

Sophie's • Gazette

J U L Y • 2025

A PERSON CENTERED NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE'S CENTER
Edited in the Theresa & Edward O'Toole Foundation Adaptive Computer Learning Center
Shifting Gears © Michael Klein 2024



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happy
4th of July



What's Cookin'

An Interview with Fermin Vasquez

By: Coleen Baucom



Hello, my fellow readers, I recently interviewed Fermin Vasquez who works in SMSC's kitchen where he makes delicious baked goods for us to enjoy. It was fun to interview him using questions I had prepared. Fermin started working at SMSC in 2020. While working here he was also going to college. After three years of classes, he graduated this spring, with a bachelor's degree. But he is not done with college yet. Fermin wants to get a master's degree and is hoping to finish in a year. When he graduates Fermin will be a licensed therapist. Fermin was awarded a scholarship from the Raymond M. Peterson Scholarship Program from the Foundation for Developmental Disabilities. Join me in congratulating Fermin on this special honor!

On his days off Fermin likes spending time with his family grilling hamburgers. He likes to go to the movies and enjoys bowling. While we all get to enjoy his fabulous desserts, his favorite one to make is carrot cake with cream cheese frosting. Fermin is a hard worker and he and Mike Bacon work very well together to prepare lunches for all of us. On behalf of everyone at St. Madeleines, I want to say good luck for your future. As a therapist I hope you can help others feel good about themselves!



Summer Sizzle

Kelsey Wammack

By: Wendy Morris

I found Kelsey Wammack sitting on the pool deck waiting for the afternoon swim session to begin. Kelsey is excited about the warmer weather, exclaiming, "I like to swim for fun, especially when it's a hot summer day!"

Kelsey works in SMSC's kitchen under Mike Bacon, our Kitchen Manager, a position she's held since 2011. Her job duties include preparing and cooking food, making sack lunches, working at the snack bar serving lunches, and she also helps with clean up. "My favorites foods to make are hamburgers, French fries, and peanut butter bars, all of which were recent menu items. She loves going to Sophie's Gallery and is currently working on a Hawaiian mosaic plaque for the upcoming show, SeaLife. "I love spending my vacation with my family in Hawaii. It is beautiful there. I love the beaches, waves, and staying at a nice hotel, the Turtle Bay Resort."

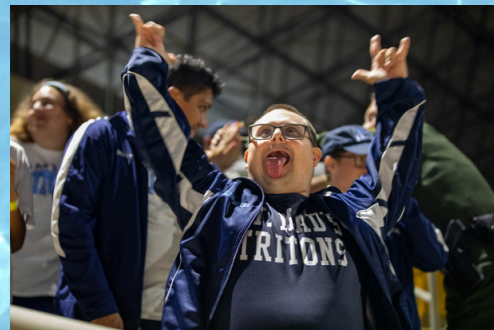
"My family is important to me and I am so excited we are going on summer vacation soon to St. George Arcadia Resort in Utah. I can't wait. Aloha and mahalo!"



2025 Special Olympics Southern California Summer Games in Long Beach

St. Madeleine Sophie's Center swim team, the Tritons had another action-packed adventure at the 2025 Special Olympics Southern California Summer Games held in Long Beach. The team of 14 swimmers competed for medals and ribbons in several events including individual races and team relays. Swimmer Sheldon Wallace set the tone for the team with his enthusiasm during the opening ceremonies. The weekend of swim meets ended with a magical glow party where everyone celebrated and everyone danced!

Tritons Coach and SMSC's Aquatic Manager, Hodon Miranda noted that while everyone is excited to compete - swimmers can be nervous before a race. As a coach he is there to give them confidence. I tell them, "Just do your best!" The Tritons came home with numerous medals including 1st place wins for Emily Cunningham, Katie Ellison, Ian Harrison, Melissa Johns, and Tori Ryan. For a look at all results, visit sosc.org.



Let's GO!



LONDON CALLING

SATURDAY
AUGUST 2, 2025

10AM-2PM • HILTON SAN DIEGO BAYFRONT

HONORING
BEV IRELAND

HOST CHAIRS
**ROBBIN KULEK LOCKIE
& JOHN LOCKIE**

HONORARY CHAIR
GINGER POUTOUS

PRESENTED BY

The
Mansour
Group™



THE GUILD
HOTEL

ENJOY A DAY OF

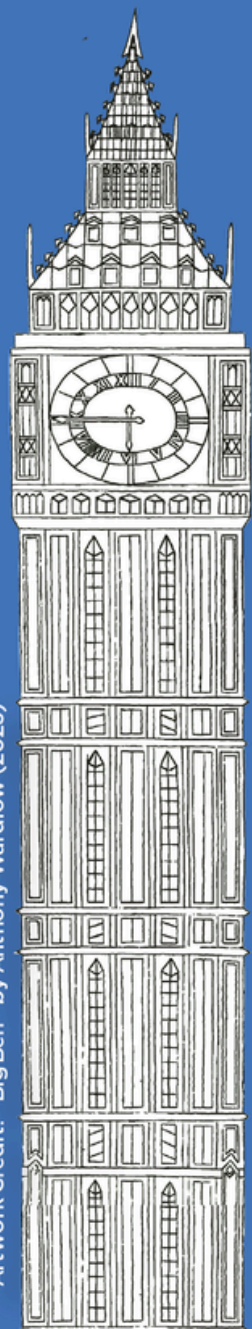
- FREE FLOWING CHAMPAGNE
- LIVE MUSIC
- SILENT AUCTION
- FASHION SHOW
- LUNCHEON

General Admission: \$225 per seat
VIP: \$325 per seat
Table (10 Tickets): \$2,250
VIP Table (10 VIP Tickets): \$3250

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!


Due to the incredible generosity of June Rubin and Chris & Karen Ward, your donations made to Haute with Heart will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$65,000!

Proceeds benefit St. Madeleine Sophie's Center



HAUTEWITHHEART.ORG


For information on sponsorship
opportunities contact
events@stmisc.org

**Saturday, June 7, 2025
10 AM - 6 PM**

Sophie's Gallery presents a retrospective show celebrating 25 years in Downtown El Cajon. Shop the gallery archives and peruse the history of previous shows through our collection of postcards and posters. New works in a variety of art media are offered for sale including mosaics, printmaking, sewing, jewelry, painting, weaving, and more.

Sophie's Gallery




Passageways: SeaLife

**Celebrating self-determination
September 12 - October 31, 2025
Public reception held during**

ALLEY CAT ART WALK

Friday, September 12, 2025 / 4 - 8PM
**A community event recognizing the arts
in Downtown El Cajon**





Welcome to the Page Family Pavilion



The Page Family Pavilion is nearing a reopening and a new life thanks to the philanthropy of Tom Page whose generous donation made renovations to the building (formerly the Ghio building) possible. Tom was honored during SMSC's official ribbon cutting celebration that included SMSC Board, staff, Program Managers, and Self-Advocacy Student Representatives. A dedication was held, and refreshments were served in the renewed common space with freshly painted walls, new flooring, upgraded doors, and windows. Many significant improvements were made to the interior and exterior of the building including the enclosure of the arcade that offers protection from the weather in an area used for lunches, activities, and breaks. During the celebration Tom remarked that making a large donation that impacts many lives, comes with a sense of pride and personal satisfaction!

Double your impact

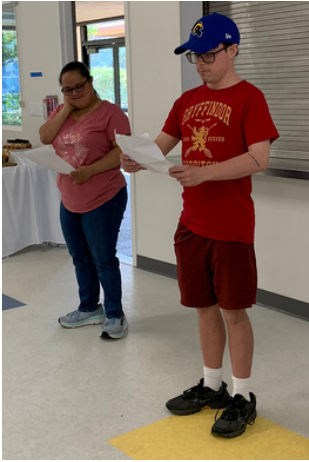
Due to the incredible generosity of June Rubin and Chris & Karen Ward, we've received matching pledges totaling \$65,000 for this year's fashion show!



Every dollar raised will be matched dollar-for-dollar, doubling your impact in supporting the students and programs at St. Madeleine Sophie's Center.



Your generous gift will go twice as far to help us reach our goal!



Ribbon Cutting - Celebration of the New Page Family Pavilion

By: Cali Williams

Here at St. Madeleine Sophie's Center, we had a wonderful event honoring Tom Page, the donor who made the renovation of the Ghio Room possible. Now called the Page Family Pavilion, the building is almost completed and ready for use. The building has a large meeting space and offices. The outdoor space was enclosed which will make it a better place to eat out of the weather.

At this awesome event two self-advocates were invited to speak. John Blalock, the Vice President of St. Madeleine's Self-Advocacy group and I, the AC Representative and San Diego People First Secretary spoke on behalf of SMSC's student body. We thanked Mr. Page for his donation that made the improvements to the building possible. Look for the Page Family Pavilion to open soon.

Tom Page received a gold medal from John Blalock who represented the Tritons swim team. Tom donated to SMSC's Aquatic Center, providing the funds necessary to keep the Tritons swim team competing in 2024 and 2025. He also paid for much needed equipment and infrastructure to keep the pool clean and heated. Blalock expressed his gratitude for all our students who rely on the pool for exercise.

July Birthdays

Adam Alvarez
Thomas Blue
Monica Burns
Lashaun Bynes
Cody Cable
Gretchen Cameron
Betsy Cory
Madeline Davis
John Donovan
Katie Floyd
Robert Gibson
Daniel Gibson
Samir Hallac
Kelly Hamilton
Megan Hinman
Maevis Hutson
Debbie Lopez
Morgan Mulvaney
Alan Munoz
Lee Napier
Scott Nielson
Jean Poutous
Tyler Rodriguez
Erika Sheedlo
Brian Shroyer
Jacob Sorenson
Robert Shugert
Erin Teays
Blake Thompson
Yolanda Tkacik
Sofia Zarcone



July • Julio / 2025

LUNCH MENU

July 1st Mushroom ravioli, side salad and garlic bread

July 2nd Shrimp stir fry over steamed rice

July 3rd BBQ Chicken, coleslaw, baked beans and watermelon

July 4th Closed 4th of July Holiday

July 7th Pineapple shrimp over rice

July 8th Roasted pork and peppers over potatoes*

July 9th Ground turkey Asian lettuce wrap *

July 10th Taco salad bowl

July 11th Pizza and side salad

July 14th Avgolemono soup and pitta bread *

July 15th Pork stew and cornbread

July 16th Beijing beef and broccoli over steamed rice

July 17th Chicken salad sandwich and chips

July 18th Pizza and side salad

July 21st Honey garlic shrimp over rice and broccoli

July 22nd Carnitas bowl with tortilla strips

July 23rd Grilled chicken sandwich and fries

July 24th Summer crunch salad and roll *

July 25th Pizza and side salad

July 28th Chicken tenders and fries

July 29th Spinach and mushroom pork tenderloin over potatoes

July 30th Egg salad sandwich and chips

July 31st Fish tacos, rice, and beans

* New Menu Item