

# 11th Annual heART of Mt. Helix

by: Peggy Junker

Ask anyone what they liked about the annual heART of Mt. Helix event and chances are you'll get a different answer every time. But there is no doubt that one of the top three components making this "party on the hill" stand out is the food. Whether it's sliders from the Hills, Thai Chicken Lollipops from Terra, dessert from Mary's Donuts, or the pastries from Café Carmel Bakery, this event showcases some of the area's top fare.

Without a doubt the entertainment also ranks among the most popular reasons for ensuring the evening's success. Guests were abuzz over this year's 5-piece Good Mojo Band. Playing at Mt. Helix Park for the first time, they rocked audiences at the top of the hill with a memorable, high-energy classic-rock repertoire. Closing the evening for the fifth year were the ever-popular and utterly danceable Mighty Untouchables. Also performing throughout the evening were the talented Marissa Grace (vocalist), Ben Read (pianist) and a surprise performance by the Choral Club's Mink Pack.

Event Co-chair, Dianne McCann, says that one of the things that makes the heART event so successful is that they keep it fresh. "We always have something different and unique," she explains, giving this year's performance by the California Rhythm Project as a primary example. Featuring seven tap dancers on the main stage, these entertainers "were from another era," describes McCann. "It was a moment out of time. It took you back to Frank Sinatra, classics and tuxedos. It was Broadway play-esque right here on the hill," she added.

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All 2018 heART of Mt. Helix photos by Gary Junker



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Board member and local resident, Ron Brady, praised not only the food and music, but also this year's auctioneer, Zack Krone of California Coast. The auctioneer's role is crucial as the heART event is one of this non-profit Park's primary avenues for revenue, and Zack Krone dazzled the crowd into bidding with his high energy, quick wit, and playful demeanor.

And of course – the volunteers. "I think for a complicated venue, the committee does an outstanding job," he says of the all-volunteer crew that coordinates this event each year.

It goes without saying that the heART would not be what it is without the "ART." Local artists provided not only live demos, and pieces from their collections, but winning juried art as well.

"It hits me as a magical place to be," remarks McCann of this very special venue. "When we're up at the top by the cross, and you can see the sun setting, the music playing... I don't think it gets better than that."

The heART of Mt. Helix is the primary gala/fundraiser benefiting Mt. Helix Park, a 501(c)(3) non-profit park. This year's heART raised roughly \$90,000. Expressing her appreciation, Executive Director Nicole Roberts stated, "I give credit to our generous community of businesses and individuals for all that we accomplish during this event. The money raised ultimately enhances the lives of thousands of visitors who enjoy Mt. Helix Park on an annual basis."

This event occurs the second week in August each year. For information on next year's heART of Mt. Helix event, or to volunteer, visit [www.mthelixpark.org](http://www.mthelixpark.org) or call the Park office at (619) 741-4363.

## Community Events Calendar

### 2nd annual Harvest Family Festival

FREE Sunday, October 28, 2 - 5 p.m.  
Location: Mt. Helix Park  
Host: MHPF & GMIA  
[www.mthelixpark.org](http://www.mthelixpark.org)



### GMIA Walk Up to Mt Helix

FREE Saturday, January 5, 10 a.m. to Noon  
Walk begins at the San Miguel Fire Station. Sponsored by: GMIA  
[www.gmia.net](http://www.gmia.net)



### 13th annual Home Tour "Modern Mud"

Saturday, November 3, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Sponsored by: La Mesa Historical Society.  
Tickets: [http://bit.ly/hometour\\_mthelix](http://bit.ly/hometour_mthelix)



### Yoga in the Park

Weekly, M-W-F 9 to 10:15 a.m.  
All levels, Suggested donation \$10-15  
Read about Rose Walters, yoga instructor, celebrating 10 years teaching at Mt. Helix Park. [Click Here for Story](#)



### 28th annual Sing-along Caroling

FREE Saturday, December 15, 4 - 7 p.m.  
Location: Mt. Helix Park  
Host: MHPF  
[www.mthelixpark.org](http://www.mthelixpark.org)



### SAVE THE DATE 94th annual Easter Sunrise Service

Mt. Helix Park Amphitheater  
FREE Sunday, April 21, 2019  
[www.mthelixpark.org](http://www.mthelixpark.org)

