

Agua Hedionda Lagoon Receives Grant

Carlsbad's Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation (AHLF) recently received a partial grant from the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). The funds will go to a project within the grounds of the foundation's Discovery Center which includes plans to rebuild the stairs, develop run-off diversion, and add a biostrip to improve infiltration, in addition to adding native plants and signage that describes the trail features and functions. The Discovery Center contains hundreds of native plants including over 60 different species of California natives and drought tolerant plants native to Africa. These gardens are used for tours and community outreach programs on water conservation, composting, and rain harvesting and provide habitat and food for migratory and native birds, local reptiles, mammals, rodents, bees, and insects. The Discovery Center is an educational hub for the Carlsbad community and is currently maintained by the Carlsbad Garden Club and other volunteers. For more information on how to volunteer or contribute to AHLF visit www.lagoon.aguahedionda.org or email Helene at plantress_helene@atl.net.



C3's Winter Formal and Live Auction

Carlsbad Causes for Community (C3) recently held their annual Winter Formal Ball and live auction event. The event helped to raise funds for health and wellness programs provided by the organization to the Carlsbad community such as the kids yoga program for Boys & Girls Club of Carlsbad. The night also gave C3 friends, partners, and other supporters the opportunity to dress up, mingle, and have fun.



Highlights included delicious hors d'oeuvres, a donation bar, photo booth, live music, and live auction items such as lunch at Paon with Mayor Matt Hall, private dinner with courses provided by various Village merchants, and a private dinner at the Carlsbad Fire Department firehouse, among many others. C3 is a nonprofit organization consisting of 45 local businesses and residents who collaborate to raise money for various community causes by organizing and implementing events and programs that serve the community. To stay informed on upcoming C3 events visit www.carlsbadcauses.org.

Red Shoe Society Launch Party

The San Diego Ronald McDonald House is excited to launch a brand new program to allow young professionals to become more involved with their philanthropy. The Red Shoe Society Young Professionals Networking Group is an opportunity to connect with other young adults, volunteers, donors, and board members, as well as give back to the community. To learn more about the program, stop by the Red Shoe Society Launch Party on Thursday, March 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the San Diego Ronald McDonald House. Light appetizers, beer, and wine will be served, and attendees are welcome to bring guests. The event is free to prospective Red Shoe Society members. Please RSVP to rsspresident@rmhcsd.org by March 6. Learn more about the charity at www.rmhcsd.org.



CHS Lancer Dancers Win at UDA Nationals

Carlsbad High School's (CHS) Lancer Dancers recently represented Carlsbad at the Universal Dance Association's (UDA) National Championships in Orlando, FL. Out of more than 100 teams competing in the weekend competition, the Lancer Dancers captured fourth place honors in the jazz category and fifth place in the hip-hop category.



Photo by Tori DiPietro.

As the third consecutive year that the squad has placed among the top five teams in the nation in both hip hop and jazz, the Lancer Dancers have become student ambassadors of the Carlsbad community. "We are so proud of the results our girls achieved," said Lancer Dancers Booster Club President Michelle Ginn. "The countless hours of practice and preparation paid off. It's quite an achievement to consistently finish at or near the top, as the levels of talent and competition get tougher each year." To view the squad's performance online visit www.uda.varsity.com and to learn more about the Lancer Dancers visit www.lancerdancers.com.

Carlsbad Wins Budget Award

The City of Carlsbad was recently recognized for its commitment to meeting the highest standards of governmental budgeting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada and was presented with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the fiscal year of 2013-2014. In order to qualify for such an award, a government agency must meet nationally recognized guidelines, including crafting a budget that serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communication tool.



Helga Stover, a finance manager for the City of Carlsbad who is in charge of developing the annual budget, said, "This award represents work completed by city staff in all departments as well as our city leadership. It is an honor to be recognized by such a prestigious organization for the work we do."

New Dreher Gem Exhibit at GIA

Gemological Institute of America (GIA) is featuring more than 20 animal sculptures by world-renowned gemstone carvers Gerd and Patrick Dreher. These intricately carved works are part of the Dreher family legacy which dates back five generations and is part of the 600-year gemstone carving tradition in Idar-Oberstein, Germany. Titled "Generations of Mastery: Gemstone Carvings by Dreher," the exhibit shows lifelike depictions of a chameleon, a starfish, and a frog on a lily pad, among others. These pieces, crafted out of various gemstones including jasper, agate, tourmaline, ruby in zoisite, smoky quartz, and grossular garnet, will be on view through this summer.



"Pieces by the Dreher family are among the most admired gemstone carvings in the world," said Terri Ottaway, Curator of the GIA Museum. "We're incredibly fortunate to be able to share the Dreher family's extraordinary craftsmanship." GIA's museum is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Reservations are required. For more information visit www.gia.edu or call 800-421-7250 ext. 4116 to make a reservation.