

805

LIVING

Holiday  
Cheer

# Pulse

TRACKING THE BEAT OF THE 805

By Leslie Dinaberg



## SWEDISH-STYLE SWEETS

For a fresh twist on Christmas candy this year, try authentic handmade *polkagris*, a traditional treat in Sweden that's available at Solvang's **Swedish Candy Factory** ([swedishcandyfactory.com](http://swedishcandyfactory.com)), which claims to be the only bakery in the U.S. making the confection. "Polkagris is the main Swedish candy that we make," says Rob Taylor, owner of the family business. "Our family is all part Swedish, so it's kind of a neat thing to do."

"Peppermint Polkagris is probably the number one seller for the holiday season," says Taylor's sister Amy Freedman, who works at the Solvang store. In addition to that red and white–striped traditional flavor, the company's polkagris sticks come in an array of colors and cinnamon, licorice, piña colada, and several sour fruit flavors.

Chocolate is also in plentiful supply at the candy factory, with special holiday flavors and wrappings for December, says Taylor, who heads up the family's Staffords Chocolates Company. The family's other 805-area stores include Staffords Chocolates (opening soon in San Luis Obispo) and Mama Ganache Artisan Chocolates in San Luis Obispo. (To see some of what Mama Ganache has to offer, check out the bark in "Visions of Chocolate," page 68.)



## DREAMY BEDDING

Sleep is such an important component of our overall health and happiness, so why not gift your loved ones (or yourself) with eco-conscious luxury bedding this holiday season? **Westlake Home** ([westlakehome.com](http://westlakehome.com)) is a dream come true for brothers Charles-Etienne and Julien Roy, founders of the Westlake Village-based business, who spent more than two years traveling the world doing research to create luxurious bedding made from chemical-free, environmentally friendly products.

“Our dedication to creating heirloom pieces demands nothing can be overlooked,” says Julien. Not even the package. “The goal of our packaging is to convey reusability and reduce our trash impact,” he says.

Sheets, duvet covers, pillowcases, and bundled sets are all available online, and every purchase comes with two gifts—a 100 percent organic mulberry silk eye mask and a striking agate coaster from Brazil.

## SEE-WORTHY SHIPS

A new exhibit at the **Santa Barbara Maritime Museum** (SBMM, [sbmm.org](http://sbmm.org)) spotlights the work of artist of the fleet Arthur Beaumont, who used impressionist techniques to paint the rich history of the U.S. Navy, from the *USS Constitution* to atomic bomb tests to expeditions

to the North and South Poles. “SBMM is proud to be one of only 10 museums in the United States selected to exhibit *Arthur Beaumont: Art of the Sea*,” says the museum’s executive director Greg Gorga.

“This exhibit fits in perfectly with our other military displays,” Gorga adds, pointing to the museum’s appropos location inside the former Naval Training Center building and the area’s rich naval history, including visits by the Great White Fleet, the *USS Constitution*, and the *USS Ronald Reagan*; as well as some of the tragedies like the Honda Point Disaster and the Shelling of Ellwood Beach. In the last show on the West Coast, the artist’s 53 works are on view from December 3 through May 30, 2020.

See works like Arthur Beaumont’s *USS Fall River*, a 13x17-inch watercolor from the Douglas Dreibelbis Collection depicting the first-ever underwater nuclear bomb test, which was conducted by the U.S. on July 25, 1946, at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands.



## CLIMB ON A CLYDESDALE

If you’ve ever dreamed of riding one of the majestic and mighty horses made famous in the Budweiser commercials, now’s your chance. Tour the family-owned **Covell Ranch** ([covellsclydesdaleranch.com](http://covellsclydesdaleranch.com)) in the charming coastal community of Cambria on the back of one of the gentle Scottish draught horses known as Clydesdales.

“We’ve been breeding Clydesdales for over 40 years,” says Tara Covell. Her father, horse breeder Ralph Covell, owns the 2,000 acre ranch and offers tours and trail rides through the property, where stands of Monterey Pines grow along rolling hills with ocean views.



Visitors to Covell Ranch hit the trails on Clydesdales.

# FRESH FLOWERS MEET FRESH THINKING

A beautiful floral arrangement is always a welcome gift, but learning to make one can be a treasured experience. That's the idea behind **The Floral Pantry** ([thefloralpantry.com](http://thefloralpantry.com)), a new DIY (create it yourself) floristry-kit delivery service.

Founder and creative director Kim Wiseley worked with internationally renowned floral designers for years before landing on a way to share their expertise and creative inspiration with home floral enthusiasts, she says. The result of collaborations with renowned professionals, such as English floral designer Willow Crossley and Belgium-based farmer-florist Emily Avenson of Fleuroperan floral designs, the kits feature seasonal, fresh flowers, a handmade vessel, design tools, and a video design tutorial, all handpacked by Wiseley and her team in a Santa Barbara floral warehouse. "Nature's wonder is at the heart of everything we do," Wiseley says.



Kim Wiseley (right), founder of The Floral Pantry floristry-kit delivery service, assembles one of her design projects, which include various types of arrangements, such as wreaths. Kits come with tools and fresh flowers.

## FLAVOR OF THE MONTH: GINGERBREAD



The sweet, spicy goodness of gingerbread takes liquid form in the Get Rich or Die Chai-ing Cocktail at the Good Lion in Santa Barbara.

"A delicious gingerbread man with a cold glass of milk is a holiday staple for me," says Kyle Kent, bar supervisor at The Lark, who created his Gingerbread Clarified Milk Punch Cocktail for this holiday season. The aromatics of gingerbread—molasses, cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla, and clove—evoke the holiday spirit, so it's no wonder local chefs, bakers, and mixologists have been inspired to concoct new riffs on the classic treat.

**What:** Clarified Milk Punch Cocktail, a mix of gingerbread spices and rich, creamy milk in a cold, dessert-style cocktail  
**Where:** The Lark, Santa Barbara ([thelarksb.com](http://thelarksb.com))

**What:** Gingerbread Gelato, traditional holiday spices warm up an authentic Italian frozen dessert  
**Where:** Solvang Flavors, Solvang ([solvangflavors.com](http://solvangflavors.com))

**What:** The Gingerbread-Latte Macaron, the classic French-style sandwich cookie meets all-American gingerbread flavors in a confection from pastry chef Ron Vilorio

**Where:** Goat Tree café at Hotel Californian, Santa Barbara ([hotelcalifornian.com/santa\\_barbara\\_restaurants/goat\\_tree](http://hotelcalifornian.com/santa_barbara_restaurants/goat_tree))

**What:** The Gingerbread Latte, delicately sweet gingery heat mingles with espresso and steamed milk in a seasonal cuppa

**Where:** Libbey's Market at the Ojai Valley Inn, Ojai ([ojaivalleyinn.com/dining](http://ojaivalleyinn.com/dining))

**What:** Gingerbread-spiced Morning Buns, classic buns get a gingerbread-flavored twist in this holiday special from executive chef Jason Paluska

**Where:** Helena Avenue Bakery, Santa Barbara ([helenaavenuebakery.com](http://helenaavenuebakery.com))

**What:** The Get Rich or Die Chai-ing Cocktail, a gingerbread-reminiscent mix of chai, blended scotch, orgeat, Cocchi Vermouth di Torino, Fernet-Branca, lemon juice, and herbal liqueur by mixologist-co-owner Brandon Ristaino

**Where:** The Good Lion, Santa Barbara ([goodlioncocktails.com](http://goodlioncocktails.com))

# THE LANDING

32107-32133 Lindero Canyon Road, Westlake Village

OFFICE SUITES AVAILABLE FOR LEASE

## ATTENTION EXECUTIVE SUITE USERS

STOP PAYING EXECUTIVE SUITE RATES

1-2 PERSON OFFICES AVAILABLE



Interactive works: *Time Dilation* (above) and *Fluid Connections* (below), both by Marco Pinter, respond to onlookers' actions.



## TAKE PART IN ART

At a time when people are thirsting for new activities they can do safely, the new **Museum of Sensory & Movement Experiences (MSME, pronounced *miss me*; seehearmove.com)** in Santa Barbara is a welcome addition to the cultural scene. The exhibits are all interactive and primarily hands-free, "as a way for people to still feel connected even during this time of social distancing," explains executive director Marco Pinter.

Pinter hopes in particular to attract visually savvy teens and young adults with extended evening hours, which he suggests are "great for date nights," and interactive experiences that are sure to be great fodder for Instagram. Each visitor is an energy source that fuels the results, so as they engage with the artworks, what they see responds in new and unexpected ways.

Pinter is himself an established media artist as well as a prolific inventor with more than 70 patents in the categories of live video technology, robotics, interactivity, and telepresence. Six of his installations are on view at MSME. Among other artists featured are Ethan Turpin, Alan Macy, Elisa Ortega Montilla, and Douglas Lochner. ♦



## PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS

- Landmark Office & Retail Project Consisting of 104,868 SF
- Stunning Lake Views
- Beautifully Landscaped Grounds Conducive to Outdoor Team Meeting and Lunch
- Several Amenities On-site Including Boccaccio's, The Landing Sushi Bar & Grill, Zin Bistro Americana, and The Westlake Yacht Club
- Prestigious Location on Westlake in Highly Desirable Westlake Village
- Suites from 200 SF to 5,100 SF

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