

Champions of civility

STORY AND PHOTOS BY VINCENT ANDRUNAS • SPECIAL TO THE U-T

2017 PEACEMAKER AWARDS

In the 35 years since its founding, a neighborhood center in Golden Hill has become the National Conflict Resolution Center, a leader in mediation instruction and provider of strategies and programs empowering people to communicate effectively, find common ground, and overcome differences. NCRC's services and training programs also help young people stay in school and avoid the "pipeline to prison."

Reaching more than 10,000 individuals annually, NCRC is committed to building a more civil society by providing resources and expertise to help individuals, companies, and communities around the world manage and resolve conflicts in collaborative, forward-looking, and transformative ways.

NCRC's 2017 Peacemaker Awards event, held last Saturday evening at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla, was emceed by legendary professional sportscaster Dick Enberg. He was a fitting choice — NCRC's work is an ongoing campaign for civility, sportsmanship is just another word for civility, peacemaking is a team sport, and one of the honorees was a revered professional athlete.

After a very social cocktail reception, the 625 guests moved to the ballroom where a three-course dinner featured braised short ribs and exceptionally-delicious pan-seared salmon. Enberg's referee's whistle got the crowd's attention, and the awards program began. NCRC board chair Tom Turner introduced the first honorees, recipients of the Philanthropy

in Peacemaking Award. They were basketball giant Bill Walton and his wife Lori (who, while diminutive in stature, is a giant in her own right).

Famed philanthropists and all-star community leaders, the Waitons are involved in 52 diverse charities. Their humorous and entertaining onstage interaction seemed totally spontaneous (but was probably partially scripted), and included Bill shearing Lori's waist-length tresses quite short, because he prefers shorter hair. Actually, it was a "live" donation to Locks of Love, which makes wigs for children suffering long-term medical hair loss.

The San Diego Peacemaker Award went to Rachel's Challenge, founded by Darrell and Sandy Scott in memory of daughter Rachel, the first victim of the Columbine school shootings. The organization works to disrupt patterns of bullying with a culture of compassion and civility.

Southern Poverty Law Center received the National Peacemaker Award for seeking justice and working to ensure that the civil rights movement brings benefits to all. SPLC CEO Richard Cohen gave an uplifting keynote address detailing some of the center's significant successes.

Led by \$50,000 from Roberta and Malin Burnham, paddle-raise donations totaled \$239,100. Overall, the event netted \$574,950 for NCRC's work.



Dick Enberg (emcee), Tom Turner (NCRC board chair), Steve Dinken (NCRC president), Lori and Bill Walton (honorees), Sandy and Darrell Scott (founders), Rachel's Challenge [honoree], Richard Cohen (president, Southern Poverty Law Center [honoree])

The San Diego
Union-Tribune



Marc Meyer, Justine Darling, Dr. Jeff and Carol Chang, Ann and Ben Haddad



Ed Gillerwaters, Reena Horowitz, Roberta and Malin Burnham, Renee Roth, Chuck Nichols



Phil Blair, Joyce Gattas, Catherine Blair, Nora Jaffe, Linda and Mel Katz



Moises and Vicki Baron, Paul Vaden, Nancy Gibson, Indra Gardiner Bowers and Paul M. Bowers

Union-Tribune

April 20 party has local pot biz marketer totally stoked



DIANE BELL

Columnist

BudTrader.com has nothing to do with Budweiser beer collectors or former best buddies, for that matter.

Instead, it has everything to do with the budding legal marijuana industry and the buying, selling and trading of plants, produce, products and properties related to it.

It's a booming business for 32-year-old Encinitas software and digital marketing entrepreneur **Brad McLaughlin**, who was looking to branch out beyond his business website and mobile app creation work.

The owner of Executive Marketing Services bought the online BudTrader site last July, returned it and sees great potential now that California voters have legalized recreational marijuana use.

Consider BudTrader.com as a digital Auto-trader with free ads, or a Craigslist catering to pot producers, users and services.

On April 20 (420 is the symbol for cannabis coined years ago), McLaughlin is staging his first BudTrader Ball. It's an invitation-only "red carpet" party at an Encinitas nightclub near his office.

He says invitations have

gone to a Who's Who of VIPs, NFL players and other sports figures, celebrities, investors, medical marijuana advocates and politicians — even the local deputy district attorney whom McLaughlin has been consulting to ensure his business operates within rapidly changing legal boundaries.

SEE **DIANE BELL** • B8

His invitation to **Gov. Jerry Brown** to be guest of honor created some lighthearted buzz when it was picked up by media and social networking sites.

But it's no joke. The CEO of BudTrader, which has grown to more than 600,000 registered users, contends marijuana will be a huge source of tax revenue and a financial boon to the cash-strapped state and shouldn't be ignored.

The response? Gov. Brown's office "sent us an official meeting/appearance request form. ... We filled out the form and submitted it," noted McLaughlin. "We followed up with his office Monday, and they didn't have an answer yet if he was coming or not."

Incidentally, partygoers won't be treated to pot-laced potato chips or cannabis cuisine, marijuana-infused beer or wine or any marijuana products (although if they have a medical prescription, they will be allowed to smoke on the outside patio, McLaughlin notes).

As they leave, however, they'll be given swag bags containing an array of pot paraphernalia: rolling papers, pipes, creams, balms, diet supplements, fortified water, hemp-based clothing and a super-sensitive cannabis testing kit valued at \$800.

This "red carpet" event is the first of what will be an annual tradition. "We want to be the Academy Awards of the marijuana industry," says McLaughlin.

Calling the shots: The **National Conflict Resolution Center** handed out its annual Peacemaker Awards here on April 8, and emcee **Dick Enberg** proved he has his own method of keeping peace.

Knowing his loquacious friend **Bill Walton**, a Peacemaker honoree, would likely exceed his speaking time limit, the longtime sportscaster arrived prepared. He brought a referee's whistle so he could call "time out."

Horse thief: San Diego police received an unusual crime report last week: the theft of a seahorse.

This one wasn't from a tank at the Birch Aquarium at Scripps. Rather, it was an 8-foot-tall red seahorse sculpture that has stood beside a residential driveway along the 7200 block of La Jolla Boulevard for about the past 20 years.

Despite being chained down, the seahorse disappeared sometime after 9 p.m. on April 6. Only the chain remained.

Clem Elgazzar, owner of the rental homes at 7256 and 7258 La Jolla Blvd., said he is posting a missing sign and will offer a \$500 reward for the return of his seahorse, which he inherited from previous owners of the property.

"I don't know if it's a spring break prank or what," he said. "I don't care who took it. I just want it back."

Book look: Roosevelt Brown, a retired barber who, for years, had a shop at Fourth Street and Market downtown, has been giving away children's books one day a year for the past 33 years at the Balboa Park Organ Pavilion.

"I always had a burning desire to learn," Brown says, "but I had a severe speech problem. I stuttered really, really badly when I was a kid. I missed out on a lot of things because of my fear of speaking at school."