makes

everything more challenging. The sand is a major energy absorber and will make your legs and body feel several times heavier than on firmer ground.

NBM: *Do you think people who take part in beach workouts lose more calories and gain more strength compared to traditional gym workouts?*

SD: I think that people who participate in beach boot camp-style workout programs traditionally see better results over the long term as a result of the variety of workouts compared to the gym and also an increased fun factor, which keeps you coming back and staying longer.

NBM: *What are your favorite songs for a beach boot camp playlist?*

SD: "My Body" by Young the Giant, "Dog Days are Over" by Florence and the Machine and "Baba O'Riley" by The Who.





ERIKA EXCEL TANK at Lorna Jane, Fashion Island
(949-640-0623; lornajane.com)



WORKOUT SHORTS at Athleta, Fashion Island
(949-717-6650; athleta.net)



IPOD TOUCH at
the Apple Store,
Fashion Island
(949-629-9717;
apple.com)

GET THE GEAR

TAKING IT IN STRIDE

This local gear is perfect for taking
your fitness to the great outdoors.

BY SOMER FLAHERTY

EVEN FOR THE MOST DIE-HARD FITNESS ENTHUSIASTS, solo workouts on a gym treadmill aren't something to look forward to. Take your exercise routine outdoors and join a local beach boot camp or turn on your iPod and invoke your own motivation on the sand. **NBM**



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(714-434-0132; bestbuy.com)



OLUKAI KIA'I TRAINER II QUICK DRYING SHOES at Island Sole, Fashion Island (949-760-0300; islandsole.com)

A RAT AMONG US

BY SUGAR MAMA

I found a dead rat under our barbeque a few weeks ago. While this shouldn't have surprised me given our rodent-friendly climate of Doritos crumbs in the backyard, it did. Rats are supposed to live in alleys behind restaurants that serve dog for breakfast in Mumbai. Not in Orange County, where it's illegal to even have a dog unless it's a golden, yorkie, or labradoodle, or if it matches perfectly with your HOA-approved beige stucco. So, yeah, the rat was a shocker.

Especially since we have a cat.

Upon closer inspection by an exterminator, it looked as though it had been there awhile, or "for however long it takes for rat skin to become petrified," the guy said, "which could have been a hundred years ago." This surprised me. A hundred years ago rats had to have been a lot hairier due to the colder climate, and quite a bit bigger to fight off dinosaurs. But who was I to flip the bird at science, so I promised I wouldn't toss my wooden-looking rat corpse into the trash until I'd contacted an expert.

(NOTE: They're called rat mammalogists, if ever in the market, and the closest one who will take your call lives in Oklahoma.)

"A petrified rat ..." repeated Dr. Randall from Oklahoma after I told him my story. "This will certainly be a first for me."



After I sent him a bunch of photos of the rat in various lighting on an assortment of colorful blankets, it took him 12 days to get back to me. Twelve days of mounting realization that I had been storing a bit of mammalian history in one of my favorite Tupperwares and that I had better get my roots done soon.

When the call finally did come, I was at my son's soccer game.

"What you've got there, ma'am, is a member of the superfamily

Muroidea; genus Rattus," Dr. Randall began.

"Wow, he's Latin. He's older than I thought then," I said, wishing I had more than Gatorade and orange slices to commemorate the event. "Will you be sending photographers?"

"I'll be sending you a rolled up newspaper for you to toss it," he said. "He's just a ho-hum rat who fried his skin on your barbeque."

People say that when you win the lottery, it takes awhile for the shock to subside and to adjust to your new reality. One guy from Nevada won more than \$20 million, yet he continued to go to the laundromat for 18 months before he bought himself a washer and dryer. Not so with my realization that I had been harboring rat carcass in my bedroom and that I had probably exposed my entire family to the bubonic plague.

Nope, that profound awareness was pretty much instantaneous.

Rats. 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

Sneak a peek behind that proverbial "orange curtain" and check in with our intrepid crew of bloggers for posts that are useful, entertaining and often provocative and inspiring.



GET CAUGHT UP IN THE ACTION

People come from all over the world to enjoy coastal Orange County and its many offerings. In addition to its innate beauty and playground appeal, OC is home to a keen, active and fun-loving citizenry. In other words, we like to keep busy and the fact is, there's no shortage of things to do around here. From the philanthropic to the hedonistic, the eclectic to the annual, OCinSite has the line on the gigs that other media entities just don't get. So check out our **CALENDAR** (OCinSite.com/calendar). Events and happenings are being added every day. Or sign up for The Weekly Lineup, and have the latest crop of affairs delivered right to your email inbox.



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"From Morning Merci Exercise to Techno Beat Promotion Dance" by Tiffany Chung

A Montage of Contemporary Art

Artists from around the Pacific come together at the Orange County Museum of Art's "California-Pacific Triennial."

BY KARLEE PRAZAK

Thirty-two contemporary artists from 15 countries, some neighboring and others distant relatives, will come together this summer to share their one common denominator—an exclusive position within the Pacific Rim. This up-and-coming powerhouse region is at the forefront of Orange County Museum of Art's (OCMA) "California-Pacific Triennial" exhibition from June 30 to Sept. 22.

OCMA chief curator Dan Cameron says the new exhibition was both a natural progression from OCMA's 25 years of "California Biennial" exhibitions and a reflection today's society as well as a first of its kind in terms of contemporary art.

"For many centuries we've accepted almost without close examination the principle that transatlantic exchange ... was really the basis of our countries birth, early growth and maturation," Dan explains. "But I can't shake the feeling that we're now in an age where the Pacific Ocean has replaced the Atlantic."

And art, according to Dan, is, and always has been, very closely involved with global commerce. The exhibition takes this idea and runs with it. "[When curating the exhibition] I felt the two questions that were left open after 'Pacific [Standard] Time' really had to do with California's location—it's really advantageously positioned in

terms of Asia and especially China—but also in terms of demographics of this day," he explains. "The state breaks down into group, many of whose ancestors are from other parts of the Pacific Rim."

The artwork will definitively represent three ethnicities—Anglo, Asian and Hispanic—but Dan says the pieces will all be intermixed with one another with hopes that each individual message will transcend borders and speak to viewers. In turn, showing a blend of national possibilities and interests through paintings, photographs and sculptures.

Among the works, Dan says he wanted to find art that grabbed viewers through and innovative



©LIN TIANMIAO

"All the Same" by Lin Tianmiao

use of vibrant colors, materials, imagery or composition. Some of which was found in San Francisco-based artist John Bankston, who will have five pieces on display. John produces almost comic-like pieces that encompass bright hues with bold outlines all the while exploring societal norms, all by California. "It's a place where people can reinvent themselves," he says.

But to John, this exhibition is an opportunity to view his work in a broader context. "The Pacific is this large cultural soup," he explains. "The cultures are all so different, and I hope my work will add to that soup. ... The magic [of art is] its more than just this visual object, it also has a spiritual element."

Feeling an intimate connection to art is also why three wall-sized murals will be painted in situ within the exhibition. "A mural speaks to us in a way a painting hanging on a wall doesn't," Dan explains. Much in the same way of thinking, a movie has the ability to provoke its own unique experience, which is where Japanese American artist Koki Tanaka comes in.

"I'm a Japanese artist, but somehow after being in California for four years ... people say I'm an LA-based artist, so its quite nice to participate in the idea of having California artists and also the idea of the Pacific Rim artists come together," Koki says. "It sounds more open I think—I'm pretty happy to be in this context."

Koki is known for his post-studio approach when creating his films, which he says are focused on finding a way to have people collaborate across cultures in a contemporary society. His documentaries "A Piano Played by Five Pianists

at Once" (2012) and "A Haircut by 9 Hairdressers at Once" (2010) will be played at the exhibition. Both take simple, one-person tasks, such as playing the piano and cutting hair, and turn them into group collaborations with experts working on one piece simultaneously.

All these art forms intertwine with a common theme, so Dan suggests allotting at least two hours to fully comprehend the exhibition. Any less will provide a pleasant experience, but the works really ask viewers to stop and pause for a while. (949-759-1122; ocma.net) **NBM**



COURTESY OF CATRIONA JEFFRIES

"Being This" by Liz Magor

IMAGINE THAT

The Newport Theatre Arts Center will delve into the twisted world of adultery and blackmail with its production of "An Act of the Imagination" from Sept. 20 through Oct. 20.

The suspenseful production follows three male and four female characters, one of which is a successful mystery novel author. The latter's most recent book, however, turns into an adulterous romance tale that appears too true to be false. This leads to a tumultuous world of deceit and secrecy leading to truth.

"An Act of the Imagination" is set in a town on the outskirts of London in the mid-1960s and was originally written by playwright Bernard Slade. The Newport Theatre Arts Center production will be directed by Michael Serna and feature seven local actors. Matinee showings will be available on Saturdays and Sundays. (949-631-0288; ntaconline.com)

Arts Calendar

Brush Off Contest

Aug. 4; Marine Avenue, Balboa Island

From 4 to 6 p.m. the weeklong Just Plain Fun event organized by the Debra Huse Gallery will culminate with a good, old-fashioned paint-off. Participating artists will compete to complete a plein-air painting in just two hours that successfully captures Balboa Island's essence. The paintings will be on display and awards given starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Debra Huse Gallery. (949-723-6171; debrahusegallery.com)

"Sister Act"

Aug. 6 - 18; Segerstrom Center, Costa Mesa

Sometimes life takes the reins and leaves people in unlikely situations; such is the life of the crime-witnessing protagonist in "Sister Act" who finds herself living in a convent. Now see the action play out for yourself in a Broadway version of the movie Whoopi Goldberg made famous in the early 1990s. (714-556-2121; scfta.org)

"Annie"

Aug. 10 - 11, 17 - 18; Julianne Argyros Stage at the Segerstrom Center, Costa Mesa

The Segerstrom Center welcomes its Summer Players program participants—students grades five to 12—to the stage to perform the iconic and timeless tale of a young redhead named Little Orphan Annie. (714-556-2121; scfta.org)

Pixar in Concert with the Pacific Symphony

Aug. 17; Irvine Amphitheater, Irvine

Come out for an evening of fun for the whole family as the Pacific Symphony brings favorite Pixar moments to life in Irvine for one night only. This is the first ever Pixar-inspired concert of its kind; it features music from 13 memorable films, such as "Toy Story," "Wall-E" and "Up" and will be performed by symphonies nationwide. (714-755-5788; pacificsymphony.org)

Wavelength Festival of Music

Aug. 22 - 25; Pacific Amphitheatre, Costa Mesa

Post-Orange County Fair blues need not last long; the Pacific Symphony will light up the Pacific Amphitheatre stage with its take on mixing



JOAN MARCUS

"Sister Act" debuts Aug. 6 - 18 at the Segerstrom Center.

contemporary with classical sounds. The symphony will play alongside Bonnie Raitt, Delta Spirit and The Airborne Toxic Event, while the final night will feature the entire "Dark Side of the Moon" album by Pink Floyd. (714-755-5788; wavelengthfestival.org)

Begonia Show

Sept. 7 - 8; Sherman Library & Gardens, Newport Beach

Begonias are one of the most diverse flowers with close to 1,500 species, and Sherman Library & Gardens is offering a one-stop shop to view the perennials. A large variety will be on display and for sale at the Begonia Show, which is hosted by the American Begonia Society. (949-673-2261; slgardens.org)

Conrad Tao Plays Rach 3

Sept. 25 - 28; Segerstrom Concert Hall, Costa Mesa

Conrad Tao is not your typical 18-year-old; he grazed the Forbes "30 under 30" list in 2011 for his mastery of the piano. Now back by popular

demand, the young phenomenon will take the stage to perform Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3. (714-556-2121; scfta.org)

Orange County's Children's Book Festival

Sept. 29; Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa

The 10th Annual Children's Book Festival hopes to build upon last year's 35,000 attending participants, including more than 150 authors, to spread the joy of children's literature. The festival features various author and illustrator presentations, book signings and children's activities such as face painting, animal petting and train rides. (kidsbookfestival.com)

"Ex-pose: Beatriz da Costa"

Through Sept. 29; Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach

The fourth show of the museum's "Ex-pose" series brings late artist Beatriz da Costa's work, which consists of a video installation and an interactive collection, "Anti-Cancer Survival Kit," meant for those living with cancer as well as their loved ones. (lagunaartmuseum.org) **NBM**

SUMMER NIGHT CONCERTS

Jazz up your summer with the Hyatt Regency Newport Beach's 2013 summer concert series featuring a lineup packed with skilled jazz, rock and jazz-rock hybrid musicians. The series will undoubtedly have guests at the Back Bay Amphitheater, located on the Hyatt property, swaying to the mellow harmonies every Friday night until Oct. 18.

Food and beverages will also be available for purchase throughout each installment. The concerts come as a celebration just a few short months after a \$15 million hotel renovation was completed to include new amenities for guests, such as the Shor American Seafood Grill.

Although artists for several nights are still to be determined, the following is a look into the lineup guaranteed to make those summer evenings a little livelier: Aug. 2: Chris Isaak; Aug. 16: Boney James; Sept. 6: Jeffrey Osborne; Sept. 13: BWB: Rick Braun, Kirk Whalum and Norman Brown; Oct. 4: Jesse Cook and Euge Groove; Oct. 11: Keiko Matsui and Hiroshima. (949-360-7800; series.hyattconcerts.com)



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ABBOTT FAMILY PHOTO



Passion PLAY

FORMER CALIFORNIA ANGEL JIM ABBOTT PROVES THAT
A SO-CALLED DISABILITY CAN ALSO BE A BLESSING.

BY BRETT CALLAHAN

AS A LITTLE BOY GROWING UP IN FLINT, MICH., JIM ABBOTT USED A DOCTOR-prescribed hook on his missing right hand to break Coke bottles in half while pretending to be Steve Austin from "The Six Million Dollar Man." The idea that someone labeled as "different" could be a superhero for others helped Jim cope with a birth defect that would directly shape the course of his life. The short-lived hook soon gave way to a baseball glove, and the shattered bottles

SEAN ARMENTA



to broken swings of baffled hitters, as Jim worked himself into one of the most electrifying and idolized baseball players of his era.

Kathy Abbott used to preach to Jim and his younger brother, Chad, that each level of life should be treated as a gift, and that they had a responsibility to live up to that gift. Jim's latest venture, co-authoring his own life story, "Imperfect: An Improbable Life" with veteran sports writer Tim Brown, is his most recent attempt to honor his mother's expectation of her sons. Sandwiched between a retelling of Jim's perfect game that he pitched as a member of the New York Yankees on Sept. 4, 1993, the autobiography, published in 2012 by Ballantine Books, covers the many ups and downs of Jim's journey through life on and off the mound.

"It was by far the most satisfying experience of my career because I felt like we were working on something of real value," Tim says of writing with Jim. "In a world that's become fixated on the weird, the loud and the unaccountable, Jim's story had a real message with a real depth to it that could maybe help some people."

As the Corona del Mar resident and family man

turns to the next phase of his inspirational career as a motivational speaker and author, Jim continues to serve as a hero in his own right as he proves that passion overcomes perception.

Finding the Zone

The yarn packed inside of a baseball, typically just 3 inches in diameter, can reach lengths of up to one full mile. Like that yarn stretched to its limits, Jim has always known how to get the most out of his given talents since first picking up a baseball as a youth in Flint. Searching for acceptance and a place where he didn't have to dive his right arm into his jean pocket for fear of wandering eyes, the baseball diamond quickly became Jim's great equalizer.

"There were times where my hand was something I was confronted with and had to deal with, but on the field, on that pitcher's mound, that was my chance to fight back and feel like everybody else," Jim says.

As Jim's talents developed, few actually felt the same level of success Jim would as a leader on the ball clubs of Flint Central High School, the University of Michigan and the United States 1988

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

For those who think the national attention for Jim Abbott came strictly because of his physical challenges, the accolades he earned along the way prove otherwise. Having won the James E. Sullivan Award for the top amateur athlete in the United States in 1987, Jim then spent the summer of 1988 pitching for the United States team during the summer Olympics. He finished his collegiate career as the Big Ten Athlete of the Year and later had his jersey retired by the University of Michigan.

Jim's transition into the majors led him to some early success while with the California Angels from 1989 - 1992. He finished third in voting for the Cy Young Award by winning 18 games with an ERA of just 2.89 during the 1991 season, and followed that by winning the Tony Conigliaro Award in 1992, annually awarded to the player in baseball who best demonstrates courage, determination and spirit while overcoming an obstacle. His time with the New York Yankees from 1993 to 1994 included his historic no-hitter. Jim finished his career spending time back with the Angels in 1995 to 1996, the Chicago White Sox in both 1995 and 1998, and the Milwaukee Brewers in 1999. In 2007, Jim was elected to the College Baseball Hall of Fame.



Clockwise from left: Jim Abbott signing autographs for fans after an Angels game; Fans greet Jim on the field; Jim returns home after earning a gold medal in the 1988 Olympics; Jim chats with Marcel Lachemann at their first spring training together.

Olympic team. The accolades, no-hitters and victories that rapidly accumulated, took Jim to places and people he never imagined possible.

The California Angels made Jim their first round pick in the 1988 draft, and he quickly joined their starting rotation without playing a single minor-league inning. The national attention for the rookie phenom came not only because of Jim's fastball cutter, but because of what he represented as an athlete in direct defiance of accepting the norm.

"I don't know what I would have been had I been born like everybody else," Jim says. "I have a feeling that I wouldn't have been as driven or had the same type of ambition. I don't know that I would have pushed myself in ways that I did as a kid, and so I'm thankful for it."

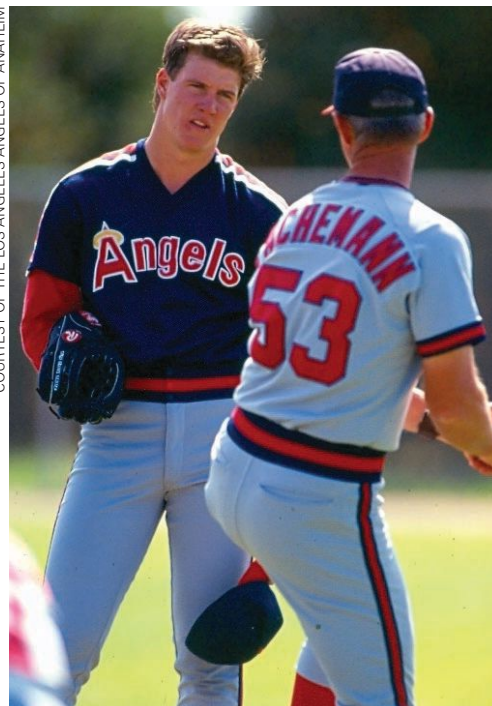
Whether he initially wanted to or not, Jim unofficially became the spokesperson for differently-abled athletes everywhere. It started slowly with a few dozen fan letters from children and their parents wanting encouragement and validation, but those numbers soon grew to

hundreds, and the letters turned into clubhouse visitors. Departing earlier and earlier from card games and other pregame activities with teammates, Jim consistently made time each game to meet with those who sought so desperately to see, touch and hear from him. As the visits became more consistent and personal, so too did grumblings from certain managers and teammates that the interactions took away from his focus on the game.

Over the course of Jim's decade-long career in baseball, he would experience some drastic highs and lows, like the 18 wins he had in 1991, and the 18 losses he endured just five seasons later. The statistical variations may have temporarily raised chatter about his off-the-field obligations, but Jim never saw it as anything more than living up to the responsibility of his hand.

"This was his to celebrate, to endure, to carry, and it wasn't a choice he made, it was his duty. And along the way it became his honor," Tim says.

Now 45, Jim continues to pledge himself to that honor. The clubhouse may be replaced by



a Boys and Girls Club hallway and the pant-leg pinstripes are on that of a designer suit instead of sliding pants, but Jim still has an audience to dominate. He takes to the podium, his replacement mound, and delivers his story to audiences ranging from corporate sales teams to the local Challenger Division of Little League, hoping the message resonates with at least a few.

"Motivational speaking tests you. There's definitely performance anxiety," Jim says. "It pushes you in a lot of the same ways pitching does, and it's rewarding in a lot of the same ways. It's all



about trying to encourage people to see the possibilities in life.”

Home Base

Baseball brought Jim victory, fame, camaraderie and an opportunity to reach thousands, but perhaps most importantly, it brought him to the location where he would make a future for his family. As a rookie with the Angels, Jim turned to his teammate, Chuck Finley, when first looking for a place to settle in for his inaugural season. Chuck, who lived in an apartment in Newport Beach, took

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Jim in as his roommate and the Newport community took care of the rest.

"I got a taste of the beach life and being close to the water," Jim says. "It just seemed like such a great place to live."

While searching for a home a few years later with his wife, Dana, Jim followed his friend and mentor Kirk McCaskill to Corona del Mar to further plant their family's roots. Except for a few stops while playing for the Yankees, White Sox and Brewers, Jim has made the Newport community home for 24 years now. In that time he's seen a vast growth both in the community and in his own family. He and Dana spend most of their time keeping up with their teenage daughters Maddy and Ella, and their active schedules full of volleyball, water polo, soccer and school.

"You can get anything you want in Newport. You can have a quiet cul-de-sac with kids riding their bikes and shooting hoops, and have all the athletic and scholastic opportunities for your kids," Jim says. "I think they get a chance to experience a lot of the best things that are possible in the world. There's people that aim high here and want to do great things, and I enjoy the idea that my kids are exposed to that."

When free time does present itself during breaks from serving as a chauffeur to Maddy and Ella, speaker, author and volunteer, Jim takes advantage of the simple pleasures of coastal living.

"I really enjoy the outdoor activities here," he says. "I run down on the beach at Big Corona quite a bit [to] take it easy on the knees and get off the pavement. It's just so stunningly beautiful to get down there."

As for a post-run meal, Jim often fuels up at favorites like Bear Flag Fish Co. and Cappy's Cafe, a spot he used to dine at for pre-game meals with Chuck. Several local institutions like The Cannery show their appreciation for the local resident by displaying autographed jerseys from his Angels days, a subtle reminder of how far he's come since his time spent proving himself on the little league fields of Flint.

"I'm very lucky. I really like living here in Corona and have a lot of great friends and family nearby," Jim says. "My post baseball life has been a blessing in almost every way." **NBM**



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Bringing in the Relief

ANGELS CHAIRMAN DENNIS KUHL KNOWS MORE CAN ALWAYS BE DONE IN THE COMMUNITY.

BY BRETT CALLAHAN

THE CLOSEST MOST FANS GET TO LOS ANGELES Angels of Anaheim ballplayers is through a trip to the ballpark. Dennis Kuhl, a Newport resident and chairman of the Angels, is doing his best to change that by bringing the organization to the community. A 10-year veteran with the Angels, Dennis has most recently been challenged with the task of improving the area of civic affairs and community outreach, among his other responsibilities. He serves as a board member or president of such nonprofit ventures as the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk, Susan G. Komen Orange County, Boys & Girls Clubs of Anaheim, the Newport Sports Museum, the Angel Stadium Little League Challenger Classic and a growing list of others.

Newport Beach Magazine spoke with Dennis about the organization's goals and impact on Orange County.

Newport Beach Magazine: *What is the Angels' goal when it comes to philanthropy?*

Dennis Kuhl: We try to learn more about as many charities and nonprofits as possible so that when we take part in these programs we have a purpose. Let's not just give the money away or approve the grant. Let's learn what they are trying to accomplish, get with these people and spend some time with them. For example, I didn't know about St. Catherine's Academy in Anaheim. I got a call one day, went over and visited, and was very impressed. You find out what

they actually want to do and gather a good focus as to what can be done.

NBM: *How does the team choose which charities to be involved with?*

DK: We like to partner with charities that have the same youth views as we do; the after-school programs and places where kids can be safe. Those are the type of charities we're looking at, but we also will look at some of the causes like cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, leukemia and lymphoma, and that's due to the fact that some of our alumni and employees are involved. We want to show the employees we care about some of the same programs they do.

NBM: *In what capacity are the players involved in these projects, and why is it*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANGELS BASEBALL



Angels chairman Dennis Kuhl (below) takes his team out of the ballpark and into the local communities.



important for them to be active in the community outreach programs?

DK: First of all, each of our players is involved in different projects. Some of them have taken on special projects. Jered Weaver has focused his attention on the Special Olympics; C.J. Wilson runs a local fundraiser for hemophilia at Anaheim's 300 bowling center; Albert Pujols just had his celebrity golf tournament fundraiser for Down syndrome; and Hank Conger and Mark Trumbo join me every year at the Christmas party that we throw for underprivileged and foster kids at ESPN Zone. They don't look at it as a privilege; they look at it as their responsibility to give back. They've been very successful in their careers, but they were kids once and some of them had to go through some hard times growing up. They say, "Now I can give back." That's the feeling of so many players. They love it and

usually get more out of it than the kids. I think it's just an attitude about helping the community. ... We make it fun while explaining that it's part of the fabric of what we do.

NBM: *You serve as either president or board member for several charities and nonprofits. What does it mean for you?*

DK: I'm a very fortunate person to work for an organization that allows me to serve on these various boards. They've given me the freedom to be involved, and it also allows me to have a better understanding of the pulse of the community. You can't do this effectively from behind a desk. You have to get out there and find out what and where the needs are.

NBM: *As a resident of Newport Beach, what community events do you most like to participate in?*

DK: I really just like to go to the parks and

watch the kids playing baseball. The parks are great, and I have about three baseball diamonds right down the corner from me. I'll see the kids playing and stop and watch. What I love to see is how involved the parents are. Newport does a really good job with the youth and giving them an opportunity.

NBM: *You came into your role as chairman to help renew the efforts in civic affairs and community outreach. What made Dennis Kuhl the man to turn these crucial areas around?*

DK: It's not me—it's our people. We saw that we could do so much more and we were driven by our owner (Arte Moreno). He asked me to do it, and I recruited some great people. These are people that are involved ... on boards, people that wanted more than just a place to work, but a place to give back to the community. **NBM**

OCEAN EDUCATION

CRYSTAL COVE IS HOME TO 1,100 ACRES OF PRISTINE MARINE PROTECTED AREA, AND CRYSTAL COVE ALLIANCE IS HARD AT WORK TO KEEP IT THAT WAY WHILE INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF OCEAN LOVERS.

By Linda Domingo | Photos by Jody Tiongco



Students lower a plankton net to collect samples.

THE SECOND OF SIX ARTICLES IN A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN:

Residents and visitors of Orange County are spoiled by the proximity of the ocean—more than 40 miles of OC coastline provide the backdrop for the endless commuters and tourists that speed down Pacific Coast Highway every day. Crystal Cove State Park is just a fraction of that network of beaches, but the rolling waves and sandy shores offers much more than a nice place to picnic or surf. The waters actually comprise a marine protected area, housing significant populations of plant and animal life, and the activities of the Crystal Cove Alliance (CCA) both on and offshore—from scientific research and education to public outreach—aid in the maintenance and preservation of the entire region. The industrious nonprofit organization doesn't work alone, however. It has enlisted the help of top universities, researchers, schoolchildren and even fishermen in programs that are aimed at scientific discovery, managing the state park's land and waters, and enriching the community.

Students on board the new Marine Protected Area Citizen Science Cruise use scientific equipment to gather information about the ecosystem.



Van Dorn water samplers allow students to study water chemistry.



Digital fishing rods help students study fish populations in the kelp forest.

TESTING THE WATERS

Marine protected areas, designated regions in which human activity is restricted in the interest of protecting ocean ecosystems, were mandated by California State Legislature when it passed the Marine Life Protection Act. In January 2012, after much debate between conservation groups and fishing groups, the waters of Crystal Cove—1,100 acres, or about one-third of the state park—were dubbed a state marine conservation area, a level of marine protected area in which only certain types of fishing are allowed. “In the same way we protect and love [the land] here, offshore is an area in which we can now better protect kelp forests and reefs,” says Harry Helling, president and CEO of CCA. “Everything from nudibranchs to dolphins is protected.” In 2017, the state will reevaluate the marine protected area designations and their effectiveness in protecting marine life and habitats.

In the short time period that Crystal Cove has been a marine protected area, CCA has taken to the waters to explore ways in which to best manage and preserve the state park. Citizen science is the battle cry of the alliance—which means that some of the scientific research at the park is actually conducted by

everyday, seemingly unqualified citizens. But with a little guidance, CCA has placed these citizens alongside researchers with years of education and experience in programs that allow them to collect data for environmentally relevant projects in fun, interesting and accessible ways.

One such program is the citizen science cruise, developed by Harry and CCA Education Manager Sue Magdziarz in collaboration with a group of schoolteachers. Middle and high school students board boats provided by Newport Landing Sportfishing—an unlikely partner, considering fishing groups and conservation groups had been at odds on the marine protected area debate—and essentially transform the boat into a floating science lab operated by the students.

“We come from very different sides of the spectrum ... [but] we all want there to be a lot of fish in the ocean,” says Randi Woodbury, education coordinator at Newport Landing Sportfishing. “To be working together to really educate students about the importance of the conservation area, not only for the life that’s there now but the future of fishing, too, is really neat.”

Students collect plankton and water samples and operate cameras attached to fishing rods

THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS

Literacy in science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, has been of growing importance in the United States in recent years, emerging from the country’s concerns with competing in a global marketplace. Increasing STEM literacy is yet another benefit that CCA and one of its partners, UC Irvine, hope to see with the various citizen science programs at Crystal Cove.

Not only do UC Irvine researchers use the Park and Marine Research Facility, or Cottage 22, for research for their own projects, but the university also participates in programs that bring K-12 students to Crystal Cove to be a part of science in action.

“What we’re concerned about is keeping up that interest in science through [middle and high] school to a point where those students consider science as a potential career,” UC Irvine Dean of Biological Sciences Al Bennett says. “The U.S. as a country is lagging in the production of scientists, so we have programs ... trying to forward the pipeline of the training of scientists as much as we possibly can.”

UC Irvine Chancellor Michael Drake adds that having Crystal Cove in the university’s backyard is an invaluable resource, and the university feels responsible for its health and protection. “It’s also a chance to take young people out of the classroom and put them in touch with science, biology and nature,” he adds. “It really shows them that science is fun, science is exciting, science is relevant. It’s not something that occurs necessarily in a book. It occurs in the world, and what a great privilege to have this opportunity.”



Teachers in a professional development workshop learning about citizen science programs at Crystal Cove's tidepools



High school students helping to study plastics on the beach at Crystal Cove

in order to observe kelp forests and their inhabitants. Being on a boat conducting research excites the students in a way that textbooks can't, explains Dana Hills High School AP environmental science teacher Dolores Dang-Wright. Dolores was part of the pilot cruise program that CCA began developing in 2012, and she has taken multiple classes out on the water. The alliance hopes to organize about 50 cruises per year. "Hopefully we get some little scientists out of this," Dolores says.

Although it's a learning experience for the kids aboard, there's another component: The data they collect will be sent to Donovan German, a researcher and assistant professor at UC Irvine. As part of his research, Donovan is studying fish populations, plankton diversity and water quality, and comparing the data collected inside and outside of marine protected areas. He hopes the research will eventually aid in evaluating the effectiveness of designated marine protected areas in protecting marine habitats and species.

According to Donovan, the cruises are the first instance of using citizen science in

quantifying fish populations in the park, and they are providing another resource for researchers who have limited time, personnel and funding. "They're going to have so many boats on the water collecting data that we otherwise wouldn't be getting," he says. "Not only are we getting valuable data on the effectiveness of the marine protected areas, but we're getting citizens, non-scientists involved, who happen to be children. ... It's positive on so many different levels."

Through the citizen science cruises and similar programs, CCA has placed citizen science at Crystal Cove at the crossroads of education, research and conservation. "If you go to a science center, you might be able to learn about a scientific concept, but if you go to Crystal Cove State Park, you could actually be the scientist, collecting data," Sue explains.

BACK ON DRY LAND

In addition to the cruises, significant research is also taking place in a humble-looking bungalow on the beach. Officially named the Park and Marine Research Facility, the building is most often referred

to as simply Cottage 22 and is one of the district's historic buildings. It was restored in 2008 with the help of donors including the Samuelli Foundation, an anonymous foundation, Tricia Nichols and UC Irvine.

An important part of Harry's role when he joined CCA in 2009 was to bring the cottage to life by attracting researchers and developing the citizen science programs that would effectively utilize the facility. Now, more than a dozen active research projects take place at Cottage 22 over the course of an average year.

One of the earlier projects that utilized Cottage 22 was a study on ocean acidification or what Harry refers to as the underwater evil twin of global warming, which could potentially result in the dissolution of coral reefs and other organisms. CCA brought high school students to the cottage to collect and analyze water samples, study the sizes of sea creatures and predict what the ocean's acidity will be in the next 50 years. This data was then shared with UC Irvine and Stanford researchers.

"Ocean acidification is a significant issue ... a global problem," Harry explains.

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Seasonal grunion run studies also take place at Cottage 22. Although common on Orange County beaches during their spawning season, grunion at Crystal Cove enjoy the added protection that the state park and marine protected area territory provide, which attracts grunion researchers like Karen Martin, professor of biology at Pepperdine University. Citizen scientists at grunion runs count and observe the habits of grunion, and CCA collects their data. Facing the same limitations as the scientists that conduct research at Crystal Cove, CCA uses the citizen scientist-collected data to help improve park management procedures, for example, distributing newly developed guidelines for driving on the beach, to ensure grunion eggs aren’t disturbed or affected.

While not evident to most people who pass by or even visit Crystal Cove on a daily basis, the innovative programs at this state park have caught the attention of those responsible for managing the state parks and their resources. “On a statewide basis, I would say Crystal

Cove Alliance is a pioneer,” says Donna Pozzi, California State Parks chief of interpretation and education. Donna has invited Sue to give presentations on the citizen science programs at Crystal Cove to give other state parks the opportunity to learn how to make similar programs work. “[Scientists] tend to speak their own language, and they’re not as good at helping the public understand what they’re doing,” Donna explains. “Crystal Cove Alliance is playing a big role in helping that [interpretation] happen.”

The citizen science programs and research at Cottage 22 are just the beginning of a journey that Harry describes as never-ending. “This is a place where you’re always trying to improve ... where you’re trying to understand the community needs and develop high-level programs to meet those needs,” he comments. “Crystal Cove Alliance is now in the business of inspiration. We’re designing science programs that are more than just content, more than just experience. They’re programs that are designed to inspire students to think differently about their world and their role in it ... inspire them to think differently about how we understand the way the world works, considering pathways that would help us better understand and manage it.” NBM

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WHAT YOU MISS WHEN YOU DRIVE BY

Sweeping ocean views to one side and an idyllic canyon on the other are what most people see when cruising past Crystal Cove State Park on Pacific Coast Highway at 50 miles per hour. It’s a sight that inspires extra glances and deep breaths to take in the cool sea breeze. But what you see in a blur is a mere snapshot of the state park’s beauty. With more than three miles of pristine beach, 2,400 acres of protected chaparral habitat and 1,100 acres of underwater park, it’s impossible to fully comprehend the historic charm, physical beauty and ecological importance that characterize Crystal Cove from inside a passing car.

Barely visible from the highway, 46 historic cottages dot the shore, and 29 are now available for rental and public use, thanks to preservation efforts spearheaded by the Crystal Cove Alliance and California State Parks. The park’s diverse terrain and offshore expanse welcome campers, hikers, divers and other outdoor enthusiasts, and protected populations of flora and fauna intrigue everyone from leading scientists to Girl Scout troops. In this series of articles, we uncover the many layers of Crystal Cove that are easily overlooked when just driving, but aren’t soon dismissed when you take the time to discover the stories that make up this fascinating area.



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NEWPORT'S NEXT WAVE

MEET SIX LOCAL RISING STARS OF THE SURF.

BY SKIP SNEAD | PHOTOS BY SCOTT SPORLEDER

THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT THE NEXT BIG THING IN SURFING WILL COME OUT OF THE NEWPORT/MESA area. Whether it's a brand, an entrepreneur, a designer or the next hot young surfer, you can't ever count out Velcro Valley; the area has deep roots in the sport of surfing, so it's no surprise that some of the best young surfers in the world live here. With a booming surf industry and more hype than ever on today's young surf stars, the sky is the limit for Newport's next wave of surfers, including rising stars Tyler Gunter, Meah Collins, Colin Moran, John Mel, Andrew Doheny and skimboarder Ken Suzuki.

MEAH COLLINS

Age: 13

Fun Fact: Heiress of Wave Tools Surfboards

In the Genes

Surfing runs deep in the veins of 13-year-old Meah Collins from Costa Mesa. Her grandfather Lance Collins was a hot local shaper and founder of Wave Tools Surfboards, and her dad Richie rode them to professional surfing stardom.

Meah wasn't surfing as early as some of the other kids in town; she was spooked by the movie "Jaws" and didn't like the ocean. It wasn't until after a trip to Hawaii in 2006 that she learned the ways of the waves. By age 8, her fear of sharks was gone and winning contests was on. By the time she was 12, she had already won dozens of Western Surfing Association contests, and most recently took out the Under 14 division of the 2012 Surfing America U.S. Championships held at Lower Trestles. She even made the finals of a women's pro event in Hawaii two winters ago and was the youngest competitor. There's no doubt Meah is destined to be a top level professional, but whether it will be in surfing is anyone's guess—she's multitasking, so time will tell. She gets straight A's in school, has sold her artwork in galleries, has modeled in New York, and has more talent in her pinky finger than most of us have in our entire bodies. Considering her roots in surfing and having been coached by her father, it should come as no surprise she has big things planned: "I want to change women's surfing and bring more attention to it," Meah says. "The level of women's surfing today is incredible, and they deserve much more than they are getting. I want to be able to inspire other kids to surf or just do something they love and make a career out of it."



COLIN MORAN

Age: 17

Fun Fact: Named "Newport Harbor's Most Valuable Surfer"

The Letterman

Some say it takes a lot of smarts to win a surf contest, and no one knows that more than Costa Mesa wunderkind Colin Moran. The 17-year-old recently won the South Coast League individual surfing title representing Newport Harbor High School. Colin started showing up around Blackies about a decade ago. His hair was long and blonde—the epitome of the classic surf grom. He's had great success in his amateur career, being a two-time member of the PacSun USA Surf Team.

His surfing is fast and explosive, and he has the full bag of tricks. Being part of the USA team means trips to faraway countries, like his most recent to Nicaragua for the Da Kine ISA World Junior Surfing Championships. Though he didn't win the gold, he returned with a solid head start to what looks to be his best summer yet.



KEN SUZUKI

Age: 18

Fun Fact: Worked his way up from skimming at A Street to The Wedge

The Skimmer

While the hot surfers spend their time in west Newport Beach, there's a whole crew of talented skimboarders in the Balboa area, which is home to some of the best shore break in California. Ken Suzuki, 18, was one of those kids. While Ken has lived in the same house at 28th Street throughout his life, he wasn't heading to Blackies every day to work on his shortboarding skills; he went down to A Street just south of the Balboa Pier. He started skimboarding at age 12, and every summer he and his friends would head a little farther south down the beach until one day when they finally ended up at The Wedge—Ken and his crew have been there every spring, summer and fall since, getting the biggest skims of their lives. Although he started surfing more in the last few years, he is still regarded as one of the best skimboarders in the world, with wins including the Oktoberfest Skimboard Championships in Balboa and an event in the Green Eggs and Am Triple Crown. As skimboarding grows, so does Ken's smile. At 18, he's just the right age to take the sport to the next level. "Newport is most definitely known for the biggest skim in the world," Ken says. "I am honored to have grown [up] in such a fortunate town."



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ANDREW DOHENY

Age: 20

Fun Fact: Also enjoys designing and shaping surfboards

The Surf Star

Twenty-year-old Andrew Doheny began his assault on amateur surfing by winning everything in sight. At 10, he broke NSSA surfing record after record and made enough noise in the surf world that Volcom took him under its wing and sponsored him. He's been a part of the Volcom family ever since. Like a lot of kids in Newport, Andrew grew up getting pushed into waves at Blackies by his father. By the time he was 5 he had the same look in his eyes you'll see today: eagerness for that next wave, that next win.

Since his grommet successes, he's had a great start to his professional career, winning ASP Pro Junior events and making finals in some big World Championship Qualifying events. He currently sits at No. 53 in the ASP world rankings—making him one of the most successful pro surfers from Newport Beach in two decades. In terms of recognition worldwide, Andrew is that kid—he's landed magazine covers, big-dollar contracts and has won just about every amateur contest he's entered.

You might think a surfer who gets a paycheck would be under a lot of scrutiny, and Andrew is, but it's not a "live or die by the wave" mentality. Although his supporters would like to see him make more podiums in the pro ranks, it's not mandatory.

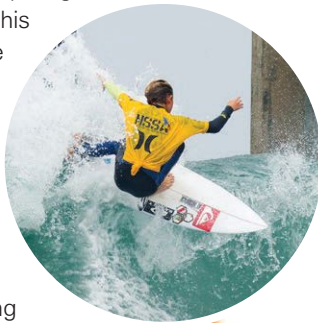
"I'm not motivated to surf to be compared to someone above or below me," Andrew says. "I'm just trying to surf the best I can surf. I try not to think about it, I just take it step by step."

If you ask us, it's more like leaps and bounds.



The Fortunate One

Talk about getting the Silver Surfboard: At just 13, Newport's John Mel has already had an amazing life. Born into one of the most respected surfing families in America, his dad, Peter, is an elite big-wave professional surfer who won the Mavericks Invitational earlier this year, and his grandfather, also named John Mel, is one of the most highly-regarded figures in Santa Cruz surfing history. Two of the biggest amateur results of John's young life came the same weekend his dad won at Mavericks, when he won two divisions in the Surfing America USA Championships at Steamer Lane in his former hometown of Santa Cruz. He charges the Pipeline in Hawaii and nearly anything the West Coast can throw at him. What this home-schooled kid is missing in traditional classrooms he's making up for in travel. He's been to Australia, Mexico, Tahiti, and spends what seems like half the year in Hawaii. "It's much more powerful," John says of the surf in Hawaii. "There are a bunch of good surfers, and you kind of want to step up in front of them and go on bigger waves and do bigger moves."



JOHN MEL

Age: 13

Fun Fact: The son and grandson of surf greats Peter and John Mel



SURF PHOTO BY JOE FOSTER



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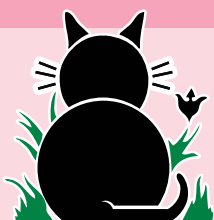
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TYLER GUNTER

Age: 13

*Fun Fact: Started surfing
at 3 years old*

Instagrom

For years now, the hottest little surfer out of Newport has been the tow-headed grom Tyler Gunter. Known as "Instagrom" to his thousands of Instagram followers, the 13-year-old Tyler started surfing when he was 3 years old, and was once the youngest surfer to ever qualify for the most prestigious amateur event in the country, the National Scholastic Surfing Association (NSSA) National Championships. Although this bright-eyed youth has no idea how many surfing contests he's won over the years, he guesses the number to be "around 70 or so," with his highlight being the 2011 NSSA Open Mini-Grom National Championship. During the past few years, Tyler's been making the podium in Western Surfing Association (WSA) events up and down the coast, and this year Surfer Magazine ranked him as the No. 13 hottest grom in its annual "Hot 100" issue, featuring the definitive ranking of the world's best young surfers. But Tyler doesn't let the success of being a hot young amateur get to his head, and while surfing might be his first love, school continues to be his No. 1 priority for at least the next five years. "I wake up every morning and log on to the home school website and do attendance," Tyler says. NBM





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BY NEWPORT BEACH MAGAZINE STAFF

WHILE SUMMERTIME IS THE HOTTEST TIME TO TAKE A VACATION, WE'RE LUCKY enough here in Southern California to "staycay" in our own backyard. Whether you seek an adventurous day of sun, sand and surf, or a relaxing one just soaking up some of the local culture, we serve up 25 things to do this season.

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Ride the paved bike paths that run from the Newport Beach Pier to the Balboa Pier and beyond. It's the perfect place to bike or roller skate while taking in the view, breathing in salty ocean air and people-watch. Don't have the ride you're looking for? Stop by one of Newport's bike and skate rental shops to check out your wheels of choice.

2 Participate in Crystal Cove's grunion run this August, including taking part in citizen science studies to investigate the health of the grunion—all during a beautiful night on the picturesque beaches of this state park. (crystalcovestatepark.com)

3 Take part in a classic Newport tradition and enjoy top speeds of up to 5 mph aboard the historic Balboa Island Ferry, which has offered visitors and locals alike a direct route to charming Balboa Island since 1919. The Balboa Island Ferry holds only three cars and a few dozen pedestrians for a quick, three-minute trip from Balboa Island to the peninsula, but it's a scenic jaunt not to be missed. (balboaislandferry.com)

4 Visit Orange County Museum of Art's "California-Pacific Triennial" exhibition open through Nov. 17. Learn about California's connections to the countries throughout the Pacific Rim through various artists and media. (ocma.net)

5 Head to the harbor. In inland cities, people may sip coffee and people-watch, but when we have waters as calm as a cafe in our backyard, we kayak and house-watch. Beautiful million-dollar homes line the harbor, and you're bound to glimpse winged and finned neighbors.

6 Explore the Back Bay, where 900 acres of estuary, marsh and coastal sage scrub habitat abound. Walk or bike the 10.5-mile Back Bay pedestrian loop for a serene outdoor experience. For a more educational tour, visit the Back Bay Science Center and the Muth Interpretive Center and learn about the preservation efforts in this diverse ecosystem. From kayaking to stand-up paddling to horseback riding, discover Newport's natural beauty. (newportbay.org)



9 Shop till you drop. Newport and Costa Mesa are home to world-class shopping, with visitors from all over the world coming to South Coast Plaza for its West Coast exclusive stores and to Fashion Island for its outdoor beauty. Or, visit some of the many singular boutiques and shops located in neighborhoods from Crystal Cove to Balboa.

7 Take Fido with you. The new dog park at the Civic Center complex is now open 7 a.m. to dusk (except Wednesdays) and provides a place for dogs to play off leash (newportbeachca.gov). If the two of you prefer a walk on the beach, leashed dogs are allowed on the beaches before 10 a.m. and after 4:30 p.m. Dogs are also allowed on Back Bay Trails, on paved Crystal Cove State Park trails and on a variety of restaurant patios around town—meaning the staycation isn't just for you!

8 Support Newport's local fishermen and bear witness as they haul, fillet and select fish and the freshest seafood for eager customers at one of Newport's two

specialty fish markets—Pearson's Port and Dory Fleet Fish Market. For the early birds, the Dory Fleet (doryfleet.com)—a staple of the city since 1891—comes in at 7 a.m. and provides quite an entertaining spectacle as they unload their most recent catches.

10 Hang 10 like one of the pros. Whether you are a visitor who just couldn't fit a board in your suitcase or a local who has yet to give surfing or stand-up paddleboarding a try, Newport Beach is home to a variety of rental shops where you can find surf and SUP boards. Many shops also offer individual and group lessons with a knowledgeable, certified professional if you need a little help getting started.



COURTESY OF OC PARKS

Treat yourself to a spa day. No vacation or staycation is complete without some pampering. Newport is home to more than two-dozen spas, from four- and five-star resorts, where your appointment comes with use of the facilities for the day, to small day spas just around the corner.



DAVID SERINO



Hop aboard a rented Duffy boat and cruise your way through the harbor until you reach one of the several restaurants—Duke's Place, Bluewater Grill, Harborside Restaurant, The Cannery, Woody's Wharf, First Cabin and The Dock—that offer guests a "dock and dine" experience.

13 Go to The Wedge at the very tip of Balboa Peninsula and watch as surfers and bodyboarders tackle the south swells. The best time to show up is in the morning or late afternoon, at the turn of the ideal tide.

14 Giddy up! Newport Beach is home to a number of nearly hidden horse properties. Several offer lessons, camps and even trail rides along the Back Bay, where you'll feel the cool breeze under the hot sun—and spot the local wildlife.

15 Visit the sacred birthplace of the frozen banana. TV series "Arrested Development" showcased this Balboa Island tradition, and you can see (and taste) for yourself why people flock to Dad's, allegedly the first place to freeze the initially healthy fruit, dip it in chocolate and cover it in nuts, sprinkles, Oreo bits or better yet—all of the above.

16 Dive into ExplorOcean. Bring the whole family to discover what lies off the coast, with interactive exhibits such as the Touch Tank, where you can observe, touch and feed animals found in local tidepools. Learn about nautical history and expedition at the Exploration in the Past Gallery, or take advantage of Science Saturdays, a free, hands-on, educational experience. (explorocean.org)

17 Go fish. For a century, anglers have toted fishing poles to Newport Beach with the hopes of hooking a fish dinner. (dfg.ca.gov)



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18 Stay and play at the Balboa Arcade. Step back in time with a classic game of skee ball, ride the merry-go-round and take a spin on the Ferris Wheel while also taking in some great views. (thebayarcade.com)

19 From an upper deck perch, admire the harbor homes of the rich and famous on the narrated Newport Harbor boat cruise. It's the local version of Los Angeles' a star maps tour. (funzoneboats.com)

20 June through October, enjoy a variety of jazz and pop concerts from the likes of Chris Isaak, Boney James, David Benoit and more, all performing in an intimate amphitheater setting during the Hyatt Regency Newport Beach Summer Concert Series. (hyattconcerts.com)

21 Live music abounds in Newport this summer. Thursday evenings through Aug. 15, enjoy Crystal Cove's new Summer Music Series featuring everything from classic rock to Caribbean fusion. Through Sept. 18, you can also hear jazz Wednesday nights at the Marriot's Rose Garden during Sunset Jazz. (visitnewportbeach.com)



22 Take in a live performance in nearby Costa Mesa with Segerstrom Center for the Arts, South Coast Repertory, Pacific Symphony, the Philharmonic Society of Orange County or the Pacific Chorale. Or, attend a theater production in Newport Beach with Newport Theatre Arts Center or Balboa Performing Arts Theater Foundation. (scfta.org, ntaonline.com and balboaperformingartstheaterfoundation.org)

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23 Stow away the textbooks! Instead, learn about the local marine life firsthand. Explore pristine tidepools at Little Corona del Mar. And this activity isn't just for kids—it's also a photographer's paradise.

24 Golf in luxury: Newport Beach offers several spectacular courses, including Big Canyon Country Club, Newport Beach Country Club and two ocean courses at The Resort at Pelican Hill. Each with its own set of special characteristics—to enjoy the leisurely sport. Whether you seek sweeping ocean view or a higher challenge, it's all right here.

25 Give your taste buds something new to try. Newport Beach is home to more than 300 restaurants, offering dishes from around the world as well as spectacular California cuisine, local produce and fresh-caught seafood. Visit our dine listings on page 108 to start your culinary journey. NBM



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Bill Hurley of surfwear brand Hurley International takes on The Wedge, one of the most legendary surf spots in Orange County.



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BY BRUCE PORTER

OF THE THOUSANDS OF SURF SPOTS AROUND THE WORLD, ONLY A HANDFUL are known to put the fear of Poseidon into surfers brave—or foolish—enough to give it a go. Famous names like Mavericks in Northern California, Waimea Bay on Oahu's North Shore, Teahupo'o in Tahiti and the almost mythical Shipstern Bluff in Tasmania, Australia, give rise to waves of 20 feet or more. In the surfer handbook of cool, big powerful surf still trumps gravity-defying maneuvers, ensuring these hallowed beaches are reserved for magazine covers and the fire-works finale in every surf film made.

An indisputable entry on the list of legendary big-wave breaks, where nature's beauty and brutality meet head on, where reputations are made and the danger is real, is The Wedge in Newport Beach.

A Wave with Many Faces

The Wedge is perhaps the only monster surf that was created by mankind. In 1934, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built a jetty to give Newport a harbor with access to the open ocean. As an unanticipated result, on the north side of the jetty's granite boulders, summer south swells, whether originating from Baja, California, or far in the South Pacific, reflect off the jetty only to meet up with the wave following behind it. The momentum of those forces, moving from deep water to a sharp incline at shore, forms a magnificent pyramid of water, amplifying its size, and launches the crest to a wide hollow that is fiercely coveted by a certain breed of thrill-seeking surfers, bodyboarders and bodysurfers. "On a big south hemi, most beaches may be 6 to 8 feet, but The Wedge could be 15 to 20 feet," says Rick Fignetti of Rockin' Fig surf shop in Huntington Beach.

Local bodysurfer Sean Starky further explains, "There are a couple of faces of The Wedge. On small days you have a side wave that goes into a corner bowl, and that's a fun wave to bodysurf. When it gets bigger, there's an A-frame peak with a big barrel, which is how we really like it.

"That's the joke here," he adds with an expression that says it's better to laugh off the dark clouds than to dwell on them. "Small days you'll break your back and big days you'll drown."

"It's a big, gnarly wave with a super steep drop," Rick says. "You can have a



Newport surf legend Bobby Okvist rides The Wedge, which can boast waves of up to 20 feet.

BOB OKVIST

15-foot wave breaking into 5 feet of water—so [there are] consequences if you don't make it. You've got to be pretty confident about yourself to go out there."

Adrenaline Junkies Only

When I was in high school back in the mid-1980s, The Wedge was a gauntlet, a rite of passage for youngsters who wanted to be part of the select few. Not that anybody could actually surf The Wedge on a regular board—that would be next to impossible. The top pros of the era—Shaun Tomson, Mark Richards and Rabbit Bartholomew—steered clear of the place. After all, the Wedge is a shore-break wave, fit for bodysurfers and bodyboarders only. The face is too steep, the takeoff too quick. They crash into ankle-deep water.

Even on days when the wind is calm, as a swell builds to a small mountain, ominous dark ripples foreshadow what's to come. For bodysurfing, at least one fin is required, no matter the tide; two when it's really big and breaking out farther, to



Experienced bodysurfers flock to The Wedge.

SEAN STARKY

get enough push to ensure the wave doesn't catapult you over the falls. The Wedge is a left, so with your left hand as a skid-plate, you stretch your right shoulder back into the face to keep from tumbling out of control. Your eyes are wide and your senses are humming. It's a long trip down, picking up speed the whole way, but it's never fast enough to avoid the inevitable.

There's a chance to slip through the underside of the wave, but more often than not, it's false hope. Just as you break to the surface, the vortex will pull you back with a vengeance. With the curl blotting out the sun, the exhilaration of the ride pushes your fears aside. In the moment before it all goes colorless, instinct forces you to take a final breath.

That's the crazy part: There's no way to make The Wedge. You're going to get tossed—and hard. The wave lifts you up and slams your body into the sand. You can't predict exactly how it will go, and this is when fear will creep back into your mind. It's fate that determines if you will be The Wedge's next victim—and experience in these

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Visitors often stop to take photos of The Wedge.

waters doesn't necessarily improve those odds as much as we'd like to believe.

The whitewash whips your body around like a rag doll in an Oklahoma tornado. It may only be six or seven seconds, but suddenly your brain signals that you have another couple before it all goes really wrong. And just then, the whitewater rushes away, leaving you in shallow water only a few short yards from the safety of the beach. But it's no time to celebrate.

Chances are, the strength of the current isn't going to let you advance halfway to dry sand before the next swell comes rolling through. You definitely don't want to be the unlucky tourist who takes on the full force of a nasty 10- to 20-foot wave. So, against all your strongest survival instincts, you race to duck dive underneath the oncoming set.

Sometime in the next few minutes, as you're treading water and gasping for air and life and limb, you'll get the bright idea that it would be fantastic to do it again.

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I'd never seen anything like it. Echo Beach local Danny Kwok not only surfed The Wedge, he shredded it. I've witnessed spectacular feats in major sports, but nothing compares to this triple-overhead tube ride capped with an off-the-lip snapback. Danny won't remember that



Bodyboarders scramble to catch a wave.



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particular wave like I do, because for the next 90 minutes he continued to tear The Wedge in ways I didn't think were possible.

"He's pretty much the guy who pioneered surfing out there," 26-year-old Billabong team rider Spencer Pirdy says of Danny, whose exploits at The Wedge were a catalyst for his later business successes working for beachwear companies. "There's this one cool picture I'd always look at—I thought he was like a god. He was the guy, along with a few others, who gave me the idea that I could do it too."

JODY TIONGCO



Kyle Kennelly catches a wave while bodysurfing.

The Wedge Crew

The Wedge is the sort of place where the locals keep track of its unsung heroes, past and present—guys like Kirk Blackman, bodysurfer Fred Simpson of Viper Fins and kneeboarder Ron Romanosky. In the water, there's no love lost between the different groups of riders—in fact, the city had to implement restrictions on floating apparatuses between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. from May 1 through Oct. 31.

"At any break there's going to be a pecking order," surf photographer and team manager for KatinUSA Joe Foster says. "At The Wedge, it is guys like Bobby Okvist, Spencer Pirdy and a few others who really charge it."

"You get all types of personalities—it's a melting pot," Spencer says, painting a picture of the carnival-like atmosphere around a big swell. "There are the drunk tourists who'll jump into the water, get sucked out and have to be rescued. There are the aggro guys yelling at each other; little kids skimboarding; bodyboarders, bodysurfers and surfers who'll intermingle, sometimes clash."

"The Wedge has three different takeoff spots," former Newport Harbor student and current KatinUSA team rider Bobby Okvist says, describing why The Wedge is primed for serious collisions. "There's the side wave, 50 feet down there's the peak, and another 50 feet down there's the shoulder corner bowl." With so many people—upwards of 40 determined guys, and a few brave gals, on medium-sized 6- to 8-foot days—in such close proximity, all vying for the same waves, the drama is heightened.



Crowds often gather to watch daredevils looking to conquer the great waves.

"You've got the wave, which is dangerous by itself," Joe elaborates. "Now multiply that times a million because of the crowd. You've got surfers and bodyboarders dropping in all over the place, skimboarders coming in from the side, and then there are photographers, too. It's a spectacle, that's for sure."

"I have a weird relationship with The Wedge because I'd always been afraid of it," Bobby admits. "You can't set a line. You drop in and you never know what's going to happen. It's the fastest I've ever gone. You hit one bump and you're done."

"In Orange County, this is the big leagues," Sean says. "You don't start off at The Wedge. You start at Schoolyards (14th Street, named for Newport Elementary) and work your way up. I started riding here at 14, 15—nothing too crazy. When I turned 16, that's when I started riding bigger waves."

Ten years later, Sean is a senior member of the Wedge Crew. "There's no ceremony!" he jokes of the informal alliance. "It's like anything else—you don't have to be the best rider, you just have to show respect and put in your time to become a local." The designation allows Sean, who is one of the best bodysurfers around, to take advantage of the unwritten rule that locals get first crack at any given wave.

"I've learned that you can't hesitate," Spencer says. He thrives on the challenge of taking off at the apex, the most difficult section of the wave. "You have to be 100 percent committed. When a wave is coming, there's an animal side of me that comes out. I paddle as hard as I can. And I grind my teeth to show the other guys: 'Nah, this one is mine.'"

"One of the best waves for me was two summers ago," Bobby recalls with a wide grin. "Spencer paddled over to the first wave, but the second one was the biggest of the day. It was an insane feeling. There were a lot of people on the beach screaming—and that's kind of exciting, too, because you don't really get that anywhere else. I had so much adrenaline flowing. ... It was the cleanest, easiest drop, and the next thing I knew, I was getting launched over the backside of the wave, probably 50 feet into the air."

None of the surfers dedicated to The Wedge seem able to fully justify their obsession to their own satisfaction. Perhaps they are simply resigned to accepting it. "But this wave is my ball and chain," Sean says. "You never know what you're going to get—that's why I keep coming back. It's an addiction." NBM



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NAUTICAL NEWPORT

Sailing in Newport Beach is a way of life for many residents, as well as a draw for visitors from around the world.

BY PETER A. BALASKAS



Ryan Clark with Jack and Peter Joslin sailing in Newport Beach



SCOTT SPORLEDER

THE SOFT SAILS CLAP THEIR LEATHERY APPLAUSE against the masts of moored boats along Lido Isle in between chimes from the bell buoys. The setting sun frames the distant Pacific horizon, and the throaty barks of sea lions echo across the waters. These sights and sounds are all part of a natural symphony that any Newport Beach sailor can hear, recognize and savor. These are the rhythms that serve as the spirit of Newport Bay, whose sailors wake up at sunrise, set sail and seek harmony on the ever-mercurial Pacific Ocean. For them, especially those who grew up in Newport, it is more than a leisurely activity; it is a way of life.

Passion for the Sea

Sailors of all ages fondly recall in vivid detail how the “sailing bug” somehow bites them, mostly at a young age. For many who were born in Newport Beach, like 12-year-old Jack Joslin and his 9-year-old brother, Peter, sailing is a family tradition. “My grandfather is involved in sailing at the Southwestern Yacht Club in San Diego,” says Jack. “And he started us out by buying us a Sabot (a dinghy). And so we were able to start sailing.” Both Jack and Peter have been students at the Balboa Yacht Club’s Junior Sailing Program since 2009, not only having fun with friends their own age, but also learning crucial sailing skills.

There is also 39-year-old Ryan Clark, who has been sailing since he was 4 years old. “My father taught me how to sail,” Ryan says. “He’s had a boat and we’ve both been very passionate with sailing.” Ryan enhanced his discipline on the seas by attending Orange Coast College’s School of Sailing and Seamanship, and joined its sailing team. He also enrolled in the Maritime Institute in San Diego to earn his captain’s license, and sailed on to captain mega yachts from Newport Beach to Mexico, and has even spent an entire season sailing on the Mediterranean.

“I was introduced to sailing by [real estate investor and philanthropist] Don Bren,” recalls 81-year-old Phil Ramser, who is not only an avid sailor but also a member of the Newport Harbor Yacht Club in Newport Beach, as well as serving as the club’s commodore in 1983. “We went to school together and we were about



Young sailors take to the waters as part of the Balboa Yacht Club Junior Program.

14 or 15 years old. He asked me to go aboard his dad's sailboat and sail to Catalina." Phil joined his friend, spent the weekend in Catalina, and has been sailing ever since.

"I was thoroughly hooked," he adds.

But what is the source of a sailor's passion to sail? For young Jack, it's the feeling of independence being out in the open seas. "There's a lot of times when you're a kid, you don't really get to be on your own," Jack says. "But in sailing, you definitely get to do that."

Peter agrees with his older brother. "I kind of like that you can just go fast on your own," Peter says. "And you get to be around the water without being in it."

Ryan feels that sailing serves as a form of mental and emotional tranquility. "Sailing is an escape and it's very therapeutic and relaxing," he says. "It's not only just a fun thing to do, but it's also a lifestyle. Personally, it's molded [me] into who I am."

Phil echoes the relaxing elements of sailing recreationally. "You're sailing downwind with a really good breeze, and the boat takes up the surf. It's very exhilarating."



"I was introduced to sailing by Don Bren. We went to school together and ... he asked me to go aboard his dad's sailboat and sail to Catalina. I was thoroughly hooked."

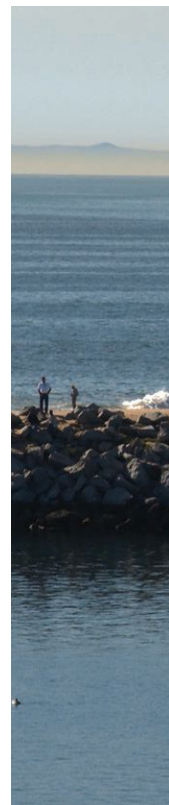
—PHIL RAMSER

A Second Home

Sailors who navigate through Newport Bay for the first time will have access to a treasure trove of sights and experiences. Upon entering the harbor, the channel is flanked by the scenic Balboa Peninsula on the west and the golden Corona del Mar State Beach on the east. While proceeding northwards on the main channel, sightseers will marvel at Balboa Island and Lido Isle. It also gives potential shoppers and diners the opportunity to moor their sea crafts at a dock or a public slip and explore many local establishments in Balboa, Cannery and Lido Villages.

As Ryan points out, for Newport Beach residents, sailing is a part of life. "It's just part of the culture of living in Newport Beach," he says. "The city is surrounded by the bay, and so you're [called] to be a part of it."

Two key examples of how sailing has guided Newport Beach residents toward thriving sailing-related careers include David Ullman and Bill Ficker, both of whom Phil has known for many years. David, a former coach of the U.S. Olympic Sailing Team, not only became one of



SAILING CAMP PHOTOS BY JODY TONGCO



the most competitive, award-winning sailors in the world, he is also the founder and owner of Ullman Sails, which has thrived internationally since 1967.

A past commodore at Newport Harbor Yacht Club, Bill sailed with his ship *Intrepid* to win the valued America's Cup in 1970, one of the most prestigious sailing competitions in the world. "He defended the America's Cup," Phil says. "So, he was very successful."

Success stories like these can be inspirational for young sailors. As far as Jack and Peter are concerned, both are open to pursue sailing as a career, especially Jack, who has set some extraordinary goals for himself. "If I want to pursue it professionally, one of the things I'd like to do is join the America's Cup, which is the pinnacle of sailing," he says.

Back to School

How does one learn the basics of sailing? From his own experiences at Orange Coast College, Ryan praises the various sailing schools that Newport Beach has to offer, especially for

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SCHOOL OF SAILING AND SEAMANSHIP

Since 1960, Orange Coast College School of Sailing and Seamanship has been one of the largest nonprofit, public boating educational programs in the country, offering a variety of classroom and on-the-water courses for both children and adults, such as the Junior Summer Sailing Camps (for kids ages 7 to 13). There are also sailing classes (from beginner to advanced levels) for Lido14, Harbor 20 keelboats and 30-foot shields. Students who are familiar with coastal cruising can enjoy weekend trips to Dana Point Harbor, Catalina Island and the northern Channel Island, and on the San Francisco Bay. Additional OCC classes include Coastal Navigation with GPS, Radar for Yachtsmen and Radio Operator instruction. Most importantly, U.S. Coast Guard classes are also available, designed for power and sail boaters, as well as commercial operators and yachtsmen, all of which will teach the essential skills in order to earn a USCG license.

For more information on this unique sailing program, visit occsailing.com.

junior sailors. “The beauty about Newport Beach is that it has sailing programs, like the Balboa Yacht Club, Orange Coast College and the Boy Scouts, where you do have sailing bases and programs for minors,” Ryan says. “It seems those programs are helping the youth get into it and discover it.”

Phil says the yacht club’s older members also served as mentors to him when he was younger. “We had a large number of older guys that were still active in sailing around the yacht clubs,” he says. “And they would always share information. We had some instruction and there were a lot of books to read and so forth. But then we’d go out sailing on the larger boats with guys that really knew what they were doing. And so we absorbed it.”

Phil emphasizes how sailing programs teach children at an early age about responsibility in their daily lives. “If you start when you’re young, you can really become very, very good at it,” he says. “They have a lot of instruction and supervision. And so they’re out there making decisions, being responsible for what they are doing.”

These lessons in responsibility have played an important role in Jack and Peter’s life. As their mother, Anna, points out, the Balboa Bay Yacht Club’s Junior Program emphasizes teamwork and independence, two important philosophies that have greatly influenced her sons. “Their independence and security within themselves is the thing I noticed the most about them,” she says. “They’re much more independent about coming home, getting homework done, and being in charge of their own programs and being organized about things. Sailing and racing requires a lot of strategy. And I do think it’s valuable for their skills outside of sailing.”

Tales From the Sailboat

At its core, sailing in Newport Beach is more than simple relaxation and racing; it’s about people experiencing life’s precious moments and sharing their tales to anyone who visits there. Ryan’s favorite sailing moment includes getting his first boat, which he named Soul. When he was sailing

SET SAIL

Learn more about the sailing and yacht clubs in Newport Beach: Balboa Yacht Club (balboayachtclub.com); Newport Harbor Yacht Club (nhyc.org); Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club (bcyc.org); Lido Isle Yacht Club (lidoisleyachtclub.org); Harbor 20 Class Association (harbor20.org).

at the college program, a friend of his named Rob Smith had a 25-foot, 1937 Seabird Yawl that was on the mooring in Newport. Rob noticed the 18-year-old's passion for boating and gave it to Ryan for free.

Ryan was soon inspired to do some research on his boat and discovered that his model had an impressive history as a pocket cruiser. He also learned that Harry Pidgeon, the second person who sailed around the world, had the same boat model. "Reading these library books gave me the confidence to fix it up and sail it from here to Costa Rica, where I spent a year," Ryan says.

One of Phil's treasured memories involved participating in the first Newport to Ensenada Regatta in 1948, where his father's boat, Antigua, finished in second place. It was after the regatta that the 15-year-old Phil met one of Hollywood's cinematic legends.

"We went ashore, and then everybody anchored," he remembers. "So, I jumped in the ponga (a 15-foot-long aluminum skiff that took the sailors ashore). I turned to look and there was Humphrey Bogart!" Bogart, who was also a member of the yacht club, had participated in the race with his boat, Santana, named after the Santa Ana winds. "[Bogart] just said to me, 'How're ya doing, kid?' That was really thrilling."

For Jack and Peter, their own sailing experiences stem from the new friendships they are presently making at the sailing program. Anna stresses how important it is for her children and other young sailors to build relationships while sailing, where special bonds are created, strengthened and reinforced as time goes on. "I think it's so wonderful—the friendships that they have in this program, and it's a confidence builder," Anna says. "And it's a lifelong thing they can be involved with."

As many young sailors like Jack and Peter grow older, they too will experience their own memorable sailing adventures on the seas, whether it is getting their own Seabird Yawl and traveling to Costa Rica, or participating in world-renowned regattas and meeting cinematic legends. Indeed, sailing in Newport Bay fulfills the human soul for every generation. **NBM**



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L Space Hippie Chic top, \$95, and Forget Me Knot bottom, \$99, both at Molly Brown's, Laguna Beach and Newport Beach; Anna Beck earrings, \$230, and ring, \$240, both at Swiss Connection Jeweler, Dana Point

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Jean Paul Gaultier for La Perla
Cage Maillot suit, \$648, at La
Perla, South Coast Plaza; Alexis
Bittar necklace, \$275, at Saks Fifth
Avenue, South Coast Plaza





Indah purple fringe bikini, \$219, at Molly Brown's, Newport Beach and Laguna Beach; silver bracelet, \$220, Swiss Connection, Dana Point; Dior sunglasses, \$490, at Saks Fifth Avenue, South Coast Plaza

Blue print suit with sequins,
\$697, at Roberto Cavalli,
South Coast Plaza.





Demi underwire top, \$110; Scanty bottom, \$64, both by L. Space, at Molly Brown's, Laguna Beach and Newport Beach; cuff, \$975, earrings, \$575, both by Stephanie Kantis, at Saks Fifth Avenue, South Coast Plaza

Individual architectural style and outdoor-living are highly prized in this family-friendly island community surrounded by Newport Bay.

ILLUSTRATION BY ROB DONNELL



FAMILY FACTS:
Diane, Dean, William (8) and Avery (6) Schmieder and a rescue dog named Wesley.

DAY JOB: Diane works in travel; Dean works in healthcare.

HOUSE TIMELINE:
Built in 1963, purchased in 2010.
SPACE: 3,160 square feet, four bedrooms, four bathrooms, plus an office.

FABULOUS FEATURE: The large, open kitchen has a long, seamless Silestone island that helps make the room perfect for entertaining.



INDOOR/OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING

WHEN THE SCHMIEDERS WENT TO SEE THE 1963 burnt orange Mediterranean stucco house with the cobalt blue door, they loved the flow of the rooms, floor plan, sun exposure—and that front door. The welcoming, oversized door remains, now a toned down blue-grey, but still the focal point of the front of their white, two-story home landscaped with large shrubs between the home and the sidewalk. The facade is simple—Mediterranean in spirit, with right angles and clean lines.

The Schmieders bought it in 2010, and then did renovations in two phases. First, they gutted the upstairs. The next phase involved remodeling the kitchen and dining room. In the end, they say, they replaced everything but the roof.

“We wanted to make it where other people could be comfortable here,” Dean says. “We wanted a big kitchen, a big island. And we could fit in here, sitting down to eat, probably a good 50 people.”

When they approached the remodel, they looked for a clean, modern take on the existing home. The result is a sleek look with a natural, welcoming vibe. The walls are white, and the floors a warm teak. They added LaCantina doors so the kitchen area opens seamlessly to the courtyard. “We wanted it to be open, to where it was almost wall-less,” Dean explains.

Outside, they put down large custom concrete pavers, and to personalize them, added shells to the concrete mix that the kids collected.

Some accents of the original home were retained, including doorknobs and light fixtures. There is also a two-story bottle glass panel that adds light and atmosphere in the stairwell, with the original railing.

“We wanted a family house—architecturally interesting—but we still wanted it to be a family home for our kids, something that would be great for all of us,” Diane says. The whole family enjoys the walkability of the neighborhood, the island’s parks and the sailing lessons at the yacht club. In addition to walking to restaurants, the Schmieders enjoy riding bikes. “Since I was 12, I’ve never been much of a bike rider, so it’s kind of fun to get on the beach cruiser and hit the town,” she adds.



FAMILY FACTS:
 Juliane, Lars, Freddy (4) and Helena (2) Mohn.
DAY JOB: Lars is a real estate investor; Juliane, a former business development associate, is currently a stay-at-home mom.
HOUSE TIMELINE:
 Built in 1959, purchased in 2008, remodeled throughout the years.
SPACE: 1,800 square feet, with three bedrooms and three baths.
FABULOUS FEATURE: Their favorite thing about the brand-new dream kitchen is that the silver floor tiles are heated—which will be appreciated in the winter mornings.

CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN STYLE

JULIANE AND LARS MOHN'S WARM, SUBTLE yellow, two-story stucco home opens to the main living area, with vaulted beam ceilings. The front of the house has a lot of window space that allows them to enjoy a view of their landscaped yard and the strada adjacent to their property. The garage faces the street, with black shuttered windows above and bougainvillea climbing up the wall.

When they bought the home in 2008, they knew they wanted to live in the peaceful beach community for all the outdoor opportunities it offered their growing family. Inventory was tight at the time, so they picked their home because it suited their needs and was nearly turnkey.

Over the years, they have made changes: They've remodeled two of the three bathrooms, removed

a fireplace from the upstairs master bedroom, replaced flooring upstairs with chicory, and stained the wood downstairs to match. They also revamped their garden, which is large by Lido Isle standards. Recently they completed a remodel of their kitchen.

They envision their home as a contemporary beach house—modern, with clean lines and European style. Juliane also wanted a European aesthetic in the new kitchen. This meant getting rid of the island, creating a more open space, with a table in the middle. “Now the living room blends in with the kitchen; it is all just one space,” she says. They also switched the appliances to all panel-front instead of stainless. They changed the floors from wood to silver tissue tile. And, Juliane adds, the tiles have floor heaters. “If we do it, I have

one chance to do it right,” she says. The room also has complementary grass cloth wallpaper. They removed the drywall from the dropped ceiling and now have a higher, slanted beam ceiling.

Besides the main living area, the downstairs includes one bedroom and bathroom, and the staircase wraps around an open, built-in office space. Upstairs, there are two more bedrooms, including the master and two bathrooms.

Another standout feature is the garage. With space being at a premium on Lido Isle, garages are a “thing” on Lido. Juliane says people stop and comment on how clean theirs is. Lars installed hooks and storage space to keep the floor clear so he could easily remove dust from the epoxy floors. “My garage is the envy of the street,” she jokes.

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FAMILY FACTS:
Phyllis and Roger Shafer have two grown children and five grandchildren that visit often.
DAY JOB: Roger is an attorney; Phyllis is a community volunteer.
HOUSE TIMELINE:
Built around 1998, purchased in 2004.
SPACE: 3,200 square feet, three bedrooms, three bathrooms.
FABULOUS FEATURE: The oversized glass front door is one-of-a-kind.



ECLECTIC ART

PHYLLIS AND ROGER SHAFER'S MODERN two-story home is bright and airy, with light travertine tiles throughout and off-white walls. Two levels of rectangular windows run up the wall opposite the entryway. The home is comfortable and not overly formal. Artwork appears throughout the home, which is decorated in a contemporary and eclectic style.

When the Shafers bought the approximately 15-year-old home in 2004, they began making a number of changes. They redid the kitchen and the landscaping, and changed the floors from the original tile to the travertine. They built a laundry room upstairs and created an open office space with skylights. Most dramatically, they moved a staircase. Hanging from the ceiling above the new

curving staircase is a crystal chandelier that they brought from their old home.

They also reconfigured the entrance to the home. The new front door is an oversized, one-of-a-kind piece—a large, steel-framed glass pane with an irregular vertical wave pattern that they selected at a craftsman's studio in Huntington Beach. A smaller, matching door leads to the home's courtyard from the street. The courtyard also has an outdoor fireplace that the Shafers enjoy on cooler evenings.

When they first visited the area, they had been looking to downsize from their larger home in Irvine. After going out with friends one night and heading over the bridge to Lido Isle, they were both intrigued—that Sunday, they started going to open houses in the neighborhood. First, they bought a

home that was too small. Then, they negotiated a trade with a couple that was looking to downsize, to end up in their current, larger home.

The quality of life is what they enjoy most about being on Lido Isle. "If I wanted to take a walk late at night, I feel very comfortable going out any time. ... I feel safe," Phyllis says.

Roger says, "You can walk over the bridge, you can go to dinner. Go to The Cannery, Bluewater Grill, or you can walk even further to Il Farro."

"And," he adds with a smile, "you don't have to worry about parking." Phyllis likes taking her coffee in the morning and sitting out by the strada. When their grandkids come to visit, they like the Strada too—to bike and to use as a canvas for their artwork in colored chalk. **NBM**

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Sunset at Kaanapali Beach, Maui

Maui Holiday

Hawaii's second-biggest island is hardly second-best with plenty to see, do and eat on its varied terrain.

BY LINDA DOMINGO

THERE'S NARY A CLOUD IN THE IMPOSSIBLY blue sky, and the even bluer ocean lies calmly beyond the soft, sandy beach and lush palm trees as we wake ourselves up with sandwiches, fresh fruit and coffee. "Cue the dolphins," one of us jokes. We laugh, but glare at the view as if we actually expect

marine life to come springing out of the ocean.

This is just the start to a typical morning while on holiday in Maui. The second-largest Hawaiian island, Maui boasts green terrain, temperate weather and luxury real estate development. All of these have made Maui a top destination choice

for travelers, even those from the sun-soaked California coast.

Stay

Set on prime Kaanapali North Beach property in the resort town of Lahaina, Honua Kai Resort &

Spa (honuakai.com) is made up of an all-suite hotel and collection of residences. Contemporary while maintaining an island feel, the resort's rooms effortlessly blend the luxurious and casual, with expansive patios and awe-inspiring mountain, resort or ocean views. Taking the aloha lifestyle to another level, the friendly and personal customer service throughout the property makes every guest's stay hassle-free. For those new to Maui, the staff is happy to suggest and/or arrange activities that would enhance any vacation.

Dining is coastal casual at Honua Kai, with Duke's Beach House serving locally sourced ingredients in Hawaiian dishes for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Also locally focused, 'Aina Gourmet Market sells a full range of groceries, as well as pastries, salads, sandwiches and to-go meals.

But the main focus of the resort may be outside—there's a pool for every member of the family, including the Waialele "Waterfall" pool for children and their parents and the Maile "Calm/Quiet" pool for adults looking for some rest and relaxation. The pool staff also rents and sells gear like boogie boards and snorkel equipment. Just past the aquatic playground lies a boardwalk and Kaanapali North Beach, a three-mile expanse ideal for sunbathing, paddleboarding and people-watching.

Another of Maui's world-class properties, The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua (ritzcarlton.com), is set on 54 acres in Kapalua and features luxurious beach-inspired accommodations, six restaurants, a convenient shuttle to nearby attractions and the Ritz-Carlton Spa, featuring uniquely Hawaiian treatments such as the organic papaya pineapple manicure and pedicure.

For those seeking a private retreat, Wailea Beach Villas (drhmaui.com) are flanked by five gorgeous beaches and located just a short walk from a plethora of spas, restaurants and shopping. For the ultimate in unwinding, massages and mini spa treatments are offered in rooms or oceanfront cabanas.

Play

Relaxation can be overwhelming. Fortunately, adventures on Maui's landscapes offer respite from a schedule chock-full of lounging. Mountains, volcanoes, beaches and rainforests all populate the island, offering something for every traveler.

For adventurous types, the village of Lahaina is a tropical paradise of lush greenery and



Honua Kai Resort & Spa



The Ritz-Carlton Kapalua

RON STARR



Enjoy sunset views of Kaanapali Beach on a cruise with Teralani.



Garlic noodles at Star Noodle

breathtaking ocean views. The tour guides at Kapalua Adventures on Kapalua Resort (kapalua.com) bring explorers up rocky terrain to the start of one of the largest ziplining courses in the country. They provide windbreakers in the case that it rains, a normal occurrence in Kapalua, one of the wettest places in the world. But a little drizzle and slightly muddy shoes only add to the excitement. The resort is also an idyllic setting for hiking, tennis and other fun diversions.

If swinging above the treetops doesn't sound attractive, tamer activities provide guests with more options for entertainment and adventure. Teralani's fleet of catamarans (teralani.net) takes passengers out to sea from Kaanapali Beach for a refreshing sunset cruise, complete with appetizers and adult beverages. But for those who prefer to stay on dry land, the nearby Whalers Village (whalersvillage.com) is full of top beach clothing brands, jewelry and specialty boutiques, and eateries.

Dine

A coveted local favorite conveniently set in Lahaina's shopping district, Mala Ocean Tavern (malaoceantavern.com) is located on the water, and diners can choose to eat inside the quaint cottage of a restaurant, or out on the covered patio where they are just feet from waves lapping against rocks and sea turtles looking for algae. Diners rarely choose unwisely on a menu of fresh seafood, but the Kama'aina mai tai should be in everyone's hand—the cocktail won first place in Bacardi's Best Mai Tai on Maui contest. Just outside the restaurant, Lahaina's

multitude of colorful boutiques surrounding the enormous, century-old banyan tree present the perfect place to peruse and burn off calories.

"Top Chef" contestant Sheldon Simeon and his restaurant Star Noodle (starnoodle.com) serve up some of the best of the East on the

island. Instead of following the overplayed Asian "fusion" trend, the restaurant's dishes offer many classic Asian flavors presented in innovative ways. The chef's garlic noodles have earned him local fame, so order abundantly and without regard; the plates were meant for sharing. Pair with a



Ziplining in Maui



Whole-wok fried fish at Mala Ocean Tavern

beer from Maui Brewing Co. or a signature cocktail and leave room for malasadas—a Hawaiian dessert made of deep-fried dough covered in sugar, served with chocolate, butterscotch and caramel sauces, and peanuts. With a menu that spans close to 30 entrees, including shared plates and noodles, sweet treats, and a full bar stocked with sake and star specialty cocktails, everyone is sure to find something pleasing to the palate.

Elegant dining experiences are also plentiful, one such being Humuhumunukunukuapuaa restaurant (grandwailea.com), named for the state fish. Set on a saltwater lagoon filled with tropical fish, the restaurant is a romantic choice for sunset dinners.

Another upscale option is The Plantation House (theplantationhouse.com) on Kapalua Resort, which showcases Hawaiian fare through signature items such as kampachi tartare, seared ahi and Maui pineapple cake. The restaurant is also a well-known 19th hole for golfers unwinding after a round on the resort's Plantation Course. For a seafood-centric meal any time of day with amazing views, head south for Gannon's restaurant (gannonsrestaurant.com), created by Bev Gannon, The Maui News' and Maui No Ka 'Oi Magazine's "Best Chef on Maui" winner.

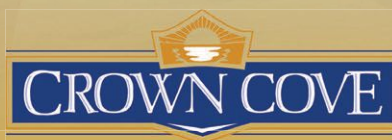
Travelers to Maui may be surprised by the diversity of the island's landscape and the abundant activities it offers visitors and residents alike. Even Orange County natives, who are accustomed to living and working in a vacation spot, will be impressed by Maui's paradisiacal display. **NBM**

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In Kauai's Poipu Beach community, the palate delights in flavors of the Garden Isle.

BY ALLISON HATA



Creme brulee from Tidepools



Tortilla Republic



Red Salt poke dish

A paradise for those seeking an off-the-beaten path island experience and a resort setting, the Garden Isle offers the best of both worlds. Travelers visiting picturesque Poipu Beach may come for the sights of lush tropical scenery, but end up indulging another sense as they tour Kauai's South Shore with their taste buds.

BREAKFAST BITES

A place where it's perfectly acceptable to indulge in a cocktail before noon, Tortilla Republic offers a selection of morning drinks that go far beyond the basic bloody mary, plus an extensive menu of modern Mexican breakfast specialties. Flavors of the island mingle with mainland influences in dishes like the seared ahi and sweet potato hash. For an authentic Latin-inspired feast, however, a must-order entree is the relleno poblano—a stuffed chili pepper filled with a mouthwatering mixture of scrambled eggs, spinach, Monterey Jack cheese and pico de gallo.

Wash it all down with a crisp swallow from one of the restaurant's six refreshing morning cocktails, such as the michelada, a Mexican beer cocktail served with tequila, lime juice, habanero hot sauce and clamato for a complex, rich taste. If you miss breakfast, Tortilla Republic also offers expanded cocktail and food options for lunch, dinner and happy hour. (808-742-8884; tortillarepublic.com)

FINE FARE

Skip lunch and head straight to dinner,

where two premier island establishments offer meals to remember.

Savor contemporary Hawaiian cuisine at Tidepools at the Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa, which features a tranquil waterfall and views of the ocean. Prime your palate with a platter of melt-in-your mouth hama-chi served with thinly sliced watermelon and white soy vinaigrette, then move on to a fresh catch, like the macadamia nut-encrusted mahi mahi complemented by a subtly sweet papaya-avocado relish. If there's room for dessert—and there always is—opt for the heavenly Hawaiian vanilla and coconut creme brulee, served in a coconut shell for a true taste of the island. (808-240-6456; grandhyattkauai.com/restaurants)

Just up the road, the understated yet elegant Red Salt at the boutique Koa Kea Hotel & Resort allows its sweeping views of the garden, pool and ocean to do the talking. At the restaurant, whimsical presentation is everything: The Red Salt poke dish is artfully plated as a checkerboard of red and white fish (ahi and waloo), served atop paper-thin slices of Japanese cucumber with a garnish of orange or wasabi tobiko. After dinner, a visit to the lounge bar is a must, where the signature Red Coral martini featuring vanilla, raspberry and cranberry vodka with pomegranate juice provides a sweet finish to the evening. (808-828-8888; koakea.com)

From breakfast to dinner and every happy

hour and brunch in between, Kauai's South Shore has countless fresh options to tempt your taste buds.

ON THE ISLE

Here we offer a guide to some of the best places to stay and play for a true South Shore vacation.

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WITH CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE SAND AND SWEEPING OCEAN VIEWS, Newport Beach offers some of the best homes in Orange County. On the following pages, we bring you a special section that highlights some of the nicest neighborhoods and most spectacular homes on the market today. All of the properties are represented by Orange County's top Realtors and real estate agents, dedicated to sharing their extensive knowledge and providing exemplary customer service.

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VILLA



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5 bedroom | 4 bathroom | 3,228 sq. ft. residence size



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4 bedroom | 3 bathroom | 2,850 sq. ft. residence size



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88 Linda Isle

NEWPORT BEACH | \$11,900,000 | 88linda.com

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16 Bay Island

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VILLA



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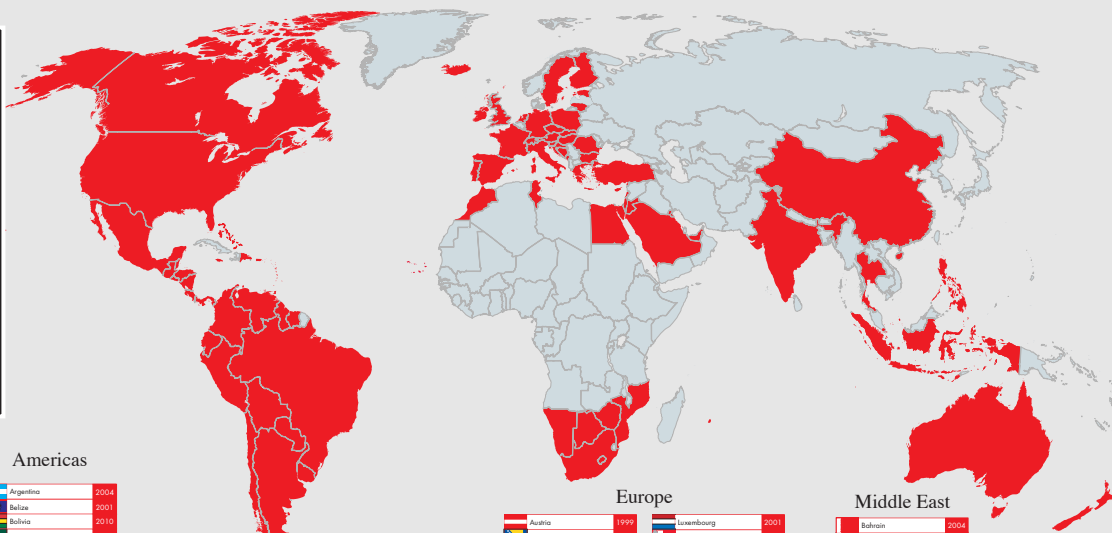
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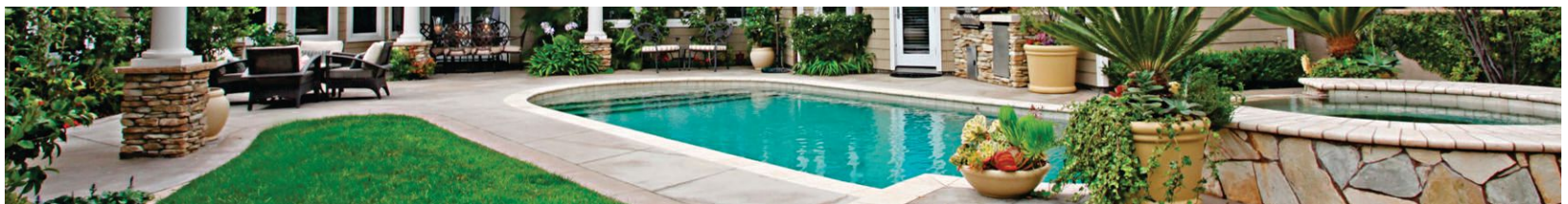
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The Hyatt Regency, 21500 E. Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach; 714-845-4776; huntingtonbeach.hyatt.com

FIRST CABIN RESTAURANT

The Balboa Bay Club, 1221 W. Coast Hwy.; 949-630-4145; balboabayclub.com

PALM TERRACE

The Island Hotel, 690 Newport Center Dr.; 949-760-4920; theislandhotel.com

RAYA

The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel, 1 Ritz Carlton Dr., Dana Point; 949-240-2000; ritzcarlton.com

SAM & HARRY'S

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

STONEHILL TAVERN

The St. Regis Monarch Beach, 1 Monarch Beach Resort, Dana Point; 949-234-3200; stregismb.com

STUDIO

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DOCK AND DINE ON THE SEA

All hands on deck are busy enjoying the delicacies offered at SOL Cocina through its novel catering program called “Dock & Dine,” which extends the restaurant experience to guests who choose to eat in their boats parked at the docks of the Balboa Marina. Pull up to a slip right outside of SOL Cocina—numbers 65, 66 or 74—and prepare to indulge your taste buds in a delicious Mexican feast. The five tasting menus offered dockside feature a range of options that are designed to serve six to 10 guests; build your own tacos through the Azul or Tacos Sol menus, or sample the best of the Pacific with the Sol del Mar Mariscos menu, which offers fresh ceviche, crudo and more. All dishes include house-made tostadas, borracho black bean dip, chipotle tomatillo salsa, limes, hot sauce and salt for the complete dining experience on the water. (949-675-9800; solcocina.com) —L.M.





STONEHILL TAVERN

A MINA RESTAURANT



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NB EATS

VILLAGE INN



Salted brownie sandwich



Pan-seared Loch Duart salmon



Endless Summer, bloody mary and Sandy Feet cocktails

A New Era

The newly reinvented Village Inn brings a more contemporary flair to the rooted establishment.

BY ALLI TONG

WHEN DANIEL AND JESSICA MILLER BOUGHT the Village Inn (or the VI, as they prefer to call it) in April 2012, they saw the great potential in the relaxed dive bar, rooted in downtown Balboa Island for more than 80 years. While locals warmly refer to it as the “Cheers” of Newport, Dan and Jessica saw more than just a place to grab a beer; they saw a place where anyone could walk in, have a leisurely meal and conversation, and walk out with a memorable experience. Now, a year and a half later, they’ve reinvented the menu, space and service to bring a modern flair, yet keep the community feel.

One of the key elements was to bring in a seasoned chef—Victor Sandoval, who comes with a wealth of experience and culinary mastery. Take for instance the elegant ahi poke appetizer, made with fresh tuna, poke sauce and avocado, and served with house-made wonton chips. “We want to change people’s minds and perspectives,” Victor says, adding

that their dishes are all made from scratch.

The approachable, contemporary American cuisine includes savory staples such as the Blue Burger, a juicy 8-ounce Angus beef patty topped with blue cheese crumbles, caramelized onion, tomato, lettuce and a house-made spread, and served on a fluffy brioche bun. There’s also the pan-seared Loch Duart salmon with a tarragon beurre blanc, sautéed vegetables and garlic mashed potatoes. The Village Inn doesn’t skimp on salad, either—the flank steak salad boasts savory flank steak, grilled vegetables, egg, tomatoes, blue cheese crumbles and balsamic vinaigrette, all tossed in greens.

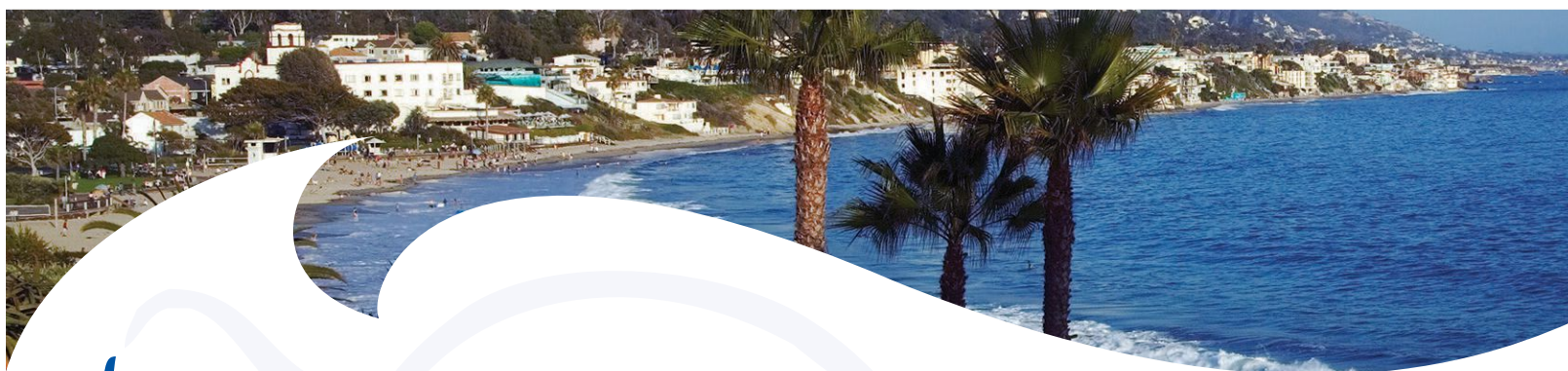
The restaurant’s cocktails got an overhaul, too. Guests can sip on innovative drinks such as the Sandy Feet, made with pineapple-infused Don Q Cristal rum, mint, lemon juice, simple syrup and Caravella limoncello. Owner Jessica helped to concoct the signature VI bloody mary, hand-mixed

with 10 ingredients and Sobieski Vodka, and garnished with celery and lemon—a perfect complement to breakfast served on Saturdays and Sundays.

No meal is complete without dessert—and chef Victor created a truly tooth-licking sweet treat: the salted brownie sandwich: a house-made brownie with sea salt, topped with rum-infused caramel, and served with cinnamon ice cream.

While the food is reason enough to linger, the restaurant also has live music every night, and happy hours run Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m., making it the ideal place to watch football this season. The VI also offers private transportation Friday and Saturday nights (complimentary on the island, and from north Huntington to south Laguna, as well as Costa Mesa and Irvine), ensuring guests safe rides home. While the VI may be the “Cheers” of Newport, it’s also paving the way as one of Balboa Island’s premier dining destinations. **NBM**

Village Inn, 127 Marine Ave., Newport Beach; 949-675-8300; vibalboaisland.com



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NB EATS

FLY 'N' FISH RESTAURANT



Bacon wrapped scallops



Pomegranate martini



Cioppino: shrimp, scallops, clams, mussels, calamari, crab and fish

Out of the Blue

Fly 'N' Fish serves up an unexpected trove of flavor for those serious about seafood.

BY LINDA DOMINGO

IN THESE FOOD-CENTRIC, HIPSTER-DOMINATED times when everyone knows everything there is to know about food, avoiding a certain air of snobbery is an art form. Thankfully, the 10-month-old Fly 'N' Fish Oyster Bar & Grill, adjacent to the Newport Beach Hotel on Oceanfront, executes the delicate balancing act of providing fine dining in an unpretentious atmosphere where diners are welcome to "roll up [their] sleeves, get down, get dirty and dig in," says Julio Hawkins, executive chef at the restaurant. "That's what it's all about."

The boutique eatery is an unexpected treat for those who venture past the crowds that gather outside Mutt Lynch's—Fly 'N' Fish is a small, 11-table, 56-seat restaurant with a bar and a couple coveted high tables by the large windows, perfect for people-watching and taking in the sunset over the beach.

The menu isn't particularly unique—diners will find expected dishes like oysters and fish plates along with salads, sandwiches and steak. The

surprise comes in the food's execution: Chef Julio, a Seattle transplant, and the culinary team at Fly 'N' Fish serve up fresh, flavorful and artfully-plated seafood that exceeds the normal expectations for tourist-heavy areas like this stretch of Oceanfront.

The New England clam chowder is a good example of the chef's keep-it-simple philosophy—it's creamy without being overly thick, and a good start to dinner at Fly 'N' Fish. The chef takes care to bring in quality ingredients such as environmentally responsible seafood from Santa Monica Seafood (a partner of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch program) and sourdough bread from Venice Beach's Etxea bakery. These ingredients shine through in plates like the spicy ahi poke, a twist on traditional poke dishes with macadamia nuts added for texture. The bacon wrapped scallops are a standout small plate with three perfectly-wrapped, plump scallops served with generous dots of achiote pepper aioli and a small side of greens.

Popular specialties include the cioppino—a medley of savory shrimp, clams, mussels, crab and more, simmered in red wine sauce. For a hearty serving of fish, try the macadamia-encrusted halibut, a large cut served in Grand Marnier fumet. The house scalloped potatoes are a clever side dish that's conducive to sharing; of course the classic cole slaw or French fries are also available.

Regulars populate the bar, drinks in hand—and as the saying goes, when in Rome ... have a martini. All cocktails are made with fresh-squeezed juices—the pomegranate martini is a must-try, void of any artificial fruit flavor. The Salty Dog is also a popular choice, made with grapefruit juice and vodka with a salted rim.

And while the dessert menu is small, it's hardly lacking. The dark chocolate lava cake or bread pudding in combination with the Newport sunset and friendly atmosphere will have you sold—hook, line and sinker. **NBM**

Fly 'N' Fish Oyster Bar & Grill, 2304 W. Oceanfront; 949-673-8400; flynfishoysterbar.com



A FRESH JUICE STAND

Ritual JuiceBox celebrated the opening of its second Orange County storefront in Corona del Mar in June. Pick up 100 percent USDA-certified organic, raw and cold-pressed fruit, nut and vegetable juices and cleanses. Hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (714-786-8922; ritualjuicebox.com) —A.B.

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➔ TASTE OF THE TOWN

A TASTE OF TAIWAN

One of Taiwan's most praised restaurants since 1958 makes its way across the sea to South Coast Plaza—Orange County's first and only location—in 2014. Named one of the top 10 dining establishments in the world by The New York Times, the award-winning Din Tai Fung boasts authentic Pan-Asian fare but is particularly famous for its small, delicately steamed dumplings. With a selection of more than 10 varieties (fish, shrimp, pork, chicken and vegetarian, to name a few), it's impossible to grow tired of the delicacy. But Din Tai's offerings of gourmet green salads, wontons and noodle dishes are also must-savors. (dintaifungusa.com) —A.B.



THE ALLEY

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thealleynewportbeach.com

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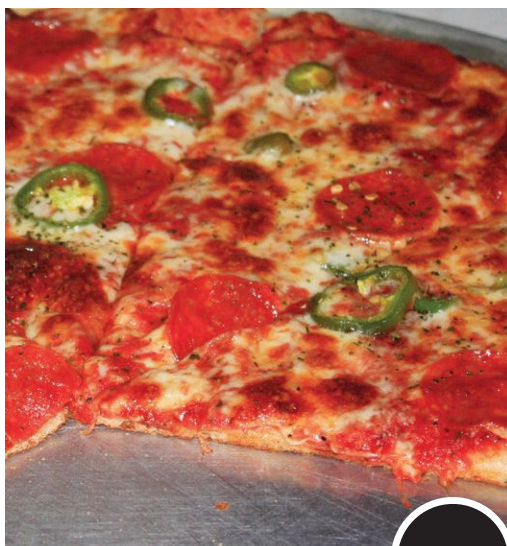
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Wine from Centanni Vineyard

A SIP OF THE MARCHE

Thanks to Jonathan Zeiger, Orange County oenophiles will soon be connected to the Marche region through a new wine distribution business, ZGR Imports. The company, founded in 2012, has a mission to do more than just distribute fine Italian wine; it also strives to teach consumers about the idyllic Marche region on Italy's central coast. Jonathan feels there is a strong similarity between Orange County and the Marche region: "When I'm there, I feel like I'm in California," he says. "There's a connection as far as the cultural and coastal feel, and that's where I see the link between us, in Orange County, and the people in the Marche." Under the direction of Laguna Beach local Nathan Cross, the sale of wines from Centanni Vineyard, followed by those of Rio Maggio and Château Brandeau, will begin to cater to select Orange County restaurants this July, but wine will also be available for purchase online. Each variety of wine boasts exceptional quality, but more importantly, serves as a reminder of the connection to the alluring atmosphere of the Marche. (949-350-4716; zgrimports.com) —*L.M. NBM*

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WHY NOT IN NEWPORT?

A Newport Beach Magazine editor wonders why polo ponies aren't part of Newport Beach athletics.

BY KARLEE PRAZAK

It recently caught my attention when I heard that Balboa Bay Club's (BBC) Duke's Place welcomed the Newport Beach Polo Club. The team is slated to compete at the Celebrity Ranch Polo Club arena in Temecula with BBC's support, which includes luxury shuttle service from BBC to the arena.

While the polo club itself has a fantastic mission to raise money for local charities, I have to admit the name throws me for a loop. With so many sprawling beaches in Newport, you'd think this was a "beach polo club"—one that takes to the sand rather than the well-trimmed fields of grass in inland locations. But the club is part of the latter group. This raises the question: Why not have an actual beach polo club in Newport?

Simply put, it would bring the sport of kings and its unique viewing experience to the masses, according to International Beach Polo Association Chairman Alex Webbe.

"Watching beach polo is different than watching field polo because of the size of the playing surface and the background of the ocean," Alex says. "The spectators are sitting right on top of the action, close enough to see the emotions in the faces of the players and horses!"

Beach polo has an intimate playing area—approximately one-ninth the size of a traditional field at 100 yards long by 50 yards wide—so, logistically, Newport has plenty of sand space to support the sport. Many beaches stretching from the Balboa Pier to the mouth of the Santa Ana River support two volleyball courts side-by-side (each close to 10 yards wide with spacing between) and still require an at least 20-yard walk to the courts and another 40 yards to the water's edge. For spectators, Alex explains one side of the arena is typically VIP, whereas the other is free and open to the public—where it isn't frowned upon to don a swimsuit and catch some rays while observing the finest in polo ponies. Factor in these areas, and



INTERNATIONAL BEACH POLO ASSOCIATION

The author proposes a beach polo club in Newport Beach like the one hosted in Miami.

Newport will have the only beach polo club on the West Coast.

That's right—the only ocean-side venue in the U.S. is the Miami Beach Polo Club. There is the Chicago Beach Polo Club, which plays on North Avenue Beach on the shores of Lake Michigan, but that's on a lake. Internationally speaking, the sport garners a large following in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (the origin of beach polo); Sylt, Germany; Sandbanks, U.K.; Viareggio, Italy and various other European locations.

Think of the positive impact Newport will experience from welcoming this niche crowd.

"The benefits of hosting a beach polo event are similar to the benefits of hosting other high-profile sporting events," Alex says. "They attract people to the area; they fill hotel rooms, restaurants and shops in the area. ... The sport of polo just reinforces the stature of the Newport community."

An increase in visitor traffic—both people and ponies—will require extensive setup and tear-

down processes to support the field regulations, judges, player and pony areas, et cetera. But I say, look north for the solution.

Each year Huntington Beach transforms the pier area into a surf contest and spectator haven for the U.S. Open of Surfing. Anything from retail shopping to beach volleyball tournaments to X Games-style skate contests to concerts are hosted on the sand in addition to the surf contest towers and bleachers. And each year, Huntington is able to use precautionary tactics and garner a large enough following of volunteers to help with the cleanup.

Alex says the only other town to recently entertain this idea was Manhattan Beach in Los Angeles County, but it was unsuccessful due to preexisting legislature in the area. With Newport Beach's demographic and beachfront real estate, the city has the perfect combination to put the West Coast on the map for beach polo. If anything, the polo ponies will draw enough attention to justify welcoming the sport. NBM

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