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This month...

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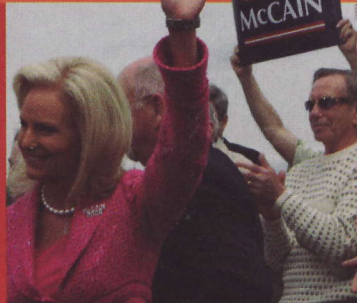


### RONDON'S DOWNTOWN BLOG

*San Diego Magazine* executive editor Ron Donoho extols the virtues of downtown living, San Diego style.

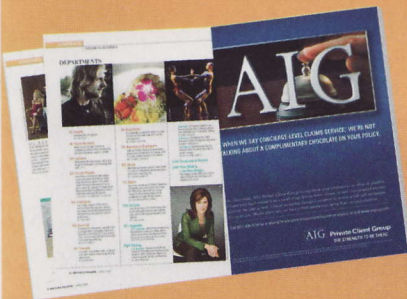
### TALK TO US

Respond to our poll question: No matter who you are going to vote for in the presidential race, who do you think would make the best "First Lady"? Cindy McCain? Michelle Obama? Bill Clinton?



### DIGITAL MAGAZINE

*San Diego Magazine* is now a multimedia experience! Visit sandiegomagazine.com to preview June's interactive digital magazine.



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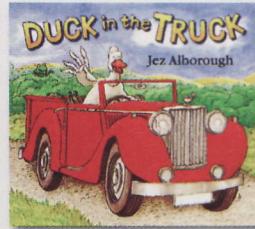
## THE A LIST

The top 25 things to do in San Diego each month

- April 3 Fashion Bash**  
The girls of *Sexy City* chicks are back with a spring Fashion Bash to beat all others. Held at The Wilburry, the shopping extravaganza is a bargain-basement dream. Featuring discounts of up to 80 percent on designer jeans, makeup, jewelry, handbags and more. 5 to 10 p.m., 528 Harbor Street, downtown, 315-265-7967, www.sexycitymagazine.com
- April 3 Wine Styles Blind Tasting Wine Olympics**  
While the competition in Europe doesn't hold an annual Olympic fever is in full force at Wine Styles in Escondido. The wine retailer hosts its Blind Tasting Wine Olympics, giving wine lovers the opportunity to put their taste buds to the test, guessing grape, style and color for a variety of prizes. 5 to 7:30 p.m., 191 North St. Carmel, 760-929-0577, www.winestyles.com/olympics
- April 4-6 Home Design and Landscaping Expo**  
If you've ever searched HGTV for dreams of an extreme home makeover, this is the event for you. Held at the San Diego Convention Center, this three-day expo features more than 200 exhibitors in home design and decor, outdoor living and home remodeling and renovation, as well as garden demonstrations from HGTV stars and other celebrity renovators and designers. Free admission will be granted to those affected by the recent wildfires. April 4, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; April 5, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and April 6, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., 111 West Harbor Drive, downtown, 605-765-3976, www.sandiegomagazine.com
- April 8 Whitford of Chelsea Tea Party**  
Learn how to get the most out of your Earl at this traditional English tea party hosted by Tea Master Gina Wilson at the new Whitford of Chelsea boutique at Horton Plaza. Signature English teas will be served with a variety of classic British pastries. 5 to 7 p.m., Horton Plaza, Level 1, downtown, RSVP to 617-787-2595 or gina@whitford.com, www.whitford.com

## Gained in Translation

IF *THE CAT IN THE HAT* is old hat to your kids, introduce them to tales of red-necked wallabies, snake charmers and singing shijimi clams. These characters populate the multicultural world of Kane/



Miller Book Publishers, a La Jolla company that brings foreign children's books to the United States. Since its founding in 1984 by siblings Madeline Kane and Sandy Miller, the publishing house has released titles from 22 countries, including Australia, Ghana, Slovenia, Taiwan and Venezuela.

"[Kane and Miller] want to expose children to other cultures in ways that are accessible and fun," says publisher Kira Lynn. "It's like adults watching foreign films: There may be subtitles, but you get caught up in the story and move past that, and learn something subtly. It's important to personalize the world for children, especially these days."

Kane/Miller releases about 30 books a year; most titles are acquired from foreign publishers or at international book fairs. The roster ranges from picture books (England's *Duck in the Truck* and companion titles) to preteen fiction (this fall's *The Wickit Chronicles*, an adventure series set in medieval England). Kids are exposed to different cultures through the books' plots (a South Korean girl celebrates the Lunar New Year in *New Clothes for New Year's Day*) or illustrations (the Japanese wood-block prints in *Hannah Duck*). But themes such as friendship, self-esteem and manners show that children everywhere are similar in many ways.

"In the end, a great story for kids in Europe is a great story for kids in the U.S.," Lynn says. "*Harry Potter* proved that very well." More information: kanemiller.com.

