



Sandpiper

DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY JOURNAL

Volume 25 Number 10 December 2021

NOBLE NOBEL DAD

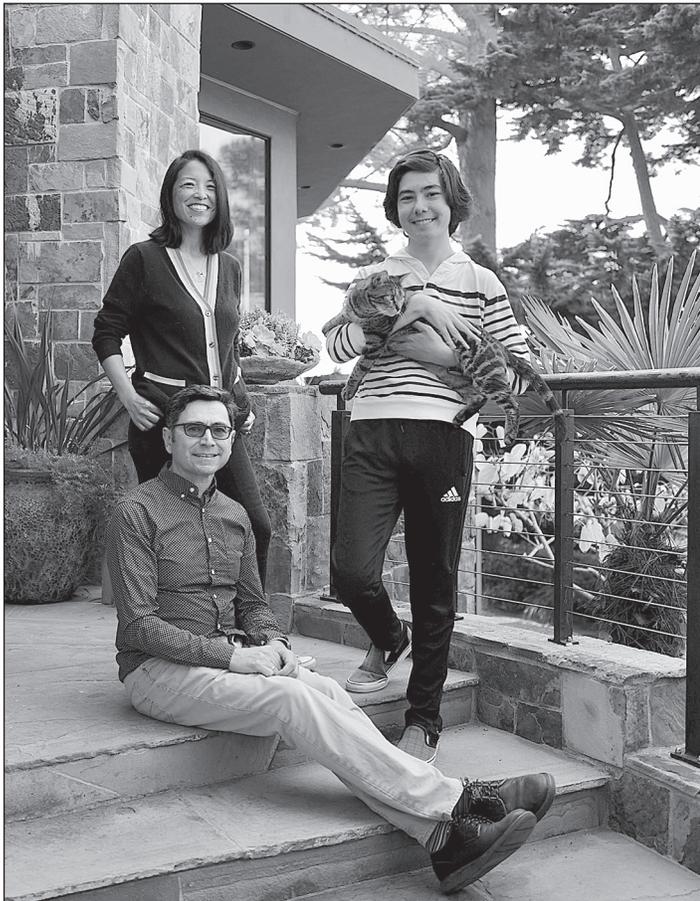
by Luca Patapoutian | Luzon Avenue

My dad, Ardem Patapoutian, is a professor at Scripps Research who studies the biological process known as mechanotransduction, or how our bodies sense touch. On October 4 this fall, my family got a big surprise. On this day, he was named the co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine with Dr. David Julius of UCSF. On November 3, he gave a lecture at my school, Bishop's in La Jolla. I volunteered to introduce him to the crowd, and below are my slightly adapted remarks from the event.

Hello everyone and thank you for coming to tonight's Schaffer Family Lecture on Science. I am Luca Patapoutian, a senior here at Bishop's, and it is my pleasure to introduce the recent Nobel laureate in physiology or medicine,



Ardem and Luca Patapoutian playing pétanque at the Del Mar Civic Center.



*Ardem (seated) and his family: Nancy Hong (standing, left) and son Luca (standing, right)
Photos courtesy Nancy Hong.*

and my dad, Ardem Patapoutian. I'd like to use this introduction to go through our family's experience over the last month. It has been a very surreal time, and I didn't really know what to expect going in, so let's discuss some of the myths that surround the prize: MythBusters, Nobel edition.

Myth #1: the 2am phone call. The Prize is awarded by the Karolinska Institute at 4 pm local time in Sweden. So starting at 1am here, we were called four times, none of which we received (thanks, Do not Disturb). It wasn't until they reached my 94-year old grandpa's landline that we were actually alerted to the news just before 2:30am. So yes, this myth is confirmed.

Myth #2: Is he a celebrity now? My dad now has over 18k Twitter followers (you can follow him @ardemp), which in science is a fairly decent number. He was in the legendary news site The Onion and the esteemed Bishop's publication The Daily Urinal. But as Jimmy Kimmel showed (<https://bit.ly/Luca-link>), most Americans will find it easier to name five Starbucks drinks than a single Nobel laureate. Even I don't remember who won it last year, so I think that is typical in our country. So yes, there are the 15 minutes of fame in some circles, but overall, most laureates don't become household names. Celebrity Myth: let's call it plausible.

continued on page 3

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP LACKING

It's 2041. Global warming has accelerated faster than predicted, and the economy is in freefall. Our children ask, "what were our parents thinking in 2021 when they had a chance to take meaningful action and punted. Now it's very late to stop the damage."

Two recent events highlight the challenges of reducing global warming and the dire consequences failure portends. One with global implications was the lack of meaningful actions at the UN Global Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland, particularly from countries with the greatest CO2 emissions like China and the United States (see Table 1 below). The second with local implications was the Del Mar Council discussion on November 1st about what our city could do (or not do) to combat global warming.

Joe Manchin notwithstanding, the primary reason the earth is warming is the burning of fossil fuels. If we hope to reach a carbon-free future, we must take much more action than the global community has promised and failed to deliver. That means that taking local action (as the draft county Regional Decarbonization Framework concludes) is essential to making meaningful progress. Some have

argued (including Councilmember Druker) that it makes no difference what we as individuals in small Del Mar do if China, India and Russia don't reduce their emissions and the US federal government moves slowly (thanks again, Joe Manchin) to reduce the use of fossil fuels. But let's reject that argument and say that local governments and our citizens can take actions that make a difference, much as the State of California has been a leader for our nation in addressing climate change and its consequences.

Table 1. The top 10 countries based on CO2-equivalent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2016.

COUNTRY	TOTAL CO2 EMISSIONS (TONS X 1000)	PER CAPITA CO2 EMISSIONS/YEAR (TONS)
CHINA	10,432,751	7.38
USA	5,011,686	15.52
INDIA	2,533,638	1.91
RUSSIA	1,661,899	11.44
JAPAN	1,239,592	9.70
GERMANY	755,752	9.44
CANADA	675,918	18.58
IRAN	642,560	8.08
SOUTH KOREA	604,043	11.85
INDONESIA	530,035	2.03

Del Mar has made a good start by joining the Clean Energy Alliance and opting for 100% clean energy for municipal buildings. But the discussion on November 1st, which was put on the agenda by Deputy Mayor Worden and Councilmember Martinez, was disheartening even though it contained no action items. Councilmember Druker said that it is too late to take any meaningful action because climate change is already here and we should focus our resources on adaptation to rising sea levels, higher temperatures, more wildfires, and extreme weather events. He repeated the mantra that Del Mar is too small to make a difference in global warming, so let's just prepare for the worst. Mayor Gaasterland had more positive comments but her remarks were mainly focused on small personal actions that Del Mar residents can take, like switching to LED light bulbs. There was apparent agreement on restarting meetings of the Sustainability Advisory Board in January next year (after a 2-year hiatus), but important city actions such as adopting a building electrification ordinance (like our neighboring cities of Encinitas and Solana Beach) or updating our Climate Action Plan were supported by Councilmembers Worden and Martinez, but these proposals were met with scepticism from others as requiring too much staff time (staff will return with time estimates). Even though the majority of the council viewed climate change as an imminent threat, the sense that Del Mar can be a regional leader in facing this challenge was missing. Our nation is the second largest polluter in the world. Baby steps won't cut it, at the local or international level. We are facing a climate emergency and need bold steps and bold leadership now. ■



Sandpiper

DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY JOURNAL

The Sandpiper is published by the Del Mar Community Alliance, a 501(C)(4) non-profit. Its purpose is to advocate the Del Mar Community Plan, to foster informed public and government decision-making regarding issues affecting the community of the City of Del Mar, and to encourage a social and political climate favorable to the protection of the community character of the City of Del Mar and its environs.

Editorial Board: Jeff Barnouw, Valérie Dufort-Roy, Bud Emerson, Virginia Lawrence, Hylton Lonstein, Julie Maxey-Allison, Don Mosier, Betty Wheeler.

All editors, writers, and photographers are unpaid volunteers.

This publication depends upon the contributions of readers like you. Send your contribution to: Sandpiper, Box 2177, Del Mar, CA 92014 (make checks payable to Sandpiper), or donate online at www.delmarsandpiper.org. Contributions are not tax-deductible.

Thanks to our major donors:

Founders' Circle

Jeff Barnouw remembering Dagmar Barnouw

Chuck Newton Circle

Diana Marquard & Rod Franklin, Rosanne & Joel Holliday

Publishers' Circle

Mary Ann & Bud Emerson,
Lynn & Charlie Gaylord, Maryka & George Hoover,
Louise Keeling in memory of Dave Keeling

John Kerridge Circle

Penny & Buck Abell, Patty & Marc Brutton, Linda & Frank Chisari, Melissa & Bob Gans, Ann Feeney & Don Mosier, Anne & John Farrell, Mary & Jeffrey Friestedt, Nancy Fisher & Mike Salt, Susan & Judd Halenza, Ellie & Tim Haviland, Lee Haydu & Bill Sims, Pat JaCoby, Shirley King & Art Olson, Deborah Lawson & Paul Cleveland, Sherryl Parks, Karen & Phil Posner, Suzi Resnik & Stan Marks, Gloria Sandvik & Harold Feder, Rose Ann & Ira Sharp, Rande & Glenn Warren, Betty Wheeler, Dwight Worden

CLIMATE ACTION URGENCY

by Bruce Bekkar, MD | Spinnaker Court

Testimony to Del Mar City Council, November 1

I am a surfer, a beach lover and an OB/GYN physician, and Del Mar has been my home since autumn of 1975. I have been active with climate change since 2007, shortly after reading an article from Scripps Institution of Oceanography called, “The end of the world as we know it.” In 2013, I left a busy practice to focus my energies on helping to solve this crisis; I have led the Sustainability Advisory Board in Del Mar and currently serve as Chair of the Public Health Advisory Council of the Climate Action Campaign, working to unify the growing voice of doctors around the health risks of climate change.

I’ve seen a number of changes since my involvement began; there is now worldwide scientific consensus around the reality of man-made climate change. The dangers to human health have become well known; the most vulnerable include children, the elderly, the poor and minorities, and pregnant women and their babies. Far from overstating the risks, the scientific community has not anticipated the speed at which the climate crisis would unfold - which is not good news. Next, public opinion has shifted away from denial across the US, more closely aligning with our obvious and alarming reality. This last change has exposed the legions of people “aware and concerned” about this existential threat who believe they’re doing enough just because they recycle a bit more or bring a reusable bag to Whole Foods.

As I write this the world is gathered in Glasgow at COP26 to confront this scourge upon nature. Government leaders are likely to come up short of what is needed yet again, but this is not entirely their fault. There are simply not enough of us, and I do literally mean you and I, that are actively changing how we live, willing to make meaningful sacrifices, and demanding real change from our leaders, to prevent future generations from inheriting an unlivable world.

I’ve always been proud to call Del Mar home, not just because of the natural beauty here, but because of our community’s values: we honor science, shared responsibility, and the preservation of nature over the built environment. We need our City Council to honor those very values at this dangerous time. They must reach beyond easy or popular half-measures and, having asked for our vote, lead us to safety.

Recently, as we faced the devastation brought by the coronavirus, the most important moral question was, “What can I do to help?” Getting vaccinated was something many of us did primarily for this reason. Applying this same question to our climate crisis, the answer is, we need to act decisively and now. It is vitally important for our Council to approve all of Deputy Mayor Worden’s climate action →



*Happy Holidays!
Photo by Julie Maxey-Allison.*

FROM NOBLE NOBEL DAD *page 1*

Last one: now, our sincere thanks to everyone offering my family their congratulations, but the most common phrase we hear is “What a great achievement!” I want to make the point that the Nobel isn’t actually the prize. We never talked about it or even really wanted to think about it. We were not in the Nobel waiting room, so to speak. For my dad, the goal was and always will be to do great science. Getting recognized for that is fantastic but shouldn’t change anything. So for now, for us at least, that myth is busted.

Now as part of my dad’s ego management team, I invite you to give a small round of applause for his talk on the true prize, the molecules that are responsible for our sense of touch!

Postscript: Nobel Week is December 6-10 this year, with the celebrations in Stockholm postponed one more year due to COVID-19. Instead my dad recorded his Nobel lecture at Scripps, and it will be posted at [NobelPrize.org](https://www.nobelprize.org), where you can also find background on his and other laureates’ research. ■

recommendations, which will also help protect everyone’s health and preserve this place we love.

We are running out of time and every one of us is called to action. ■

BLAH BLAH VS CLIMATE ACTION

by Jasmine Criqui | Torrey Pines High School Senior

THE POWER OF GENEROSITY

by Betty Wheeler, DMF President

If you told me that “December” comes from the Latin word for “generosity,” I would believe you – or at least I would want to believe you, because the spirit of generosity seems to shine brightest as we approach the year’s end. The Foundation is powered by that spirit, and especially in December, we see many individual acts of generosity that flow together to become a powerful force for good.

In last month’s column, we detailed our 2020-21 community grants totaling over \$240,000. The stories behind each grant are more significant, in my estimation, than the amount – and together, they paint a compelling picture of who we are as a community, and how we work together to meet critical needs and make Del Mar a better place.

Other columns have focused on DMF’s wide array of cultural and community events – many held virtually at the beginning of this year, and then, as Covid-19 conditions allowed, returning with great joy to in-person events. Perhaps your favorite was the Halloween Dog Parade; or the exquisite music of the Hausmann Quartet, or the recent DMFTalk on wildlife conservation. I certainly can’t pick a favorite, because to me, the magic of all of these events is the profound sense of community that they foster.

For everything you do to bring the spirit of generosity to Del Mar, whether it’s by supporting DMF or by other means, the Foundation sends out its warmest thanks to you. And here’s wishing you a bright new year, full of the beautiful Del Mar days we are so privileged to enjoy! ■



The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) was recently held in Glasgow, Scotland from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12. The summit drew praise for agreements to rein in deforestation and methane emissions, along with ire from those who thought it did not go far enough to cut emissions significantly and prevent environmental collapse.

Famed 18-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg tweeted that when it comes to the climate crisis at large, “small steps in the right direction,’ ‘making some progress’ or ‘winning slowly’ [equal] losing.” As for COP26, she summarized it as “blah, blah, blah,” and said that “the real work” was still to be done.

Rami, a sophomore at Torrey Pines High School and a member of the environmental group Citizens’ Climate Lobby, echoed this sentiment.

“They’ve made some good policies, but it’s not enough. Which is sort of the pattern that’s been going on for the last few decades,” Rami said.

Citizens’ Climate Lobby is currently working to get a bill that would establish a carbon tax through congress.

“Feeling powerless is not going to do anything,” Rami said, referring to an outlook he has observed in himself and his peers. “You have to try in any way you can to persuade the people in power to take action.”

Meanwhile, domestic legislation makes some hopeful signs that the United States is headed in the right direction. Mike Levin, the congressional representative for the 49th district of California, discussed the anticipated effects of Joe Biden’s Build Back Better Act in a Nov. 13 town hall. Levin said that as a result of the bill, \$500 billion would be dedicated to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the form of investments in “the way we move goods, the way we move people around, the way we build buildings, and the way we grow food.”

“Climate change doesn’t care if you’re in a Republican community or a Democratic community. It doesn’t care how you vote. It just exists in scientific practice, just like everything else,” Levin said.

There are still steps governments can take to prevent, lessen, or reverse the worst effects of climate change. The biggest issue, however, is getting people to care enough to do something about it.

“I feel like it shouldn’t be seen as weird for someone to be interested in climate,” Rami said. “Especially for the younger generation, for them to be worried about the future of our planet.”

Rami hopes that through his work at Citizens’ Climate Lobby and his coverage of climate-related issues in his school paper, he can encourage others to take action. ■

CONCRETE CLIMATE STEPS

by Valérie Dufort-Roy and Sudepto Roy | Klish Way

We are encouraged by the discussion on climate change at our City’s November 1st 2021 Council. Expanding on the red-dot letter we had submitted in support, we have elaborated below some steps both individuals and City governments can consider adopting, for tackling the multi-faceted challenges resulting from climate change. These are well-known practices and may potentially fulfill many of the goals outlined in our city’s Community Plan while leaving our city in a better shape for our children. ■

City-Level Actions	Individual Actions
Incentivize and require all-electric construction codes for new building and renovation permits; inform residents on better options for carbon-free appliances and construction materials.	Consider adopting LED lighting, smart thermostats/heating/cooling, replacing gas stoves with induction cooktops, installing solar panels, solar/electric water heating, solar cooking, etc.
Mandate/reward businesses for using greener energy sources.	Avail of government and commercial rebates for alternative energy sources.
Promote green construction codes and incentives.	Explore hiring green builders and benefit from incentives at times of remodel.
Reduce City delivery frequencies (i.e., packaging, truck visits).	Scale back personal delivery frequencies and shop at local stores.
Support greener transportation in Del Mar.	Walk and bike locally, whenever possible!
Promote water harvesting, reusing of gray waters for gardens (from laundry, showers, sinks) by facilitating or waiving permits for retrofitting.	Install low flush toilets, showerheads, water barrels, and explore gray water diversion towards our gardens.
Promote local gardening by encouraging water-wise spaces (parks, green belts) and excluding tropical water-sucking, low-shade landscapes.	Consider water-wise gardening practices, utilizing native plants, growing fruit and veggies, and integrating pollinators friendly plants.
Promote greener eating (e.g., plant-based options in local restaurants).	Integrate locally sourced nutrient rich plant-based foods to your diet.
Assess the City’s waste volume/content, and if it could be reduced.	Repair, reuse, recycle, repurpose, trade, donate!
Prevent soil erosion and promote healthier watershed management practices to protect our ecosystems (lagoon, beaches, bluffs, canyons).	Consider individual practices that protect our topsoil, watershed and discharge of harmful substances into our sewers.
Support regulations that promote eco-friendly packaging in California and discourage use of deceptively marketed (greenwashed) packaging.	Visit Ocean Friendly certified restaurants and consider using reusable containers for restaurants leftovers or takeout.
Practice carbon sequestration & offsetting at a city level, at our city parks and city-maintained landscaping.	Consider adding compost generated from your food waste, adding shrubs and trees with better rooting systems, boosting garden bio-diversity.

BOOSTERS NOW !!...!

by Don Mosier, MD, PhD

As of November 12th, all California residents over 18 are eligible for a booster shot with a COVID vaccine. Boosters can be administered six months after full vaccination with the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, and two months after Johnson & Johnson's (J&J) single shot. This state guidance allows more leeway than the CDC suggestion that persons 18-65 get boosters if they are in occupations that have higher risk of COVID exposure (CDC has since revised its guidance to match California). If you got the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines 6 months ago, a booster with the same vaccine is fine. If you got the J&J vaccine, most doctors would recommend a Pfizer or Moderna booster shot.

The evidence that vaccine-induced immunity begins to wane with increasing time after the first round of immunizations continues to accrue, with individuals over 65 and those receiving the J&J vaccine at the most risk. Protection against infection suffers more than protection against hospitalization, and vaccinated individuals who do become infected have milder cases and clear the virus faster than unvaccinated individuals.

Current data shows that those who are unvaccinated are 26 times more likely to have severe disease than the vaccinated. Ninety-two percent of the rare severe cases among the vaccinated occur in individuals with underlying health conditions that impair immune responses. Getting as many people vaccinated as possible is still the top priority, but it is important to get booster shots as we enter the holiday season with colder weather, more travel, and more indoor gatherings. The current resurgence of COVID in Europe and northern states in the US is a warning that another winter wave of infections may be coming to →

PARIS FASHION: MASKS

by Lee Haydu | Cofair Court

I recently spent two months in France and loved every minute of it. Most of the time I wandered the streets of Paris. One of the reasons that I felt comfortable there was because I felt that France was tackling Covid in a concerted way. Everyone wears a mask inside stores, cinemas, museums, restaurants, and public transportation such as metros, buses and intercity railroads. In addition, everyone had to show that they were vaccinated if they wanted to access these places, except essential activities such as grocery stores and public transportation only required masks. France issues une passe sanitaire (health pass) for those who are vaccinated. There is a mobile app, like the California covid app, which contains a QR code that is scanned when proof of vaccination is required. Also, I had to make reservations at specific times to enter most museums which limited the crowds both outside and inside. There was very little grumbling about the requirements. The weekly protests over the rules were certainly televised but had little effect since everyone I saw was following the rules. This isn't just true in Paris. Every little village that we visited was just as careful as Paris.

Despite their precautions, cases are increasing and restrictions which some felt would be lifted are remaining in place. I read this week that the vaccinated will soon lose their passe sanitaire if they are 65 and older and have not received their booster dose. ▣

us in Southern California.

We in Del Mar have the luxury of a mild winter climate and a beautiful coastline to enjoy. Put on your jackets and celebrate the holidays with outdoor events shared with vaccinated family and friends. Be safe and get your booster shot! ▣

In Brief

Path Progress

On Nov. 19, the City Council approved amendments to the environmental and design engineering work underway for the extension of River Path Del Mar from Grand Ave. Overlook to Crest Canyon ("Phase 3"), based on the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy's recent success in acquiring two lagoon-fronting properties near the Phase 3 area. Trish Boaz, the SDRVC Executive Director, is credited with this significant acquisition, having long cultivated a relationship with the property owners that, after many "No's" finally resulted in a "Yes" to the sale to SDRVC. These properties provide the onsite mitigation for the trail's unavoidable impact on the wetlands. →

Free parking

The City of Del Mar is pleased to offer a holiday gift of free parking on weekends and holidays in downtown Del Mar from Nov. 24 through New Year's Day.

The environmental work on Phase 3 continued despite the Covid-19 impact on the City's budget, due to a \$50,000 grant to the City from the Del Mar Foundation, and \$40,000 from other donors including SDRVC.

Phase 3 will complete one of the last remaining segments of the City's Scenic Loop Trail as identified in the city's Community Plan and Local Coastal Program. ▣

PRO: WHY RAIL IS ESSENTIAL TO SAN DIEGO

by Dwight Worden | Deputy Mayor

Without rail San Diego cannot meet its mandatory state, federal, and local climate and greenhouse gas goals nor will we solve congestion on our roadways. Our quality of life depends on a modern, integrated, transportation system including rail. Some essentials:

- 60 trains per day currently run through Del Mar, increasing to 100 per day by 2030. We are the second busiest rail corridor in the country.
- Every freight car can remove 4 semi-trucks from the freeway.
- A new mile of freeway costs about \$62 million. A new mile of rail costs only \$1-2 million.
- Every passenger train can carry the same number of passengers, per hour, from Oceanside to San Diego as a new freeway lane.
- Our rail line is publicly owned. The incremental cost to add more trains is minor compared to the costs for new roads.
- All transportation is subsidized. The largest subsidy goes to cars and trucks in the form of taxpayer funded roads, freeways, subsidized oil and gas exploration, and more.
- Amtrak service is under federal, not local, control, and BNSF Railway has contractual rights to operate and grow independent of local control.
- The line is part of the Federal Strategic Rail Corridor Network (STRACNET) integral to national defense.
- The line is essential to the Port of San Diego and its \$8 billion per year in economic activity.
- Only the Coaster is subject to local control. If the Coaster were eliminated the rail line must remain for these other services.
- The rail corridor carries about 8 million riders and \$1 billion+ in goods per year. Those numbers will grow significantly under the new Transportation Plan proposed by SANDAG.
- We need to look at the future, not the past, in evaluating transportation.
- That future is bright, including new technologies, automated cars and trucks, zero emission rail service, and more.
- Per SANDAG, increasing transit ridership from its current 2% to about 10% (13% is projected) will meet our climate and congestion goals and rail is key to that effort.
- Councilmember Quirk is an outlier in advocating elimination of rail service and he has not proposed a realistic plan for how this could be achieved. His viewpoint is not supported by the Del Mar council, by SANDAG, by NCTD, by Amtrak, by the state, by the feds, or by the experts. →

CON: DO WE EVEN NEED THE TRAIN?

by Dan Quirk | Councilmember

Despite pervasive misinformation to the contrary, ridership on the on the trains that run through Del Mar has always been very low and in decline for many years, even before the covid-related plunge in global mass transit ridership. Today, less than 800 people per day are using the Coaster despite hundreds of millions of dollars in investment and effort over the last decade. These terrible results are similar for the Amtrak Surfliner. The mostly empty trains we see running through Del Mar are the clearest evidence of this failure.

Rail freight on these tracks is also insignificant, accounting for well below 1% of total freight in San Diego County, with the other 99%+ effectively coming from trucks on the highway. The rail freight is also run by a single private company, BNSF Railway. It is not the responsibility of taxpayers to spend billions of dollars for the benefit of a private company.

So the benefits of the train are minimal. What about the costs and conflicts? The train creates serious conflicts wherever it runs in the form of fences, trenches, barriers, bluff decapitation, divided cities, bad urban design, noise, accidents, death, and coastal erosion where the tracks run along 9 miles of beach in San Clemente and 2 miles along the bluffs here in Del Mar. In Del Mar alone, we are looking at a hated fence that will block access to the ocean, horrific bluff decapitation, and a risky, destructive tunnel blasted through the Del Mar hillside, running directly underneath residents' homes. All of this would cost billions of dollars in taxpayer money.

The outlook of the train is even worse because we're on the edge of a profound technology revolution with transportation and transit due to the rapid advances of clean electric vehicles and self-driving technology. Electric vehicles sales are starting to explode and will soon completely replace gas vehicles, addressing climate concerns and greenhouse gases. Self-driving technology will significantly improve traffic flow and eliminate wasted time, allowing people to work, read, play, or sleep. Self-driving freight trucks can significantly expand their potential via operating at night and non-peak hours.

Given all this, it begs the question: Do we even need the train? Can we repurpose the entire train route into a trail, as has been done numerous times across the country? We must explore these options.

Learn more at <https://coaster-rail-to-trail.org/> and <https://www.railstotrails.org/> ■

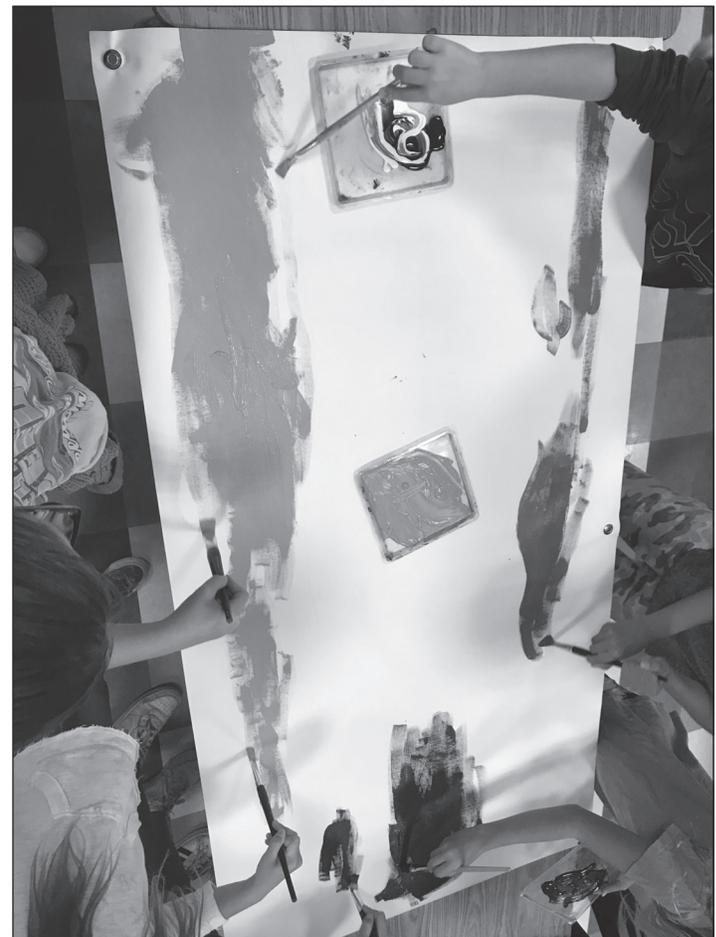
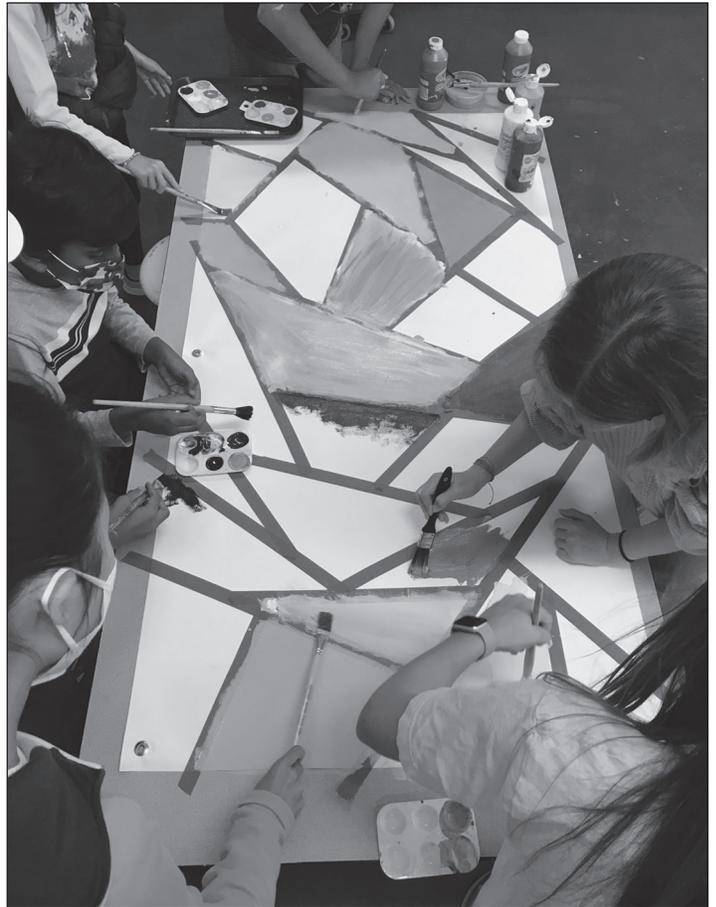
Thanks to Mr. Quirk and the Sandpiper for providing this forum and a civil discussion of this important topic. ■

WINDOW DRESSING

by Julie Maxey-Allison |10th Street

Look out for the art brightening our Del Mar windows this holiday season. The cheery color filled art canvases on display were painted in person by elementary students from eight schools in the Del Mar school district and the Winston School.

Sponsored by The Del Mar Foundation, the theme of the canvas murals “Ocean to beach our art has reach” originated by the students who worked with their art teachers. The Del Mar school district’s canvases are a collaboration of the vibrant talents of students from kindergarten through 6th graders. Each canvas was painted layer by layer. Kindergartners went first on through the 6th graders who applied the finishes. You will find decorative canvas murals celebrating the season in windows on Camino Del Mar, 15th Street and the Plaza. ■



Photos courtesy of DMUSD Art Specialists.

In Brief

Please note: There will be no print issue of the Sandpiper in January. However, the Sandpiper website will be updated regularly. ■

Climate: More Power Allies

Both Escondido and San Marcos have voted to join the Clean Energy Alliance (CEA, and founding cities Del Mar, Solana Beach and Carlsbad), and both will begin providing CEA-sourced electricity to their residents in April 2023. To meet this timeline, CEA must file applications with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) by December 31st this year, since the CPUC requires one year of electricity consumption data to set the Resource Adequacy target (how much electricity CEA must purchase to cover peak demand loads plus a reserve). Both Oceanside and Vista have indicated interest in joining CEA next year with a planned service launch in 2024. The expansion of CEA's service area to more inland areas of San Marcos and Escondido will increase their revenues and also require more energy in the summertime to compensate for higher temperatures and more air conditioning, resulting in a 137% increase in power supplied by CEA. The increased revenues mean that more money will be available to invest in local energy programs sooner than previously projected. The CEA Board of Directors will soon expand to 5 members, one from each participating city.

Climate: Electrifying Solana Beach

On November 10th, Solana Beach passed a building electrification (BE) ordinance, becoming the 52nd city in California to pass one. Encinitas passed a BE ordinance in September, and theirs was the first comprehensive all-electric BE ordinance in the San Diego region. Both ordinances covered new construction, both residential and commercial. However, Solana Beach's ordinance also included major remodels, which is very important in predominantly built out cities such as Solana Beach and Del Mar. BE ordinances requiring all-electric appliances in new construction and major remodels are a critical first step in weaning our buildings off of fossil fuels.

Del Mar Cut Off

The California Citizens Redistricting Commission has proposed new boundaries for the 49th Congressional District that now extends northward from Del Mar to southern Orange County and is represented by Democrat Mike Levin. The new plan, if approved, removes Del Mar from the 49th and adds us to a southern coastal district extending all the way to the border. The final vote on the plan will be before the end of the year.

Quirk, Fact-Checked

Dan Quirk took credit in a Nov. e-newsletter for a long list of achievements he claims have been accomplished "since winning the election," crediting himself, Martinez, Druker, and Gaasterland. The Sandpiper fact-checked many of those claims; find it here: <https://bit.ly/QuirkFactCheck>



*Surfliner (top right) edging along the bluff.
Photo by Julie Maxey-Allison.*

Offensive Fence

At their November 18th meeting, the North County Transit District Board authorized staff to pursue the federal Surface Transportation Board declaratory relief action and request to render an expedited determination if the parties (NCTD, Del Mar, and the California Coastal Commission) fail to reach agreements by Dec. 31st of 2021. In a second closed session decision, the Board directed staff to place an item on the January 2022 Board agenda to consider advancement of a construction project for fencing on the Del Mar bluffs.

Leadership Loss

Trish Boaz, the Executive Director of the San Dieguito River Valley Park Conservancy for the past 9 years, has announced her retirement effective December 31st, 2021. Trish and her husband Scott will be moving to San Luis Obispo to a home that has been in their family for three generations. Trish led many successful trail upgrades and land acquisitions during her tenure, and her stellar leadership will be sorely missed. ■

BUY-NOTHING: GOOD GIFTING

by Valérie Dufort-Roy | Klish Way

Imagine a world where communities are more resilient, sustainable, equitable, and joyful, because of a functional gifting economy. This is exactly what the Buy Nothing worldwide network aims to accomplish, through hyper-local economies. What does the network do? It connects neighbors to neighbors to facilitate gifting of unused items, and asking for items one might need. There is no trading, no money demanded, no favors, just plain giving to one another.

Our local group started when Sonja Gilliam and her husband moved to San Diego, from Germany, with their newborn. After a few months in furnished housing, they faced the financial burden of furnishing an entire house. Through a friend from the Rancho Bernardo Buy Nothing network, the family was gifted furniture and kitchen essentials. Most importantly, Sonja was hooked! She went on to create the Carmel Valley group, six years ago. At first, she had to recruit members through flyer distribution, but soon the social and sustainable features of this group attracted more and more neighbors. Because of its popularity, the group recently split into West Carmel



Cartoon by John Dempsey



Sonja Gilliam, founder of our local Buy Nothing group, with orchids, books, toys, clothing, all gifted from Buy Nothing!
Photo by D. Gilliam.

Valley/Del Mar (1,100 members) and East Carmel Valley (525 members).

Our Del Mar network connects via Facebook, with the specific name “Carmel Valley (West)/Del Mar, 92130, San Diego, CA.” Upon joining, neighbors can post, see giving offers and ISO requests (In Search Of). Michelle Piemonte, one of our 10 local administrator-volunteers, highlights the core value of the group as “Every gift has value, large or small.”

A few examples:

- In Search Of requests: cast iron pot, desks, suitcases, unused fabric, old magazines, shoe boxes, crutches. Maybe you have the specific item sitting at home and not using it. Here you go, now it can find a new home!
- Give offers: baby clothing, toys, books, furniture, succulents, shoes, purses, tools, pashmina shawl, tutus, fresh garden fruit, gift wrap, even mistakenly bought grocery food!

It is fascinating to see the number of items, many brand new, that are traversing our small community, clearing space in one home, while fulfilling the need of the other. In this season of giving, let’s participate in reusing and sharing, while meeting our neighbors.

Best wishes for a Happy Buy Nothing season!

PS: You might wonder what Sonja did with the furniture, plates, glasses, pots and pans she was gifted when she moved in? As her financial situation improved, she was able to buy items that matched her young family’s changing needs, and she regifted the excess to the group! □

DINOSAUR DO-OVER

New Look/New Owner

by Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street

In case you have never browsed in the Dinosaur Gallery, I know that there are in fact fossils and skeletal parts once belonging to dinosaurs that are for sale. Also know that there is more to see in this newly redone gallery. There is an extensive variety of fossils, geodes, artifacts, stones, minerals/crystals in all sizes, shapes, and colors from across the earth. The new owner Sibel Tuncel who has taken over the store from Gladys White (who still comes in on weekends) has reordered the space to clearly display the unique objects and has added more jewelry options to the original inventory. Sibel and her husband Jon, jewelry designers, expanded from their store Mythos in La Jolla. She offers a line of their jewelry designs using metals and semi precious gems. Or you can choose to repurpose your existing jewelry into a new collaborative design. Sibel extends a discount to Del Mar residents. Note: The only fossil not for sale is the actual jaw of a hippo. 1327 Camino Del Mar. Hours: 11:00 AM-5:00 PM daily. ■



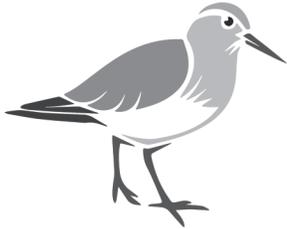
*The new owner Sibel Tuncel.
Photos by Julie Maxey-Allison.*

VISIT THE SANDPIPER ONLINE!

SANDPIPER

DEL MAR'S COMMUNITY JOURNAL
Box 2177, Del Mar, CA 92014

DATED MATERIAL



www.delmarsandpiper.org

Critters

TO BEE OR NOT TO BEE

by Julie Maxey-Allison | 10th Street



Photo by John Weare.

Twenty-thousand bee species keep busy around the globe. Some 3,600 have settled in the US with 1,600, varying in size, shape and color, calling California home. However most of our locals are honey bees, now known as western honey bees (*Apis mellifera*). It is they who have taken over the pollination business. Their advantage: these social workaholics are the most sophisticated communicators of all invertebrates. They not only direct others within their sphere to the finest foraging for the most appealing pollen and nectar but also indicate not only what to look for but what it smells like. These hive dwellers are fierce competitors with others who perform the same function including bats, birds, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles and small mammals as well as other bee species. Western honeybees get good press. Their service as pollinators and the honey they produce have a value of around \$700 million according to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

There is a concern. The western honeybee, though not exactly a newbie, is not a native having arrived either from Europe or Africa around the 1600s. The complicating issue is their negative impact on native bee pollinators. The native bees live solitary lives, nesting in the ground or various other shelter spots, and therefore lack the possibility of an internet of information to lead them to best finite food sources. But native bees often have better pollination techniques. One example: the bumble bee's buzz pollination process that vibrates its flower. This shimmy produces results shifting more pollen grains than the honeybee's approach. The greater the number of pollen grains that get moved from the male to the female parts of the flower is the key to the quality of the final product. For produce the more the better.

A bee's life is short, a few weeks for most. The exception: the queen bees whose job it is to produce eggs. A queen bumble bee can live a year and a queen honey bee up to four years. Male bees do a bit of work but are meant mostly for mating. The females take on the main chores. It is the females who are equipped with working stingers, a feature of an egg laying device, used when threatened to defend themselves. A female honeybee can indeed sting an insect many times, but if the stinger is caught, as in human skin, the bee will die. The more aggressive Africanized honeybees, not yet colonized in our area, will mount an attack on and chase away anyone seen as an invader.

The real threat for California's wild bee species is a cumulation of many factors: loss of habitat, toxic pesticides, invasive insects, and the ever present threat of climate change that affects the future of all bees. The honeybees face the same issues and worse: they have been hit by the deadly colony collapse disorder. The USDA estimates that from April 2019-2020 beekeepers lost more than 40 percent of their honeybees.

Something to do: Specifically, plant manzanita, our local variety, for native bees and while you are at it build a garden of flowering plants to offer all pollinators a safe place on the planet. ■