# Commensatify City more than a neighborhood

Community Association Newsletter Volume 14/Issue 4 May 2012

## May Means It's Time to Clean Up the UC Community

by Sandy Lippe

UCCA invites local residents to join us in cutting back weeds, sweeping up debris, and giving University City a general cleaning. On May 12th, Saturday, plan to meet in front of Swanson Pool on Governor Drive at 8:00 a.m. We will work for a couple of hours. Please bring rakes, shovels, weed cutters and whatever works for you. Depending on how many show up, we will have assignments that may include areas on Genesee and Regents, as well as Governor. Weeds grow faster than kids these days, and Mother's Day weekend is the perfect time to help Mother Nature look good again.

If you are a senior citizen without the means to keep your property looking good, we may be able to send some volunteers to cut back weeds and work on front yards. Contact the beautification team at sandylippe@gmail.com.



Paul and Mary Croft, Barbara Gellman, Hugh Pates, and Peter Burch during 2010 Community Cleanup.

UC Community
Cleanup on
May 15, 2010.



## May 2012 Calendar

Cinco de Mayo Saturday, May 5th

Tuesday, May 8th
6:00 p.m.

Forum Hall/UTC

Wednesday, May 9th 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**UC Library** 

Community Clean Up

Saturday, May 12th 8 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Mother's Day Sunday, May 13th

University City Garden Club Tuesday, May 15th 6:00 p.m., UC Library

4th of July UC Celebration Planning Meeting

Wednesday, May 16th, 6:30 p.m.
Standley Recreation Center

Standley Recreation Council Meeting

Thursday, May 24th 7:00 p.m.

**Standley Recreation Center** 

Memorial Day Monday, May 28th



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#### Be the Eyes and Ears of UC

The University City Community Newsletter is comprised of information sent to the editor. The association does not have reporters, photographers or staff. You are welcome to write and submit articles that pertain to the community and residents.

#### **Guidelines:**

- Your article should be approximately **250 words** typed in a document and attached to email. Be as brief and concise as possible. Editing may result in errors. Type in **plain paragraph form. No formatting**, no section breaks, no columns, no footer, no symbols, no extra hard returns, etc. All of these must be removed before the article can be used.
- Name the file appropriately so it can be identified.
- The Editor reserves the right to edit out opinions, conjecture and editorial comments.
- Attach photos separately in a picture format at high resolution or straight from camera.
- Send to: editorucca@gmail.com
- Please no full page flyers or announcements.
- The Editor acknowledges every submission. Email any questions.

#### <u>Deadline for the June 2012 Newsletter</u> <u>Publication is May 15th</u>

Please send your submission as early as possible. Articles printed on a first come basis with priority given to time sensitive material. The UCCA does not discriminate against nor endorse all information in the monthly newsletter.



## Message from the President Peter Burch

for the UCCA and so my message will be a little shorter than usual.

We are investigating putting in a permanent tree surrounded by bedding plants in front of the Rec Center. This will not only provide more attractive landscaping but also a permanent and more prominent home for the Holiday Tree Lighting. The Board voted to spend up to \$250 for this improvement, which will cover planting and maintenance (and save the poor creaking backs of the team which has been erecting the tree for many years now!). Judy Bethel, who has overseen the event since its inception 10 years ago, will obtain the necessary approvals.

By the time you read this, we should have started work on beautifying the three medians on Governor Drive. I mentioned this last month and we are all looking forward to seeing neat and tidy medians populated with attractive drought tolerant plants.

Every year we help fund the 4th of July party. George Odero is heading up the event this year and is still looking for volunteers needed to help put on an event of this size. His email is godero@goreadusa.org.

One of our main objectives for 2012 is to get even more community residents involved, communicate UC activities more widely and develop new activities we can support. Please look for more information as we move forward with this initiative.

I wish you all a wonderful month of May. I will be travelling again for the first three weeks, this time to England and Greece. Did you know there is a direct flight between San Diego and London?

# VOLUNTEERS are STILL Needed for 2012 July 4th University City Community Celebration!

by George Odero

My thanks to the wonderful community members who have answered the call for volunteers to this year's (2012) July 4th Community Celebration. Despite the admirable response, we are still nowhere near achieving our target for 100 volunteers needed to provide support for the event day and some of the pre-event activities. I am therefore urging more community members to come forward and offer their support for this year's event.

Areas where morning and afternoon volunteer support are needed include:

Event donations solicitation, pre-event set up, post-event clean up, event draw ticket sales, sorting collected books for sale at event, parking lot attendants, Beer Barn attendants and security (must meet age requirements and attend mandatory two hour training), bike and pet parade support, field games support, rental equipment set-up and take down, children's games support, Pancake Breakfast support, and other, (Floaters) for relief and rotation (2-hour rotation recommended).

Get involved and let us make this ongoing community tradition a success.

Contact me by e-mail at: Godero@Goreadusa.org, or call me at: 619-9897-1377 (leave your name and telephone number plus a short message) to pledge your support.

Community members are also encouraged to join us at our monthly July 4th Community Celebration event committee meeting held at Standley Recreation Center (Craft room), on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Our meetings start at 6:30 PM and end at 8:00 PM.

# San Diego Unified Informs City Council Regarding School Reform Plans/Progress



by John Lee Evans

On April 18, 2012 Superintendent Bill Kowba and I made a presentation to our city leaders regarding progress in San Diego Unified. While the school district has no direct relationship with the city government, Council President Tony Young and I have been exploring ways in which the city can be more supportive of our school district. We are looking at more collaboration and joint—use agreements with parks and recreation, libraries, transportation and other areas. The first step was to educate the Council on San Diego Unified's Vision 2020 for Educational Excellence, a community-based reform plan.

Vision 2020 places a laser-like focus on student achievement and broadens the definition of success beyond state test scores. It includes measuring physical fitness, artistic development, critical thinking and other areas. We do not want to simply increase the graduation rate, but we want to make sure our students are ready for college and career. New programs give students the option to take both vocational and college prep courses.

Vision 2020 focuses on revitalizing neighborhood schools. Schools with strong ties to the neighborhood have greater parental participation. While we strongly support school choice, we want to reverse the trend that has led to half of our students attending school outside of their neighborhood. We have an aggressive strategy over the next five years to develop a quality school in every neighborhood. To do this we have defined 12 criteria for a quality neighborhood school, ranging from a broad curriculum to digital literacy to a safe, supportive environment.

A third focus is on effective teaching in every classroom. Professional learning communities allow teachers at each grade level to take the shared responsibility for all of the students in that grade. We will highlight the best practices in the classroom and use technology to share those methods throughout the district.

Continued on page 13.



by Sherri Lightner

## Connecting to Careers: Closing San Diego's Skills Gap

Having a skilled workforce is the key to growing San Diego's economy now and into the future.

That's why I'm spearheading a "Connecting to Careers" initiative designed to bring all the stakeholders to the table to find a solution to the city's workforce training needs.

As a first step, I invited local business leaders, including representatives from Qualcomm, Sharp HealthCare, Biocom and AT&T, to meet with representatives from San Diego State University, UC San Diego, San Diego Community College District and San Diego Workforce Partnership, which funds a wide variety of training programs in the region. The event was a great success, helping forge relationships and spotlighting the need for better communication and cooperation.

Next up, I plan to hold "Skills Sessions," panels made up of businesses, educators and training partners. These panels will help create curriculum and programs for the most in-demand skills in such industry sectors as manufacturing, cleantech and biotech.

This summer I also plan to host a "Training Fair," which will highlight the hottest local jobs and connect students and job seekers to the right training programs for those jobs.

To learn more about these events and how we can work together to create the educated workforce San Diego so desperately needs, please contact my office at the phone number or email below.

Council Member Sherri Lightner represents University City on the San Diego City Council. She can be reached at (619) 236-6611 or SherriLightner@SanDiego.gov. Sign up for email updates at Sherri's website at www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd1/.



Barry Bernstein setting an example.

Please join in with our annual Spring Clean-up. We encourage you to involve your whole family as we clear/clean up some of our weed-filled sidewalks, medians and streets. This is a very good way to show your civic pride and set an example for giving back to your community. See article for specific date and time.

## Saved UC Banner on Governor Dr.



by Sandy Lippe

Adrian Bledsoe saved a downed street banner during one of the spring storms and graciously returned it to UCCA. This is truly "more than a neighborhood," where people care about U.C. (Thanks, Adrian!)

## NORTH UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

8820 Judicial Drive, San Diego, CA 92122 858-581-9637

PAPER CRAFT CLASS
MAY 8th & 22nd at 5:30 p.m.
Make beautiful crafts out of used books!

MUSIC IN THE LIBRARY WEDNESDAYS at 6:30 p.m.

YOUNG ARTIST MUSIC SERIES SATURDAYS at 1:00 p.m.

MEMORY TRAINING FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN SATURDAY, MAY 26th

Adults - 10:00 a.m., Children - 11:00 a.m. Learn to improve memory and focus.

For more information about programs in the library visit www.sandiegolibrary.org.

Like us on Facebook-Search for the North University Community Branch Library.

Visit the Friends of the Library website *friends.northuclibrary.org* or come into the branch and pick up a monthly schedule.

## MAY 2012 EVENTS @ your UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY BRANCH LIBRARY 4155 GOVERNOR DR. (858) 552-1655

Flute Concert: Rumley Flute Studio Student Recital.

Performers range from elementary school-age through adult.

Wednesday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m.

<u>Patios, Pathways and Plants:</u> Gardening lecture by landscape artist Doug Kalal. Saturday, May 5 at 1:00 p.m.

Aging in Place: Dr. Barry Lebowitz, Ph.D., will discuss issues of concern to seniors such as safety and security, legal and medical, health and lifestyle, and residential options.

Thursday, May 17 at 2 p.m.

Yoga for Kids: Gentle exercises to help flexibility and improve concentration. Please bring your own yoga mat or towel. Saturday, May 19 at 10:30 a.m.

<u>UC Book Club</u> welcomes author Zohreh Ghahremani for a discussion of her One Book, One San Diego title *Sky of Red Poppies* Wednesday, May 23 at 2:00 p.m.

<u>Job Search Assistance:</u> Dr. Adolpho Sanchez offers resume reviews and tips on interviewing. Every Tuesday at 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

<u>Paws to Read:</u> Children can practice reading skills with our furry friends. This program is made possible through Love on a Leash, San Diego Central Chapter. Thursday, May 24 at 4:00 p.m.

FREE Homework Help for elementary through middle school students, all subjects. Every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Ayuda con la tarea disponible en Español.

<u>Preschool Story Time</u> with Miss Jean: Stories and song, all wee ones welcome! Every Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

Game On! Enjoy family-friendly games on the Nintendo Wii. Every Friday at 3:00 p.m.

All programs are made possible through the generosity of the Friends of the UC Library. "Like" the Friends at https://www.facebook.com/#!/FriendsOfSDPLUniversityCommunityBranch.

## **UC Running/Walking Club**

by Mark Salata

Do you run or walk around the neighborhood or would like to if others could join you? In an effort to promote fellowship through informal exercise, I invite you to join me in developing a UC Running/Walking Club. The emphasis is to build stronger ties within the community one step at a time. We'll facilitate neighbors supporting each other in walking or running at whatever pace suits their needs. If you are interested in being a part of it, then call Mark at 617-314-5178 (yes, it is 617). I am glad to live in a neighborhood that is so lovely to exercise in.

# Parents of the UCHS Graduating Class of 2012 Are looking for your <u>HELP</u>

by Debbie Betzenderfer

The parents of UCHS graduating seniors will be hosting a senior event during the week of graduation and we need your help. We would like to give every senior who attends the event an opportunity to win a prize. To do this, we'd love to accept your donations! Gift certificates to restaurants, movie theaters and sporting events, as well as iTunes cards and gas cards are very popular with the students. Please help us make this a memorable event for the UCHS Graduating Class of 2012.

Gift cards or checks made out to "UCHS Grad Nite" can be mailed to UCHS, 6949 Genesee Avenue, San Diego, CA 92122, or can be dropped off at the Grad Nite Box in the school's front office. Please include your name and e-mail address (or mailing address) so a donation receipt can be sent to you. All donations for prizes are tax-deductible. If you have any questions, please contact Tama Becker-Varano at Tamamby@msn.com.

## **Music of America's Heartland**



by Katie Dunahoo

Two lucky classes at Spreckels Elementary school had the opportunity to experience the Music of America's Heartland aka Copeland's America! Mrs. Kimberly Sharman, Mrs. Raquel Early and docent Mimi Lee told the students to get ready to enjoy a song singin' and eye-poppin' musical celebration. The toe-tappin' concert, held March 22, featured the iconic music of American composer, Aaron Copeland. From a misty Appalachian sunrise to the bouncy rhythms of a barn dance, his music came alive through original choreography by San Diego's own, Alicia Peterson Baskel singing with accomplished baritone, Craig Johnson. Thank you to Classics 4 Kids and Advocates for Classical Music for making this wonderful program available.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Jesse Mays, Council Representative for Council member Sherri Lightner, has provided this information for University City residents:

Emergency (police, fire, medical): 911
Graffiti Control Hotline: 619-525-8522
Streets (potholes, lights, drains): 619-527-7500
Neighborhood Code Compliance: 619-236-5500
Police (non-emergency): 619-531-2000
Traffic division: 858-495-7800

# WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES...

by Ginny Charvat

Our Annual Membership Drive kicked off in February and has been very successful to date. As the treasurer, I would like to share with you where some of your money goes.

In recent weeks, we have made two donations to local organizations that were in need of help.

Helen Lebowitz representing the Friends of the Library, which is a volunteer program for the South University City Library, spoke at our March Board Meeting. She said that in 2010 they had received \$4700 from outside sources. This money was used for library reading, music, and rental programs. In 2011, due to the loss of donations from various people, the amount received dropped to \$463. The board voted to donate \$1000 to help this organization.

We were also asked by Curie Elementary School to help with their Jog-a-Thon. The monies from this fund-raiser are used to support science, art and music programs at the school. UCCA also donated \$500 to help this cause.

To continue helping the various organizations in the University City area (which makes this a better place to live), we ask those who have not yet done so to become members in the UCCA. We wish to thank those who have already joined. Our contributions to the 4th of July Celebration, Summer Concerts, etc., and our monthly newsletter show you Where Your Money Goes!

## University City Banner Winners

by Barbara Gellman

There are forty-four new banners positioned on posts above Governor, Genesee and Regents in University City, thanks to the artistic talents of the following contest winners.

Shaun Salehyan, who resides in University City, has 15 years graphic design experience and is Director of Marketing at net4creative in LaJolla. He submitted two winners.

Nate Reifke is a freelance illustrator currently living in Pollack Pines, CA.

Megan Geilman produced a special word banner to be used at UC celebrations. She grew up in UC and currently resides in Landsdowne PA. Her graphic art studies began at University City High School and continued at Brigham Young University.

Leah Chang is a freelance graphic and liturgical artist residing in North Clairemont (not shown).

We applaud them all for their time and efforts in contributing to the further beautification of our city



Shaun Salehyan



**Nate Reifke** 



Megan Geilman

## A Neighborhood Watch Block Captain Training Session

by Barbara Gellman

A Neighborhood Watch Block Captain Training Session was held in the University City Library on Governor Drive on April 3rd with thirteen interested residents in attendance to learn about the responsibilities of being a block captain.

Between Marcella Teran, the Pacific Beach NW Coordinator and Officer Alan Alvarez, we learned how to become empowered in protecting our homes and community. It is a proven fact that neighborhoods with this program have fewer crimes. If you see a crime being committed then call 911. If it is after the fact, call 619-531-2000. If it is a suspicious person, solicitor or anything out of the oridnary that you are not used to seeing on your street, make that call.

We still need many more block captains or co-captains to cover the community. If interested in being an active participant, please call meat 858-452-2326 or email meat bggellman@yahoo. com. I will present you with an information packet of instructions. It is actually a very social experience to become more involved and hones your observation skills to be a watchful neighbor.

## Softball Season Has Begun!

By Shawna Lizalde

The 2012 Spring softball season underway, and UC Del Sol Girls Fastpitch Softball looking forward to another successful year! Our young softball players hit the field for the first time on Saturday, February 25th. Girls from all divisions participated our Opening Day Ceremonies. Games were played throughout the day, along with two

jumpies, airbrushed helmets, face painting and more. Old Town Mexican Café donated food for our opening day and we were able to serve delicious food to our players and families.

You may have seen us playing in the neighborhood. Our fields are located on Radcliffe Drive behind



Standley Middle School. On Friday nights, we play under the lights on the adult field located on Governor Drive. This is a fun occasion for not only the players but their families as well. Two games are played each Friday, and the teams come together for a huge potluck and to cheer on all the girls.

UC Del Sol is a non-profit organization. We need your help in raising money for our league. All proceeds will be

used to improve our softball fields, provide free softball clinics to our players and to upgrade our snack bar. If you are able to sponsor our league, please send a check payable to UCDS, P.O. Box 17669, San Diego, CA, 92117. All contributions are tax-deductible. Thank you!

#### DISCLAIMER

#### The University City Community Association Newsletter

receives information and advertising from a variety of sources. UCCA cannot and does not guarantee the accuracy of the information or the complete absence of errors and/or omissions, nor does the UCCA assume responsibility for same.

## March - April 2012 UCCA Memberships

Making UC More Than Just a Neighborhood

#### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

Kamuran & Laurie Aker The Archer Family Orville & Mary Beaver The Bonkowskys Tom & Laura Cartier Ann Collette Guenter Esslinger Bob & Joan Gordon Shalom Halevy **Bob Howe** Jim & Barbara Magdlen Roy & Rosemary Ownbey Jack & Jasmin Springer M.J. Tichacek Joseph L. & Babe Vettraino Rande & Tom Wegman George Zabka & Alisa Pedersen

#### **COMMUNITY SUPPORTER**

Judy & Havey Amster
Friends of the University
City Community Branch
Library
Terry Goodhue
Jim & Jan Hawkins
John & Mindy Mattison
Leslie & Scott Pedersen
Sally Provow & Steven
Nakamura
Tedd & Karie Wright
Ralph & Dorit Yates

### **COMMUNITY ANGEL**

Paul & Kathleen Bremner Bobbi & Jeff Cawdrey Maxine Davidson Delton & Carrie Garcia Fred Lonidier John & Joan McNamara

### **GOLD MEMBERSHIP**

Karen Crossland John & Jeri Newman

General Me	mber \$20 □ (	Community Supp	orter \$40 🗌	Community Angel \$60
Silv	er Membership \$50		Gold Members	hip \$100 🗆
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# UC, It's Your Community... Is This Your Trash?

is obvious that few а folks here in University City have figured out that if they illegally dump trash and junk at the recycle bin in the Swanson Pool parking lot, the city will ultimately haul it away. When this first happened, it was only once in a while. Now the bad habit has caught on and trash and junk regularly show up. Standley for which Park,

residents paid an extra assessment in order to have a first rate park, is now subject to becoming an eyesore because of this growing problem. Standley is one of our most valued assets. This eyesore is right out in the open on our most traveled street, Governor Drive.



by Rich Quinonez

As long time а resident, I am 100% positive that this problem is being caused by a very small group of people. We all live here and the eyesore reflects on all of us. If you see anyone illegally dumping trash, junk, appliances, furniture at the recycle bins, do something about it. Ask the violators to stop and get a license number of the vehicle. Call the non-emergency police number at 619-531-2000. Provide as much information you can.

This problem may continue to grow unless UC residents are vigilant. This problem may lead to dumping of construction material as well. UC is our community. Speak up. Let the offenders know they are being watched.



by Barry Bernstein

Every Sunday morning at Standley Park Recreation Center, UC residents, 35 or older, play in a local basketball league. The ages range from 35-71. There are also a few women playing. If interested in playing, please drop over to sign up. New players are always welcome!

## Taste of the Triangle 2012



EdUCate! was blessed by a \$35,000 donation from the Anne Wille estate. Katie Dunahoo, executor of the Wille estate, presented the generous check that will help with the mission of serving the UC school children. An additional \$29,000 was raised through the live and silent auction.

# Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher Military Appreciation Month

"We Care for the Troops" Care Package Drive May 1 – 31, 2012

May is Military Appreciation Month. The 75th Assembly District is home to several thousand active military personnel and their families, and we want to show appreciation for their service and ultimate sacrifice for our country. Please join Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher and community partners for a "We Care for the Troops" Care Package Drive. Your generous donations of the gift items listed below will go a long way for an active duty serviceman or woman who often rely on items from home.

Note these are just some examples. For a full list contact Sterling McHale at Sterling. Mchale@asm.ca.gov

Please do consider donating any of the following:

Postage (to mail the packages)
Sunflower Seeds
Coffee
Gatorade
Playing Cards
Razors
Icy Hot Patches
Video Games (Nintendo Wii, Playstation, XBOX)
Granola Bars
Canned air to blow dust out of computers & other electronics
Baby wipes
Board games

Items can be dropped off at our district office between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. Our office is located at 9909 Mira Mesa Boulevard, Suite 130, San Diego, 92131 (near Trader Joes and Filippis Pizza Grotto).

They may also be dropped off at the South Library 5155 Governor Drive between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm on Wednesday May 9th.

We Appreciate Your Support!

## 20th Annual University City Neighborhood Garage Sale

by Katie Dunahoo

## "If you aren't using it, let someone else enjoy it!"

Here is a great chance to get your closets and garages cleared out. In previous years over 100 homes have participated in this gigantic event. What a chance to sell a few things or to go shopping. As always, there will be sales throughout south UC with signage, ads and maps provided by Coldwell Banker. Maps and addresses will be at Golden Donut in the Von's Center and Starbucks in the Sprouts Center by 7:00 AM on June 2nd. Feel free to gather your neighbors and have a multi-family sale. It is fun, profitable and free to participate. To join or for more details call 858-453-HOME (4663) or your neighborhood Coldwell Banker agent. The event takes place on Saturday June 2nd 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

## UCCA Newsletter Production Line



by Barry Bernstein

The last Thursday of each month, dedicated UCCA members gather to count out and prepare newsletter bins for delivery. If you are interested in helping with the counting or delivery to neighborhood homes, please contact Barry Bernstein at apdrfn@aol.com.

# UNIVERSITY CITY RACQUET CLUB NEWS

by Robert Morrison



Winner Jun Kobayashi, University City (UCRC).

The University City Racquet Club (UCRC) held its first major tournament of the year on March 24th and 25th. This was the 4th Annual Junior (16 years and under) Satellite Tennis Tournament. The following were the winners out of the 42 entrees:

- Boys 16 & under: Michael Bell, San Diego
   Boys 14 & under: Jun Kobayashi,
   University City (UCRC)
- Boys 12 & under: Colby Tong, San Diego
- Boys 10 & under: Vinod Krishnamoorthy, San Diego
  - Girls 16 & under: Nikita Rafie, San Diego
  - Girls 14 & under: Priscilla Gomez, Coronado
  - Girls 10 & under: Cassidy Wechter, La Jolla

University City contributed not only one winner but also three finalists, one in each Girls division. They were Hannah Shaich (16 and under), Olivia Ghosh (14 and under) (UCRC), and Catherine Murray (10 and under) (UCRC). The winner and two finalists are products of UCRC's thriving youth program.

February was the month for the election of a new Board. In a record turnout, nearly 70% of the members, the following officers and members-at-large were elected:

Chris Keefer - President Vivian Terkel - Vice President Steven Nakamura - Treasurer Helen Green - Secretary Bob Morrison - At-Large Judy Porter - At-Large John Quesenberry - At-Large

For current information about membership, tournaments, hours, activities, etc., check our web site, www.ucrctennis.com.

## UCCA Donates!



by Sandy Lippe

UCCA Vice President Barry Bernstein is all smiles as he hands an envelope with a check for \$1,000 from the community association to Helen Lebowitz, Friends of the Library President, and Sharon Thomerson, Head Librarian at University Community Library on Governor. This money will go to new furniture for the computers.

Continued from page 3.

#### San Diego Unified/John Lee Evans

We are encouraging more parent and community engagement. We have established cluster councils in each of 16 communities that include the high school, middle school and feeder elementary schools. These councils make recommendations to the district about the needs of that community's schools. The University City Cluster Council meets on the fourth Monday of the month at the UC High media center at 4:30 p.m. All parents and community members are encouraged to attend.

In spite of unprecedented budget cuts, the performance at San Diego schools has continued to improve. We have nearly doubled the number of schools that have high scores on the Academic Performance Index. Our test scores in math and language arts have steadily increased and the science scores have dramatically increased. Our scores on the high school exit exam continue to go up and we have the second lowest dropout rate among urban California districts. Even our attendance rate has gone up.

Several of our schools achieved California Distinguished School status, including Doyle Elementary in University City. Congratulations to our hardworking teachers, students and parents.

## **UC Garden Club**

Our April Guest Speaker, Judy Macomber, gave us a lively talk on giving your pets a great and safe backyard, as well as several informative tips on getting rid of those nasty gophers that seem to be invading all our yards these days! Judy handed out lots of tips and fliers for us, and lucky for you if you didn't make it, they are available on our website ucgardenclub.org

- May 15th Pruning your Fruit Trees with John Marsh
- May 20th from 10:00-12:00 noon, Coffee in the Garden (Benhurst Ave.) Look for Garden Club signs. We no longer publish addresses in order to ensure privacy.



Please join us for a fun and social morning, with our popular UC get together, "Coffee in the Garden." Get to know your UC community, be inspired by this one-of-a-kind garden designed by homeowner Peg herself! Get to know your neighbors while enjoying the hospitality of this month's gracious hostess.



We are always looking for UC residents to share their garden experiences with the UC Garden Club, and welcome you to any of our monthly meetings and/or our semi-monthly coffee in the Garden events. If you have a backyard that you would like to share with your community either in photos or in person, please email or call us! We are not all experts at gardening, just a lot of friendly folks who like to plant and grow! We welcome YOU UC!

- Email ucgardenclub@gmail.com or phone 619-884-2658 or visit our website at UCgardenClub.org
- Please be sure to check our website ucgardenclub.org for important Garden Club News!
- The UC Garden Club meets at the UC Library each third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

If you missed our Owl Box lecture last month (he was out sick), he will be joining us on June 19th! So if you have rats, mice, gophers or other pests, don't miss out on how to use this natural pest eradicator!

http://UCgardenclub.org