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**American Trivia question:** El Capitan Dam was dedicated in 1935. How many dams does San Diego County have?

## LOTTERY

### Unofficial results

#### MEGA MILLIONS

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015

\$180 million

8 17 20 45 71

Mega number: 4

#### FANTASY FIVE

Tuesday's winning numbers

4 9 15 20 24

#### DAILY FOUR

Tuesday's winning numbers

0 7 3 1

#### DAILY THREE MIDDAY

Tuesday's winning numbers

8 7 7

#### DAILY THREE EVENING

Tuesday's winning numbers

9 6 5

For jackpot, prize and winner information, go online to [ca.lottery.com](http://ca.lottery.com).

# ONE-ON-ONE WITH GLENN KRAMER

U-T profiles of notable local people

## Songs in the key of life

STORY BY DEBORAH SULLIVAN BRENNAN, PHOTO BY EDUARDO CONTRERAS • U-T

One day in 2011, musician Glenn Kramer was on his way to a piano lesson with one of his more accomplished students. As he enjoyed some classical music before the lesson, he realized there might be other San Diego pianists who would love listening and playing together.

Kramer used Meetup.com to create a group where amateur pianists in San Diego could perform and attend piano recitals.

"I had the feeling that this could grow into something very big and popular," Kramer said.

Within a week the group had 50 members, and four years later it has grown to more than 800, making it the largest such amateur piano Meetup group in the country. During that time, Kramer, a graphic designer and pianist, has organized recitals, concerts and master classes for piano lovers throughout the county.

Kramer, 45, of Carmel Mountain Ranch, became enamored of piano at an early age, listening to Tchaikovsky and Strauss waltzes with his grandparents, and Beethoven's Pathétique Sonata in his father's car.

Even while pursuing an architecture degree at the University of Arizona, he surreptitiously pursued his passion for piano.

"I occasionally snuck out of class to search for an unlocked piano room at the music building which was just next door," he said. "I actually composed lots of pieces during those 'escapes.'"

Kramer talks about AmateurPianists and his love of music.

**Q.** Please describe what you do.

**A.** I am a full-time creative director for a company specializing in health care governance. I'm also a professional pianist and the founder and chairman of AmateurPianists.

**Q.** Please tell us about your organization of amateur pianists.

**A.** I founded our group AmateurPianists in 2011 to provide a positive experience for adult amateurs who wish to share their enjoyment of classical music and perform in public. We provide a safe and nurturing environment where amateur pianists from all walks of life can meet and share their love of music and encourage each other. There is no membership cost to join, and most of our events are free to attend and open to the public.

**Q.** How did you build your organization to its current membership?

**A.** Many of our members have found us simply with a Google search or within Meetup.com. I also created a Facebook page for AmateurPianists, as well as a website, AmateurPianists.org. We also have reciprocal marketing efforts with our partner organizations, such as the San Diego Symphony and Mainly Mozart. I am thrilled that our piano group has grown to become the largest piano-themed Meetup group in the country with over 800 members.

**Q.** What kinds of events do you regularly offer?

**A.** We organize piano recitals almost every month where anyone can sign up to play for audiences. Our group reserves the recital hall, designs the programs and does all the marketing. Our members also love the master classes we organize, where the audience participates in the discussion. We also recently created a new format called "Concert Chats" in which we invite professional pianists to take us on their personal journey of learning, embracing and performing a piece. This can be very inspiring!

**Q.** Have any of your amateur members gone on to play professionally?

**A.** Many of our members are music teachers, and some play professionally for events. One of the greatest joys I receive is when members tell me that attending one of our recitals has

inspired them to practice again. Playing piano for a large audience, like the professionals do, can be a very exciting and rewarding experience.

**Q.** What future events do you have planned?

**A.** Our next event is our fun and festive holiday celebration on Dec. 5. On Jan. 23, we are hosting our "Around the World" recital in which eight pianists will play pieces from eight countries. We are also planning a recital in March to honor "Women's History Month" with music featuring women composers.

**Q.** Why are you drawn to the piano as a musical instrument?

**A.** The piano is almost unique as an acoustic instrument in that a person can convey so much emotion. I love the expressivity the piano can deliver — from peaceful pianissimos to powerful crescendos! It's also one of the few instruments in which one can play a melody and harmonize with it at the same time. It's no wonder it's one of the best songwriting and composing instruments.

**Q.** What are your favorite piano pieces to play?

**A.** My musical tastes for the piano are varied. Right now, I am highly interested in creating transcriptions and arrangements of other works.

**Q.** What is the next step for your organization?

**A.** Our focus now is to create a new tradition for our city, the San Diego International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs, which will take place from July 15 through July 17,

2016.

**Q.** What's the best advice you ever received?

**A.** I received lots of great advice over the years, but of the two that come to mind, one is by cognitive scientist Steven Pinker, who said

choose your avocation based not on a salary or prestige but on what your day-to-day activities will be like, because your enjoyment of those activities is what will determine your happiness and success in your field. The second advice is from entrepreneur Gary Vaynerchuk who stated, quite succinctly, that to succeed in anything in life you just have to put in the work.

**Q.** Please describe your ideal San Diego weekend.

**A.** A hike on the beach near Torrey Pines, and dinner and drinks outside with sunset views.

**What I love about Carmel Mountain Ranch...** I love that it's a quiet residential community, yet close to shopping, restaurants and a terrific new movie theater.

