

The Official Publication of the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce

Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce August Calendar

Please RSVP (required for food events) to the Chamber at 310/545-5313 or email to info@manhattanbeachchamber.net

- Aug. 5**
 - Executive Committee Meeting - 8:00 a.m.
 - Entrepreneurial Exchange – Peter D. Steinbroner, 9:15 a.m. Back Home in Lahaina, 916 Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach. As an expert in identity theft, Peter D. Steinbroner will share ideas and tips on how to protect your business by offering the latest information on identity theft. Early networking at 9:15 a.m., followed by introductions and the presentation beginning at 9:30 a.m. No charge to attend.
 - SBA/SCORE Counseling, 9:30 a.m. to Noon, MBCC office, by appointment.
- Aug. 6**
 - Chamber Pak Due and Sand Dollar Articles Due
 - Health & Fitness Committee Meeting – Rennae Brewer, Noon to 1:30 p.m., Spectrum Club, 2250 Park Place, El Segundo. Rennae Brewer of BodyClenz will discuss the following: basic anatomy of the digestive system, symptoms of colon toxicity, the role of nutrition, whole food and herbal supplementation, and the benefits of colon hydrotherapy and other natural therapies. Bring your own bag lunch or pick up something there. Members of the public are warmly welcomed. No charge to attend. The Health and Fitness Committee educates our community in all areas of the health field. Included in the group are a wide variety of health professionals. No charge to attend.
 - Golf League – 3:00 p.m. sharp – Manhattan Beach Marriott
- Aug. 12**
 - No WIB luncheon this month – See you in September!
 - SBA/SCORE Counseling, 9:30 a.m. to Noon, MBCC office, by appointment.
- Aug. 13**
 - Golf League – 3:00 p.m. sharp – Manhattan Beach Marriott
- Aug. 15**
 - Chevron Manhattan Beach Grand Prix,

Bicycle Races, Manhattan Beach. Races begin at 7:00 a.m. The women's pro race is at 11:30 a.m. and the men's pro race is at 1:00 p.m.

- Aug. 17**
 - Board of Directors Meeting, Joslyn Center, 8:00 a.m.
- Aug. 18**
 - Mixer Seaside Lagoon. The Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach Chambers of Commerce are at it again! Join both Chambers for sun and fun at the Seaside Lagoon on Wednesday, August 18, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This is a Family Mixer featuring many local restaurants, music, special activities for children and much more. Hope to see you there. The Regional Family Mixer is an opportunity for business people and their families to work together to network, sample some of the best food in the South Bay, and most of all, enjoy summer sunshine. For members of all participating Chambers and their families, the fee is \$5.00 and non-members attend for a fee of \$10.00. For more information, call Paul at the Redondo Beach Chamber at 310-376-6911 ext. 27 or visit www.redondochamber.org.
- Aug. 19**
 - SBA/SCORE Counseling, 9:30 a.m. to Noon, MBCC office, by appointment.
- Aug. 20**
 - Golf League – 3:00 p.m. sharp – Manhattan Beach Marriott
- Aug. 26**
 - SBA/SCORE Counseling, 9:30 a.m. to Noon, MBCC office, by appointment.
- Aug. 27**
 - Golf League – 3:00 p.m. sharp – Manhattan Beach Marriott
- Aug. 31**
 - Government Relations/Legislative Committee Meeting, Noon to 1:30 pm. Northrop Grumman, Cafeteria Patio in Building "S." Northrop Grumman will provide drinks and dessert. Lunch is available to purchase. RSVP to the Chamber.

Two Forks Up! Second City Bistro

by Annette Gallardo

In 1911, surveyors from the Standard Oil Company looked out over a large melon patch near the ocean for the site of their second refinery. In keeping with California tradition, the oil company used the Spanish term El Segundo, which means "the second," to christen the refinery and newly formed city that grew from this venture. Second City Bistro took the namesake gave it a stylish spin and aptly named their restaurant.

Newly opened and quickly creating a buzz – friends, acquaintances and all-around foodies were singing its praises. Friends were making the pilgrimage from Manhattan Beach for the free Monday night wine tasting on the patio. As funny as that sounds, these people don't usually leave the four square miles of the city for anything. My usual modus operandi is to wait several months for a restaurant to work the kinks out before trying it but with all the hype, I went anyway. Much to our frustration at the service and several menu choices unavailable that night, a few of the dishes were encouraging enough to give Second City Bistro a second chance.

A clichéd tag line of "American fare with flair" doesn't do justice to New Zealand-born chef Nikki Hoelsey's varying carte du jour. Her menu opens up with standards like crab cakes and Caesar salad but does a bit of globe-trotting with an incredible brie nestled devilishly in puff pastry glazed with a silky berry sauce or seared sea scallops with ginger chili jam. A not-to-be-missed salad of mixed greens, gorgonzola, poached burgundy pears and candied pecans tossed in blueberry zinfandel vinaigrette was like Christmas in a bowl. Impressive deep-fried capensis takes fish and chips to an art form with a pale ale beer batter that adds a

crunch and a touch of sweetness to this all-time favorite.

While most restaurants homogenize themselves by serving the same menu as everyone else, chef Nikki takes some risks I really admire. Tonight's special was a whole fried bass with a confidently subtle Thai red curry sauce perched over vegetables and steamed rice. Time spent at McCormick and Schmick's is evident in all her fish presentations. Second City Bistro's wine list is more extensive than the menu, with a good price range in every wine category from all over California and a sprinkling of Italian, French and Aussie wines.

Ambiance is created by a combination of styles with a bright stainless steel open kitchen, early California dining room with dark woods and unearthed original red brick walls dotted with a touch of Morocco in the lampshades. Very comfy seating and crisp white linen tablecloths sit under an open beamed ceiling equipped with ample twinkle lights producing a star-studded sky effect. The front and rear rooftop patios perfect an al fresco dining experience.

Located off the main drag on a sleepy strip of Richmond Street, Second City Bistro is a decent little neighborhood bistro easily found by following the culinary aroma. Even the best restaurants have bad days and one should endeavor to give a place a second chance. A cut above the usual with overly generous portions and a small-town feel, Second City Bistro attempts to sidestep trendy trends and appeal to a broad dining public.

Second City Bistro, 223 Richmond St., El Segundo, (310) 322-6085

Annette Gallardo is the chef/owner of South Bay School of Cooking – Hands-on cooking classes and culinary tours. She can be reached at www.SouthBaySchoolofCooking.com.



Annette Gallardo

MBCC Ambassadors Don't Skip Those Mixers!

Mary Pat Dorr, Ambassador Committee
Mary Pat Dorr Photography

I know what you find yourself saying the afternoon of the mixer: "Oh, I just don't have time to go to the mixer tonight, I'll go to the next one!" Perhaps you think, "I really don't know anyone there so it won't be fun."

I propose to those of you with these excuses that you need to just do it! Take at least one hour a month to come to the mixers and meet new people! Why else are you a member of the chamber? How can you promote your business if you don't get out and mix?

Did you know that the mixers are all set up for the next year? Businesses are anxious to host the members, introduce their facility or products and gain recognition. Most hosts provide delicious food – enough to skip dinner! Beer, wine and soft drinks are available for a nominal price. We have a 50-50 raffle so you could leave with more wealth than you arrived with!

So, next time a mixer comes around please put it on your calendar and then come along – try it – you will like it!



Ambassador of the Month: Mary Pat Dorr, Mary Pat Dorr Photography

Mary Pat is a longtime member of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Chamber Ambassador Committee. As an Ambassador, she is responsible for writing the monthly Ambassador Sand Dollar Articles submitted to and printed in The Beach Reporter. Furthermore, Mary Pat is active in staffing Chamber mixers and Chamber New Member Orientation events. She is a valuable part of the Ambassador Team. If you would like to know more about her and how Mary Pat Door Photography, specializing in scenics, greeting cards, family portraits, and weddings/events, can assist you, contact Mary Pat at www.marypatdorr.com or (310) 546-6683. She would be delighted to speak with you!

Our Mission Statement: As Ambassadors, it is our mission to assist new and prospective members in maximizing the benefits of their Chamber membership, while serving as a resource for information and upcoming events. Through our presence at a variety of functions, we actively promote the Chamber while helping members become business partners and friends.

IT'S EASY TO REACH US!

- CALL: (310) 545-5313
- FAX: (310) 545-7203
- VISIT: 425 Fifteenth Street, M.B.
- EMAIL: info@manhattanbeachchamber.net
- WEBSITE: www.manhattanbeachchamber.net
- BULLETIN BOARD: from website, click on Members Forums

Splish! Splash! ... It's a Regional Bash!!

The Chambers of Commerce of Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes, San Pedro, Hermosa Beach, El Segundo and Torrance are at it again! Join members from all of these Chambers for sun and fun at the Seaside Lagoon on Wednesday, August 18, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This is a Family Mixer featuring many local restaurants, music, special activities for children and much more. Hope to see you there.

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August Space Deadline Is Aug. 13th