

50 People To Watch in 2006

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WE'VE GOT POLITICIANS, PTA presidents and presumptuous porn stars. They're writers, weight-loss experts and women boxers. Restaurateurs and entrepreneurs. TV anchors, authors and attorneys. And they all have one thing in common: They're worth keeping an eye on. A few, you'd do well to keep an eye out for. Either way, these are the people San Diego Magazine will be watching this year. Next year, we'll say we told you so.

By Thomas K. Arnold, Julia Beeson, Ron Donoho and Margie Farnsworth

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Andrew Donohue

This brash yet articulate writer for the Voice of San Diego, a nonprofit on-line news source, swept the news writing category for daily newspapers at the 2005 Press Club awards. Donohue, 27, first made a name for himself in local journalism circles three years ago at The San Diego Daily Transcript, when he broke many of the early stories about the city of San Diego's pension dealings. This year, he says, he'll continue covering City Hall while doubling as news editor. "We're hoping to bring investigative reporting back into style in San Diego," he says.



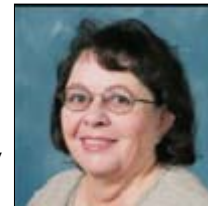
Heather Donoho

We first profiled this sprightly female boxer in May 2003. She was 19, and winning amateur boxing titles all over the country in the 112-pound flyweight division. In 2005, Donoho went pro. She's now 3-0, having fought in the San Diego Convention Center, at Camp Pendleton and in Tijuana, where she does a good deal of her training. She's finishing a criminal justice degree at San Diego State University and training three hours a day. This real-life Million Dollar Baby plans to fight overseas in the near future.



Brenda Davis

It's not your mother's PTA. Today's volunteer school organization is much more than bake sales and chaperoning field trips, says Bonita resident Davis, recently tapped as president of the California State PTA, a million-member organization. "We're breaking down the perceived barrier that PTA is just for upper-middle-class, stay-at-home moms," she says. Expanding programs to better accommodate single parents and reaching out to under-represented ethnic groups, primarily Latinos, top Davis' agenda.



José "El Gallo" Gadea

Gadea helped make history in San Diego radio last year when 106.5 FM La Nueva became the first Spanish-language radio station to visit the top of the Arbitron ratings. Gadea co-hosts the station's popular morning show, El Gallo y la Bola. Operated by Univision Radio, La Nueva reflects the past year's national trend of Spanish-language radio beating out its English-speaking counterparts, and Gadea is one charismatic reason why. "Our audience has been enormously helpful in our success because they understand this is their radio station," he says. "They see us as part of their family."



Bill Gerrity

The CEO of Carlsbad-based GMS Realty, part-owner and operator of Seaport Village, Gerrity is the current driving force to renovate the long-vacant police headquarters next to the bayside retail park. He envisions the historic PD complex as a venue for a lively mix of entertainment spots, public markets and—most likely—the new home for Old Town's displaced Bazaar del Mundo. Possible expansion of Seaport Village also is in the offing. Important environmental impact reports are due this year.



August "Augie" Ghio

"We're well-prepared for about 90 percent of disasters, but not for a Katrina-type event, where the whole infrastructure falls apart," says San Diego's director of homeland security. In charge of the city's response to man-made and natural catastrophes, Ghio says a 2006 priority is to reach a joint-powers agreement among the county's 19 jurisdictions should federal and state funds for security—\$40 million last year—disappear. "The good news is there's an incredible level of cooperation among officials," he says.



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Donald Felsing

When he steps into the chief executive spot at Sempra Energy on February 1, Felsing will head up the Fortune 500 utilities giant that, in 2004, produced revenues of \$9.4 billion. He'll also face a lawsuit filed last November by the state attorney general alleging electricity-price rigging during 2000 and 2001. The suit seeks damages and penalties in the hundreds of millions of dollars. The current president and chief operating officer, Felsing has helped Sempra grow its business to 29 million consumers worldwide, the largest customer base of any energy utility in the country.



Chris Foster

He's president of Hampstead Partners, a local firm with national reach that specializes in affordable- housing redevelopment in neighborhoods. Affordable Housing Finance magazine named Foster to its 2005 list of "Top 20 Developers To Watch." His latest project is the Lafayette Hotel & Residences in North Park. Including the iconic Red Fox Room piano bar/restaurant, the \$11.5 million project seeks to restore the historic property and add 260 condominiums.



Dr. Mimi Guarneri

Integrative medicine, which blends traditional treatment with scientifically validated alternative therapies, is fast gaining public acceptance, and the Scripps Center for Integrative Medicine—cofounded and directed by Guarneri, a board-certified cardiologist—is a nationally recognized program. "Integrative medicine addresses the emotional and spiritual needs of the patient as well as the physical needs," she says. Next month, Guarneri publishes *The Heart Speaks*, a poignant collection of stories from heart patients who have benefited from proven alternative approaches.



Nancy Graham

Appointed president of the Centre City Development Corporation last December, Graham, former mayor of West Palm Beach, Florida, replaces Pete Hall, an 11- year vet who oversaw CCDC at a time when much of the agency's focus was on new residential development. Graham, by profession a land-use attorney, will oversee more than \$600 million of infrastructure improvements, including ambitious redos of the Embarcadero and the Navy Broadway Complex. Despite some detractors in Florida, she comes to San Diego with impeccable credentials: While she was in West Palm Beach, Newsweek ranked her as one of the country's top 25 mayors for pushing through a dramatic downtown revitalization plan.



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