

LAGUNA BEACH

DECEMBER 2013 » OCINSITE.COM

Magazine

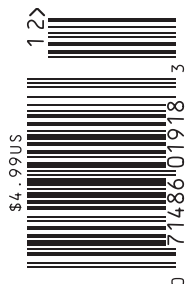
LAGUNA'S CHANGE-MAKERS

10

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+

UNDERWATER PIONEER: DJ ROLLER EXPLORES THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN
HOUSE OF HOPE: INSIDE THE GLENNWOOD HOUSE | HOLIDAY STYLE



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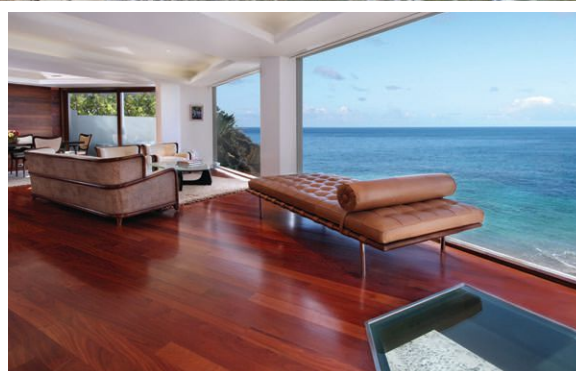


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Chopard



Laguna Beach Magazine presents its annual showcase of forward-thinking locals whose imagination, positivity and generosity are shaping the community's future.

By Bria Balliet, Linda Domingo, Tess Eyrich, Ashley Ryan and Alli Tong

44. A REEL PIONEER

Laguna Beach resident DJ Roller has built a career on his fearlessness in extreme environments, his passion behind the camera's lens and his dedication to sharing his experiences with the audience.

By Ted Reckas

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Since opening its doors in July, Glennwood House has become a haven for adults with developmental disabilities.

By Peter A. Balaskas

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72. EXPRESS YOURSELF

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By Cheryl Pruett

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By Lisa Marie Hart

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By Stephanie Nitsch

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Residents of Quivera Street enjoy views of downtown Laguna Beach and the Pacific Ocean.

By Sally Eastwood

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A restaurant resource for dining out in Laguna Beach.

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By Hannah Ostrow

TIS' THE SEASON FOR PEACE AND JOY
TIS' THE SEASON FOR GIFTING OF TOYS!



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Just in time for a new year, Sugar Mama may have found her spirit animal.

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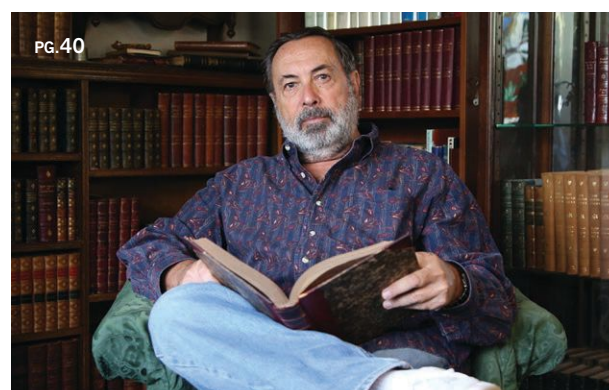


JODY TIONGCO



ON THE COVER: BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: JON MADISON, VALARIE VAN CLEAVE, TEX HAINES, ANDREA ADELSON; MIDDLE ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: JODIE GATES, CRAIG STRONG; FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: JACOB CHO, MICHELE HUNTER
PHOTOGRAPHER: DONDEE QUINCENA

PG.36



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FROM GOOD TO GREAT

PASSION. WHEN IT COMES TO BUILDING A LIFE THAT'S MEANINGFUL, I THINK THIS ONE WORD has a lot to do with it.

If you haven't read the book "Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap ... and Others Don't" by Jim Collins, well, you should. The main idea Collins implores readers to think about is what it means to build a life that's not just "good" but "great"—and "passion" has a lot

to do with it. While the book is mainly geared toward CEOs or leaders in management, its messages are quite applicable to anyone's life, from a stay-at-home mom or dad to an owner of his or her own company.

Since this is Laguna Beach Magazine's "Most Influential" issue, I thought this quote from "Good to Great" was fitting: "When what you are deeply passionate about, what you can be best in the world at and what drives your economic engine come together, not only does your work move toward greatness, but so does your life. For, in the end, it is impossible to have a great life unless it is a meaningful life."

Thinking about this in my own life, I asked myself, "What am I passionate about?" And one common thread stood out: magazines. As young as 10 years old, I recall being sprawled out on the living room floor with stacks of my mom's subscription magazines laid out in front of me. Vanity Fair, People, Good Housekeeping—whatever I could get my fingers on, I wanted. I loved the gratification of flipping to that last page of a book and beginning a new one. Fast-forward through the years, and it's still a part of my everyday routine.

In 2012, after traveling a serendipitous road, I found Firebrand and met people who are as fanatical about magazines as I am. It goes without saying that if you find something you truly love doing, you find a way to build your life around it.

Looking at our influential nominees this year (page 54), passion seems to run through the veins of each and every person, such as Jodie Gates, the founder of the Laguna Dance Festival, who brought her love of dance to Laguna after retiring from a prestigious dance career. Subsequently, she has greatly influenced the community's interest in the art. Or, there's martial arts master Jacob Cho, who strives to change the lives of younger generations through his classes. He says, "It's a victory every time I help a weak kid grow strong, a shy kid grow confident ... and, for those passionate about martial arts, a lifetime pursuit."

It's clear that all of these individuals lead meaningful lives around their passions. On that note, I hope the stories and paths of your fellow community leaders and neighbors in this issue inspire you to not just settle for a life that's "good" but "great."

Cheers,
Alli Tong
Editor, Laguna Beach Magazine
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LAGUNA BEACHTM Magazine

“Everyone looks up to someone. Who was your role model growing up, and why?”



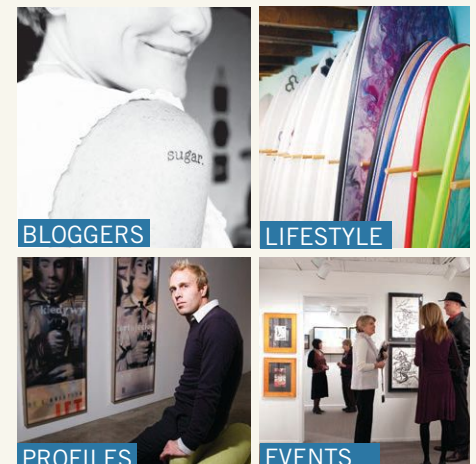
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What's not to like?



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calendar *of* events

ART | ACTIVITIES | ENTERTAINMENT

DECEMBER



Sawdust Art Festival's Winter Fantasy

SAWDUST ART FESTIVAL'S WINTER FANTASY

NOV. 23 - DEC. 15, SAWDUST FESTIVAL GROUNDS

Partake in holiday merriment this season at the Sawdust Art Festival's 23rd annual Winter Fantasy. Beginning Nov. 23, the Sawdust Festival grounds are transformed into a holiday wonderland as more than 175 featured artists gather to sell their handcrafted goods and provide art demonstrations to visitors of all ages. With a petting zoo, appearances by Santa Claus and some of the most unique gifts in Southern California, there really is something for everyone to enjoy at this Laguna Beach holiday tradition. (949-494-3030; sawdustartfestival.org)

ART

PERMANENT COLLECTION

THROUGH JAN. 19, 2014; LAGUNA ART MUSEUM

Complementing early November's Art & Nature event, the Laguna Art Museum will showcase standouts from its permanent collection, including nature-inspired pieces from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Visitors to the exhibit may view works by leaders of Laguna Beach's famed artists' colony as well as pieces on loan from various collections. (949-494-8971; lagunaartmuseum.org)

DAY WITH(OUT) ART

DEC. 1, LAGUNA ART MUSEUM

On World AIDS Day, Laguna Art Museum collaborates with AIDS Services Foundation Orange County to present a Day With(out) Art. The museum will display panels of the AIDS Memorial

Quilt, the largest piece of ongoing folk art in the world. Guests of the museum on this day may also join in a community art project in which participants create their own "quilt" panels based on the current World AIDS Day theme: "Getting to Zero: Zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS related deaths." (949-494-8971; lagunaartmuseum.org)

"CONVERSATION WITH ... LAURIE BROWN"

DEC. 5, LAGUNA ART MUSEUM

Laguna Art Museum's "Conversation with ..." series continues with acclaimed Southern California photographer Laurie Brown, best known for her desert landscapes and panoramic images. Following a Q-and-A session, the photographer will sign copies of her new book, "Las Vegas Periphery: Views from the Edge." (949-494-8971; lagunaartmuseum.org)

ENTERTAINMENT

"A CHRISTMAS MEMORY"

DEC. 3-29, LAGUNA PLAYHOUSE

Set in 1933 in rural Alabama, "A Christmas Memory" tells the story of a young boy named Buddy, who is being raised by three eccentric cousins. With several twists and turns, including some heartbreaks, this heartwarming tale tells the story of friendship, love and the true meaning behind the saying "it's better to give than to receive" around this special time of year. (949-497-2787; lagunaplayhouse.com)

B.B. KING

DEC. 8, SEGERSTROM CENTER FOR THE ARTS, COSTA MESA

This December, legendary blues guitarist B.B. King makes his first appearance on the Segerstrom stage. With a musical career that spans more than 70 years, B.B. King remains one of the most influential blues musicians in the world, helping to revolutionize the genre while increasing its popular appeal. (714-556-2787; scfta.org)

"EVITA"

DEC. 10-22, SEGERSTROM CENTER FOR THE ARTS, COSTA MESA

Michael Grandage directs this adaptation of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Tony Award-winning musical. Chronicling the brief but incredible life of Eva Peron, "Evita" features classic songs that tell the heart-wrenching story of Argentina's most beloved first lady. (714-556-2787; scfta.org)

"RING OF FIRE"

JAN. 7 - FEB. 2, 2014, LAGUNA PLAYHOUSE

This winter, warm up with the inspiring words and music of the legendary Johnny Cash. "Ring of Fire" presents more than 30 of the iconic singer's best songs, including "I Walk the Line," "In the Sweet By and By," "Folsom Prison Blues" and "Ring of Fire." (949-497-2787; lagunaplayhouse.com)



MaxMara

SOUTH COAST PLAZA SAN DIEGO

UPCOMING CONCERTS

ONGOING, THE COACH HOUSE, SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

Ryan Cabrera, 8 p.m. Nov. 30; Crystal Bowersox, 7 p.m. Dec. 1; New Riders of the Purple Sage, 8 p.m. Dec. 4; Howie Day and Tyler Hilton, 8 p.m. Dec. 7; Dishwalla, 8 p.m. Dec. 12; Don McLean, 8:30 p.m. Dec. 14; Gary Ho Ho Hoey, 8 p.m. Dec. 20; Berlin featuring Terri Nunn, 8 p.m. Dec. 21; Donavon Frankenreiter, 8 p.m. Dec. 31 (949-496-8930; thecoachhouse.com)

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

RUFF THANKSGIVING DAY EVENT

NOV. 28, TIVOLI TERRACE

Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate with friends and family, and our furry, four-legged friends shouldn't be left out. RUFF (Rescuing Unwanted Furry Friends) presents its annual Thanksgiving brunch charity event, featuring a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings (vegetarian options also available). (949-580-1092; ruffrescue.org)

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

DEC. 2, MONTAGE LAGUNA BEACH

Illuminate the season at Montage Laguna Beach, where thousands of twinkling lights accent a towering holiday tree. The evening's festivities also include holiday carolers, hot cocoa, children's activities and live music. (949-715-6000; montagelagunabeach.com)



Montage Laguna Beach

TREE LIGHTING AND SAND SCULPTURE DEDICATION

DEC. 1, THE ST. REGIS MONARCH BEACH, DANA POINT

Olympic volleyball legend Misty May-Treanor

helps host this year's Tree Lighting and Sand Sculpture Dedication at The St. Regis Monarch Beach (4-7 p.m.). Guests and locals alike are welcome to join in this fun-filled celebration of the holidays. (949-234-3200; stregismb.com)

HOSPITALITY NIGHT

DEC. 6, DOWNTOWN LAGUNA

Join family and friends as the city welcomes Santa Claus and prepares for the holiday season. Forest Avenue will close for the evening to make way for the festivities, and Laguna's South Coast Cinemas will present its annual showing of "It's a Wonderful Life." (949-494-1018; lagunabeachchamber.org)

YAPPY HOWL-IDAY CELEBRATION

DEC. 7, THE RITZ-CARLTON, LAGUNA NIGUEL

The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel invites guests and their four-legged friends to its scenic Dana Lawn for an afternoon of festive celebrations and holiday-themed photos. Admission is complimentary, but guests are asked to bring dry or unopened canned dog food, toys or treats to benefit the Friends of Orange County's Homeless Pets, a nonprofit dedicated to helping homeless animals find their forever homes. (949-240-2000, ritzcarlton.com)

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY AT CRYSTAL COVE

DEC. 7, CRYSTAL COVE HISTORIC DISTRICT

At sunset, twinkling lights and decorative ornaments on an evergreen tree will adorn Crystal Cove's beach in time for the holiday season. In addition to a tree lighting, the historic district's seaside cottages will be transformed into a magical display of lights, vintage decorations and giant candy canes. (crystalcovebeachcottages.org)

'TIS THE SEASON!

DEC. 22-23, SEGERSTROM CENTER FOR THE ARTS, COSTA MESA

The Pacific Chorale reprises its annual performance of classic holiday songs and carols. Led by conductor John Alexander, this celebration of the season features the Southern California Children's Chorus and members of the Pacific Symphony. (714-556-2787; scfta.org) **LBM**

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ONGOING



Laguna Canyon Winery's wine tasting

LIVE! AT THE MUSEUM SECOND

THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 7-8 P.M., LAGUNA ART MUSEUM (949-494-8971; LAGUNAARTMUSEUM.ORG); **FOOD AND WINE CLASSES** VARIOUS DATES/TIMES, LAGUNA CULINARY ARTS (949-494-0745; LAGUNACULINARYARTS.COM); **SAWDUST STUDIO ART CLASSES** VARIOUS DATES/TIMES, SAWDUST FESTIVAL GROUNDS (949-494-3030; SAWDUSTARTFESTIVAL.ORG); **MONTHLY WINE TASTING PARTY** FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, LAGUNA CANYON WINERY (949-715-9463; LAGUNACANYONWINERY.COM); **ZEROTRASH BEACH CLEANUP** FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, 10 A.M. TO NOON, VARIOUS LOCATIONS (ZEROTRASH.ORG/LAGUNA); **SATURDAY AFTERNOON TASTING ROOM** SATURDAYS, 1-4 P.M., LAGUNA CULINARY ARTS (949-494-0745; LAGUNACULINARYARTS.COM); **FIRST THURSDAYS ART WALK** FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 6-9 P.M. (FIRSTTHURSDAYSARTWALK.COM); **FREE YOGA IN THE PARK** MONDAYS - THURSDAYS, AND SATURDAYS 8 A.M., TREASURE ISLAND PARK (949-494-9928; YOGAINTHEPARK.BLOGSPOT.COM); **LAGUNA BEACH FARMERS MARKET** SATURDAYS, 8 A.M. TO NOON, FOREST AVENUE AND LAGUNA CANYON ROAD; **LAGUNA LAUGHTER YOGA** SUNDAYS - FRIDAYS, 8 A.M., AND SATURDAYS, 10 A.M., MAIN BEACH (LYINSTITUTE.ORG); **DIMESTORIES** SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 5:30 P.M., LAGUNA CULINARY ARTS (DIMESTORIES.ORG); **NATURE HIKES** VARIOUS DATES/TIMES, LAGUNA CANYON FOUNDATION (949-497-8324; LAGUNACANYON.ORG)



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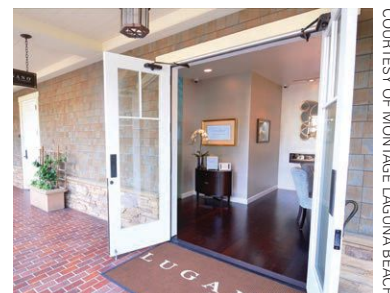


ON A MISSION

Ten local seventh-graders from Thurston Middle School have banded together in forming Ten Boys Who Care, a grassroots organization dedicated to raising \$2,500 to fund scholarships for two students of Laguna Beach High School's graduating class of 2014. The boys—who include co-presidents Mason Lebby and Enzo Sadler, treasurer Sammy Reynolds, fundraising co-chairs Blake Pivaroff and Noah Linder, social chairman Kent Cebreros, publicist Zack Bonnin, marketing and digital media specialist Gustav Morck, historian Ayrton Garcia and scholarship coordinator Sam Kluver—decided to form the philanthropic group in August. They were inspired by their own experiences as athletes, and have asked any scholarship hopefuls to detail in an essay how an embarrassing athletic moment improved their character. They'll award the two scholarships to the male and female entrants who pen the best essays in June, and plan to raise money for the effort through fundraising and performing odd jobs around their neighborhoods. —T.E.

A SPARKLING ADDITION

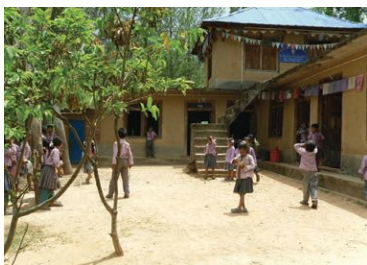
After announcing its partnership with the resort in July, Lugano Diamonds celebrated the grand opening of its new Salon at Montage Laguna Beach on Nov. 7. A leading fine jeweler based in Newport Beach, Lugano Diamonds specializes in crafting pieces that feature exquisitely rare stones and conflict-free diamonds. Additionally, the new location offers a selection of cuff links and other bespoke pieces designed exclusively for the Montage Laguna Beach. The Salon—which joins the Shops at Montage's Art of Living, Art of Writing, Treasures and Spa Boutique—is also a participant in the resort's Something Borrowed program, which allows Montage brides-to-be to borrow a complimentary Lugano piece for their special day. "Lugano Diamonds and Montage Laguna Beach share many of the same philosophies," says Moti Ferder, president and design director of Lugano Diamonds, of the collaboration. "The experience, whether purchasing jewelry or spending time with cherished friends and family, should be exceptional and worthy of the occasion." (luganodiamonds.com) —T.E.



COURTESY OF MONTAGE LAGUNA BEACH

"HENRI MATISSE: PAPIER COUPES" AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, LAGUNA NIGUEL

The world typically recognizes Henri Matisse by his paintings, ranging in style from impressionist to modernist. However, the legendary artist experimented with many other creative mediums, including what he called "painting with scissors." From now until Feb. 10, 2014, guests of The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel are invited to an exclusive showing of "Henri Matisse: Papier Coupes," which includes 12 stone lithographs Matisse created in his later years. The exhibit is the only one in the U.S. to feature cutouts from the famed artist; a second display of the pieces hangs across the pond at the Tate Modern gallery in London. The exhibit is located in the hotel's Club Lounge and is available solely to hotel guests. Rooms may be booked individually or as part of the Treat You package, which includes a complimentary night when guests stay four nights. (ritzcarlton.com) —B.B.

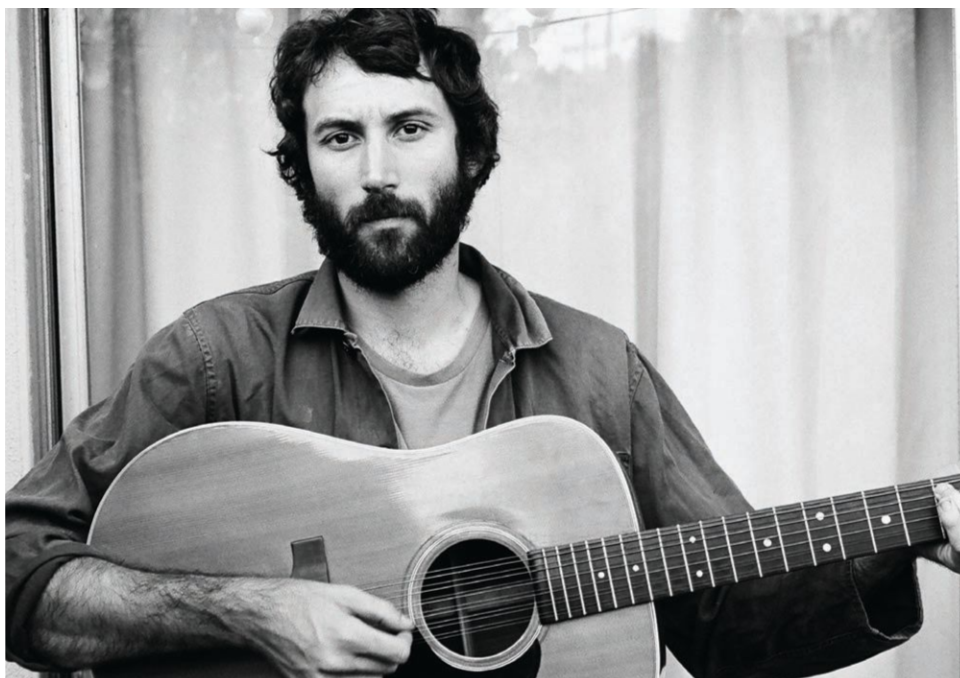


THE GOAT LADY NEEDS YOU

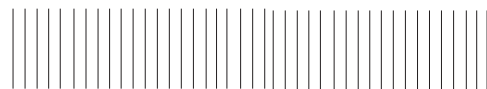
Laguna Beach resident Rosalind Russell (known affectionately as “the goat lady”) has already enriched the lives of numerous women and children in Nepal through her charity organization, the R Star Foundation. In partnership with Nepal local Rabindra Situala, Rosalind has donated thousands of goats to women and families in small Nepali villages and, just three years ago, opened the Top of the World School in one of those villages to provide an education for children who would otherwise be unable to attend school. Her next goal is to raise \$5,000 to provide the school with a generator and eventually a computer lab for the children. On Sunday, Sept. 29, 50 people gathered at supporter Ileana Gulmesoff’s home for an afternoon tea fundraiser that raised more than \$2,000 for the cause. Another event hosted by Laguna Beach artist Amy Jackson was held Nov. 2, and Rosalind is hopeful for the outcome of the school and its students. (rstarfoundation.org) —B.B.

MUSIC WITH MEANING

Local radio station KX 93.5 took over the Festival of Arts grounds Nov. 2 to host the first musical benefit held there in nearly 10 years, the KX 93.5 Festival of Music. Featuring California-based musicians Matt Costa, Carly Ritter, Trapdoor Social and Colin Hay of Men at Work, all proceeds from the festival benefitted four deserving causes: KX 93.5, the Maui Ola Foundation, the Tony Hawk Foundation, and the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach. As a nonprofit, KX 93.5 is dedicated to supporting local artists and musicians. The Maui Ola Foundation began by providing surfing instruction as a natural therapy to individuals with cystic fibrosis and has since expanded to support children with cancer and other health challenges. Meanwhile, both the Tony Hawk Foundation and the Boys & Girls Club offer support and guidance to at-risk youth through their programs and donations. Overall, the festival was a wonderful evening of entertainment and philanthropy. (kx935.com/festivalofmusic) —B.B.



Musician Matt Costa



NO BAN ON ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

The Laguna Beach City Council has made the decision to forgo banning electronic cigarettes in public spaces in Laguna Beach. City Manager John Pietig originally recommended that electronic cigarettes be added to the city municipal code that forbids smoking tobacco, weeds and plants in public spaces after encountering questions from city staff. “The [Food and Drug Administration] has done some tests to these cigarettes and found that they do contain carcinogens and other chemicals,” he stated at the Aug. 6 council meeting. However, his recommendation was met with opposition from locals like lifelong Laguna Beach resident Peter French, who argues that the electronic devices are harmless and even helpful to those who wish to quit using regular cigarettes.

“They are easy, effective and a safe nicotine delivery system,” he explained to city council members. A final decision was reached when council members agreed that there is not sufficient evidence that proves the smoking devices are harmful to the public on a secondhand basis. (lagunabeachcity.net) —B.B.

FLAG FLYING HIGH



Laguna Beach will soon be the recipient of a brand new city flag, thanks to longtime resident Chad Cooper. After attempting to track down a flag to send to his father and failing, Chad mentioned the lack of a local identifier at a city council meeting. The council loved the idea of creating a Laguna flag and encouraged him to design a template. Now, after four years of tireless research and design, Chad's flag has received the stamp of approval from Mayor Kelly Boyd, who put the banner on the docket for council approval. Public responses to the design have been positive, with several local businesses and even a few residents already flying the flags, which feature the iconic Main Beach life-guard tower, a sunset and pelargoniums, the city flower. The banner also includes the slogan "artistic freedom," an important addition according to Chad, who remarks, "The one thing that sets Laguna apart is the fact that we are an art town, and hopefully that never goes away." —B.B.

NEW MENSWEAR SHOP OPENS

Make way, Laguna ladies, the men of Laguna Beach might be stepping up their style as a new menswear retail store opened Nov. 7. North Menswear, located at 380 Glenneyre St., specializes in American-made apparel, footwear and accessories, and features clothing brands such as Taylor Stitch, Imogene + Willie and an eponymous line, among others. Pete Surprenant, the store's owner, says that he wanted the clothes to be rugged and outdoorsy yet stylish—a true representation of American heritage mixed with Southern California culture.

"My goal was to open a store that serves the locals of Laguna and fill what I felt was a void in the local marketplace," Pete says, adding that the aesthetic of the store was just as important as the clothes themselves. "I want everything in the shop to inspire a conversation or a story. For example, the display unit in the first window is made from World War II gun crates. The portholes hanging on the wall were salvaged from sunken ships off the Channel Islands. [There is a] picture of my wife's grandfather in the 1940s free diving for lobster at 9th Street. I want people to walk in and say, 'Wow!' I want everyone to come in and stay awhile." (949-715-9873; northmenswear.com) —A. T.



EN PLEIN AIR

The Laguna Plein Air Painters Association (LPAPA) celebrated its 15th annual Laguna Beach Plein Air Painting Invitational from Oct. 13-20 with a slew of competitive painting events, workshops and other festivities. Throughout the eight-day invitational, more than 40 internationally recognized plein-air painters flocked to Southern California's coastline to create their own renditions of Laguna's outdoor wonderland at places like Treasure Island Park, Heisler Park and the Aliso Creek Inn & Golf Course, which closed its course to golfers for an entire day to allow festival patrons to wander the grounds uninterrupted. Award-winners included three Laguna College of Art & Design (LCAD) students—Therese Conte, Kraig Blue and Michael McGregor—who walked away with prizes totaling \$1,000 following the LCAD Next Generation Paint Out. Renowned oil painter Mian Situ and Irvine Museum Executive Director Jean Stern later were presented with LPAPA Lifetime Achievement Awards, while impressionist painter Scott W. Prior received the invitational's Best in Show award. "It has been my personal mission and pleasure to ensure that the tradition of plein-air painting continues in Laguna Beach, home of the artists," says Julie Padach-Mathewson, director of development for LPAPA and the event's co-chair. Proceeds from the invitational continue to fund art education, scholarships, mentorships and LPAPA programming. (lpapa.org) —T.E. LBM

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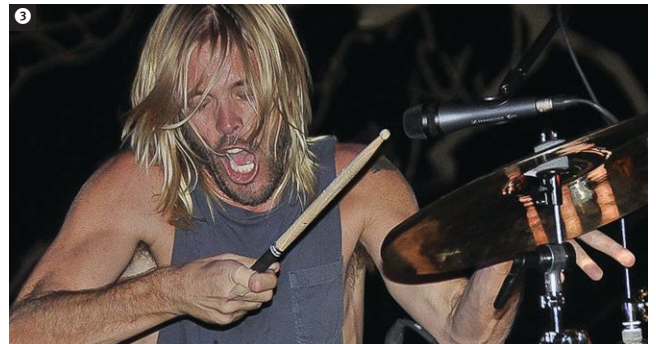
COMMUNITY

WHEELS 4 LIFE GALA

1 Dinner at the Aliso Creek Inn & Golf Course 2 Staci Holbrook, Carmen Rey, Megan Hilliard, Lan Zentil 3 Taylor Hawkins from the Foo Fighters 4 Megan Hilliard 5 Hans Rey 6 Airi and Dan Severson



PHOTOS BY BILL FREEMAN



DAN SEVERSON

The Aliso Creek Inn & Golf Course played host to a meaningful cause on the evening of Sept. 27. More than 230 guests attended the first-ever Wheels 4 Life gala, a fundraiser benefitting Laguna locals Hans and Carmen Rey's charity organization of the same name. Wheels 4 Life has donated more than 5,500 bikes to individuals in more than 22 developing countries, which allow recipients to travel to school, work and health-care facilities that they would be unable to get to on foot. Guests of the event enjoyed internationally inspired cocktails and appetizers, music by Nick Hernandez and the Foo Fighters' Taylor Hawkins, as well as both live and silent auctions. Auction items were diverse, ranging from holidays in Italy and autographed Foo Fighters memorabilia to snowboard equipment. With such a worthy cause and fantastic auction items, the fundraiser was extremely successful, raising \$54,000 and meeting the organization's goal of funding the purchase of 500 new bicycles. (wheels4life.org) —B.B.

COMMUNITY

SIP & SHUCK – OYSTERFEST

1 Sand sculpture on the beach 2 Crowd at Sip & Shuck 3 Grey Goose cocktail station 4 Jonathan Blake Salazar performing live music 5 Guests relaxing at The Deck 6 Ketel One Vodka mixology station 7 Art from The Mint Fine Art Gallery



JUSTIN JUNG



Bringing together surf, sand and suds, the The Deck on Laguna Beach alongside The Bungalows at Pacific Edge Hotel hosted its first annual Sip & Shuck – Oysterfest on Nov. 10, which benefited Surfrider Foundation's south Orange County chapter, a grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches. At the sold-out event, more than 300 attendees mixed and mingled on The Deck's spacious outdoor patio while listening to live acoustic guitar music, enjoying world-class oysters and Champagne, as well as savoring gourmet cuisine, such as grilled salmon and asparagus risotto, by The Deck's Executive Chef Rainer Schwarz. Moreover, attendees got the opportunity to hang out inside the five custom-designed bungalows of the Pacific Edge Hotel, including spaces by Billabong, Fox Head Inc., Hobie and Tuvalu, The Sleepy Hollow Group and Gorjana & Griffin. Inside, bartenders refilled Champagne glasses and sold merchandise while guests conversed on the couches. Additionally, out on the deck, mixologists at a Ketel One Vodka and Grey Goose ice bar served guests creative cocktails while intricate sand castle art was created outside on the beachfront. Throughout the bustling event, a silent auction featuring artwork from The Mint Fine Art Gallery raised funds for the Surfrider Foundation. All in all, it was a successful oceanside event that truly showcased the mission of the Surfrider Foundation. —A.T.

COMMUNITY

THE DIAMOND BALL

1 Bruce Brainerd, Barbara Barrow, Steve Blackman, Kimi Yokota **2** Paula Bogenreif, Doreen Mayo, Mary Segall **3** Sally Theard, Ryan Miller **4** Barbara Barrow, Ron and Lydia Young, Bruce Brainerd **5** Suleyman Cooke, Amber Abdullah, Bruce Brainerd **6** Bill Witte, Keiko Sakamoto, Executive Chef Pedro Contreras **7** Bruce Brainerd, Teri Butcher



The saying “A dog is a man’s best friend” was truly celebrated the evening of Nov. 9 at The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel for its first annual Diamond Ball gala, a special event that raised funds and awareness for animal-related charities. Intentionally held over Veterans Day weekend, the hotel rolled out the red carpet for more than 200 attendees, as well as veterans and their furry four-legged friends, in benefit of the Wounded Veteran Initiative of Canine Companions for Independence, which matches highly trained assistance dogs with injured veterans. The event also raised funds for Friends of Orange County’s Homeless Pets, which aligns homeless and unwanted pets with a forever family. The evening began on the outdoor terrace with a cocktail hour and a silent auction, where attendees and their pooches mixed and mingled. Additionally, guests could participate in The Diamond Drop Extravaganza, a chance to donate gems and jewelry in support of the cause. Afterward, guests were led into The Pacific Promenade room, where they were treated to a four-course dinner presented by Executive Chef Pedro Contreras as well as live music and live auction. Following dinner, the energetic evening continued well into the night with dancing and music played by a disc jockey on the ballroom’s dance floor. In fact, a few of the true stars of the evening—the canines—even joined in, as well. —A. T.

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DECADENT DESSERTS

For those craving something sugary this holiday season, Laguna's restaurants provide an array of confections to satisfy even the sweetest of teeth.

By Beth Fhaner

DONDEE QUINCENA



Executive Pastry Chef Lee Smith of Montage Laguna Beach favors flavors like butterscotch, cinnamon and bourbon.

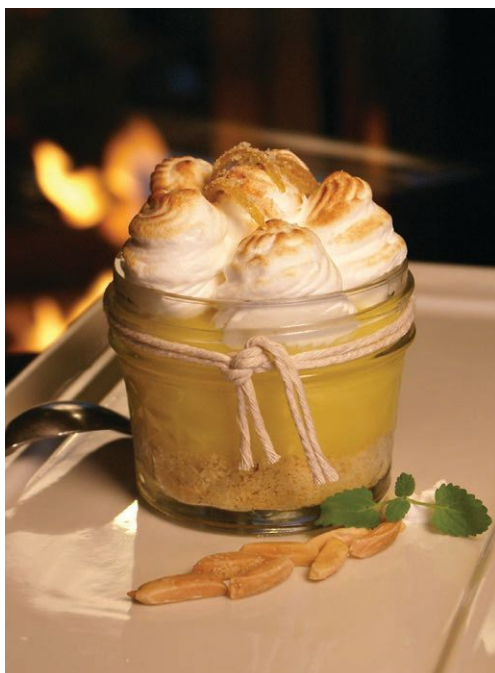
THE MAGICAL HOLIDAY SEASON HAS ALWAYS BEEN considered a time of indulgence, and it allows the perfect excuse to stop counting calories and enjoy a delectable treat or two. For diners with a sweet tooth, Laguna's restaurants will satisfy sugar cravings with an array of decadent desserts, including cakes, pies, flans, pastries and libations. So whether you're dreaming of creme brulee, white chocolate cheesecake or a multitude of other pleasing concoctions this holiday season, these dishes offer the sweetest fix.

COMFORT FOOD CREATIONS

Scrumptious, retro-inspired desserts are a trademark of Three Seventy Common Kitchen + Drink, but the popular eatery will feature some new creations this holiday season. A sweet potato buttermilk pie with cranberry confit, "creme anglaise" (vanilla custard) with persimmon cookie and vanilla ice cream, and a sticky toffee pudding cake with cinnamon sauteed pears and oatmeal ice cream will all join the menu. Other temptations include a whiskey pear tart with honey-ginger mascarpone and quince ice cream as well as apple cider-glazed doughnuts with caramel dipping sauce.

"The seasonal ingredients in these desserts say holiday celebrations, rustic hardiness, warmth, comfort and home baking to me," chef Ryan Adams says. "The colors, aromas and textures are varied and appealing—just right for this time of the year." (949-494-8686; 370common.com)

Sapphire Laguna Chef de Cuisine Devin Wells plans to focus on comfort foods this holiday season by offering desserts that incorporate peak seasonal fruits. For example, an apple cobbler with streusel topping, riesling-poached pears with a moist buttermilk cake, and a maple panna cotta will make appearances on the seasonal menu. In addition to the chocolate and peppermint flavors that many love to indulge in during the holidays, Devin expects candied pumpkins and salted pumpkin seeds to be popular dessert trends this season. (949-715-9888; sapphiredllc.com)



Maro Wood Grill's lemon meringue pie



Rock'n Fish's Kona pie incorporates Butterfinger, toffee and Oreo crumbs atop three flavors of ice cream.

WINTER NOTES

Maro Wood Grill's menu changes daily depending on the availability of seasonal ingredients, but Executive Chef Debra Sims plans to introduce many new desserts over the coming months, such as baked apples with dulce de leche, a variety of cheesecakes, a lemon meringue pie and gingerbread with ginger ice cream. Along with typical holiday treats that utilize citrus, pecan and pumpkin flavors, Debra cites house-made marshmallows as a top trend this winter. Maro's malbec chocolate cake with whipped mascarpone frosting, a favorite among regular customers, will remain on the menu, as will the restaurant's signature banana bread pudding, which took home the trophy for Most Delicious Dessert in OC at the Golden Foodie Awards in September. "Winter is probably my favorite season for dreaming up desserts," Debra says. "Everyone seems to be in a more jovial mood than usual, and I always strive to create a lasting dessert memory that's just as sweet as the thoughts and feelings we all have this time of year." (949-793-4044; marowoodgrill.com)

Guests visiting The Loft or Studio restaurants at the Montage Laguna Beach during the holidays are in for some truly delightful desserts as well.

On Christmas Day, diners at The Loft can

select from either a delicious apple chestnut "tarte Tatin" (an upside-down tart), served with cinnamon ice cream and Breton shortbread, or butterscotch "pot de creme" (French custard) with Valrhona Caramélia (a milk chocolate-caramel hybrid) ice cream and bourbon chocolate ganache. Over at Studio, patrons can indulge in a flavorful chestnut apple flan with McIntosh

apples, natural yogurt foam and Calvados brandy.

"The holidays are my favorite time of the year, so I wanted to select ingredients such as chestnuts, butterscotch, cinnamon, hot chocolate and bourbon that play to childhood memories and conjure up images of warm, festive holiday traditions," says Executive Pastry Chef Lee Smith. "These are fantastic flavors that always remind me of all the



Three Seventy Common's sticky toffee pudding cake



Splashes' s'mores martini

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wonderful ingredients of the winter season.”

And come New Year's Eve, revelers at The Loft can enjoy a dark chocolate “marquise” (a French mousse) with verjuice sorbet, chocolate ice and Manjari chocolate ganache, while celebrants at Studio can end the year with the ultimate libation: an Opalys white chocolate Champagne featuring organic lemons, Veuve Clicquot and Valrhona Opalys chocolate cream. (949-715-6000; montagelagunabeach.com)

SIGNATURE SWEETS

At the trendy K'ya Bistro Bar, diners can indulge in a regular dessert menu featuring tantalizing options such as vanilla bean creme brulee, peanut crunch bars with caramel creme anglaise or a warm flourless chocolate cake with white chocolate raspberry cream. Meanwhile, a satisfying winter spice cheesecake will be added to the holiday menu this year. (949-376-9718; kyabistro.com)

Later, toast the holidays at Splashes at Surf & Sand Resort with one of the decadent drinks featured on the dessert menu. The s'mores martini,



Three Seventy Common's sweet potato buttermilk pie

composed of Smirnoff marshmallow vodka, Godiva chocolate liqueur and a graham cracker crumb-lined rim, is a delicious ode to the campfire treat, while the white chocolate martini is equally enjoyable with Stoli's vanilla vodka, Godiva white chocolate liqueur and Frangelico chocolate syrup. A chai cupcake martini featuring Three Olives Cake vodka, chai mix and a cinnamon-sugar-lined rim is another excellent choice. (888-869-7569; surfandsandresort.com/splashes)

Over at Rock'n Fish, patrons can finish their meal with the perfect concluding dish: a heavenly Kona pie. Featuring chocolate, vanilla and coffee ice creams layered with Butterfinger, toffee and Oreo crumbs, this must-try dessert is topped with candied almonds, whipped cream and a drizzle of chocolate syrup. Also available this holiday season will be a white chocolate cheesecake served with homemade raspberry-and-Grand Marnier sauce and fresh whipped cream. (949-497-3113; rocknfishlb.com)

So, give yourself a little break this holiday season and give into these delectable delights. LBM

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POWDER PLAY

Laguna resident and avid snowboarder Ryan Boyes shares his coveted tips for shredding on the mountain.

By Somer Tejwani

IN 1965, SHERMAN POPPEN BRACED TWO SKIS together, stood on the top of a hill in his backyard and started surfing the snow. He called his invention the “Snurfer” (think snow plus surfer), which, besides becoming a cult phenomenon, served as the predecessor to today’s snowboard. More than 25 years later, Ryan Boyes stepped into a snowboard for the first time in his backyard in the mountain town of Wrightwood, Calif. Ryan, who is now a Laguna Beach resident and the director of international marketing for Volcom, grew up boarding in the 1980s during a time when many ski resorts wouldn’t even allow the sport on their hills. Since then, snowboarding has come a long way, and is now a major draw at the Winter Olympic Games and ski resorts across the U.S., with millions of snowboarders vying for slope space alongside skiers each year. Here, Ryan reveals his insider perspective on the sport.

Laguna Beach Magazine: You’ve been boarding for more than two decades, but what are your tips for someone who is new to the sport?

Ryan Boyes: There’s a good chance you’ll spend part of the day on the snow, so do yourself a favor and try snowboarding on a stormy day when there’s some fresh snow on the slopes; you can feel how to move the board, push a little snow around for resistance and cushion the fall.

LBM: One of the hardest things for newcomers is conquering the fear of the chair lift. Do you have any tips?

RB: Point the board straight, look ahead, commit and ride it out.

LBM: Favorite local mountains to board on?

RB: Wrightwood, [Calif.] but Mount Waterman

[in La Canada, Calif.] can be all time with the right storm.

LBM: What are some nonlocal mountains to check out?

RB: The Interior of British Columbia is a special place. I highly recommend checking out Baldface Lodge.

LBM: Any favorite gear for the sport?

RB: I’m a big fan of my Volcom Gore-Tex pant and jacket combo.

LBM: Off the mountain, what do you suggest to up performance?

RB: Stretching—before and after. Keep the body limber and relaxed.

LBM: As the director of international marketing at Volcom, you get to meet and hang

out with the best in snowboarding. Who are your favorite riders?

RB: Terje Haakonsen and Jamie Lynn. Both are innovators, pioneers and beyond stylish.

LBM: How often do you get to the mountain in the winter?

RB: Trick question ... if it’s good, a lot!

LBM: So, what is your favorite part of doing what you love?

RB: Spending time in the mountains, and all the elements that come with that. The anticipation for winter, the changing of the seasons, watching the trees change color, the cold air, that first snow, the feeling of the snow under your feet, and then that first pow day when you get to let it all go and throw some pow turns.



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SLOPE STYLE

Look chic mountainside with these snowboarding must-haves.

By Somer Tejwani

The harsh terrain and weather conditions make snowboarding the type of sport that requires a bit of gear. Aside from the usual suspects (boots, bindings and a board), don't forget to stock up on the essential safety pieces. Always wear a helmet and liberally apply sunscreen—it'll help you avoid the inevitable goggle tan caused by rays bouncing off the snow, even on cloudy days. **LBM**



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THE ART OF LIGHT

Laguna's home lighting experts share how to best illuminate your space.

By Somer Tejwani

LIGHTING IS ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS TO create flattering interiors, highlight the best aspects of your home and generate desired ambiances. Carefully chosen fixtures, pendants, table and floor lamps all create a comfortable characteristic that you might not be able to put your finger on but, when done right, can make a substantial impact on the look and feel of the home.

CHOOSE YOUR SOURCE

The best-lit rooms have lighting that is based on the activity or mood you're trying to obtain. "For example, if you are trying to light a kitchen for tasks, such as preparing or cooking food, the lighting you would want to use would be task-oriented, such as a recessed lighting system or track system, which would provide bright and evenly distributed light," says Laura Edwards, interior designer and lighting expert at Laguna's Lightopia.

"Let's say, later in the evening, you were having a dinner party, so the ambience would change from task to setting the mood for your guests to something more ambient," she continues. "Dimming the task lighting system and using pendants or other decorative light to set the mood would enhance a comfortable, relaxed environment."

Dimmers add flexibility and save energy, especially in rooms where only one overhead light is available. With just one light source and a dimmer, you can essentially change the entire function (and mood) of a room.

LIGHTING STRATEGY

Good lighting oftentimes goes unnoticed—and that's the key to perfecting the art in your home. "Too often lighting is an afterthought, ... but it is always best if it is integrated into the original design," says Bret Englander of Laguna Beach industrial design and lighting company Cerno.

When the source of the light is a focal point, choose a decorative fixture that will complement the interior design look you want to obtain. "For example, if the client is going for a Tuscan or Spanish look, then I would guide them to fixtures



The most important room to light is the kitchen.



Lighting can drastically alter the mood of a space.

that used rod iron or metal work, mica, resin candles and darker finish choices," Laura says. "If the client wanted a more modern interior, I would suggest lighting that used glass, matte and polished metals, and lighter-shaded fixtures."

Although she concedes that all rooms benefit from strategic lighting choices, Laura says the most important room to light is the kitchen. "Since this is the space most people eat, cook and live in, it is important to light this space properly."

At Cerno, the strategy behind lighting options begins with the purpose of the room. "During this process, we decide if the fixture is more of an ambient or task fixture," Bret says. "The desired use determines what the color temperature of the light will be and also dictates how it needs to function."

LIGHTING AS ART

Lighting can also be used to showcase prized art. "One of my favorite things to light is artwork," Laura says. "Most of the time, I try not to take away from the art but provide a lighting system that will highlight the painting or sculpture without being too noticeable. Some of the new LED recessed light systems have trimless ceiling kits and adjustable beam spreads that can be directed at the position of the artwork."

On the other hand, carefully designed lighting can be marveled at as much as a piece of art. "Lighting can absolutely be a statement piece," Bret says. "I think that it would be difficult to have our huge Valeo floor lamp in a space and not have it be a statement piece."

"However, there are other situations where the goal for a piece is to be in [harmony] with a space and the other pieces in a room, rather than to stand out," Bret continues. "There is also a difference between a statement piece and something that is just obnoxiously out of place. A statement piece should be an anchor that stands out but also ties the other design elements together."

Whether using lighting for functionality or aesthetic purposes, taking the time to illuminate a space can do wonders for your entire home.

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LIGHTING DESIGNER/INTERIOR DESIGNER: LAURA EDWARDS



HRISTO KUTRYANOV

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RAYAS TABLE LAMP at Room & Board, Costa Mesa (714-549-5995; roomandboard.com)

A WELL-LIT SPACE

From pendants to table lamps, these pieces will illuminate the way.

By Somer Tejwani

A misconception is that every corner of a room needs to be lit by one light source. Allowing for flexibility and creativity, depending on the use of the room and the mood you want to evoke, can add elegance or drama in addition to functionality. Incorporate multiple points of light, such as a table lamp with just the right lampshade to softly diffuse light or a floor lamp that becomes just as much a part of the decor as the couch and coffee table. **LBM**



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PAPER CHASER

Ed Postal's love affair with books thrives in an age of technology that is trying to eliminate them.

By Linda Domingo

JODY TONGCO



Ed Postal of Barnaby Rudge Bookseller has been buying, selling, appraising and restoring old, rare books for more than 20 years.

WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO CARRY THOUSANDS of books on one, 6-ounce device, yet Ed Postal sits contently inside Barnaby Rudge Bookseller, a shop—its name taken from a lesser-known Charles Dickens novel—filled with works printed on paper. The old tomes range from fairy tales to etiquette guides and everything in between, each telling another story about the time and place it was printed. Ed has been buying, selling,

appraising and restoring old and rare books for more than 20 years, first out of the office of his travel agency (which he still runs) before moving to a space in the canyon in 1992 and finally settling on Glenneyre Street in 1993. While the latest e-readers fascinate the world, Ed remains captivated by the e-book's tangible ancestor.

Here, Ed shares his love of books with Laguna Beach Magazine.

Laguna Beach Magazine: What are your favorite parts about buying and selling antique books?

Ed Postal: It's the most fun I've ever had in business. I go to England usually three times a year, and I buy most of my stuff at auction. It's easier because stuff from the 1500s and 1600s in England is not that big of a deal. ... It's still exciting—the chase, finding that rare thing.

LBM: What is it about antique books that most

intrigues you?

EP: Almost anything that you collect, if you have enough money, you can buy it. With books, it doesn't matter how much money you have; there are certain things that are just not available. You just can't find them. And that's something that's a little bit special.

LBM: Do you own a Kindle or e-reader?

EP: No.

LBM: Will you ever own one?

EP: No.

LBM: How do you feel about them?

EP: For the right people, [e-readers] are perfect. It's easy reading. I personally love to hold a 200-year-old book and look through the stuff that's written at the time of the event, without a couple of hundreds of years of editorializing and people's opinions to find out what the real story is. You just don't get that feeling from electronic media.

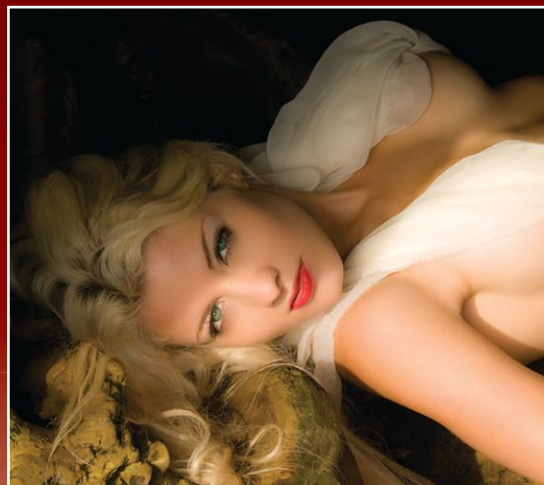
LBM: You've provided books for films over the years. Are there any films you're particularly proud of working on?

EP: We recreated John Quincy Adams' library for the movie "Amistad." To recreate the complete library, every book had to be from before 1840 or look like it was from before 1840, because that's when the movie takes place. ... So we tried to show them what paper was used at the time, the type of bindings that were used at the time. And most people wouldn't know, but some production houses are concerned with keeping it accurate.

LBM: Is there a lot of special care you have to take with antique books?

EP: Not a whole lot. People think that you have to treat them with leather gloves. That's a lot of garbage. ... Sure, you want to try and keep oil off your hands when you're handling it, but—unless you're talking about a museum piece, that has been coddled over the years and has never been touched—the average book has been used for hundreds of years. You want to keep it out of direct sunlight; you want to keep bugs off of it; you want to keep it out of dark, dingy basements. But other than that, books are meant to be read and enjoyed, and kept out in the air. **LBM**

Are you ready for the Holidays?



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My Little Pony

By Sugar Mama

BEING LOOSELY CATEGORIZED AS A HUMOR columnist, I am asked on occasion to write about other people's funny experiences as if they were my own. And when I say "funny," I mean weird, disgusting or downright spooky.

The other day, a neighbor asked me to look at footage from her surveillance camera from the night before. On it, she claimed, was a ghost. Intrigued, I sauntered over in my bathrobe only to find an ominous image of a lady with a bun on her head, who never moved, even when cars drove right through her.

"You need to write about this," my neighbor said.

No, I thought to myself. I need to burn some sage and move a few more thousand miles away from Salem.

The day after that, a friend called about how her 5-year-old son had an offensive odor about him, only to discover that he had a month-old Band-Aid lodged up his nose that had apparently rotted, and wouldn't that make a great column?

No, I thought to myself. In fact, I'm hanging up now.

And then there are those cute "aw, shucks" moments about other people's kids who say the darndest things. So, in the spirit of authenticity, I often find myself wandering the streets searching for something weird, disgusting or downright spooky to happen to me.

Last week, I got lucky. While training for a 10K that I'm never going to run, I've taken to trotting around my neighborhood to justify the \$180 pair of shoes I bought to prepare for it. Because I've been known to choke on my own sweat while breaking a pace above the speed of grocery shopping, when I saw a pony in a neighbor's front yard, I figured I had simply died and kept running until I saw the light. But the light never came, and my shin splints were very much alive, which meant that I was indeed still breathing and had really seen a pony.



As I retraced my steps, several cars passed me, people walking their dogs said hello, and no one—not one person—acknowledged this pony, which was now 8 inches away from me, nudging his nose over the fence.

"Hi," I whispered to him as I pet his nose. "Am I the only one who can see you?"

If he had answered, I'd be writing a book right now, not a column, and en route to the "Today" show. But he didn't. He just looked at me and swished his tail.

I've taken to running past him every day now, always to the complete obliviousness of those around us. Is he my muse? My running coach? The bun lady's long-lost pet?

I'll probably never know. But as the year comes to a close, I'm reminded once again that no matter what your story, don't forget to tell it before you turn the page.

Happy holidays. LBM



VIDEO

OCinSite digs deeper into the soft underbelly of coastal Orange County and brings the pages of Laguna Beach Magazine to life. We've even got it on video.

BLOGS

Sneak a peek behind that proverbial "orange curtain" and check in with our intrepid crew of bloggers for posts that are useful, entertaining and often provocative and inspiring.

GET CAUGHT UP IN THE ACTION

People come from all over the world to enjoy coastal Orange County and its many offerings. In addition to its innate beauty and playground appeal, OC is home to a keen, active and fun-loving citizenry. In other words, we like to keep busy, and the fact is, there's no shortage of things to do around here. From the philanthropic to the hedonistic, the eclectic to the annual, OCinSite has the line on the gigs that other media entities just don't get. So check out our **CALENDAR** (ocinsite.com/calendar). Events and happenings are being added every day. Or sign up for The Weekly Lineup and have the latest crop of affairs delivered right to your email inbox.



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A REEL PIONEER

Laguna Beach resident DJ Roller has built a career on his fearlessness in extreme environments, his passion behind the camera's lens and his dedication to sharing his experiences with the audience.

By Ted Reckas | Photos courtesy of DJ Roller

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD DJ ROLLER WAS 273 MILES AWAY FROM HIS HOME IN Atlanta, bouncing down a dirt road in Live Oak, Fla., in his buddy's pickup truck. Dangled in the bed above several scuba tanks were six oxygen sensors that he acquired from a friend who worked in a hospital. They clanked with every bump in the road. "This weekend's going to be awesome," DJ thought as they drove in silence. The boys weren't making home-brew nitrous oxide or doing extra credit for chemistry class. They were preparing to go scuba diving in underwater caves.

The tanks held trimix gas—a blend of oxygen, helium and nitrogen—which is less toxic than regular air on long, deep scuba dives. Trimix was hard to find in 1986, so DJ bought thick Navy diving manuals and did his homework to concoct his own. Miscalculations could spell death, so DJ checked and rechecked his handiwork before setting off on the bumpy road to rattle the tanks and mix the gas molecules.

DJ's whole life has unfolded like this: making his own cave diving gear, pioneering the use of the first high-definition cameras underwater, filming groundbreaking expeditions with elite Navy dive teams, developing 3-D cameras with James Cameron.

His grandfather, Bill Darling, was a self-taught diver and an early source of inspiration for DJ's life of adventure and career of setting precedents. On a living room bookshelf in DJ's home high in the Laguna hills sits a black-and-white photo taken in 1962 of Bill standing at the edge of Crystal Lake in Beulah, Mich. In the picture, he is holding an Aqua-Lung, the first generation of scuba gear invented by Jacques Cousteau, which he purchased at a hardware store. "Back then I think the rules of diving were 12 things printed on the back of the tank," DJ comments.

As he acquired dive skills through his youth, DJ met some of the great pioneers of cave diving who lived in Atlanta, like Sheck Exley (a cave diver and widely-regarded author who died trying to set a depth record of 1,000 feet). DJ was mentored by Stan Waterman, a looming figure in early underwater filmmaking. "Someone said we should meet," is all he says of how the relationship began. His simple descriptions are telling—DJ is as understated as they come. He appears incapable of panic, like he could see a tidal wave in the distance and calmly formulate a plan of action in the seconds before it hits—and execute it successfully.





DJ Roller filming near the San Benito Islands in Mexico with his own creation, a camera system that captures 3-D footage at six times the resolution of high definition



Left to right: Jameson, 12, Melissa, Kennedy, 11, and DJ Roller



Filming near Guadalupe Island, Mexico, for "Great White Shark 3-D," an IMAX film



DJ Roller's grandfather, a self-taught diver



DJ testing Sony's first high-definition video camera with a Greek sponge diver

ADVENTURES IN FILM

It is unclear whether DJ's demeanor is cause or effect of participating in some of the wildest experiences known to mankind. Regardless, his calm disposition has remained consistent, contributing to his many accomplishments.

After apprenticeships with underwater filmmakers like Stan Waterman and Armando Jenik, DJ went to work as a cameraman in the film and video unit at Turner Broadcasting System. Among his shoots at Turner were "Eco-challenge Morocco" (1998), a feature film in Iceland, and a documentary on anthrax labs in Kazakhstan. Since Turner was Sony's largest customer in 1998, DJ experimented with their first professional-grade HD camera, the HDW-700A, and shot the first HD footage under the sea ice in Antarctica

for the PBS show "Nature" (2003), which also appeared in BBC's "Planet Earth" (2006). For this, he received the Antarctica Service Medal from the National Science Foundation.

Few people have such highly developed parallel skills of technical diving and cinematography, so when DJ produced a PBS NOVA special on the Naval recovery mission of the USS Monitor, "Lincoln's Secret Weapon" (2000) the network couldn't have asked for someone more qualified. The Monitor, constructed using iron with steam-powered propellers, was a futuristic ship in 1862. It sank in 250 feet of water off of Cape Hatteras, N.C., where volatile weather and currents lurk below the water's surface. The effort to salvage the ship at this dangerous depth was as much a historic mission as it was a chance for

the Navy to test the limits of its elite technical dive team, Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit Two. While the Navy divers were attached with support lines to the surface, DJ swam freely so he could film around them.

The shoot marked the start of a long relationship between DJ and the Navy. He created, produced and shot the National Geographic TV documentary "Super Sub" (2006) on the Navy's most high-tech submarines. He later created and produced his own series for the History Channel, "Deep Sea Detectives," and has since produced, directed and shot TV documentaries and IMAX films alike.

HIGH-DEFINITION 3-D

DJ was a close colleague of Vince Pace, who designed and built the underwater lighting

systems for James Cameron's films "The Abyss" and "Titanic." Cameras that captured 3-D in HD didn't exist in 2000, but DJ received a call from Vince saying James wanted to build one.

"I was on a plane the next day," DJ says. "We were up till whatever time in the morning, hot-wiring these HD cameras together to see if we could synchronize them."

Their experiments led to the camera system James used to make "Ghosts of the Abyss" in IMAX 3-D, a documentary about his expedition to the Titanic wreckage on the ocean floor, and the Emmy-winning "Expedition: Bismarck," with DJ as a cinematographer on both.

DJ went on to develop the most advanced digital 3-D underwater housing in the world and even built a dive mask that allows him to see his footage in 3-D as he shoots it. The camera system has been used in "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides," films for Laguna Beach-based MacGillivray Freeman Films and numerous others.

ROLLER LEGACY

Still, the filmmaker's life is not without sacrifice. In 2007 he was about to leave for a month for South Africa to finish the IMAX film "Wild Ocean 3D." As his ride to the airport arrived, his then 4-year-old daughter, Kennedy, walked out of her room with a backpack, holding the little green snorkel mask she used in their swimming pool.

"I'm ready to go," she stated.

"This cute little girl in a mask ... that'll choke you up," DJ says, recalling the episode. But soon enough, she would be allowed to join.

By the time DJ's son, Jameson, was 3, he was doing dives in the bathtub with the smallest scuba regulator on the market and a backpack that held a tiny reserve tank built by DJ.

Jameson, now 12, and Kennedy, 11, plan to follow in dad's footsteps. Jameson has worked as an assistant on DJ's recently released 3-D IMAX film, "Great White Shark," filming researchers as they tagged sharks off of the Southern California coast.

Kennedy joined her dad on a shark dive at Guadalupe Island for the same film. DJ reports she was unafraid as 18-foot great whites swam just outside the cage where she shot stills. "That was beyond my wildest dreams to take them on a project and have them contribute," DJ adds. The entire family has credits on "Great White Shark": DJ's wife Melissa, formerly of TNT Television and Turner Classic Movies, was also line producer on the film.



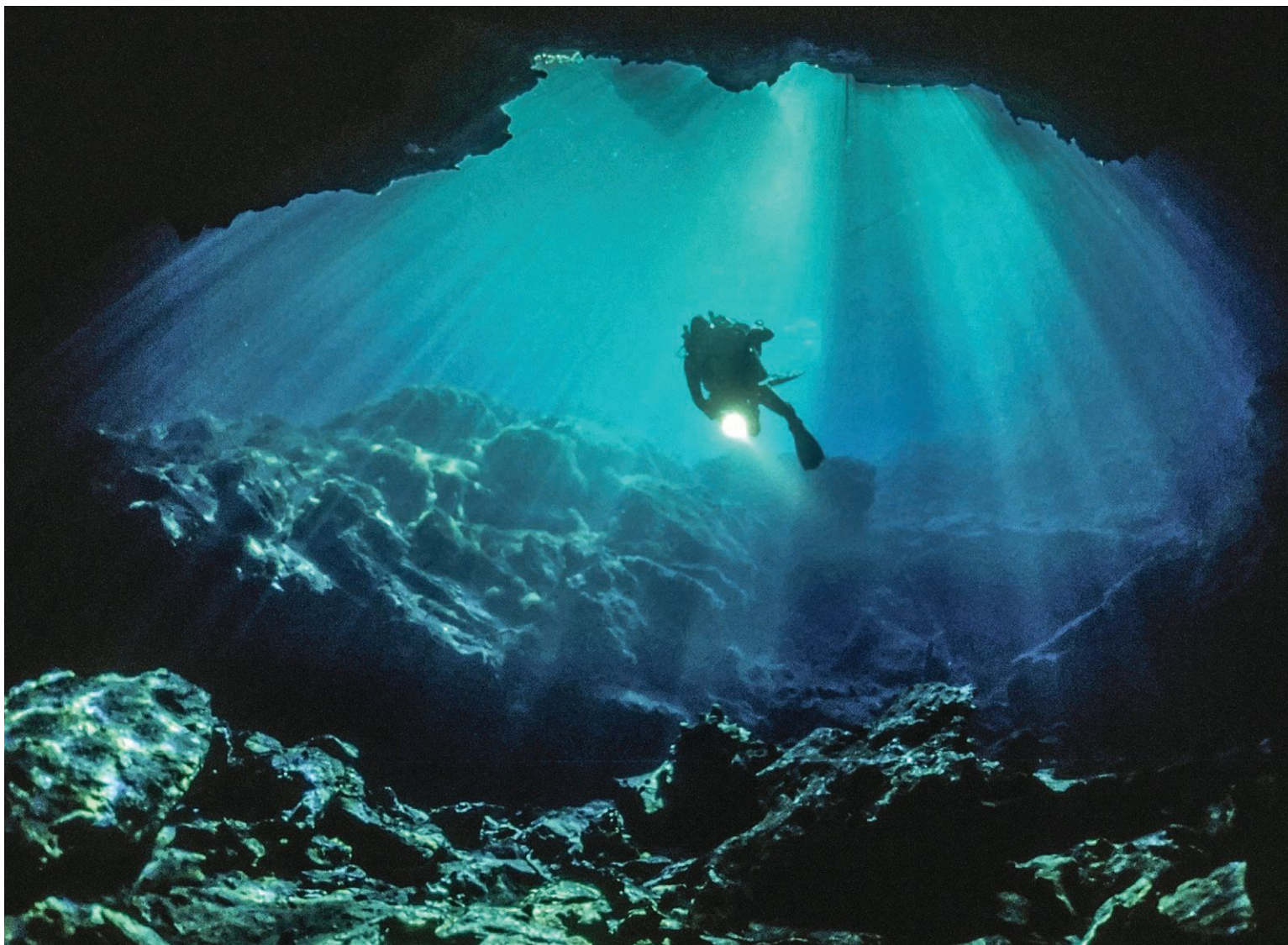
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Temple of Doom cave, Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico: the setting for “Deep Sea Detectives”

COASTAL INSPIRATION

While the family was happy in Atlanta, DJ traveled to Southern California for work several times a year. This fueled fond memories of summers spent in the area during DJ’s childhood, making the family’s 2011 move to Laguna almost inevitable.

“Atlanta made it easy to jump to a lot of places, but you don’t have that connection to the ocean on a daily basis,” DJ explains. “We looked for the sense of community [Laguna has] here. We have neighbors who are sculptors and painters, and there are other film producers in town. The whole town is into the arts. If people ask what you do, you don’t get a blank stare, like, ‘What do you mean you go underwater and take pictures?’”

As much as he loves his adopted home, he has no plans to stop traveling and filming. For DJ, the ocean isn’t just a subject, and films aren’t just a product—his work is his way of being.

“Even though I do Hollywood movies and

concerts with U2 and all that stuff—which is all fun—I continue to do this as well because I like exploring the ocean,” he says. “When you go to an IMAX theater and a little kid is pointing at an elephant or a shark, you know that it’s having a positive influence. If we can do that as filmmakers, that might help all of us understand the planet and maybe care about it a little bit more.”

His new film, “Great White Shark” (released internationally this year), is a paean to one of the most feared animals in the ocean. Featuring the first ever HD 3-D ultra slow-motion shots of great whites jumping, it is a celebration of their magnificence in movement. When discussing the film, DJ emphasizes its mission of recasting the animals as an important part of the ecosystem first; its cinematographic achievements come second.

DJ’s motivation is unique: to inspire the same wonder and appreciation he feels when

in nature’s wildest places. “The ultimate would be for the audience to see and experience and sense the exact same thing you did when you were there, which is almost like the unattainable image. As we move through film ... into digital and then 3-D, eventually it will be holograph and other methods,” he says.

“Some people fear change,” he says of the digital technology he has embraced. “Fear is good, but change is good, too. I’ve always been into new technology as a tool to push the creative side of what we do as filmmakers.”

While he aims for this goal, there will be no shortage of adventures. Recently he shot with a Space and Naval Warfare Dive Team, for which he had to attend aviation survival training. The instructors thought he was from the CIA since he was the only attendee not in uniform.

“I’m a filmmaker,” he said.

“Sure you are,” came the response. **LBM**



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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HOUSE OF HOPE

Since opening its doors in July, Glennwood House has become a haven for adults with developmental disabilities.

By Peter A. Balaskas | Photos by Jody Tiongco



Glennwood House made its official debut in July 2013, offering a residential retreat for 50 adults with developmental disabilities and other special needs.

HAPPINESS IS AUDIBLE AT GLENNWOOD HOUSE, where the sound of laughter flows through the tri-level building's outdoor courtyard. The area is rife with growth: Budding fruit trees, potted plants and lush gardens line the outdoor space, along with fountains and gazebos. In fact, the property that hugs the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Ruby Street celebrated a rebirth in July, when it made its public debut as Glennwood House, a residential facility for 50 adults with developmental disabilities and other special needs. Under the leadership of Laguna Niguel

native Randy Larson, Glennwood House has shattered the paradigm of the traditional group home, effectively redefining the concept of the adult residential facility. The result is an ever-nurturing sanctuary firmly rooted in acceptance, support and community connection.

LOCAL VISIONARY

Glennwood House co-founder Randy Larson understands the pressures and concerns that accompany caring for a child with special needs: His 30-year-old son, Trevor, has Down syndrome.

Randy's experiences with Trevor inspired the financial planner and his wife, Ginny, to create The Lighthouse Group in 2003. The non-profit organization, also known as Glennwood Housing Foundation Inc., provides educational, physical and emotional support to young adults with special needs through regular meetings, events and outings.

"[The Lighthouse Group] has social activities throughout the school year and summer camp," Randy says. "But as [the kids] got to be 18, 19, 20 and adults ... it was like, 'We're all getting older,

what's going to happen with our adults [after we're gone]?"

Randy's realization led to the development of a singular vision, one he has sought to actualize since 2008: the creation of a unique residence where adults with developmental disabilities can come together to live and thrive. He imagined something more than a typical group home—a place where residents would have the opportunity to become increasingly independent through pursuing vocational employment, educational programs and leisure activities.

But before Randy could make his vision a reality, he was tasked with conquering several obstacles. An initial hurdle involved location; finding a city that not only would accept a facility that houses such a large number of special needs residents, but also promote a feeling of self-reliance among the residential community, posed a distinct challenge.

"[The Glennwood House board and I were] looking at these group homes up as far as Santa Barbara," Randy says. "A vast majority [operate on the basis of], 'Feed them. Send them to work. Bring them back. Shower. Watch a little



The property has undergone renovations since 2010.



Glennwood Housing Foundation leaders (from left) Stacey Enmeier, Randy Larson and Shauna Bogert

TV.' There's no community, no activities. They can't go down the block with their neighbors and friends." According to Randy, San Juan Capistrano and Laguna Beach were the only local cities that truly embraced the group's unconventional concept.

He discovered the facility's current location at 2130 S. Coast Hwy.—formerly used as a seniors' assisted living center—one day while driving along Laguna's coast. Upon finding out the vacant property was for sale, he immediately called the realtors with an offer, resulting in Glennwood Foundation taking ownership of the 30,000-square-foot lot in 2010.

BUILDING MOMENTUM

Once Randy had purchased the property, his next step was assembling a staff to help raise money and remodel the facility in a way that would reflect his desired aesthetic vision while providing the necessary accommodations for the home's residents. Glennwood House Executive Director Shauna Bogert, who has worked in the areas of clinical psychology and developmental disabilities for 23 years, recalls how a small item in a local newspaper altered the course of her life.

"My mother was reading an article in the Laguna Beach Independent about Randy, and she said, 'This is right up your alley,' " Shauna says. "So, I came down [to Glennwood House], he gave me the tour. ... I said I would love to help out with the project ... because this is exactly everything I ever wanted to do in a program."

Shauna introduced Randy to colleague Stacey



The courtyard garden includes fountains, gazebos, fruit trees and other succulent plants.



Glennwood House encourages incoming residents to personalize their spaces.



The sun deck, a favorite spot for on-site yoga classes



Local artist Wyland contributed a mural to the property.

the costs of renovations, and residents and staff members all had undergone background checks, Glennwood House officially opened its doors in July 2013.

ACTIVE LIVING

If there's one thing that Kellie Stock wants for her 25-year-old daughter, Jewelz, who has Down syndrome, it's to have her live in a place whose environment resembles a second home. "We looked at several [other places], and they weren't good fits because ... you'd walk into these places, and you didn't have this huge family," she explains. "[Glennwood House] is a safe place, a happy place, and knowing that Jewelz is here ... helps [my husband and I] out. That's comforting for us."

What impresses Kellie most is Glennwood House's mission to help its residents interact with the local community through vocational work. Every morning, Glennwood House residents ages 22 and older travel to off-site jobs; Jewelz, for instance, works as a bagger at



The activity lounge is a popular space for socializing.

Enmeier, with whom she had worked at Project Independence, a Costa Mesa-based organization dedicated to promoting civil rights for people with developmental disabilities. Randy appointed Stacey the assistant director of Glennwood House, and the trio embarked upon securing 501(c)(3) nonprofit status for the growing organization.

"[Glennwood House] has been all done with private dollars," Randy explains of the nonprofit's financial development. "We've had some amazing families in town and corporations ... that have just bought into the vision and the picture. They have supported us." Notable donors include Montage Laguna Beach and the Elton John Charitable Fund, among others.

In addition to collecting private donations, the organization held a string of fundraisers—from art shows to benefit concerts—across Laguna every month for almost two years. At the same time, staff members screened more than 200 applicants to become residents at Glennwood House, including people with cerebral palsy, Williams and Down syndromes, autism, brain traumas and more.

"Word had spread through families—no advertisement, other than our website," Stacey says. "No marketing, other than us doing Laguna events to help Laguna [residents], so they could have us into their community. ... They have been wonderful."

Once sufficient funds had been raised to offset

a nearby Albertsons supermarket. Residents younger than 22 either participate in an adult transitional program or attend college classes at schools like Saddleback College. "We want them to be independent," Shauna explains of the initiatives. "We want them to be ready to go [and come back] at any time."

It's this same sense of individual responsibility that the staff emphasizes through the overall developmental paradigm embraced at Glennwood House. In addition to vocational and educational programs, Glennwood House presents a range of activities, including art classes; yoga; financial and money management sessions; guided walks and tours; movie, karaoke and dance nights; and the option to participate



Glennwood House's airy dining room includes floor-to-ceiling windows that offer stunning ocean views.

in the Special Olympics. Most importantly, residents are given the autonomy to choose these activities themselves during regular resident council meetings.

"The residents meet, and we are asked to be there," Stacey explains of the meetings. "It is their meeting. We are invited. We ask, 'Would you like one of us to be there?' ... It's 'residents first.' It's what they want to do."

COMFORTS OF HOME

A sense of familial coziness is invoked by the center's exquisite design by local firm Morris Skenderian & Associates, as well as decorative touches added by the staff, residents and volunteers. One such volunteer, Laguna artist and environmentalist Wyland, painted a mural of a whale on the wall outside of the dining room and kitchen; the residents and staff later completed the work by adding their own renditions of marine creatures to the underwater scene.

In the dining room, muted earth tones and aquatic themes enhance the tranquil mood, along with polished wooden dining furniture, framed undersea photographs donated by local photographer Beverly Factor and full-length windows that afford picturesque coastal views.

Dominating the outdoor courtyard is a sustainable serenity garden, where a variety of young trees and plants produce lemons, limes, oranges, apples, grape vines and other types of

succulent fruit. Also present are water fountains, two spacious gazebos and a number of seating areas for residents to sit, gather and talk. The second floor includes two sun decks where residents can watch the sun set over the Laguna landscape or take yoga classes.

Other rooms on "the campus," as the staff calls it, include a gym, a laundry room and a recreation space. Meanwhile, an expansive activity lounge features a piano, a fireplace, a flat-screen plasma TV for movie nights, a Wii gaming system—which allows residents in wheelchairs to increase their upper-body strength—and an art studio stocked with supplies.

ON THE HORIZON

The staff is extremely enthusiastic about Glennwood House's future. Moving forward, Shauna would like to focus on having residents become more involved in the Laguna community, potentially by volunteering with local animal shelters, Friendship Shelter, the Assistance League and other charitable organizations. She and Stacey also want to enter their most creative residents in the 2014 Sawdust Art Festival.

"I think for Laguna [residents], it's such a great opportunity ... because they are all about diversity, acceptance and community," Shauna says. "And [Glennwood House] incorporates that into one place."

With a view toward expansion, Randy

MAKING STRIDES

Like the residents of Glennwood House, many people with developmental disabilities continue to achieve major accomplishments, becoming symbols of tenacity and courage in the process. Famous examples include:

HU YIZHOU: Hu, known as ZhouZhou, has garnered international recognition as a classical musician and conductor; he also has Down syndrome.

BONNER PADDOCK: Newport Beach local Bonner became the first person with cerebral palsy to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in 2008 and the first to complete the Ironman World Championship in 2012.

DR. TEMPLE GRANDIN: A renowned doctor of animal science, author and activist, Temple continues to speak extensively about her experiences with autism.

LAUREN POTTER: Lauren, an actress who has Down syndrome, made her debut on the hit TV show "Glee" in 2009.

SATOSHI TAJIRI: The creator of the Pokémon franchise has Asperger's syndrome, an autism spectrum disorder.

DR. JANICE BRUNSTROM-HERNANDEZ: A noted scientific researcher, Janice is widely recognized as the only pediatric neurologist working in the United States who also has cerebral palsy.

TIM PAGE: A Pulitzer Prize-winning music critic, editor and writer, Tim disclosed his Asperger's syndrome diagnosis in 2007.

someday hopes to open a second Glennwood House as well as collaborate with other groups that might be interested in reproducing his innovative model. "The vision is to help others if they want to replicate this, since the high bar is [now] set," he explains. "Create a starter kit and forward that to them. And stress due diligence, and ask yourselves if this going to work in your state and community."

He emphasizes that no matter where an adult care facility is located, two components are essential for the growth and evolution of its residents: hope and love. "The need is huge; the families need that relationship, the care, the peace of mind," he says. "With great staff, great families and the right selection, I do—with all my heart—believe ... in the larger adult residential facility as a community within the community ... beyond the group home." **LBM**

Laguna's Change-Makers

Laguna Beach Magazine presents its annual showcase of forward-thinking locals whose imagination, positivity and generosity are shaping the community's future.

By Bria Balliet, Linda Domingo, Tess Eyrich, Ashley Ryan and Alli Tong

THE WINDS OF CHANGE ARE BLOWING THROUGH LAGUNA BEACH, INSPIRED BY the innovation of a diverse class of homegrown locals and transplants alike. Though Laguna has always been progressive, the city has undeniably reached new heights in recent years due to the work of a dedicated group of people who've catalyzed the area's multidimensional growth.

They are advocates, crusaders, teachers, inventors and, most importantly, friends. From conservationists and creatives to culinary masterminds, this year's crop of influential Lagunans is affecting all aspects of life in this community for the better. Best of all, they've got no plans to stop or slow down, motivating the rest of us to follow suit in the hopes of turning what's already a great place to live into an unparalleled paradise.

Based on your nominations, though the list is by no means inclusive, here are your top 10 change-makers who are shaping this community.

Back row, left to right: Tex Haines, Valarie Van Cleave, Andrea Adelson

Middle row, left to right: Jodie Gates, Jon Madison

Front row, left to right: Jacob Cho, Michele Hunter, Craig Strong







Roger Shew

THE EDUCATOR

What he's known for: Roger is a professional musician and responsible for jazzing up Laguna Beach High School and Thurston Middle School as a part-time music teacher at both institutions. In August 2013, he was named a California All-Star Teacher, an honor that recognizes efforts to promote student success, innovate in the classroom, build relationships with parents and staff and foster a sense of community. He earned the award after being nominated by two of his students.

Lesser-known fact: He's addicted to stand-up comedy, and his favorite comedians include Louis C.K., Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert and Jim Gaffigan. He admits to attempting to bring that humor into the classroom: "I try to be funny as much as possible," he says. "My students can tell you that I'm failing at it."

One thing he'd like to see change in Laguna: "I think Laguna is a gem," Roger says, struggling to find anything he'd alter. "I wish more places were like Laguna. It's a fantastic place."

Something he'd like to see change in his profession: Since his high school days, Roger says, the opportunities to both hear and play live music have become more of a rarity. "When you play live music—it could be at a restaurant or a coffee shop, or in a 2,000-seat concert hall—people just appreciate it and respond to it," he says. "We used to play gigs all the time at coffeehouses and little diners, stuff like that. ... [Those opportunities] seem to be gone, or at least dried up a little bit. I think that would be something I'd love to see come back."

Plans for the future: Roger hopes to expose his students to more musical experiences that transcend the classroom. In 2009, the jazz orchestra took a trip to Orlando to compete in the Disney Jazz Fest, where the group won first place in its division, among other honors. "I'd like to do more trips like that," Roger says. "I'd also like to bring in more guest artists to play with the band so that the students can learn from the masters."

Michele Hunter

THE REHABILITATOR

What she's known for: The director of animal care at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center (PMMC) began her tenure at the non-profit 23 years ago as a weekend volunteer during a stint working at Taco Bell's corporate headquarters. Since then, she's graduated from volunteer to supervisor to director, all the while overseeing the expansion of the PMMC's facilities and programs. This year alone, the PMMC has assisted in the rescue and rehabilitation of 374 marine mammals in distress. "I think saving every life we can is a huge accomplishment," she says. "We take great pride in that."

Lesser-known fact: "I love to decorate with the seasons and the holidays," she says. "And, I can't go a day without my Starbucks green iced tea. I've got to have it every morning."

One thing she'd like to see change in Laguna: "I'd like to continue to see more collaboration between various nonprofit organizations and community groups," she comments. "We have such a great resource of services here in Laguna, and it would be wonderful to see even more of an impact with groups banding together and forming more partnerships."

Meanwhile, PMMC founder John Cunningham adds, "I would hope that [Laguna] can retain its uniqueness. It's something you can't verbalize, sort of a feeling that you have when you visit."

Something she'd like to see change in her profession: "Members of the public need to be better stewards of the ocean, and that would make our profession as rehabbers a little bit easier."

Plans for the future: "[I'd like] to continue to inspire ocean stewards through the children that come to our facility," she says. "And, hopefully, to collaborate with like-minded organizations."





SEAN HUNTER BROWN

Tex Haines

THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

What he's known for: In 1976, Tex Haines co-founded Victoria Skimboards, a company that has since become the premier name in skimboarding, hosting both its own pro team and an internationally attended annual competition. When he isn't busy with the company, Tex spends his time fighting to keep the beaches of Laguna clean and urging others to do the same. "I'd like Laguna to be known as the cleanest little beach town in California," he says.

Lesser-known fact: Tex has always wanted to be a veterinarian, and even has a degree in biology from Stanford University. "I have a big fascination for the study of life," he explains.

One thing he'd like to see change in Laguna: Above all, Tex would like to see his town kept clean. "I would like to see the city hand out trash-pickers," he says. "We have to improve the city mentality about trash." He encourages everyone to take responsibility for their city by partnering with groups like ZeroTrash for monthly beach cleanups. "It's up to us," he adds, noting that blaming the issue on tourists won't solve the problem. "It's actually the locals who do more littering than the tourists from what I see."

Something he'd like to see change in his profession: "More than anything else, I would like to see the professionals form an association independent of the manufacturers," he remarks. "I think that's where we're really missing it." Tex believes that such an organization is necessary for skimboarding to continue to bring in more outside sponsors and grow as an industry.

Plans for the future: Tex would like to start easing his way into a more leisurely lifestyle and focus on his mission of helping to save Laguna's beaches. "There are two schools of thought," he continues. "One is that you stop working, and you go downhill and fall off the edge really [quickly]. But if you keep working, you kind of keep your youth. And I have to find some balance there."

Jacob Cho

THE MARTIAL ARTS MASTER

What he's known for: The co-owner and head taekwondo instructor at Cho's Academy comes from a family of professional martial artists, beginning with his father, Grandmaster Hee Il Cho. In 2009, Jacob opened his own facility to continue the tradition of providing quality martial arts training to children. "It's a victory every time I help a weak kid grow strong, a shy kid grow confident, a wild child to develop control and focus, an outcast to find a home and, for those passionate about martial arts, a lifetime pursuit," he says.

Lesser-known fact: "My life includes a little more than just the academy," he remarks. "Having a balanced life is important and keeps me happy. In addition to taekwondo, I really enjoy yoga, jiu-jitsu, weight training, surfing, skateboarding, snowboarding and guitar."

One thing he'd like to see change in Laguna: "I'd like to make sure we don't overdevelop," he notes. "Laguna has a unique natural beauty and history, so it would be nice to have this preserved. It would be great to see small businesses thrive and the spirit of local entrepreneurs supported."

Something he'd like to see change in his profession: "I don't pay too close attention to the 'industry,'" he admits. "The martial arts are much more than a business to me." However, he adds, "I do have issue with dollars taking priority over integrity. The title of 'master' or 'expert' should come with commensurate experience and certification[s] should be earned [and] not bought. ... A martial art is empty without integrity."

Plans for the future: "In the coming months, our taekwondo competition team will represent Laguna Beach again, sparring at the 21st California Open International Tae Kwon Do Championship ... [and] our third annual youth awards and banquet will be taking place to recognize top students for their exceptional efforts and achievements," he says, noting that the ceremony will include, as it has in the past, awards for academic accomplishments. "It takes discipline and steady efforts to learn and achieve in school. ... It is important for me to support and encourage academic achievement."

"Another project I'm very excited about is our youth outreach initiative," he adds. "The initiative ... is designed to educate academy youth students about our responsibility to give back. ... For me, the future starts with personal accountability. The better I am, the better my students are."



JODY TIONGCO

Andrea Adelson

THE TRUTH SEEKER

What she's known for: Andrea is the editor-in-chief of the Laguna Beach Independent newspaper, where she works to cover the local stories that are most representative of Laguna's community. "I try really hard to cultivate news stories that are not government driven," she says. "People inherently make a lot of news on their own, and those are inherently more engaging stories because they're about your neighbors—they're about your friends." She even hires local residents as staffers to act as her eyes and ears in the field.

Lesser-known fact: "I took up paddleboarding a year or so ago," Andrea says. She also admits to having a slight fear of the water when the surf is particularly high.

One thing she'd like to see change in Laguna: "I don't have a wish list for that," she admits. "I'm not an advocate, you know? There are crusading editors, but I'm not one of them."

Something she'd like to see change in her profession: Andrea would like to see quality of content, rather than quantity, return to the forefront of journalism. "I think the industry made a pretty big error in ... following the trend of other content providers in allowing their content to be used online for free," she explains. "I'm resentful of the amount of effort people expect us to put into the Web for something that they don't pay for. ... The extra demand for tweets, for blogs, for posts—it's time consuming. ... That is not what matters. What matters is for me to go out and generate a story."

Plans for the future: "My husband is 63, so he wants to retire in a few years, and I think I'd like to be able to retire when he does," she adds. "I think that's the honest truth. Whether that happens or not, I don't know."



JODY TIONGCO

CHAD MELLON



Jon Madison

THE ENTREPRENEUR

What he's known for: The local entrepreneur is the owner of Madison Square & Garden Cafe as well as a community activist. "I hold a lot of charitable events here," Jon says of the distinctive cafe, which overflows with flowers and other plants, decorative art and pottery. Earlier this year, he hosted the Assistance League of Laguna Beach's Friend Raiser, a charitable event that attracted an impressive 300 attendees. "I underwrote the entire event," he says. "You'd think I had given everybody a bar of gold. They were so thankful and kind and appreciative—it just touched my heart."

Lesser-known fact: "This is my fourth career," Jon says. Prior to opening the cafe, he worked as a genetics professor, a landscape architect and an attorney.

One thing he'd like to see change in Laguna: "I think I'd like to see more people contribute to the city—people having more open minds, working together, looking for the positive in everything," he remarks.

Something he'd like to see change in his profession: "I think giving people better wages," he says, noting that he can't imagine paying his employees minimum wage and revealing he even pays the premiums for his staff's health care.

Plans for the future: "Staying alive," he jokes. "My plans are keeping the property up as though it was yesterday when I opened [it]. I only want one facility. I see myself just improving it, making it better and providing a niche here in Laguna for regular people. I think it's important to have a place in town where you can go and feel welcome."

Jon adds that he might consider running for a local political office. "I think a town without progress is a dead town," he says. "We, the people of Laguna, should determine our progress."



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DONDEE QUINCENIA

Craig Strong

THE EPICUREAN

What he's known for: Craig joined Montage Laguna Beach as executive chef of Studio in June 2009 and was one of the driving forces behind bringing Share Our Strength's Taste of the Nation event, aimed to combat childhood hunger in Orange County, to the resort. In addition, Craig has aided in the realization of the resort's on-site vegetable and herb garden.

Lesser-known fact: The chef describes himself as open to almost all food, and isn't above quick, cheap bites. "If I'm in New York, I want to eat food from street vendors," he says. "When I'm in Hong Kong, I'm eating in noodle shops that have questionable food handling practices. But that's part of why you're there, and it's fun."

One thing he'd like to see change in Laguna: Craig was stumped when asked what he'd like to see change about his city. He lives five minutes from work and the ocean, and his neighbors are all good friends. "I've never felt such a sense of community," he says.

Something he'd like to see change in his profession: When diners can't make their reservations, Craig says, he'd appreciate a quick call of cancellation. "I understand ... life gets in the way," he says. "Just let us know so that we can take care of other people."

Plans for the future: Craig has his eyes on an unreachable goal, he explains, especially in the culinary world, where developments and trends keep chefs on their toes. "I'm really proud of what we're doing here at Studio, but there's always more you can do," he says. "That's what gets you excited to go back to work the next day. ... You need to keep pushing to stay on the cutting edge. I don't think we're ever going to obtain it. It will always be just a little bit outside my reach."

Jodie Gates

THE DANCER

What she's known for: After 30 years of performing as a principal dancer, including at the Joffrey Ballet, Jodie sought a new adventure. In 2005, after recognizing the lack of professional dance performances in Laguna Beach, she founded the Laguna Dance Festival. Jodie was also named vice dean and director of USC's new Gloria Kaufman School of Dance in August.

Lesser-known fact: "I love spending Sunday afternoons at the beach," Jodie says. "Whether walking on the sand, looking at the water or sipping a glass of pinot noir and reading The New York Times on the terrace, I need this weekly ritual."

One thing she'd like to see change in Laguna: "I'm always surprised that people in the community don't know about [the festival]," she says. "We're more than just a dance gig in town. ... If I had a dream, it would be to build the audience in the next five years tenfold."

Something she'd like to see change in her profession: "I hope that in my lifetime we can see the importance of what the dance profession can bring to our lives. ... I hope to continue to [raise] awareness of the organization."

Plans for the future: On her new role as vice dean and director of the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance: "It only makes sense that I involve [my dance majors and get them involved] in the festival, whether it be gallery events or potential choreographers for various projects. ... Since I'm directing both programs, I feel like there's going to be some sort of marriage."

"Reinvent who you are because you have the tools," Jodie adds. "Also, don't be afraid to dream, and dream big."



DONDEE QUINCENIA



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Valarie Van Cleave

THE OCEAN ADVOCATE

What she's known for: The 20-year Laguna Beach resident is the co-founder, along with Julie Hill, of the annual SeaChange gala (now in its sixth year) in Laguna Beach, which attracts hundreds of ocean conservationists and celebrities. The fundraiser benefits Oceana, an international ocean conservation organization. This year, the event raised more than \$900,000 for ocean conservation and, over the past six years, has raised \$6 million.

Lesser-known fact: "Secret Cove [by Table Rock Beach] is probably my favorite beach in Laguna. That's what I call it. There's oftentimes no people, and I like the rock formations," Valarie says. "I'm [also] pretty much a golf-a-holic."

One thing she'd like to see change in Laguna: "I think that ... [we] could be more mindful of the runoff situation, really. I think that has profound consequences. ... What's happening offshore may look like a calm, beautiful ocean, but there [are] commercial practices that need to be fine-tuned," she says. "But I think Laguna Beach has made great leaps forward. Just banning the plastic bag ... that has a direct impact on the ocean."

Something she'd like to see change in her profession: "I'd like to see more people get involved, and I think sometimes people think, 'There's nothing I can do to help,' but I would really encourage people to get involved with an organization. [Oceana] is strictly a nonprofit organization ... so I'd love to see our organization and other ocean conservation organizations better funded."

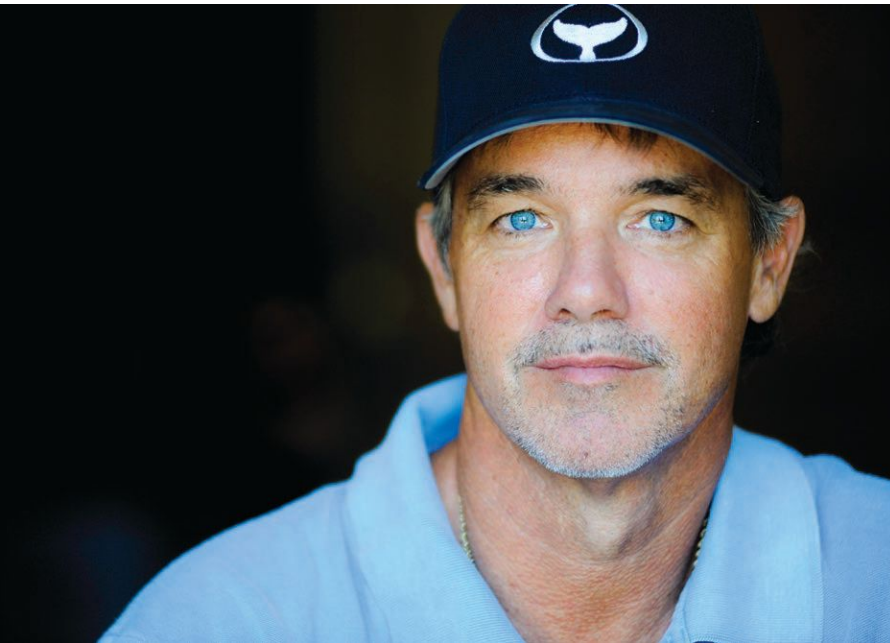
Plans for the future: "Locally, we're really continuing wonderful work that's been done on establishing rain-protected areas ... and continuing that and policy work to address what's happening offshore here and to build public awareness in Orange County," Valarie says. " ... Those are really the key things to reverse the downward spiral. ... It's a labor of love, and I wouldn't do it if I didn't feel that Oceana was being as effective as they are ... both here and [in] California and around the world."

To learn more about Valarie's cause, visit oceana.org. LBM

JODY TIONGCO



COURTESY OF WYLAND



Wyland

THE ARTIST

What he's known for: His life-size murals are recognized the world over, but marine artist Wyland remains incredibly accomplished at blending his passion for art with his passion for ocean conservation. This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Wyland Galleries as well as the 20th anniversary of the Wyland Foundation, which is dedicated to preserving and protecting the ocean and its inhabitants.

Lesser-known fact: "I've never had a job," he jokes. "This isn't really a job—it's more like a hobby that got out of control." The artist also owns a 49-year-old pet turtle he adopted from an animal rescue about 10 years ago. "The shelter named him Wyland, so I call him Junior," he explains.

One thing he'd like to see change in Laguna: "Laguna is probably the most beautiful small town on earth. ... It needs to stay exactly like it is," he says. However, he does note that one positive change he has witnessed recently is the increased effort to protect local oceans, "not just from Laguna, but all of California."

Something he'd like to see change in his profession: It's hardly a surprise that protecting art education is a cause very close to Wyland's heart. "The idea that anybody ... thinks it's OK to take art out of our schools and deny our kids the opportunity to have a full education doesn't make any sense," he says. He hopes that his upcoming documentary, "Saving Art Education in America," will convince others of the severity of the issue.

Plans for the future: Finishing 100 life-size murals in 27 years seems like an exhausting task, but Wyland has no plans to slow down. "Now, I'm planning to do 100 monumental sculptures in 100 cities in the world in the next 25 years," he continues, noting that 10 of the sculptures will be underwater. "I'm thinking really big."

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Express Yourself

Laguna Outreach for Community Arts exposes locals to the joys of creativity.

By Cheryl Pruett | Photos by Mary Hulbut



Since its founding in 1992, Laguna Outreach for Community Arts (LOCA) has served 20,000 locals through immersive art workshops.

DESPITE SERVING APPROXIMATELY 20,000 PEOPLE since its inception in 1992, Laguna Outreach for Community Arts (LOCA) shows no signs of slowing down or becoming staid in its programming. Instead, the arts organization continues to add to its roster new and innovative offerings for participants of all ages, from preschoolers to senior citizens. LOCA's staples currently include Senior Art Escapes workshops at the Susi Q Senior Center, Art and Sea Experience sessions presented in conjunction with Laguna's Pacific

Marine Mammal Center, botanical art classes at the Laguna Nursery and, of course, programs at four local public schools—Laguna Beach High School, Thurston Middle School, Top of the World Elementary School and El Morro Elementary School.

"[LOCA] is a true grassroots organization, founded in Laguna Beach ... and dedicated to art education for the community," co-founder Mada Leach says of the nonprofit. "It takes art out of the elite kind of place—out of the gallery, out of

the museum—and places it squarely within the community. We've gone from being strictly local to drawing from all over Orange County—most of Orange County has been impacted."

EARLY YEARS

Since the organization's founding 21 years ago, LOCA has primarily remained a homegrown effort to increase arts education throughout the local community. Founders and artists Mada and Anne England first met more than 20 years ago

at the Festival of Arts. Becoming fast friends, the two women lamented the fact that local schools' art budgets had recently been cut and resolved to do something about the loss. "We knew nothing about nonprofits but wanted to get artists interested in teaching and get them funded," Mada says.

Mada is quick to note that she and Anne weren't the only activists involved in LOCA's early days—in fact, a committed group met regularly at painter Hal Lambert's gallery. Members included several Festival of Arts exhibitors; Hal Akins, a former art teacher and coach at Laguna Beach High School; and artists Iris Adam, Jacquie Moffett, Pat Whiteside-Phillips, Sherry Bullard and Sue Linder, among others.

Sue, who is now acting president of LOCA's board of directors, recalls the group's motivation to help expand the fledgling organization: "We realized that art education wasn't as prominent in schools as it had been," she explains. "We wanted to form a group that can help schools and community needs."

Initially, LOCA operated without a designated home base. Paperwork and documents were stored in individuals' homes, and Mada housed a portable printing press in her garage. "One of the early people [involved], Mary Bryant, had all of our files on a little porch under a tarp," Mada says. "We were really bare bones." Along the way, a local Wells Fargo branch stepped in to loan LOCA an on-site office and storage space.

Once the fledgling organization had established a physical presence in the community, its membership substantially grew—and continues to grow, with nearly 100 members and 25 to 30 artists on the in-house teaching roster. "We are always on the lookout for artists," Mada adds. "New artists coming to town reach out to us, like [textile artist] Gretchen Shannon, who moved to Laguna from Philadelphia."

UNCOMMON EDUCATION

Almost any medium is fair game for LOCA to explore. The organization's current programming includes classes in papermaking, collage, ceramics, watercolor and acrylic painting, printmaking, mosaic, mixed media work, drawing, sculpture and more. Innovation, without a doubt, is LOCA's specialty.

"Great ideas come forth from LOCA and can be implemented quickly," says Sherry Bullard, LOCA's educational project coordinator for the past 12 years. "We are passionate about art education and

LOCA's leadership includes (from left) Mada Leach, Anne England and Sue Linder.



JODY TIONGCO



The organization offers courses in watercolor and acrylic painting, among other types of media.

mentoring new generations of artists. The important part is developing new programs."

One of the nonprofit's most popular programs is a workshop in making personal shrines. Taught by mosaic artist Carolyn Machado, the class allows students to produce artworks that are deeply connected to their lives. For example, Carolyn's personal shrine includes childhood photographs juxtaposed against a mirror that literally reflects her life now. As her canvas she chose an old jewelry box, but other students use cigar boxes, silver trays or other objects as

the foundations for their shrines. "It's all about them, about bringing personal things to class," Carolyn explains. "Or, it could be a gift—for a daughter or a mother."

"LOCA looks for things that are not offered around town. ... The opportunity [to get involved] is there for everyone," she continues. "It's an opportunity for artists and non-artists to explore the arts on some level—whether they take the knowledge home and keep going doesn't matter. It's the exposure. It takes the mystique out of being an artist and gives [people] an



The nonprofit's current programming includes guided workshops led by local and visiting professional artists.

appreciation for what we do.”

Other LOCA mainstays include a solar printing workshop with Peter Tiner, a retired Laguna Beach High School teacher, and a digital photography class that helps students keep abreast of changes in technology. Meanwhile, a junior curator class offered in the past at Laguna Beach High School taught students the basics of curating a professional art exhibition. LOCA's most recent endeavor, a partnership with the Woman's Club of Laguna Beach, is called the Intergenerational Literacy Project. The initiative pairs second-graders with trained senior mentors to collaborate on creating fully illustrated books.

Last year, LOCA partnered with the Laguna College of Art & Design (LCAD) to develop a mentorship program for college students. The program offered part-time, paid positions to students who collaborated with LOCA teachers to present workshops at the senior center. “Our thinking was to take people interested in the arts profession and give them exposure and income—to show them that teaching doesn't have to be on an elementary level. It can be any age,” Mada explains of the initiative.

LOCA's leadership works tirelessly to develop fresh programming for the organization's ever-evolving roster. Mada even adds that the organization is currently exploring opportunities for corporate partnerships that would allow companies to send employees to LOCA workshops as a



LOCA's local presence extends to four Laguna Beach-based public schools.

creative outlet.

“We are ... in a growth spurt right now,” she adds. “I don't see LOCA wrapping up anytime soon. We are here to stay.”

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Over the years, LOCA has sought to integrate itself into the Laguna landscape through a variety of relationships with nearby nonprofits and independently operated businesses. Through these local alliances, the once-humble organization has made its presence widely known across the community.

One of these definitive relationships is with the Susi Q Senior Center, where LOCA presents its regular Senior Art Escapes. In partnership with the center, LOCA organizes professionally taught workshops for participants ages 55 and older. Many of the pieces created during the workshops are later exhibited and sold in the center's on-site Gallery Q space. “The classes are almost always filled and often with a waiting list,” says Carole Zavala, arts manager for the Susi Q Senior Center. “It has provided seniors with opportunities to explore new mediums—print-making, jewelry, mask making—in addition to



Courses often incorporate the natural landscape.

traditional courses.

"I love working with LOCA, and their offers have broadened creative opportunities for our 55 and over population in town," she adds.

Another of LOCA's primary connections is to the Pacific Marine Mammal Center (PMMC). Through its Art & Sea Experience, LOCA provides participants with the opportunity to observe sea lions and seals that are being rehabilitated at the PMMC. After a tour of the center, students enjoy a guided art class during which they recreate the PMMC's resident marine mammals. The singular experiences are offered six times each year on various Saturdays and typically serve 12 to 18 participants per class. PMMC board member and volunteer Mary Ferguson acts as a docent, giving tours and discussing the animals before students head upstairs for an art lesson, which can range from drawing to sculpting to making masks.

Mary firmly believes that LOCA's influence across Laguna is integral to the community's vibrancy. "LOCA fulfills a large desire amongst the Laguna Beach community to further arts education," she says. "Laguna Beach schools do a good job, but can only do so much. LOCA steps in to provide an even richer experience and a broad offering of classes for all ages."

In addition, LOCA presents workshops that explore Laguna's distinctive flora. Botanical classes held at the Laguna Nursery include the

participation of nursery owner, horticulturalist and landscape designer Ruben Flores, who gives presentations prior to the classes. "I love Ruben and the information he provides," participant Lavonne Smith says of the outdoor sessions. "What he says, his enthusiasm and demonstrations always relate to class."

LOCA continues to flourish through fundraising efforts and grants from the city of Laguna, the Laguna Beach Festival of Arts Foundation, the Laguna Beach Community Foundation and many others. Additional support comes from LOCA subscribers and members, as well as proceeds collected from sales of items featured in the organization's online boutique. The nonprofit recently debuted LOCA critters, 3-D cutouts of animals like fish and rabbits created by local artists that were made available for purchase on LOCA's website beginning in October. "We try to be creative with fundraising since there is so much competition," Sue explains.

Through its myriad workshops and community collaborations, LOCA offers students and teachers across Southern California the opportunity to unlock their intrinsic creativity. "For local residents, there's no excuse for anyone in town not to have dabbled in art," LOCA instructor Carolyn adds. "I learn from my students, too. I'm always learning, like [in] life—how can you know it all?" **LBM**

ART AND LITERACY

Pair one second-grader with a senior citizen and you have the basis for the Intergenerational Literacy Project, a Laguna Outreach for Community Arts (LOCA) program developed in partnership with the Woman's Club of Laguna Beach.

Since October, trained volunteers from the Susi Q Senior Center have mentored children from the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach, sharpening their reading and writing skills through one-on-one tutoring sessions and a host of other activities. During the program's second phase, beginning in January, the children will write books to be illustrated by their senior mentors. Once the texts are finished, LOCA will create a website to showcase the various works, and the Laguna Beach Library will host a community event to celebrate the children's achievements in publishing.

"Art is literacy," says Elsa Brizzi, director of special projects at LOCA. Elsa, an author and illustrator, used her own book, "You Are a Very Special You," as the basis for the program's creation. Through the Intergenerational Literacy Project, she hopes to assist second-graders in developing lasting literacy skills.



LOCA even offers botanical classes in partnership with the Laguna Nursery and owner Ruben Flores.



the Most Beautiful Season

Multiuse products, revitalizing treatments and insider advice ensure a radiant look throughout the holidays and beyond. By Lisa Marie Hart

DONDEE QUINCENA



At Roots The Beauty Underground, owner Laura Linsenmayer offers organic, nontoxic and water-based products.

FAMILY GATHERINGS, FESTIVE PARTIES, SEASONAL soirees—the holidays are rife with opportunities to shine. But achieving that extra-special sparkle requires much more than manicured nails and a polished blowout; in fact, according to most beauty experts, the healthiest glow begins with nourished skin.

Industry professionals from high-end retailers and spas across Laguna Beach agree that sometimes, even beauty trends make sense. What's more, the season's top trends, tips and must-haves are falling in step with emerging lifestyle movements. Consistently health-conscious, Laguna locals are tweaking their beauty regimens to incorporate clean, natural products—a holistic approach to beauty that reflects a growing interest in long-term health solutions rather than overhyped, of-the-moment fixes.

BACK TO BASICS

In the beauty world, the winter season is a time to repair, resurface and restore, “basically undoing all the fun we had during the summer,” says Laura Linsenmayer, owner of local retailer Roots The Beauty Underground. The damage done to skin and hair during a few carefree months at the beach can be staggering; the cooler seasons offer the chance to compensate for warm-weather neglect.

To combat the negative effects of summer, Dr. Monika Kiripolsky, a board-certified dermatologist at the recently opened Obagi Skin Health Institute on Pacific Coast Highway, emphasizes

the significance of establishing a basic skin care routine, one that includes washing one's face at least twice daily. She suggests adding to the routine an oil-control product with salicylic acid, a protective sunscreen and a nightly retinol product to prevent wrinkles, build collagen, tighten pores and reduce sun damage.

When building a skin care routine, it's important to remember that skin responds best to

natural ingredients. At Roots, Laura stocks the shelves with items she claims are “so clean you could eat them.” The shop's beauty bounty includes organic skin care and fragrance lines, nontoxic makeup, aluminum-free deodorants, ammonia-free hair products, water-based nail polishes and soy oil nail polish removers.

Dry and damaged skin also benefits from the routine application of an exfoliating scrub. Skin care professionals note that chances are, most people should be exfoliating more frequently than they think they should. During winter, local experts tend to favor daily exfoliation for most clients to increase epidermal turnover and create a smoother, more even complexion.

After exfoliating, using a daily moisturizer with SPF protection will hasten the transition to blemish-free skin. One alternative to a traditional sunscreen is a tinted moisturizer, which typically combines SPF with foundation to provide both sun protection and blemish coverage.

BEAUTY TRENDS

This season, keeping it understated—whether with skin care or makeup—is in. “I'm into keeping [my beauty] routine simple with as few products as possible,” Monika notes. “Aim for a staple set of items that do five different things.”

At the forefront of Laura's routine are oils. “Lately, it's all about the beauty oils. That's where you're going to get results,” she says of the top-selling product. One of the shop's most popular oils is the Dr. Alkaitis Organic Nourishing



Obagi Skin Health Institute opened its third Southern California location in Laguna Beach in August.



RMS Beauty's "Un" Powder



HOLIDAY MUST-HAVES

These beauty essentials will brighten, polish and perfect well into the new year.

Dr. Monika Kiripolsky of Obagi Skin Health Institute recommends ZO Skin Health's Effects Exfoliating Cleanser: "I use it when I wake up, when I get home from work and then again before I go to bed," she says of the product, which is available at Obagi's Laguna location.

An organic highlighter, RMS Beauty's Living Luminizer generates a healthy glow without too much shine or sparkle. Use sparingly over Suntegrity's 5 in 1 Natural Moisturizing Face Sunscreen with SPF 30, a tinted moisturizer that both primes and protects vulnerable skin. Both products can be found locally at Roots The Beauty Underground.

Designed by a makeup artist with skin care in mind, the BeingTrue Color collection includes products such as antioxidant-rich glosses and anti-aging primers and cream shadows. The line is available at International Spa Laguna.

For men, Cremo Co.'s Cremo Cream is a concentrated treat for the neck and cheeks. The luxurious shaving cream diminishes the risk of cuts and razor burn while yielding a tighter shave and softer skin; it can be found at Bubbles of Laguna Bath & Body Shop.



Energy of the Sea fragrance by Inis, found at Bubbles

Treatment Oil, a serum that can be used on the scalp, face and body to deliver moisture, effectively transforming users' skin tone and softness.

In keeping with the barely-there trend, beauty professionals advocate that women apply makeup with a lighter hand this season. Resist the urge to reach for the powder at the first sign of shine, and instead embrace a dewy glow. Those who crave coverage can try a fine dusting of a silica-based powder, like RMS Beauty's cottony "Un" Powder, applied with a fan brush. These products, according to Laura, will help to set makeup without creating a caked-on look that actually emphasize creases. The most of-the-moment beauty look, she adds, is a luminous complexion accented by either bold eye makeup or a statement lip color, but never both.

And while the cooler seasons may be associated with heavier scents, less heady and more natural fragrances are on the rise. At Bubbles of Laguna



The couples room at Spa Montage

Bath & Body Shop, Irish unisex line Inis receives rave reviews for its cool, refreshing Energy of the Sea scent. The shop's other top seller, Coconut Spa's pure virgin coconut oil, utilizes a common ingredient that has skyrocketed in popularity in recent months: "People are enjoying the health benefits of cooking with coconut oil and drinking coconut water, so this highest-grade, all-natural product fits right into their routine—and doubles as a pre-shampoo hair treatment," Bubbles of Laguna owner Cathy Wilkinson explains.

Many beauty industry insiders swear by the age-old power of scent to transform mood. In fact, aromatherapy products can provide tremendous relief from holiday stress. Bubbles of Laguna's all-natural Shower Bursts release infusions of essential oils when hit indirectly by water. Similarly, Laura looks forward to her nightly spray of floral essences from one of six Energy Mists by botanical alchemist Lotus Wei.

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Esthetician and lash design expert Miki Garcia at work

OTHER LOCAL SPOTS TO BEAUTIFY

Art of Fitness Gym, & Day Spa: 949-464-0202;
artoffitnesslaguna.com

Aquaterra Spa at Surf & Sand Resort:
949-376-2772; surfandsandresort.com

Body Soul Skin Care: 949-254-0025;
beautifiedhealing.com

Laguna Aesthetics: 949-632-8087;
lagunacanyonspa.com

Laguna Canyon Spa: 949-715-0210;
lagunacanyonspa.com

Laguna Image Skincare: 949-274-0291
pureylorganics.com

Serenity Skin Care: 949-444-4715;
serenitylaguna.com

Spa Josephine: 949-497-8461;
spajosephine.com

The Brow Boutique: 949-715-1177;
brow-boutique.com

Ziba Day Spa & Botanical Skincare:
949-201-7382; zibadayspa.com

BEYOND LAGUNA:

The Ritz-Carlton Spa, Laguna Niguel:
949-240-5020; ritzcarlton.com

Spa Gaucin at The St. Regis Monarch Beach,
Dana Point: 949-234-3367; spagaucin.com

"It's become a ritual for me," says Laura, who uses the product as a natural sleep aid. "I associate the smell with bedtime, and it instantly sends me off to sleep." The plant-based sprays also come in the forms of serums and ingestible elixirs.

TEMPTING TREATMENTS

In addition to products, many of Laguna's industry professionals offer on-site treatments designed to address winter beauty woes. For a mid-season energy boost, Spa Montage at Montage Laguna Beach offers Laguna Beach Kur, a botanical treatment that tempers the effects of fatigue. After a detoxifying underwater massage, an invigorating wrap triggers the autoimmune system, resulting in "total surrender and ultimate relaxation," Spa Montage Director Michael Conte says.

Rejuvenation is also the aim of this season's most popular anti-aging treatments. Dr. Monika explains that many of Obagi's patients have tried a multitude of topical anti-aging solutions, only to see little improvement to pigmentation irregularities including liver spots and melasma (a condition that causes dark patches on the face, often during pregnancy). "Corrective laser treatments like the intense pulse light remove years of sun spots or broken capillaries on the neck, décolletage, face or hands," she says.

"There is no [recovery] downtime, and [the process] really is effective."

The Obagi team can extend these treatments to other typical problem areas such as the hands. "It used to be said that the eyes are the window to the soul, but the hands are the window to one's true age—well, not anymore," Monika explains. "We can correct this with filler treatments that restore lost volume to the backs of the hands, laser to remove sun spots and tighten the skin, and sclerotherapy [injections into the veins] to minimize any unsightly appearance."

Meanwhile, a variety of local beauty retailers offer in-house customization services to ensure quality at-home care. Professional consultations—which often are complimentary—guarantee better fits between clients and products. "People come in all the time saying, 'I read about this and I want to buy it,'" Laura says. "So many times I have to talk them out of it and find something more suitable, because it's not the right product for them."

Likewise, "You shouldn't buy a skin cream because you like how it smells or how it feels on your face," Monika says. "Unless a topical product has active ingredients with a distinct, scientifically supported purpose [for your needs], you should not be using it."

During a consultation, request an on-site makeover. The changing of the seasons and fluctuations in weather signal the need to update skin care and makeup routines, and many local retailers and spas specialize in adapting trends to suit clients' tastes and levels of dedication. Some professionals, like Laura at Roots, even offer to record makeovers so that clients can refer to the footage at home in the process of perfecting application and blending techniques.

Inside the Hotel Laguna, International Spa Laguna turns out some of the most alluring eyelash extensions in town, thanks to co-owner, lead esthetician and certified lash design expert Miki Garcia, whose custom creations have attracted clients from Canada to France. Miki utilizes top-of-the-line 3D-Beauty lashes and no-fume, formaldehyde-free adhesive to create personalized treatments that fulfill requests ranging from subtly fuller fringe to the coveted "Kardashian eyes."

This season, beauty trends mirror continuing public interest in holistic wellness. Natural and organic products and anti-aging, corrective and rejuvenating treatments ensure lasting solutions that'll leave Laguna locals glowing long after the holidays have passed. **LBM**



JODY TIONGCO

International Spa Laguna's pumpkin peel

REPAIR AND RENEW

Local estheticians recommend the top must-try, skin-boosting treatments.

At Montage Laguna Beach's Spa Montage, the season's most sought-after services combine science with classic spa therapies. Two popular anti-aging products unite in The Natural Facelift: Bamboo Firming Fluid by Éminence Organic Skin Care and Oxygenated Renewal Complex by Spa Technologies. Used together, the two products promote healing, stimulate collagen and increase elasticity.

"The results are wonderful," Spa Montage Director Michael Conte says of the facial. "Not only will you see a reduction in fine lines and contouring, but you will also feel a lift and see firmer skin with a vibrant glow."

The pumpkin peel at International Spa Laguna is a deliciously apropos way to drench the senses in holiday spirit. "Pumpkin enzyme improves the appearance of rough-textured skin, leaving a smooth, glowing complexion," International Spa Laguna co-owner and lead esthetician Miki Garcia says of the treatment.

At the newly opened Obagi Skin Health Institute, a menu of facials and other skin therapies features the exfoliating Power Peel, designed to remove impurities and invigorate skin while employing gentle suction to stimulate circulation. "Facial revolumization is also revolutionary and exciting," says board-certified Obagi dermatologist Dr. Monika Kiripolsky.

"We lose about a tablespoon of volume each year in our face as we age due to lost bone, muscle and fat. ... And our skin starts to sag," she adds. "The key to fixing this is not to simply get a facelift and pull everything back tight, but to first restore volume to the temples and lateral cheeks. These are areas that tend to appear hollow the fastest, especially with people who are in shape."



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Holiday Gift Guide

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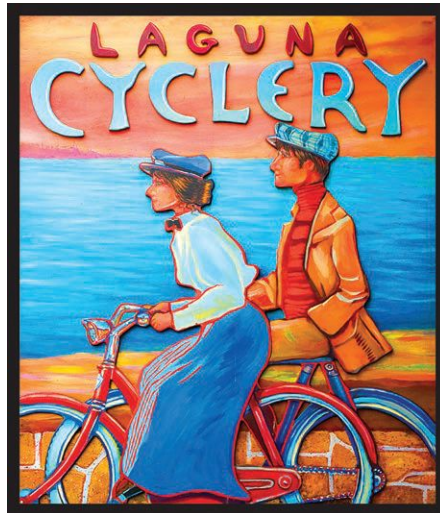
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Laguna Cyclery

240 Thalia Street

(949) 494-1522

www.lagunabeachcyclery.com

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(800) 487-3378

www.PageantTickets.com

Does finding the perfect holiday gift seem like a real mystery? Give the gift of "living pictures" at the Pageant of the Masters in Laguna Beach, where art comes to life in the 2014 summer performance of "The Art Detective." Pageant tickets for July and August are now available.



Holiday Gift Guide

SPECIAL PROMOTIONS & PRODUCTS FROM OUR TRUSTED PARTNERS



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3 Door Cabinet: The cabinet uses both eglomisé and modern beveled mirrors within a pattern of interlaced moldings. The wood finish is Venetian silver and has one shelf behind each door. 62"W x 22"D x 44"H

WINTERLOCKED IN THE WEST

Being snowbound in some of North America's most spectacular ski towns isn't such a bad thing after all.

By Stephanie Nitsch

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIANS IN SEARCH OF A WHITE WONDERLAND no longer have to head across the pond to ski the great mountains of the world. For those afflicted with perpetual wanderlust, this thankfully means less time spent in baggage claims and customs lines and more time dedicated to carving into fresh powder. Bordered by hiking trails, verdant evergreen groves and panoramic vistas, these picturesque resort towns offer local travelers top runs and luxury lodgings in their own backyard. And with a growing number of slopeside perks, family-friendly activities and after-hours diversions offered alongside the resorts' in-bound amenities, it seems the Western sky is truly the limit.



With more than half of Vail Mountain's 5,289 acres catering to advanced riders, a visit to this Rocky Mountain retreat should be at the top of any winter bucket list. Skip the long shuttle ride from Denver International Airport and instead fly directly from Los Angeles to the Eagle County Regional Airport in Gypsum, Colo., where a 30-minute drive connects travelers to Vail's alpine bliss. Once there, it may be difficult to choose from among the 193 trails, but the new Mountaintop Express Lift whisks riders to the resort town's seven legendary Back Bowls and the Blue Sky Basin. For rookie skiers, the Adventure Sessions program pairs small groups of beginners with savvy mountain guides who impart tips, history lessons and local knowledge of the mountain's best-kept secrets. Off the hill, village life is vibrant with blocks of shopping and more than 100 dining options to quell even the most particular appetites. Meanwhile, the city's nightlife comes alive when major events like the Burton U.S. Open Snowboarding Championships (Feb. 25 to March 2, 2014) bring the world's top winter sports athletes to nearby slopes.

SLOPE SECRET: Once the crowds have plundered the Back Bowls, heed the advice of smart locals and stick to the front side of the mountain's terrain to avoid the powder-induced chaos and snag fresh turns before anyone else catches on.

APRES-SKI SCENE: Stop by The Sebastian Hotel's chic Frost Bar, which boasts a wide array of beer, wine and spirits. The bar also carries the town's best throwback cocktails and an impressive Scotch collection, perfect for apres-ski or a nightcap. For more formal dining, The Sebastian offers its new restaurant, Leonora, which debuted in December 2012. Inspired by the Alps, Executive Chef Sergio Howland serves up delectable tapas, crudo and alpine bistro fare using only fresh, organic ingredients.

MORE INFO: Opened Nov. 22;
800-805-2457; vail.com



SLOPE SECRET: Start the day in the Mayflower area, where east-facing trails cascade toward the Jordanelle Reservoir and are the first to soften on an icy morning. Then, hit the Daly Chutes—flanked by skiable aspen groves on either end—for steep and narrow slopes.

APRES-SKI SCENE: The St. Regis Deer Valley Resort stocks all the necessary confections for a gourmet, slope-side s'more. Thread a few airy stacks of marshmallows onto a skewer and toast to your heart's content in the hotel's outdoor fire pits before sandwiching them between layers of milk or dark chocolate, coconut and caramel.

MORE INFO: Opens Dec. 7; 800-424-3337; deervalley.com

DEER VALLEY RESORT

The "Deer Valley difference" isn't just a motto at this ski-only resort in Park City, Utah; it's an experience that redefines the expectations of five-star service. The unparalleled hospitality begins upon arrival, as curbside valets flock to assist guests with cumbersome equipment, and ends at the day's finish with complimentary overnight ski storage. In between, fine rows of

manicured corduroy are groomed to perfection each morning, and a limited number of daily lift tickets are capped at 7,500 to ensure quality experiences for all guests, regardless of skill level. While the limit guarantees astonishingly short lift lines on any day of the season, it also makes purchasing advanced tickets an absolute necessity if guests plan to visit over the holidays. Perhaps even more tantalizing than

the hill's near-empty ski slopes, though, is Deer Valley's flair for extravagant indulgence at restaurants like Fireside Dining at Empire Canyon Lodge, which offers a four-course affair with classic favorites from the European Alps served beside large stone fireplaces, or Seafood Buffet at Snow Park Lodge, now famous for its colossal bounty of crustaceans, fresh fish, meats and decadent house-made desserts.

GO FOR GOLD

Why settle for watching the 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, on television this winter when you can experience the thrill of the competition yourself? Adrenaline junkies can ski, toboggan, snowshoe and more at Whistler Olympic Park, originally built for the 2010 games in Vancouver, British Columbia. (whistlerolympicpark.com)

Stateside, Utah Olympic Park offers activities including bobsledding, adventure courses, slides and scenic chairlift rides (utaholympiclegacy.com). Or, track your speed with Vail's EpicMix lift pass and see how your skills stack up against those of Olympic skier Lindsey Vonn. Race times are automatically recorded online when visitors register their EpicMix tickets. (epicmix.com)

Rather keep your feet firmly planted on the ground? Cheer on Olympic hopefuls from the sidelines during the International Ski Federation's FIS Freestyle Skiing World Cup at Deer Valley (Jan. 8-11, 2014) or one of two Sprint U.S. Grand Prix events at Northstar California (Jan. 6-12, 2014) and Mammoth Mountain (Jan. 14-19, 2014) as athletes vie for spots on the U.S. ski and snowboard teams. Thousands of people will turn out for these Olympic qualifying events, where spectators can watch future gold medalists defy the limits of human achievement in midair.



MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

Winter sports enthusiasts won't have to wait until the Olympics in February to salute the shred, white and blue. As the official training ground of the U.S. ski and snowboard teams, Mammoth Mountain has welcomed all-star athletes to its trails and terrain parks throughout the early season, and on its 60th anniversary, this legendary resort town couldn't have asked for a better birthday gift. Visitors can perform their own medal-worthy feats on the Super Duper Pipe, a behemoth of a ditch with expansive 22-foot-high walls. Even pint-sized shredders can mimic their idols in the Unbound Playground, a free-style wonderland for newcomers. Meanwhile, Mammoth's sleepy sister ski area, June Mountain, will reopen its lifts after a period of quiet uncertainty, allowing children ages 12 and under to ski for free the entire season. Best yet, planning a vacation to Mammoth Lakes no longer requires a five-hour drive, thanks to new nonstop routes from John Wayne Airport to the Mammoth Yosemite Airport.

SLOPE SECRET: Seek out the best glades in the area from the Chair 22 lift. A favorite of local pro skier Chris Benchetler, this zone is a prime place to discover quality slopes. Even intermediate riders can challenge their abilities with gentler runs on the backside of the lift.

APRES-SKI SCENE: Fans of dive bars and jukeboxes will appreciate the Clocktower Cellar, where guests can enjoy more than 150 types of whiskey from around the world. For beer aficionados, the Mammoth Brewing Co. pours fresh-from-the-keg samples of its classic suds and seasonal specialties.

MORE INFO: Opened Nov. 7; 800-626-6684; mammothmountain.com

SLOPE SECRET: Hiking the paths along Sawtooth Ridge feels like an adventurous backcountry jaunt and offers visitors scenic views of the surrounding area.

APRES-SKI SCENE: Decadent desserts are the inspiration for nearly two-dozen cocktails at The Chocolate Bar. The bar and restaurant's selection includes tempting treats like the C Bar cocktail, muddled with vanilla vodka and creme de cocoa, which arrives in a glass rimmed in chocolate shavings. A savory menu of home-style classics balances out the sweet additions.

MORE INFO: Opened Nov. 22; 800-466-6784; northstarcalfornia.com

CHRIS BARTKOWSKI



NORTHSTAR CALIFORNIA

Set just beyond the north shores of Lake Tahoe's crystalline waters, Northstar California is a refreshing getaway from the lake's bustling south shores. The family-friendly resort has invested more than \$30 million over the past three years into transforming the skiable terrain and once-modest village into a luxury experience replete with adrenaline-fueled activities for visitors of all ages. Emerald forests of evergreen conifers separate pristinely groomed trails from areas for tree skiing, but it's the challenging terrain of Lookout Mountain that attracts the most ambitious thrill-seekers. The sprawling resort features nine terrain parks, including the 22-foot superpipe, designed by Olympic gold medalist Shaun White, and The Stash, a collection of freestyle obstacles made from reclaimed wood and other natural materials. Beginners can take a lesson at the world's only Burton Snowboard Academy, which offers a customized learn-to-ride program that guarantees to have every student linking turns by the end of the day. Afternoon activities in the village are geared toward unwinding, with slopeside hot tub sessions and daily s'more roasting always on the schedule.



SNOWBIRD/ALTA

Commonly referred to as Little Cottonwood Canyon, the astounding alpine gorge that's home to Snowbird and Alta resorts is a bit of a misnomer. Despite its name, Little Cottonwood Canyon is revered across Utah for its big mountain skiing and technical challenges. Both Snowbird and Alta resorts frequently shatter snowfall records thanks to lake-effect weather patterns, but the atmosphere drastically differs between the two. At Snowbird, skiers and snowboarders mingle on the tram before descending from the summit at a lung-burning 11,000 feet. A newly installed Gad 2 lift has replaced the mountain's original lift for quicker access to the resort's finest tree skiing. Meanwhile, visitors will be hard pressed to find a single snowboarder linking turns on the slopes at neighboring Alta, which is proud to call itself the oldest ski area in the state. Steep bowls weed out the timid, but freshly groomed expanses invite beginners to skate across the soft, forgiving powder.

SLOPE SECRET: Opt for the AltaSnowbird Pass, which allows skiers to sample the best of both resorts in a single day. Adventurous snowboarders can fulfill a rite of passage on the towns' shared ridgeline after a hike up Mount Baldy.

APRES-SKI SCENE: The town of Alta boasts a handful of nostalgic lounges that are dedicated to relieving parched skiers. Locally brewed beers, cocktails, and warm appetizers and entrees revive the weary at the Alta Peruvian Bar, while wood fires combat plummeting outdoor temperatures inside Alta Lodge's Sitzmark Club, which is almost as rustic as the 1930s-era building it resides in.

MORE INFO: Snowbird: Opened Nov. 16; 800-232-9542; snowbird.com. Alta: Opened Nov. 22; 801-359-1078; alta.com

SLOPE SECRET: Dodge the crowds at Whistler Bowl and head to Bagel Bowl for exposure to steep runs. On stormy days, the canopy of trees off Blackcomb's 7th Heaven Express lift provides low-light visibility to break up the blinding whiteness.

APRES-SKI SCENE: Unwind with a savory martini at the Fifty Two 80 Eatery + Bar at the Fours Seasons Resort and Residences Whistler. This season's signature libation, the Drunken Rabbit, combines sweet carrot juice and ginger vodka.

MORE INFO: Opens Nov. 28; 800-944-7853; whistlerblackcomb.com

PAUL MORRISON



WHISTLER BLACKCOMB

With 8,161 acres spread between two mountains, visitors won't exactly be competing for space at Whistler Blackcomb after a snowstorm. The sheer size and vertical amplitude of this British Columbia resort will make even the heartiest skier weak in the knees after a few modest runs. Eighteen million dollars have been dedicated to improving the resort's accommodations for the upcoming season; the recent additions include two new chairlifts, Harmony 6 and the Crystal Ridge Express, which shuttle riders to the peaks of powder-drenched bowls and glaciers that top out at more than 7,000 feet tall. Granite spires and jagged spindles surround the resort, but the rugged terrain doesn't necessarily yield palpitation-inducing descents at every turn. Instead, whimsical adventure zones entertain children's imaginations, and Whistler's Tree Fort elicits a smile from anyone who boards the twisting slides. The resort is the latest property to join the Mountain Collective, a 12-mountain grouping of North America's best slopes that offers a seasonal pass guaranteeing access to a cumulative 30,376 acres of skiable terrain for \$379. **LBM**




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2013

Hospitality Night
December 6, 2013

5PM-9PM

Schedule of Events:

3:30 PM- Street Closures Begin

5 PM- Santa rides through town
with Trolley & Fireside Carolers

5 PM- Presbyterian Church Bell
Choir & Community sing-along

5:30 PM- Thurston Middle School
performs on City Hall Front Lawn

6 PM- Santa arrives at City Hall
to light Pepper Tree

6 PM- NEW- Ice Skating Rink
opens at U.S. Bank Parking lot

6:15 PM- Santa arrives at his
House on Forest Avenue

6:30 PM- LIVE Music on stage
including: Missiles of October &
Masanga Marimba Band

9:15 PM- "It's a Wonderful Life"
showing at South Coast Movie
Theater- Free Passes can be
picked up at Chamber office

Happy Holidays to All!!

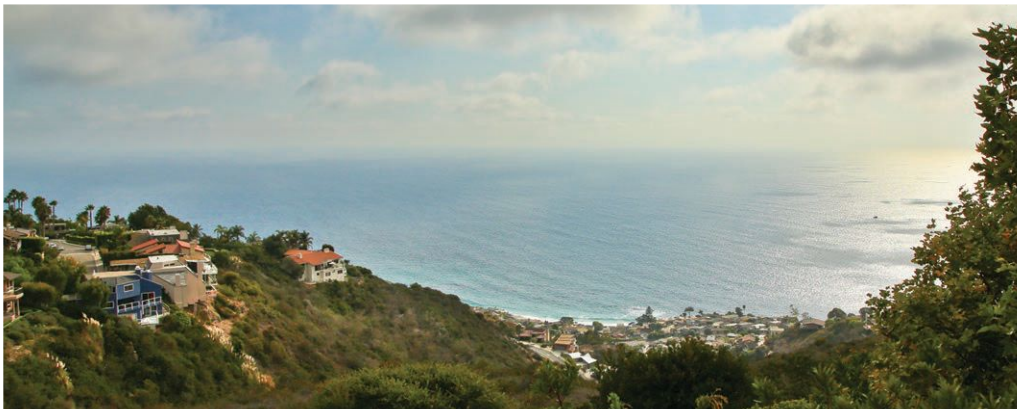
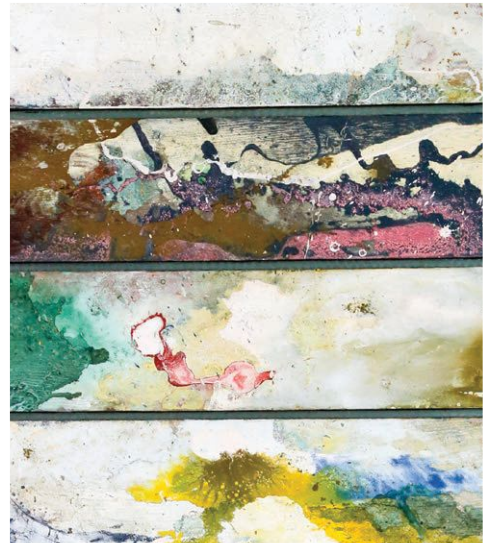


LAGUNA'S HABITAT

LIVING ON THE EDGE

Residents of lofty Quivera Street enjoy sweeping views of downtown Laguna Beach, the Pacific Ocean, and Catalina and San Clemente islands.

By Sally Eastwood | Photos by Jody Tiongco



The roads to Arch Beach Heights twist and turn up the hillside, evoking the pristine landscapes of the French Riviera and the Italian coastline. Leaving the bustle of downtown behind, Quivera Street at the canyon's peak is serene and quiet, lined with houses mostly built on lots that are 50 feet long and 25 feet wide—a legacy of the way the land was subdivided when the parcels were originally determined. What these homes may lack in size, however, they make up for in panoramic views.

"It's all about the sunset and watching it from the deck," resident Joanne Apothéloz says. So, is it only about the view? That, and so much more, say three Quivera Street families who sat down with Laguna Beach Magazine to discuss just why they've fallen in love with this remarkably special neighborhood.



FAMILY FACTS:

Pascal and Joanne Apothéloz DAY JOB:

Pascal is a principal at a surveying and engineering firm; Joanne is vice president of sales for a premium baby products company.

SPACE: 1,600 square feet, three bedrooms, two bathrooms HOUSE TIMELINE: Built in 1973, purchased and renovated in 1997 FABULOUS

FEATURE: The outdoor patio area



VINTAGE RENOVATION

PASCAL AND JOANNE APOTHÉLOZ LIVE IN ONE of Quivera Street's original 1970s constructions, which comes equipped with the common marker of an Arch Beach Heights home: bedrooms built downstairs and living areas built upstairs, to take advantage of the spectacular views.

"When we first saw the house, it was completely white inside, with a mirrored wall and a bar in the living area—very typical of the era," Pascal explains. This blank canvas was a blessing for the couple, who set about putting a unique stamp on the house. Carpets were uprooted in favor of bamboo floors, the bar and the kitchen were demolished and all of the materials in the home were replaced with ones chosen for their quality and durability: Maple wood and black

granite grace the kitchen, while wenge wood and French limestone line the master bathroom. One feature that remained in place, however, was the mirrored wall in the living room. "We realized that it added depth to the house and reflected the ocean, so it looks like we're surrounded by water," Joanne comments of the unique focal point.

The couple designed the home's interior decor themselves, sticking with a creamy color palette, clean lines and what they describe as a "California Zen" approach. Splashes of blue in throw pillows and a rug reflect the ocean and the sky; meanwhile, the use of frosted glass allows light to flow in while retaining a sense of privacy—an essential feature when your house is built literally 6 feet from its neighbors.

"We use every room in the house almost every day," Joanne says. "That's one of the great things about a smaller home."

At the back of the house are an enclosed garden and a patio, complete with an outdoor kitchen and separate sitting and dining areas. Wooden slats contain plants that create a living wall. The couple frequently uses the space—which Pascal single-handedly built—to entertain. "It took me about three years in total, since I did it all in my spare time," he jokes.

Above all, it's the sense of camaraderie in the neighborhood that the pair really enjoys. "We get together for holiday parties all year-round; it's a great group of people," Joanne finishes. "We're really lucky."

FAMILY FACTS: Gary and Betsy Jenkins, and Lady (golden retriever) **DAY JOB:** Gary is a pediatrician; Betsy is a member of Laguna Beach's school board and a community volunteer. **SPACE:** 3,800 square feet, four bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms **HOUSE TIMELINE:** Broke ground in 1991 and completed in 1993 **FABULOUS FEATURE:** The great room with its views of the city, the ocean and Catalina Island



CUSTOM CONTEMPORARY

THE BRANCHES OF TWO CALIFORNIA REDBUD trees form a welcoming arch at the entry to Betsy and Gary Jenkins' custom home at the corner of Quivera Street. The house's lines and angles echo the prow of an ocean liner headed out to sea with Catalina Island as its destination. In fact, the home is built to take advantage of the ocean and canyon views, as glass walls create an unbroken vista as far as the eye can see. Designed by local architect Mark Singer in 1991, the house looks as modern today as it did when it was constructed over 20 years ago. "We wanted clean, contemporary lines and a very modern feel," Betsy explains.

Inside, the home is rife with paintings, sculptures and furniture. "Almost every piece of art in

the house is by a Laguna Beach artist, and we're lucky enough to know most of them," Betsy says. She and Gary often hold parties and fundraisers in their home, which allows them to showcase their collection simultaneously.

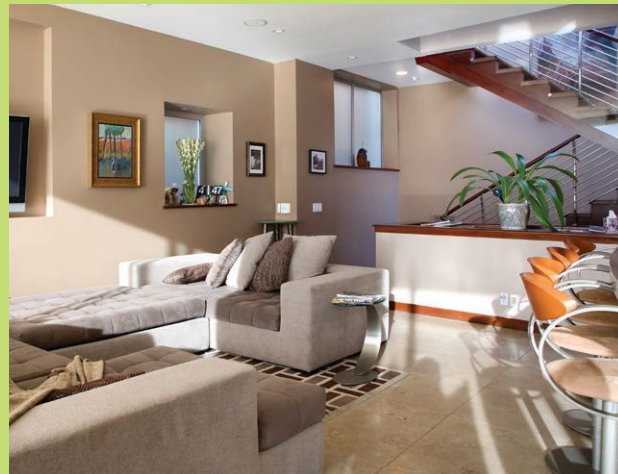
The couple designed the home's interior, choosing shades to match the jade-colored slate in the atrium entryway and kitchen cabinets in the same hue. The great room is the heart of the home, containing a kitchen with a granite-topped island, a dining area and a spacious living area with a fireplace. "We have a formal living room with a built-in sound system that's a wonderful space, but it hardly ever gets used because we spend all our time in the great room," Betsy admits.

Other favorite rooms include the library, which features floor-to-ceiling, built-in bookcases, as well as a wine cellar tucked beneath the home. Outside, spacious deck areas and a large yard—used frequently when the couple's children were younger—provide additional venues for entertaining. The garden brims with trees, shrubs and flowers, and pathways meander through the foliage.

Betsy and Gary recently installed solar panels on the roof, which has had an immediate effect on their electricity bills; they note that the home will continue to evolve as they do. Betsy adds, "Above all, this is a family home in a great neighborhood, and it's been well used."



FAMILY FACTS:
Weston, Safa, Lane (10) and Lydon (7) Hodges, and Mr. Sparklebottom (scorpion) DAY
JOB: Weston is a musician; Safa is an attorney with her own law firm. **SPACE:** 2,850 square feet, three bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms **HOUSE**
TIMELINE: Building commenced in 2003 and completed in 2006 **FABULOUS**
FEATURE: The atrium that stretches from top to bottom of the house



HIDDEN GEM

FROM THE STREET, WESTON AND SAFA HODGES' home appears only as a solid garage door, albeit a very beautiful one. But upon stepping inside the light, airy home, its true beauty is revealed as views of the hillside down to the canyon below are seen through the windows.

"We started coming to Laguna when we first got married and fell in love with the rolling hills and the landscape up here, as well as with the lively downtown," Weston explains. Searching for the ideal spot to build their dream home, the couple eventually found the Quivera Street lot. "As soon as I stepped out of the car to look at the view, I knew this was the one," he adds.

Together with local architect Bob McGraw,

the couple designed and built a home that incorporates generous space for a growing family, a studio for musician Weston and a bounty of natural light.

"When you're building a house this close to your neighbors, you need as much light as you can get, while retaining privacy," Weston explains. Accordingly, the home features floor-to-ceiling windows on each of its levels, as well as frosted glass panes and huge skylights above an atrium that bisects both levels of the house, flooding the area with natural light.

"We wanted a modern but soft feel that our family can relax in," Safa says. The family of four enjoys lounging on the custom-made

sectional sofa in the great room, watching TV, playing games and just spending time together. In the kitchen, a granite island contains a deep copper sink with a swan-neck faucet, ideal for filling oversized pots. "We're in here all the time, and it's perfect when people come over," Safa continues.

Like many of their neighbors, Weston and Safa value the experience of living on Quivera Street. "The people are just great," Safa says. "There are people from all over the world who've chosen to live here, and we all get along well."

Weston adds, "Even if we won the lottery, we wouldn't leave. The view brought us here, but the people keep us, and the kids love it." **LBM**

REAL ESTATE *Showcase*



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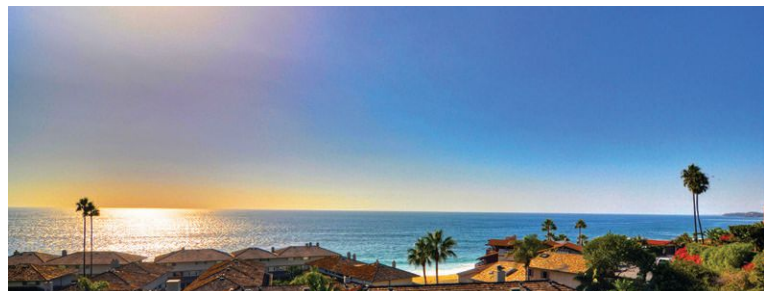
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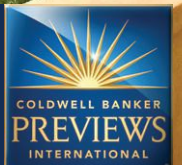
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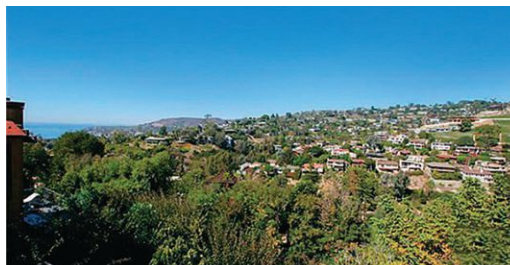


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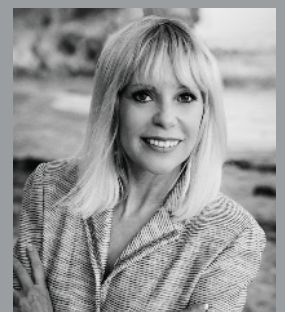
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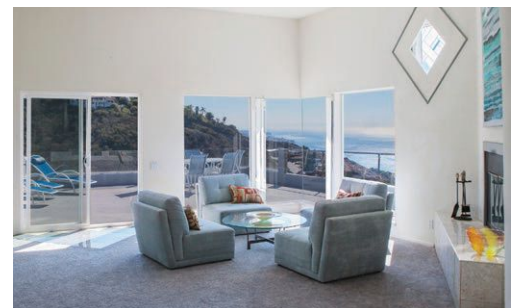
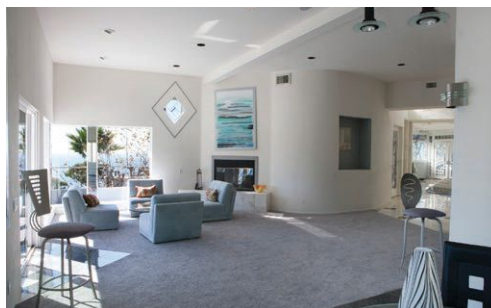
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173 EMERALD BAY, LAGUNA BEACH

PRICE: \$29,500,000

At over 9000 square feet, this premier estate sits on the Peninsula of Emerald Bay above the bluffs of the elite North Laguna Beach communities. From the superior perspective, no other property can match the unparalleled views of the serene beaches. Only 3 properties in Emerald Bay have deeded access to Irvine Cove's mean high tideline, a private twisting path just beyond the backyard leads to the discreet shores.

1115 EMERALD BAY, LAGUNA BEACH

PRICE: \$11,995,000

Serving as a gem in this exclusive coastal community of the California Riviera, this property epitomizes neoteric design while inviting a spirit of invention and excitement. The allure of this soft contemporary escape is undeniable. Whether enjoying the tranquility of the koi pond, gathering the elite at a sunset soiree, or hosting an intimate tasting in the wine cellar, this estate heightens every experience.

73 EMERALD BAY, LAGUNA BEACH

PRICE: \$10,995,000

Built new in 2008 and located by the much sought after Emerald Bay Main Beach, this 5 bedroom, 6.5 bath beach side home is constructed of the finest materials with intricate detail paid to the placement of each imported custom element. Designed with sizable living spaces, a private maple paneled working office, separate family & home theatre room adjacent to the gourmet country kitchen, a large master suite with every possible amenity plus a fitness center with steam shower.

3 INSPIRATION, LAGUNA NIGUEL

PRICE: \$8,995,000

Custom guard-gated Bear Brand Ranch estate offers 11 bedrooms, 12 bathrooms, dramatic theater, fantastic gourmet kitchen, library, wine room, separate 3rd floor office, game room, elevator, dual laundry rooms, multiple balconies and panoramic views of the ocean, city lights and sunsets. The resort-style yard is the perfect place for entertaining guests alongside the sparkling pool and spa, poolside cabana with full bath, outdoor kitchen, putting green, fire pits and incredible landscaping and views.

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35545 BEACH ROAD, DANA POINT



PRICE: \$8,995,000

Known affectionately as the Capo Beach Glass House, this Robert Quigley-designed masterpiece sits directly on the sand in Capistrano Bay, featuring a sweeping oceanfront panorama, two-story ceilings, an exquisite glass pavilion and inviting juxtaposition of expansive windows and concrete walls. A collective 3-bedroom/4-bath property, Extensive glass affords ample natural lighting and ocean vistas from nearly every room.

35381 BEACH ROAD, DANA POINT



PRICE: \$4,995,000

Situated on a wide stretch of sand in Capistrano Bay, this premier, award-winning oceanfront estate was expertly designed by Lehrer Architects fusing California contemporary with serene sea elements beyond. This chic, guard-gated Beach Rd estate offers floor to ceiling windows throughout to maximize the presence of sand and sea and the dramatic vistas they afford.

32511 SEA ISLAND, DANA POINT



PRICE: \$2,875,000

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875 VAN DYKE, LAGUNA BEACH



PRICE: \$1,995,000

Ideally situated high atop a Laguna hillside to capture dramatic north coast views as well as looking west towards San Clemente Island. Situated on a charming cul-de-sac, the home is extremely private with very little traffic & on high surf days the sound of the pounding waves can easily be heard. The brilliant white structure with its mahogany windows, doors & fascias are dazzling, offering 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms.

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Sapphire Laguna's Italian Harvest Dinner

With popular shows such as "Chopped" and "Cutthroat Kitchen" regularly highlighting culinary animosity, it's nice to see two top chefs collaborating in the kitchen instead of throwing elbows—which was the case at Sapphire Laguna's annual Italian Harvest Dinner on Oct. 17. That evening, local foodies gathered at the renowned establishment for an exclusive one-night-only, five-course Italian dinner prepared by award-winning guest chef Fabrizio Schenardi alongside Sapphire Laguna Executive Chef Azmin Ghahreman. Upon arrival, guests sipped on their choice of an Italian cocktail, such as a negroni or limoncello martini. Later, they had the option to share the "bagna cauda" (a garlic and anchovy fondue) or "mortadella d'anatra e pistachio" (homemade duck sausage); bites of "ravioli di vitello e ricotta" (ricotta and veal ravioli); or "stincino di chinghiale al lardo e grappa al ginepro, e polenta alla griglia" (slowly roasted wild boar shank with polenta). Additionally, Sapphire's wine buyer, Michael Magsaysay, was on hand during the course of the evening to assist with wine pairings for each course. As a finale, the chefs offered a selection of Italian desserts. (sapphirellc.com) —A.T.





The beef ishiyaki arrives with a personal grill.



Okura incorporates Asian influences and contemporary flair.



Okura creates artful sushi dishes that, in true Laguna style, mix art and food.

THE ALLURE OF OKURA

The Coachella Valley establishment makes its way to the coast.

By Linda Domingo | Photos by Jody Tiongco

SOMETHING NEW HAS TAKEN RESIDENCE INSIDE THE ULTRA-contemporary and inconspicuously hip building that formerly housed Katsuya and Hush restaurants. Okura Robata Grill & Sushi Bar, hailing from La Quinta, Calif., is trying its luck at the Pacific Coast Highway location south of downtown, armed with a new design, trendy atmosphere, nationally acclaimed chef and, of course, premium sushi.

The restaurant opened quietly in early October, with owner Jay Lee ensuring the service and food were on par with the quality of the La Quinta location. Both restaurants feature similar menus and consistent decor that subtly highlights the elements of earth, water, air and fire. Chef Jin Heo, who was included in the peer review publication “Best Chefs America” in early 2013, helms the Okura kitchen with James Kim as sous chef.

The menu features both traditional and fusion sushi and other Japanese favorites. Appetizers such as the hamachi carpaccio, agedashi tofu or garlic edamame provide a light start to a meal of bold flavors or pair well with an Asian-inspired cocktail. Another starter option, the Dynamite rock shrimp, is a favorite from the La Quinta location that features tempura-battered shrimp tossed in a mildly spicy tobiko sauce.

Those in search of specialty rolls won’t be disappointed with Okura’s nontraditional selection, which includes the Marilyn Monroe (shrimp, avocado, cucumber, crab, scallops and a sweet sauce) and James Dean (crab, tuna, eel, cucumber, avocado and spicy sauce). But the classic sushi and sashimi is where the establishment’s fresh fish really shines for traditionalists. Vegetarians can enjoy sushi, too, with alternative options such as asparagus or “enokitake” (a white mushroom) served atop rice. Okura also offers an “omakase” (chef’s choice) dining experience for those who prefer to leave the decision making to the experts.

Also on the menu, the beef ishiyaki places the ancient hot stone cooking method in the hands of the diner—the presentation includes a sizzling stone, raw beef and marinating sauces for guests to prepare their own meat to their liking.

While seafood is the star at Okura, a leading role is played by dessert—the green tea panna cotta is a unique take on the Italian pudding. A perfect blend of mild sweetness and green tea flavor is served with pistachio biscotti for a delicious nightcap.

Jay says that the staff is happy to accommodate the whims of each guest, including sushi platters that, in true Laguna style, mix art and food. She adds, “There are no limitations here.” **LBM**

OKURA ROBATA GRILL & SUSHI BAR

858 S. Coast Hwy.;
949-793-4320;
okurasushi.com

HOURS: Dinner is served Sunday-Wednesday, 4-9:30 p.m., Thursday-Saturday, 4-10 p.m.; late night happy hour menu available Sunday-Wednesday 9:30-10:30 p.m., Thursday-Saturday 10-11 p.m.

PRICE:
\$17-\$40 (entrees)

TIP: Stop in for happy hour daily, which runs from 4-6 p.m.



The cafe's assortment of house-made juice blends



Anastasia Cafe's patio, which overlooks Ocean Avenue



The caramel French toast is garnished with caramel sauce, candied walnuts and powdered sugar.

MORNING GLORY

Cuisine meets couture at Anastasia Cafe, one of downtown Laguna's tastiest breakfast spots.

By Tess Eyrich | Photos by Jody Tiongco

THE CONCEPT OF ANASTASIA CAFE IS SIMPLE: ATTACH A gourmet restaurant to a high-end clothing boutique to create a kind of hybrid lifestyle destination. Owner Amir Gharavi, a Laguna Beach local and fashion obsessive, opened the shop at its original location in 1983, moved it to its current home on Ocean Avenue in the late 1990s and launched the adjoining cafe in 1997. According to Amir, the casual eatery serves the important function of drawing in guests who may be initially intimidated by the boutique's more avant-garde offerings.

"We opened the cafe to popularize [the boutique], to make it easier for people to come in who might otherwise be afraid," he says. The restaurant has since become a community institution, attracting both regulars and out-of-towners alike with uncomplicated Mediterranean-influenced fare.

Open till 3 p.m. daily, the cafe specializes in breakfast and light lunch dishes. Other offerings include an airy dining room, a sun-drenched patio and an evolving menu of daily specials.

The caramel French toast is arguably the star of the current roster. Thick slices of ciabatta bread, crispy around the edges yet moist on the inside, arrive cooked in egg batter and drizzled with sweet caramel sauce, candied walnuts and powdered sugar.

Richly decadent, the meal pairs well with one of the restaurant's signature juice blends.

Those in search of a more savory breakfast option should sample the Eggs Laguna, a towering masterpiece of a dish composed of two poached eggs sandwiched between pieces of toasted country bread and accented by creamy avocado.

And no need to worry if you're not a morning person—this is one restaurant that does lunch just as well as it does breakfast. The Thai chicken skewer plate includes three skewers of delightfully seasoned chicken atop a bed of greens, wonton croutons and Thai dressing. Meanwhile, those in the market for an untraditional salad will be pleasantly surprised by the "salade du soleil," an arugula-based mixture that features slices of tender prosciutto, candied walnuts and grapefruit. A citrus vinaigrette dressing adds acidic flair to the dish—in fact, this is the furthest thing from the Caesars and Cobbs of yesteryear.

Options abound at Anastasia's—sandwiches, pizzas and pastas also are served alongside clothing, jewelry and accessories by designers like Rick Owens, Kenzo and Issey Miyake, creating a truly inspiring experience for all visitors, whether they come for the food or the fashion. **LBM**

ANASTASIA CAFE

470 Ocean Ave.;
949-497-8903;
anastasiaboutique.com

HOURS:

Monday-Sunday,
7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

TIP: Be sure to check out the daily specials, which rotate frequently and are displayed atop the cafe's front counter.



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MORE TO LOVE AT MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique, known for its authentic East African fare, is now offering up its menu to diners in a beautiful new venue. The restaurant's newly opened rooftop veranda is already a favorite dining destination of Laguna's residents due to the stunning ocean view it provides. Open 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily, the terrace is the perfect place to enjoy a cocktail and a sunset in south Laguna, and will serve as a fantastic setting for the many charity fundraisers that Mozambique is known for hosting throughout the year. Also a perfect spot for happy hour, which is served Monday through Friday from 2-4 p.m., the veranda boasts a stunning backdrop of the Pacific Ocean that simply can't be beat. (mozambiqueoc.com) —*B.B.*

Green Screen

Foodies and movie lovers alike have flocked to Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas in Laguna Niguel for the cushy leather recliners, cocktails and yummy grub. Now an even more diverse crowd will be drawn in, thanks to a new menu that features an onslaught of artisanal dishes and even vegetarian and vegan options. Moviegoers can chow down on upscale fare such as a red quinoa salad with a cilantro-lime vinaigrette, sweet potato fries with a honey mustard sauce or a garden truffle flatbread with summer squash and truffle oil. For those who prefer a more traditional snacking experience at the cinema, a full selection of candy, hotdogs and gourmet popcorn (available in a variety of flavors) is available. Likewise, the thirst-quenching options are just as diverse. Beer, wine and cocktails are popular choices for patrons, while those who prefer to go alcohol-free can sample milkshakes, coconut water, sodas and specialty coffee drinks. (cinepolissusa.com) —*B.B.*



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RESTAURANT REVAMPS

Locals may want to keep an eye on the space formerly occupied by Royal Hawaiian. It's expected the spot will soon be taken over by South of Nick's Mexican Kitchen + Bar, a sister restaurant of Nick's Laguna Beach. Brian Harrington, managing partner of NickCo Hospitality Group, has confirmed the company's plan to open a Laguna Beach location of the restaurant next summer. If the success of Nick's Laguna Beach and the company's two San Clemente outposts is any indication, the new south of the border grub will surely be a hit.

Meanwhile, House of Big Fish and Ice Cold Beer has recently made some changes to its menu, adding weekend breakfast items and updating its happy hour. Along with the new breakfast menu comes what owner Chris Keller calls "one of the best bloody mary's you'll ever have." Garnished with blackened shrimp and skewered vegetables, it's a delicious take on a classic cocktail. Also, stop in after work for a reimagined happy hour. In addition to its traditional happy hour menu, House of Big Fish will offer on weekdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. half off any food item with the purchase of a cocktail, beer or wine from the dinner menu. (houseofbigfish.com) —B.B.

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A New Plan for Sundried Tomato

It's a bittersweet day for local fans of Sundried Tomato American Bistro & Catering. The south Orange County-based company, which also boasts locations in San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano, has announced its intention to place an increased focus on its catering business and two southern outposts. This, unfortunately, means shuttering the Laguna Beach location on Forest Avenue to free up some much-needed manpower. While it will be sad to see the local favorite leave, the changes will no doubt enhance the bistro's already top-notch catering service. With more than 20 years of experience, and the capability to host anything from a casual dinner party to an extravagant fundraising event or gala, Sundried Tomato will surely remain a culinary staple here in Laguna. (sundriedtomatocafe.com) —*B.B.*

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Slap Shots and Steak

SELANNE STEAK TAVERN OPENS

Anaheim Ducks fans can now take their love of hockey to the dinner table. Teemu Selanne, right wing for the Orange County-based NHL team, opened his much-anticipated restaurant, Selanne Steak Tavern, in Laguna Beach on Nov. 8. The eatery occupies the space formerly held by French 75 and features a menu and ambience that guests ranging from avid sports fans to families to foodies can enjoy. The restaurant's offerings include classic steak dishes, craft beers and multiple televisions—for watching the Ducks play, of course. The charming 1930s cottage-turned-restaurant boasts three dining areas: a downstairs tavern, outdoor patio and upstairs steakhouse. Selanne Steak Tavern will be open for dinner Tuesday through Saturday and even serve up happy hour offerings on select evenings. Bring the whole family to experience this friendly neighborhood steakhouse. (949-715-9881; selannesteaktavern.com) —B.B.

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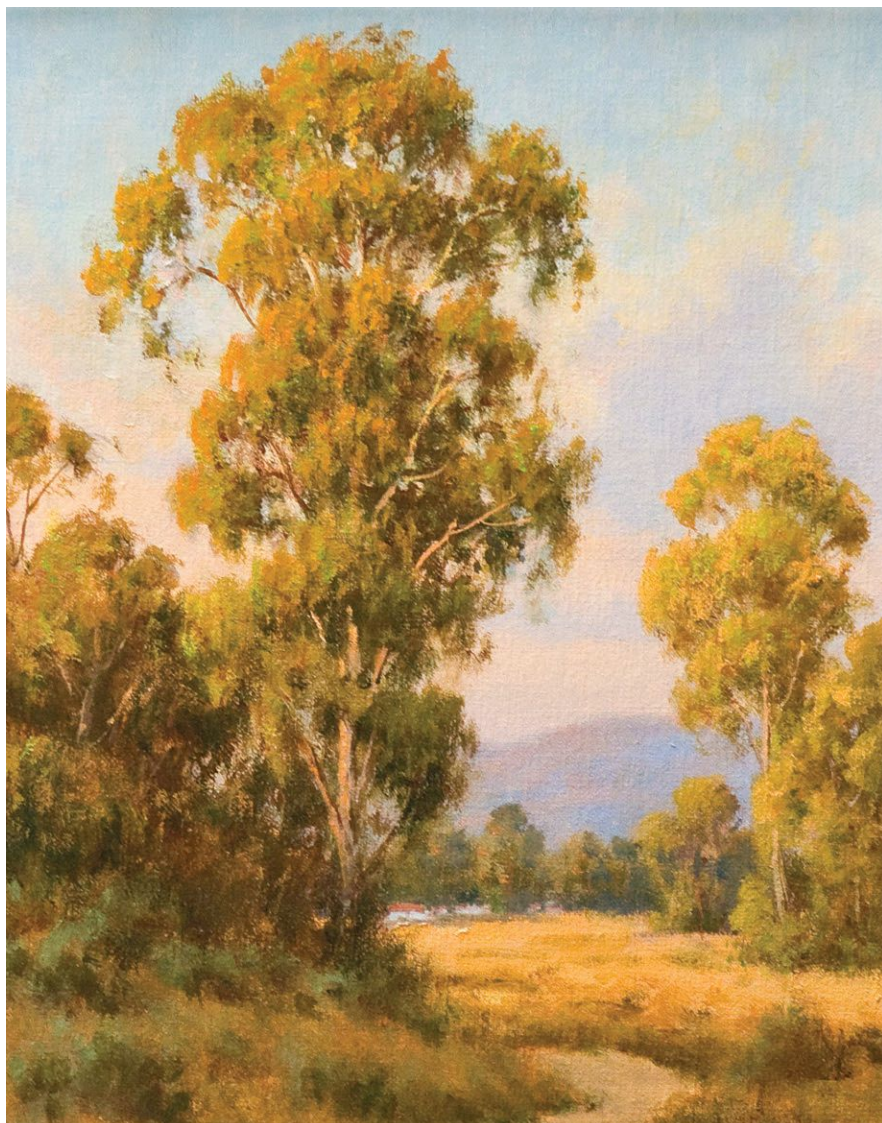
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NATURE VERSUS NURTURE

David Chapple and Luis Paredes: two landscape artists with two very different aesthetics. One is a former pro athlete with deep ties to California; the other is a globe-trotting photographer.

Section by Hannah Ostrow



DAVID CHAPPLE (DERU'S FINE ARTS)

HOME BASE: Born in Palo Alto, Calif.; has lived in Southern California for more than 40 years

BACKGROUND: Played football at University of California, Santa Barbara, and then professionally from 1969-1975 while pursuing his fine arts career on the sidelines

MEDIA OF CHOICE: Oil paintings, etchings as well as bronze sculptures

PREVIOUSLY SHOWN: Wisconsin, Maryland, Hawaii, Kentucky, Utah and Idaho, as well as Palm Springs and various parts of LA

WORK: What's so enthralling about David's art, above all, is his technical mastery and creative fluency despite the roundabout path he took toward his career as an artist. He attributes his ease with depicting animals to the time he spent working as a taxidermist and his meticulous skill to a childhood affinity for ornithology books and drawing. People spend a lifetime molding themselves into artists, while David seems to have done it alongside his real life.

And then, of course, there's the football, a profession whose implied disposition is hard to reconcile with that of an artist—and a figurative landscape painter at that. When David retired from the NFL in 1975, where did that punter go? Is this really the same guy, sitting behind a canvas, capturing a docile stream or a pastoral country road?

Despite his lack of formal training, or perhaps because of it, these canvases radiate the California native's love of the landscape, shown here in all its impressionistic glory. Through oil depictions of local flora and fauna, as well as nature-oriented bronze sculptures, David captures the Golden State's mystique.

His work will be on display at DeRu's Fine Arts as part of the gallery's December group show, "Delightful Glimpses." (949-376-3785; derusfinearts.com)



"Polaris," a time-lapse photo collage, printed on canvas



"Jade Forest," a time-lapse photo collage, printed on canvas

LUIS PAREDES (SALTFINEART)

HOME BASE: El Salvadorian expat living in Copenhagen, Denmark

BACKGROUND: Showed for the first time in a museum at age 26

MEDIA OF CHOICE: Photography—most recently, time-lapse landscapes tinted black and white or color photo collages

PREVIOUSLY SHOWN: El Salvador, Poland, Costa Rica, Lima (Peru), Munich, Rome, Paris, Washington, D.C., Cuba, Mexico City, Santiago (Chile), Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Venice (Italy), Sao Paulo, Scotland, Guatemala, Chicago and all over Denmark

WORK: Luis specializes in producing haunting, hazy, disjointed time-lapse photo collages of forests on the outskirts of Copenhagen, Denmark, where he now lives. These are a far cry from what we might picture when we think "landscape"—they're more nightmarish than bucolic, monotone forests awash in fiery oranges, isolating blues and frigid whites. The time-lapse technique toys with our ability to ground

ourselves in this space, throwing us into a visual rabbit hole in which it's impossible to find our footing. It's like we're living in a Robert Frost fever dream, with an infinite number of miles to go before we sleep and a conveyor belt for a forest floor.

Based on his portfolio, Luis found his dark, dreamlike aesthetic by age 22, toying with landscape as well as portraiture early on, venturing into the abstract and the geometric before finding his way to his current landscape series.

But as an El Salvadorian artist with ties to the rest of Latin America, as well as Eastern and Western Europe, Luis seems uncannily comfortable relating to the land of his adopted home. In fact, he seems to be most at ease appropriating the landscape for his artistic vision and translating it into his own piecemeal world—one frame, one moment at a time.

Don't miss Luis Paredes at saltfineart, exhibiting alongside fellow El Salvadorian artist Amber Adela Rose in "Nature Human Nature," which continues through Dec. 29. (949-715-5554; saltfineart.net)

AR4T TAKES IT DOWNTOWN

Artists Republic 4 Tomorrow recently moved from its location of three years—on Coast Highway just north of Broadway—to a new space a little way down Pacific Coast Highway, between Oak and Brooks streets.

The new location means an upgrade for AR4T, whose new digs will allow for more comprehensive monthly exhibitions, a more regular rotation of the gallery's artists and more space for sales of books and prints.

"Our new location in the HIP District of Laguna, with its many galleries, restaurants, surf/skate shops and boutiques, seemed like a natural fit," says gallery co-owner Mark Weiner. "[It's] evident that our patio with an ocean view will be the place to hang out on an opening night or during First Thursdays Art Walk."

Stop by the new space at 1175 S. Coast Hwy. before Dec. 8 to catch the tail end of "Lovely Vagabonds," with new works from Laguna College of Art & Design graduate Chantal de Felice, among others. From Dec. 13-31, catch AR4T's Christmas group show, "Straight Outta Who-ville: The Night Before Grinchmas." (949-988-0603; ar4t.com)



GALLERY EVENTS

JOANNE ARTMAN GALLERY

"No Ordinary Days" highlights Gainesville, Fla.-based Maggie Taylor's photographs, which stitch together vintage ephemera and quirky artifacts into a whimsical digital pastiche. Maggie's show continues through Dec. 31, running alongside a group show on the occasion of JoAnne Artman Gallery's five-year anniversary as a Laguna Beach institution. "The Back Room" runs Dec. 1 - Jan. 31, 2014, and features works from James Verbicky, America Martin, Robert Mars and more. (949-510-5481; joanneartmangallery.com)

DERU'S FINE ARTS

This December at DeRu's, catch "Delightful Glimpses," which showcases small works from early California impressionist painters like Edgar Payne alongside pieces by contemporary landscape painters including David Chapple and more. (949-376-3785; derusfinearts.com)

COASTAL EDDY, A GALLERY

"Transformation and Disguise," which features unique, evocative and often surreal ceramic work from Deborah Kaplan Evans, runs from Dec. 7-29. In January, however, coastal eddy shifts its focus to two multimedia installations—"Dis-solution" from Beverly Jacobs and "Sticks and Stones," a new collaborative work from Norma Vance and coastal eddy owner Robin Lee Riddell. (949-715-4113)

SANDSTONE GALLERY

December at Sandstone highlights Lynn Welker's abstracts alongside Mada Leach's gastronomically inspired painting series, "Let's Eat!" In January, don't miss "Boundaries/No



"But Who has Won" by Maggie Taylor at JoAnne Artman Gallery

Boundaries" with works from painter Victoria Smith Porcello, along with Howard Hitchcock's abstract sculptures in "Shadowed Bronzes." (949-497-6775; sandstonegallery.com)

EXCLUSIVE COLLECTIONS GALLERY

From Dec. 14-15, Exclusive Collections welcomes figurative painter Henry Asencio, whose impasto-heavy canvases exude unparalleled artistic passion. Stop by the gallery Saturday from 6-9 p.m. or Sunday between noon and 5 p.m. for a chance to meet the artist personally. (949-715-8747; ecgallery.com)

SEVEN-DEGREES

The Laguna Canyon Road venue will transform into a winter wonderland fit for the season, showcasing 15 innovative artists in its extraordinary space. The holiday event runs throughout the months of December and January. (949-376-1555; seven-degrees.com)

SILVER, BLUE & GOLD

Silver, Blue & Gold turns its eye to Andrea Haffner, whose abstract wall hangings and distinctive floral jewelry will be exhibited at the

combination studio, gallery and retail space throughout the month of December. The show kicks off Thursday, Dec. 5, from 6-9 p.m. with a lecture and the chance to meet the artist herself. (949-715-3000; silverblueandgold.com)

CES CONTEMPORARY

Continuing through Jan. 8, "Camouflage," an exploratory group exhibition of gallery and guest artists, considers the myriad iterations of the iconic utilitarian pattern as well as the idea of what it means to create something with the specific intention to conceal. The show's opening reception occurs Saturday, Nov. 23, from 6-9 p.m. (949-547-1716; cescontemporary.com)

SALTFINEART

"Nature Human Nature" opened in November in conjunction with Laguna Art Museum's Art & Nature initiative and runs through Dec. 29. The multimedia event investigates the natural world and the fingerprints humans leave on it through Luis Paredes' morose time-lapse landscape photography and Amber Adela Rose's witty interdisciplinary work. (949-715-5554; saltfineart.net) LBM

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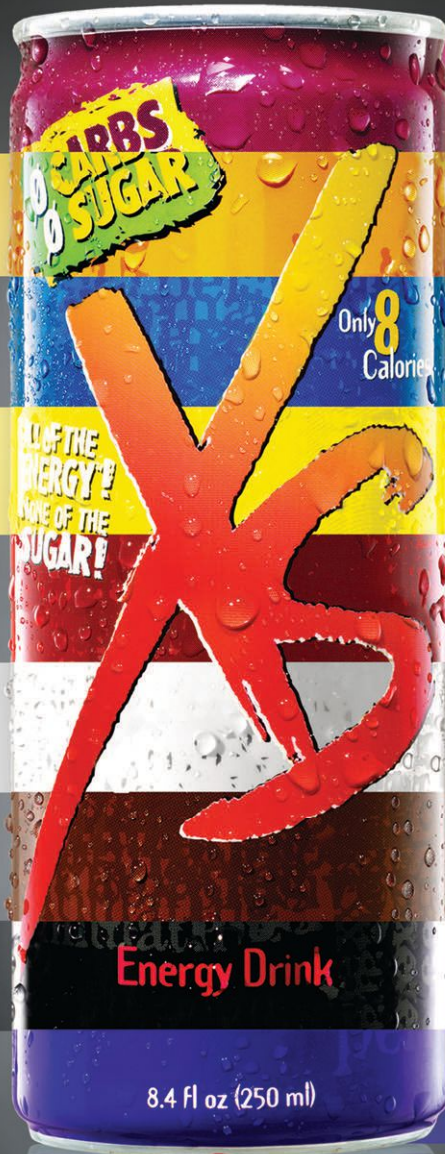
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WHY NOT IN LAGUNA?

A Laguna Beach Magazine editor suggests bringing an all-age live music venue to the city.

By Tess Eyrich

NEW BATTERIES



Since 2008, Acrobatics Everyday has presented low-cost, all-age concerts at the UC Irvine campus.

FEW PEOPLE CAN IDENTIFY THE FIRST GREAT song they heard, but most can remember their first concert experience. Our memories are intrinsically tied to music, and the thrill of enjoying quality live entertainment seems to linger with a particular stubbornness.

My first? I was 15 years old at a punk showcase organized by Chain Reaction, the closet-sized hole-in-the-wall that claims the corner of West Lincoln Avenue and Euclid Street in Anaheim. A large majority of my peers, many of whom now live in music-centric cities like New York and San Francisco, took in their first concert at Chain Reaction, too. The venue, hidden in an unassuming strip mall beside a vintage clothing store, is one of the few in Orange County that caters to an all-age audience. For many young people growing up in the area, visiting Chain Reaction represents an unofficial rite of passage.

Today's adolescents have a slightly wider range of options for enjoying live performances.

Since 2011, Orange County concertgoers have frequented Santa Ana's Observatory and the adjoining Constellation Room. Previously the Galaxy Theatre, the property hosts an eclectic mix of sun-bleached surf rockers, hip-hop up-and-comers and alternative mainstays under the leadership of a team of co-owners headed by Costa Mesa native Jon Reiser.

Yet the territory that stretches from the Observatory to San Juan Capistrano's Coach House remains largely devoid of all-age live music venues. To some south Orange County locals, like former UC Irvine student Sam Farzin, the pervasive silence can be deafening.

In 2008, Sam—under the moniker Acrobatics Everyday—began organizing underground series of small-scale concerts. Acrobatics Everyday events, held in a variety of facilities across the UC Irvine campus, have garnered a significant cult following among in-the-know denizens of Irvine and its neighboring suburbs. But because

Acrobatics Everyday has lacked a home base since Sam's graduation, the organization's programming is now sporadic at best.

South Orange County offers an abundance of after-hours diversions, but few options for both legal and underage residents. Laguna has embraced the visual arts, theater and design; establishing an all-age concert venue could allow the city to further prove its commitment to welcoming creative expression. Likewise, such a project could fill a substantial gap in the south Orange County landscape while raising Laguna's profile as a recreational destination. It could generate increased tourism to our coastal town, inevitably benefiting local restaurants, merchants and even hotels. Most importantly, an inclusive concert space could provide the youth of Laguna and its surrounding neighborhoods with a place to experience consistent live entertainment.

Perhaps it even could house some of the concerts presented by Laguna Beach Live!, an arts nonprofit launched in 2001 that delivers jazz, classical and bluegrass performances to audiences at the Laguna Art Museum and the Hotel Laguna. Like Acrobatics Everyday, Laguna Beach Live! could benefit from the establishment of a definitive space to hold its events.

A music venue could be the undertaking of a group of private investors or a nonprofit collective with enough funding to refurbish a vacant property in the downtown area. I imagine Laguna following in the footsteps of Eagle Rock, a suburb in northeastern Los Angeles, which opened its own Center for the Arts in 1998. Guided by Executive Director Julia Salazar and a 12-member board primarily composed of Eagle Rock residents, the center's staff curates a selection of inexpensive live performances and even an annual music festival. And in the tradition of the center, I anticipate Laguna's venue becoming a vehicle for education by presenting community workshops, seasonal camps and after-school programs led by local and visiting musicians. **LBM**

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