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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Reconnecting to readers is a joy for national ambassador

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

In a modern landscape where the majority of reading is done on the smartphone or laptop screen, an ambitious book tour looks to bring books back into the picture for young minds.

On Friday, the Santa Monica Public Library Pico Branch at Virginia Avenue Park will welcome author Meg Medina starting at 4 p.m., with the author introducing her platform "¡Cuéntame! Let's Talk Books" to Santa Monica. The tour, which has gone nationwide and includes a week-long visit to California, is a Spanish-English bilingual effort that encourages youth to connect with each other while talking about books. An additional event will take place Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Santa Monica Public Library Main Branch, a "human library" event which platforms first-person stories and experiences of hardship, marginalization, bias and prejudice.

In addition to her time as an author, Medina was recently bestowed with the title of National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by the Library of Congress, a job that she says is like being a "book friend" to children nationwide. Medina has been touring the country visiting communities to talk to kids about their books and reading life, as well as creating a video series where kids can meet with some of their favorite authors. Writing books for youth herself, she said she was always interested in storytelling for kids and young adults.

"I love children's books just from an art perspective (and) from a story perspective," Medina said. "I feel like children's books are like all of our origin story … it's the first way that we sort of learn about

SEE **AUTHOR** PAGE 11



Courtesy Photo

AUTHOR VISIT: Author and Library of Congress National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Meg Medina will visit Santa Monica on Friday as part of a national tour.

The Other Art Fair returns to Barker Hangar this weekend

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The seemingly appropriately named Other Art Fair returns to Santa Monica this weekend for its 11th annual Los Angeles edition, bringing together a diverse array of artists, live performances and unforgettable experiences for art enthusiasts and collectors alike. The show also has yearly residencies in London, Chicago, Dallas, Sydney, Brooklyn and Melbourne.

Taking place from today, Thursday April 4, to Sunday April 7, at the iconic Barker Hangar, this art fair aims to turn the traditional experience on its head by offering visitors an in-person opportunity to connect directly with emerging and independent artists from around the world, together with plainly listed artwork prices and a significantly

SEE **ART FAIR** PAGE 11

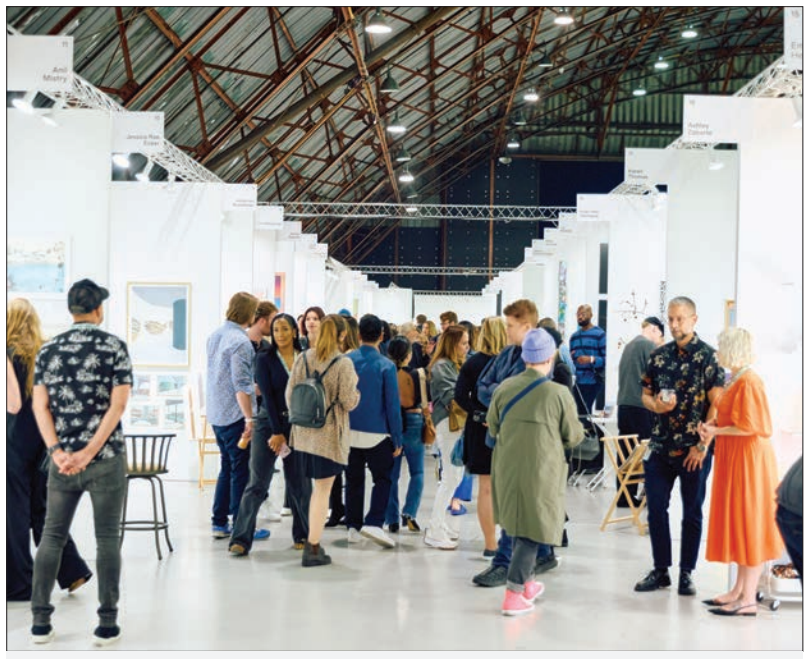


Photo by Sehvrine Lezeau

BE PART OF THE ART: The Other Art Fair arrives at Barker Hangar at Santa Monica Airport Thursday and runs over the weekend.

Pulitzer-winning production premieres at Geffen

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

You can't beat the classics, but you can definitely change them.

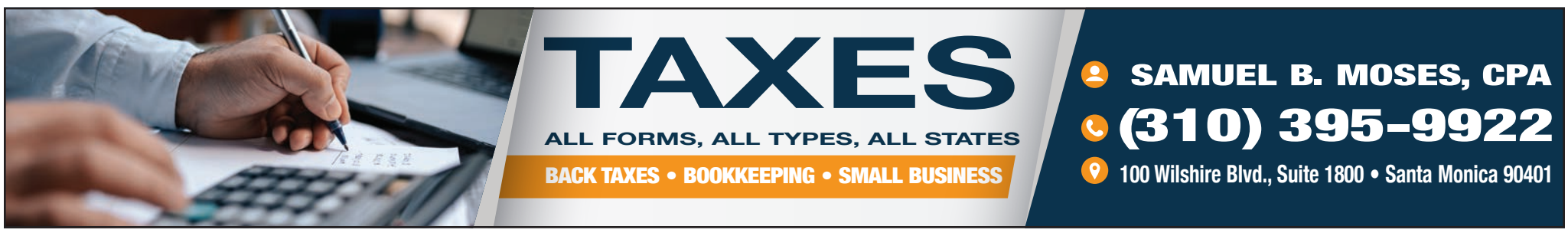
Taking on the challenge of transforming William Shakespeare's all-time lauded "Hamlet" was playwright James Ijames, who has set the theater world ablaze with the modern-day adaptation "Fat Ham," making its West Coast premiere at the Geffen Playhouse throughout April. The play follows Juicy, a young queer Black man who is confronted by his father's ghost during a barbecue, demanding Juicy avenge his murder in true "Hamlet" style. However, Juicy is aware of the play's tribulations, attempting to break the cycle of trauma in a tragic, yet hilarious, comedy.

First premiering in 2021, "Fat Ham" has quickly become a legendary show in its own right, earning the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, joining the likes of "Hamilton" and "Rent" in award recipients. Once the show hit Broadway in 2023, it received another wave of widespread acclaim, including a nomination for Best Play at the 2023 Tony Awards.

Ijames was inspired by Hamlet in college, a time where he told Geffen Associate Artistic Director Amy Levinson that he was "coming to terms with being gay" at an all-male college in Georgia.

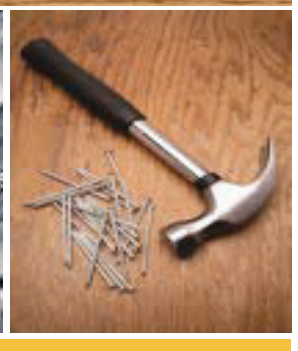
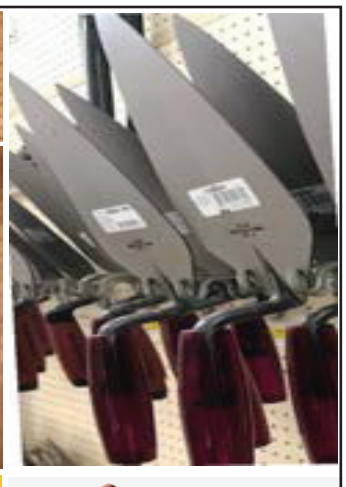
"I have always attached Hamlet to (the) notion, the idea that there was something fundamental about him, but because of the family and world he was born into, he kept rejecting it," Ijames told Levinson. "So when I started to write, and I

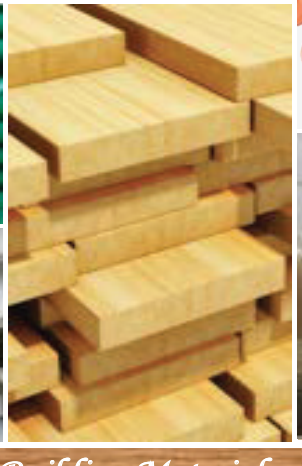
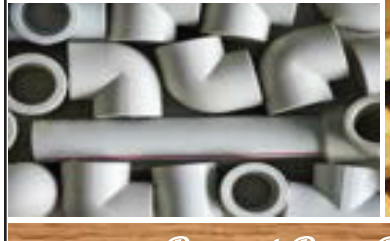
SEE **FAT HAM** PAGE 8



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Progressive Democrats propose a different path on crime

YUE STELLA YU
Special to the Daily Press

To counter recent legislation that would step up penalties on petty crimes, a group of progressive state lawmakers this morning offered a rival approach, focusing instead on more services for offenders and survivors of crimes.

They are backing a new legislative package - dubbed "#SmartSolutions" - to address retail theft, fentanyl abuse and support for crime survivors.

> Some lawmakers have responded (to retail theft) by pushing policies that solely focus on punitive measures that deepen our crisis of mass incarceration at a time when California has pledged to walk away from it and dismantle it
> - Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, state Sen.

The proposals come amid the ongoing tension among Democrats, who are split over how to address the growing public concern about crime, even though statistics paint a mixed picture. For example, retail theft rose in recent years but still remained below pre-pandemic levels in 2022, according to an analysis from the Public Policy Institute of California.

Some Democratic legislators and local officials - eager to show they are acting especially during an election year - have advocated for tougher sentences for retail theft or backed a ballot measure to roll back Proposition 47, a voter-approved measure in 2014 that raised the felony threshold for shoplifting to $950.

Others, however, argue that raising penalties and undoing Prop. 47 could mean California is reverting back to the tough-on-crime policies in the 1980s and the 1990s that led to mass incarceration.

"Some lawmakers have responded (to retail theft) by pushing policies that solely focus on punitive measures that deepen our crisis of mass incarceration at a time when California has pledged to walk away from it and dismantle it," said state Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, a Los Angeles Democrat.

Smallwood-Cuevas is sponsoring two bills that would require counties to set up diversion programs for theft-related offenses and increase staffing at grocery store checkout counters.

"I'm not saying that we are not going to be holding folks accountable to the actions that they take," she said at a state Capitol press conference this morning where three other legislators spoke. "We will not rely on incarceration as a solution, but rather look for ways to build training, create career skills, build industry networks that drive our folks into contribution to our communities."

Also this morning, two bills toughening state law around petty crimes, such as retail thefts and the "smash-and-grabs," cleared the Senate Public Safety Committee. They are part of the "Safer California Plan" championed by new Senate President Pro Tem Mike McGuire, a Santa Rosa Democrat.

Under Senate Bill 1242, introduced by Sen. Dave Min, an Irvine Democrat who is running for Congress, those who set fire during organized retail theft might face harsher penalties for reckless arson at the discretion of the judge.

Rachel Michelin, president of the California Retailers' Association, which supports the bill, pointed to a September incident where a woman set fire in a Target to steal baby formula. "When these businesses fall victim to arson, it not only results in financial loss but disrupts the local economy, leading to job losses and decline in community morale," she said during the committee hearing. "Stronger penalties serve as a deterrent to potential offenders and help protect both property and human life."

Another bill sponsored by Sen. Scott Wiener, a San Francisco Democrat, would create new crimes for those who break into vehicles to steal and for those who steal and try to sell more than $950 worth of items. The bill would fix the "locked doors loophole" in state law, which currently requires district attorneys to prove the doors to a car or a house were locked when prosecuting burglars, Wiener said.

Carl Nicita, principal legislative liaison for the San Francisco Police Department, said that requirement is hard to meet: "Victims are often asked to testify in court that their vehicle was locked. But when a victim is a tourist or a visitor, as is often the case in San Francisco, it can be very difficult to secure the testimony of a victim because they live elsewhere."

The bill, Nicita said during the hearing, would "send a message that, if you break into cars, you will be held accountable."

Several other bills on retail theft that would increase penalties or give law enforcement more authority have not had a hearing yet. Assembly Bill 1990, by Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo, a Los Angeles Democrat, would allow police officers to make warrantless arrests on misdemeanors of shoplifting offenses, even if they were not present when the alleged crime occurred.

SB 923, from Sen. Bob Archuleta, a Norwalk Democrat, would subject shoplifters with multiple prior convictions to as long as three years behind bars. The bill was scheduled for a hearing today but was then rescheduled for Apr. 16.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California progressives forced to play defense as state faces huge budget deficits

DAN WALTERS

A couple of years ago, California's left-leaning interest groups – those seeking a more expansive array of social and medical services to benefit workers and the state's large population of low-income residents – seemed to be making a breakthrough after decades of frustration.

With Gov. Gavin Newsom bragging about a nearly $100 billion state budget surplus, progressive coalitions gained footholds on some long-sought priorities, such as medical coverage for undocumented immigrants, income supports for the working poor and more expansive care and education for preschool children.

That was then and this is now.

The state now faces a monumental budget deficit, in part because the state committed portions of a supposed surplus that never materialized. While Newsom so far has pegged the deficit at $38 billion, state revenues continue to lag behind forecasts and the Legislature's budget analyst, Gabe Petek, says it could top $70 billion.

Moreover, both Newsom's budget department and Petek are warning that annual deficits in the $30 billion range are likely for several years to come.

The harsh fiscal reality not only may doom expansion of the programmatic gains that those on the left championed, but imperil their very existence just as the additional benefits begin kicking in.

In short, it's crunch time for California's progressive activists.

Read More from Dan Walters: Newsom, legislators opt for gimmicks and wishful thinking to close California's budget deficit

The state's much-changed financial circumstances are reflected in a legislative agenda issued recently by the Building the California Dream Alliance, a coalition of dozens of progressive organizations. Were the state enjoying the huge budget surpluses that Newsom erroneously proclaimed two years ago, the coalition would be proposing new or expanded programs.

Instead, all but a couple of the 28 items on its new agenda would not cost the state budget anything, but rather would affect policies in the private economy, in schools, in courts and in medical care.

One example: Senate Bill 1446 would make it more difficult for retailers to reduce their staffs by installing self-checkout systems.

Meanwhile, another progressive organization, the California Budget and Policy Center, staged a webinar on Tuesday to beat the drums for raising taxes to avoid reductions in social and medical services this year and in following years when additional deficits are anticipated.

The organization says it wants "a California for all where everyone has access to economic opportunity, housing, health care, and other basic needs is possible," adding that "policymakers can achieve this vision by advancing fairer taxation to prevent cuts when there's a budget shortfall like today and build a truly just and equitable California for all."

However, when it came to specifics, the webinar's panel dwelled on raising corporate income taxes by eliminating or reducing some loopholes that the Legislature provided in past years, such as the tax credit for research and development. Panel members also revived a corporate tax overhaul that state Senate leadership proposed last year, but failed to gain any traction.

"We want to make sure revenues are part of the conversation," the organization's tax analyst, Kayla Kitson, said. "We have options."

Corporate taxes are just a fifth of the state's general fund revenues, and even doubling them would fall way short of covering the budget deficit. The big money is to be found in personal income taxes.

Newsom, however, has repeatedly rejected tax increases as a remedy – which is why the Senate corporate tax hike didn't move last year – and a business-backed measure on the November ballot would make increasing state and local taxes even more difficult.

In the absence of a tax increase of some kind, direct or indirect reductions in the programs that progressives and their legislative allies cherish would seem to be inevitable.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GET IT DAILY...



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **57.6**

THURSDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Small/clean surf in the AM, rising WNW winds and some new windswell over the PM.

FRIDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Expecting a peak in NW swell mix and breezy onshore flow from another late-season coastal low. Small S swell.

Weather

Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 60.
Thursday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers, mainly after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 45.
Friday: Showers likely, with thunderstorms also possible after 11am. Partly sunny, with a high near 56.
Friday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 44.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/04/04	Thu	12:23 AM	2.32	L
2024/04/04	Thu	06:17 AM	5.03	H
2024/04/04	Thu	1:26 PM	-0.76	L
2024/04/04	Thu	8:01 PM	4.14	H
2024/04/05	Fri	01:18 AM	1.56	L
2024/04/05	Fri	07:16 AM	5.33	H
2024/04/05	Fri	2:02 PM	-0.85	L
2024/04/05	Fri	8:25 PM	4.68	H
2024/04/06	Sat	02:07 AM	0.76	L
2024/04/06	Sat	08:09 AM	5.46	H
2024/04/06	Sat	2:36 PM	-0.74	L
2024/04/06	Sat	8:52 PM	5.24	H
2024/04/07	Sun	02:53 AM	0.01	L
2024/04/07	Sun	08:58 AM	5.38	H
2024/04/07	Sun	3:09 PM	-0.45	L
2024/04/07	Sun	9:22 PM	5.72	H
2024/04/08	Mon	03:40 AM	-0.58	L
2024/04/08	Mon	09:46 AM	5.08	H

Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 4/1
19 24 40 42 56
Power#: 23
Jackpot: 1.09 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/2
10 50 56 60 66
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 67 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 3/30
6 16 18 24 26
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 23 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/2
10 11 18 30 31

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/2
EVENING: 7 2 3
Draw Date: 4/2
MIDDAY: 8 0 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/2
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 04 - Big Ben
Race Time: 1:48.12

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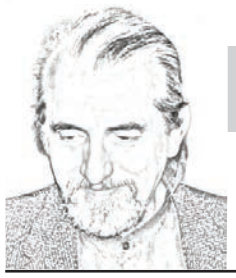
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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Jack, Jazz & Django

JACK IS JACK, AND THAT'S NOTEWORTHY

Still. For better or worse. There was an unfortunate email that went out, to a lot of names, that said Jack Neworth was suffering from early dementia. Unless rooting full on for the Lakers and the Dodgers is proof of that, I would disagree with that diagnosis. Not made by a doctor, as far as I know. I have dealt with family members who have experienced that dreaded disease, and in all my phone calls with Jack recently, I have detected nothing of that sort. If anything, against all odds, he seems more upbeat and coherent than usual.

It still seems like a good idea to swamp Jack with notes of appreciation for his many years of loving Santa Monica and hating all that Drumpf stands for, maybe short notes or postcards (53c). He should eventually receive them at this address:

JACK NEWORTH
2700 Neilson Way
Santa Monica, CA 90405

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

"LA TRAVIATA," LA Opera – The LA Opera is back! Hallelujah (Chorus)! With one of the most enduring tragedies of them all, and star soprano Rachel Willis-Sørensen. What's a poor glittering star of Parisian nightlife to do when she wants to settle down but her following won't let her? This is one of those operas everyone has heard of, for a reason. Don't miss it. Sat 7:30 p.m., Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, LA, $89-399.

SPRINGSTEEN – Did you see his show here a couple days ago? No? I have friends who bought their tickets months ago. Well, lucky you, you have this last chance, and then you would have to buy a plane ticket and hotel room, and maybe have to wait a long time. You live in LA, use it. His famous-in-their-own-right E Street Band looks a little different for losses and additions since the early '70s, but that's a rare half century-long continuity, and most of the original bangers are there and they are essential to the sound and the experience. Does he still do three to four hour shows? Gawd I hope not. For his sake. We want him to stay with us, don't we? Sun 7:30 p.m., Kia Forum, Inglewood, $120-2,453.

HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – You can go to the Cinema Bar any Monday, 9 - 11:30, for more than a decade now, and hear these hot players run through Django Reinhart-style '30s jazz. They should have copies of their new album "Nova" there for sale. This amazing ensemble is a treasure, just over the border from SM. Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, no cover.

RECOMMENDED:

ETHAN IVERSON TRIO with PETER ERSKINE, DAREK OLES – Years ago I saw The Bad Plus and liked them, jazz sort of, but that's just one of Iveron's many musical persona over a long career. A thread seems to be bending and merging styles and even genres. But I recommend this show on that small knowledge of him because of the other two musicians, with whom I am very familiar. Local legend drummer Peter Erskine is simply the best, and he has been playing with master bassist Darek Oles for some 30 years. Wherever Iverson takes this performance, you can be assured the rhythm section will keep it sounding superb. Fri, Sat 7:30, 10:30 p.m., Sam First, LAX, $30.

DONALD HARRISON – His moniker "Big Chief" is a nod to his New Orleans upbringing, and at age 19 he composed a modern jazz version of the traditional NOLA second line. A few years later he created his Nouveau Swing, and since 2000 he has been examining music through the lens of quantum physics. He played with Art Blakey, McCoy Tyner, Miles Davis, Ron Carter, and The Notorious BIG. His latest album, "The Art of Passion," takes the same composition and presents it multiple ways, different genres. Sun 7 p.m., Jazz Bakery, Santa Monica, $35.

TOLEDO DIAMOND – Unique, riveting, first class act. There's nothing like it, it is high performance art and great decadent fun. Degeneracy is rarely so well disciplined. And the band is smokin'! Don't. Miss. Toledo Diamond. Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.

COMING ATTRACTIONS (all recommended): TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 4/7, 14, 21, 28; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 4/8, 15, 22, 29; "LA TRAVIATA," LA Opera, 4/6, 14, 18, 21, 24, 27; SPRINGSTEEN, Kia Forum, 4/7; SAINT-SAENS, ORGAN SYMPHONY, LA PHIL, Disney Hall, 4/12, 13, 14; LIBRARY GIRL, Ruskin Theatre, 4/14; MAVIS STAPLES 85TH BD, YouTube Theater, 4/18; ALBERT LEE, McCabe's, 4/19; HERBIE HANCOCK, Disney Hall, 4/20; ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN IN THE FIELDS, The Soraya, 4/21; RHIANNON GIDDENS, Theatre at Ace Hotel, 4/25; JACKY TERRASSON TRIO, Jazz Bakery, 5/5; KRAFTWERK, Disney Hall, 5/21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30; JOHN MCEUEN, McCabe's, 5/24; CHRIS STAPLETON, Hollywood Bowl, 6/26, 27; ROLLING STONES, SoFi Stadium, 7/10, 13.



Courtesy Photo

JAZZ: Donald Harrison, known as "Big Chief," will be playing at the Jazz Bakery in Santa Monica on Sunday.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 38 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

SMMUSD
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Notice of Public Hearing – Measure R Parcel Tax

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will conduct a public hearing on the matter of the 2024-25 Special Parcel Tax (Measure R) regarding applying a Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) adjustment. The public hearing will be held on April 18, 2024 at 7 p.m. in the Santa Monica-Malibu District Office at 1717 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 and via Zoom. The link to provide public comment via Zoom may be found at the top of the agenda. Agendas may be found at https://www.smmusd.org/Page/4047. Subsequent to the public hearing on April 18, 2024 at the regularly scheduled meeting, it is the intention of the Board of Education to adopt a resolution to levy the tax at the rate of $512.86 per parcel, which includes a 3.4% CPI adjustment. The CPI-U for Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, base year 1982-84=100, from February 2023 through February 2024, was used to calculate the adjustment. Information to apply for the Measure R Senior Exemption may be found at https://www.smmusd.org/Page/3905. The application form and supporting documentation must be completed, signed and returned by June 30, 2024. To be added to the mailing list, please email MeasureR@smmusd.org.

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AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Spring Activities Abound

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes the Other Art Fair, a Superbloom Beach Club, and much more!



Courtesy Photo

ART: The Other Art Fair highlights local experiences this weekend, featuring 140 independent artists selling their wares at the Barker Hangar.

The Other Art Fair: "Experience-seekers, this one's for you. We're reframing art and how you experience it. Here, art is for everyone. We combine affordable and original artworks and 140 independent artists with immersive installations, performances, DJs – and a fully stocked bar." Thursday - Sunday, April 4 - 7 @ Barker Hanger. https://www.theotherartfair.com/la/

Food and Film - Food, Inc. 2: This quarterly series is designed to delight the senses and inspire the mind. Curated with renowned chef, activist and cinephile Alice Waters, who will introduce the screening, each program in the series draws on Waters' philosophy that eating, like art, is a political act and that exploring the intersections between the culinary and moving image arts can help illuminate the path toward building more sustainable, thriving communities together. Thursday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. @ Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd.

SaMo Swim Center Family And Friends Splash Night: What better way to celebrate than with an evening of family fun at the pool? Bring the whole family (and your friends!) and dive into an unforgettable experience. They'll provide pool floats and an inflatable obstacle course to add an extra element of excitement to your aquatics adventures. Plus indulge your sweet tooth with delicious treats provided for all attendees. Friday, April 5, 4 - 7 p.m. @ 2225 16th St. https://santa-monica-atp8.squarespace.com/familysplashday

2nd Annual Pet-Chewlla Adoption Fair & Pet Festival: Expect lots of dog and cat rescues and a lot of local vendors and music. Saturday, April 6, 1 - 6 p.m. @ 210 Main St., Venice. https://mailchi.mp/e95f630f1921/pet-chewlla-2024-rsvp

Chumash Day Powwow: The free event will include Native American ceremonies, performances and artisans. Some 20 Native artisan vendors will be selling jewelry, flutes, moccasins, beading accessories, leatherworks, pottery, dream catchers and more. Food will be available from Bison Burger, Drizzle, Gostosas Thrill from Brazil, Rice Balls of Fire, Salt 'N Pepper and Tropic Truck. Saturday & Sunday, April 6 & 7, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. @ Malibu Bluffs Park, 24250 Pacific Coast Highway.

Aleichem Sholom Returns to Santa Monica Playhouse: This musical is performed in English with just a taste of Yiddish and follows the life of the beloved Yiddish storyteller Sholom Aleichem and his mespoche, spinning tales of his loves and losses, his fame and his failures, his travels, his travails and the tremendous joy and optimism that kept him going against all odds. $35.00 with discounts for students, seniors and military. Saturdays at 7 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m., April 6 to May 19. SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com/aleichem-sholom.html

Soundwaves and Cold Blue Music Bring New Music to the Edye: Santa Monica Public Library's acclaimed Soundwaves new music series travels to the Edye Theater at the Broad Stage, 1310 11th St, for a very special show on Saturday April 6, @ 3:30 p.m. featuring performances of three extraordinary works by some of LA's top players. www.soundwavesnewmusic.com

Superbloom Beach Club: This pop-up social club offers a full day of wellness activations, live DJs, beach games, and amazing connections. Sunday, April 7, 12 - 7:30p.m. https://lu.ma/menhf6zw

Rebel Wilson "Live Talks" @ New Roads School: The scene-stealing star of Pitch Perfect and Bridesmaids comes to discuss her candid and hilarious memoir, Rebel Rising, chronicling her unconventional journey to Hollywood success. Monday, April 8, 8 p.m. @ 3131 Olympic Blvd. https://livetalksla.org/events/rebel-wilson/

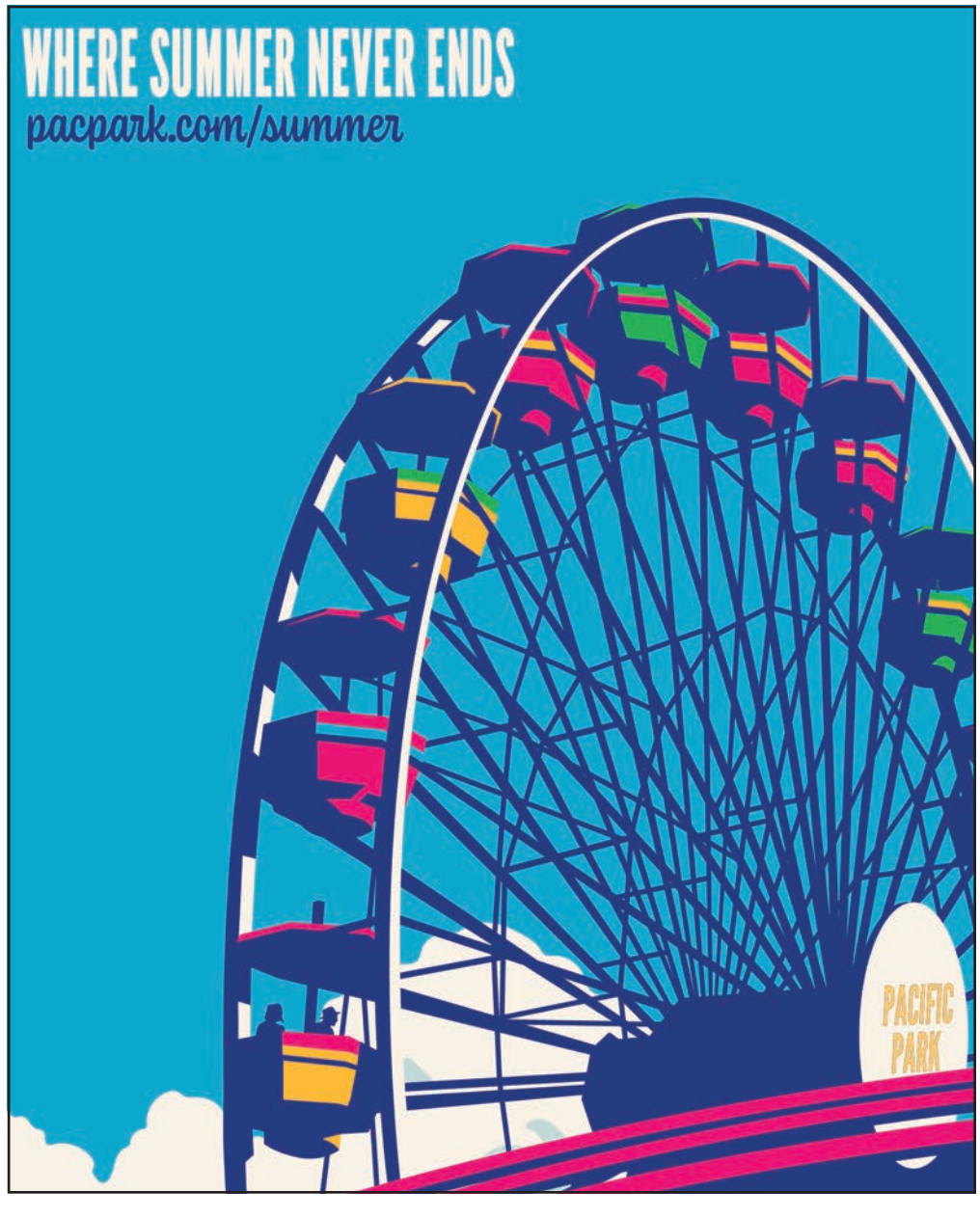
WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Abbot Kinney First Friday Food Truck Fest: About two dozen food trucks are expected to line the street for the monthly event. Friday, April 5, starting at 5 p.m. https://www.abbotkinneyblvd.com/

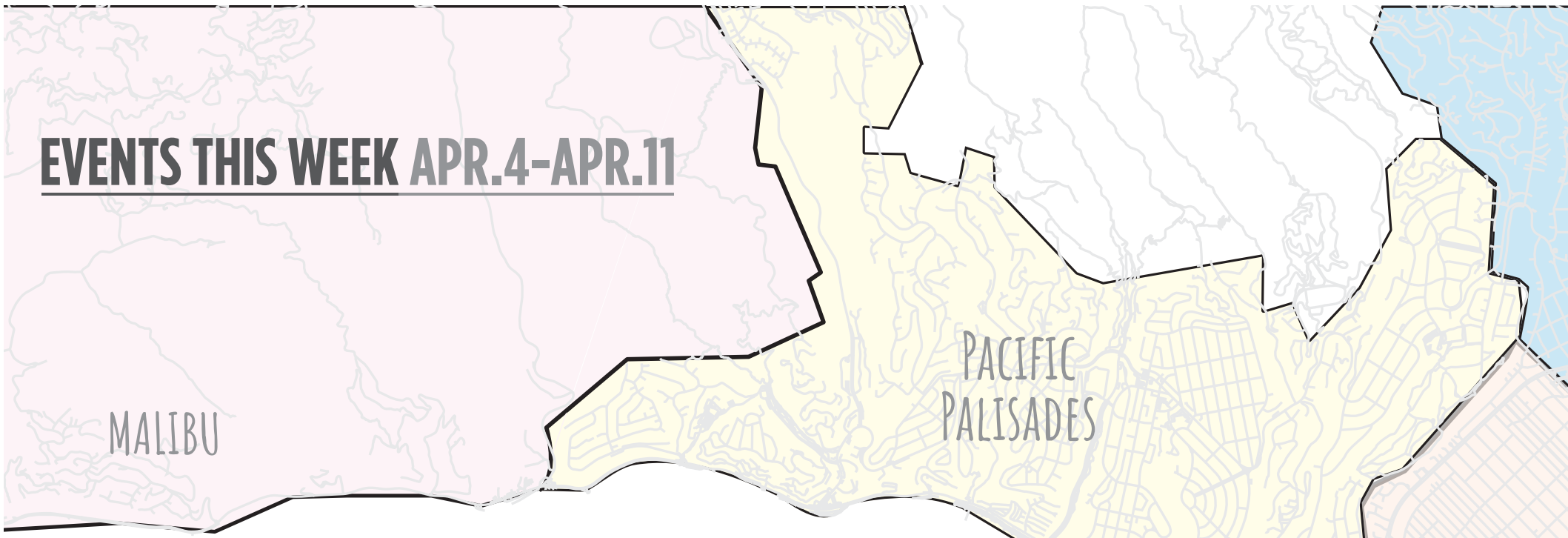
Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams Space Themed Flavors: Their Punk Stargonaut collection features edible space dust and three new cosmic inspired flavors: Nebula Berry, a blend of blueberry and raspberry and fragrant elderflower; Cosmic Bloom, featuring mandarin, kiwi, and passion fruit; and Purple Star Born an intensely juicy flavor with Concord grape and blackcurrant alongside the returning favorite Supermoon that taste like candied violet and marshmallows. They're also introducing Space Dust, a fizzy popping topping. Starting April 5, customers can get complimentary eclipse glasses at the scoop shop when they add Space Dust to their Punk Stargonaut flavors for $0.50. On eclipse day (April 8), Space Dust will be free with any Punk Stargonaut flavor purchase. https://jenis.com/collections/punk-stargonaut

Juliet is a women owned wine brand focused on "making boxed wine sophisticated." Check it out at Divine Vintage @ 1025 Montana Ave., Gjusta, The Wine House, and other spots around town.

SEE **TOWN** PAGE 8



EVENTS THIS WEEK APR.4-APR.11



Friday, Apr. 05, 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Los Angeles Performing Arts Conservatory, 10931 West Pico Blvd, Los Angeles.

10th Annual Los Angeles Short Film Festival

Amazing films, Amazing Filmmakers! 50+ films and Q&A with directors, actors, and film producers. $8-50. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/10th-annual-los-angeles-short-film-festival-tickets-846243265387

Friday, Apr. 05, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St

So How You Doing?" A "Playful Play on Co-Dependency

The play opens with the host introducing the concept of a playful encounter with codependency and the audience accepting the role of mental health colleagues and observers of this first meeting of group therapy participants and the first codependency group the therapist will lead. Throughout this play, the therapist (former comedian) and group participants share their stories with humor, emotion, and insight first in the waiting room before the group begins. The play then moves into the group room as the tension mounts during the first group session. The audience is asked to help with a solution. Then the play ends with the host thanking the audience for participating in a new theatrical experience. As a show souvenir, the host offers the audience a Codependency Assessment to take home "for someone who may need it." $25. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/so-how-you-doing-a-playful-play-on-co-dependency-tickets-859861979327

Saturday, Apr. 06, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

Human Library

Check out a human book for a one-on-one, 30-minute conversation that challenges stereotypes and prejudices. Human book categories can include Addiction, Disabilities, Ethnicity, Family, Gender & Sex, Health, Ideology, Lifestyle, Mental Health, Neurodiversity, Occupation, Religion, Sexuality, Social Status, and Victim/Survivor. For more information on the Human Library visit humanlibrary.org

Friday, Apr. 05, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave

An Afternoon with Meg Medina

Santa Monica Public Library and Children's Book World are honored to present An Afternoon with author Meg Medina, the Library of Congress' current National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Ms. Medina will introduce her new platform, ¡Cuéntame! Let's Talk Books, a Spanish-English bilingual effort that encourages young readers to connect with each other while talking about books. https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4yss30c9gbz9bvzmzm42s6hnnz/202404051600

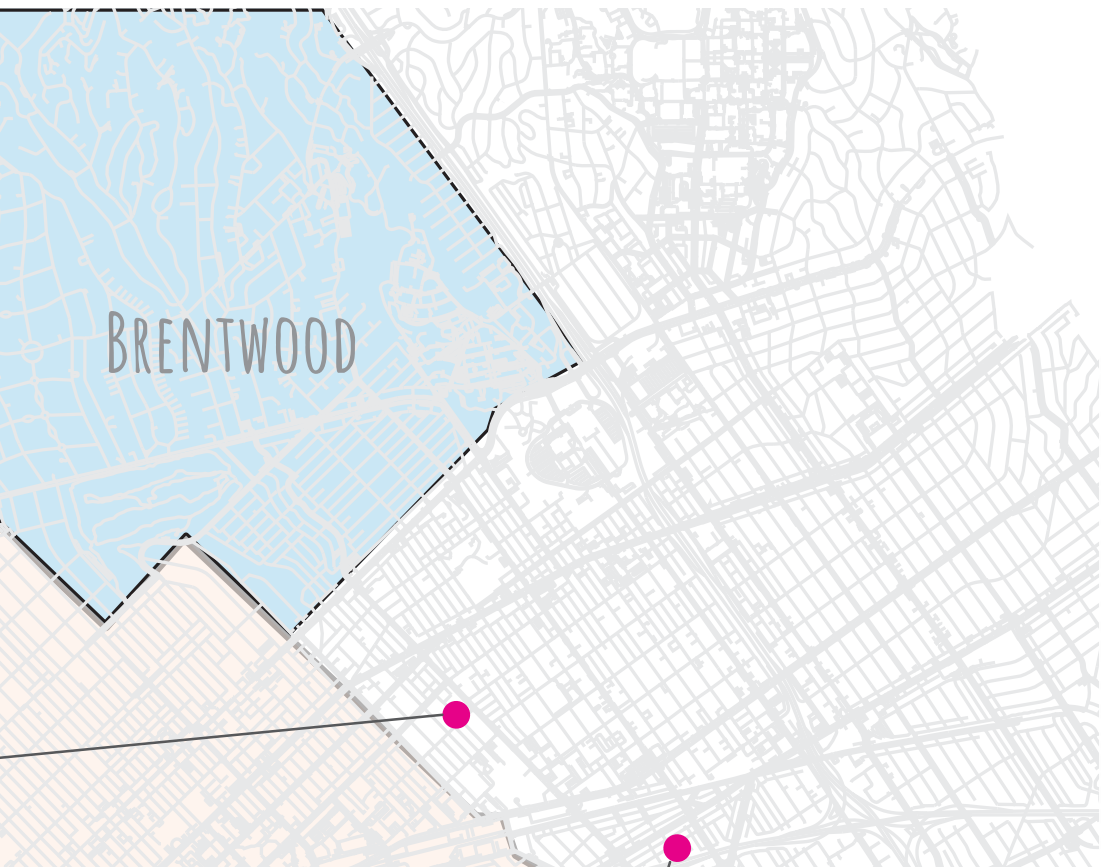
Saturday, Apr. 06 - 07, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd

Dance Camera West presents a Two-day Workshop w/ Katrina McPherson

Join award-winning director and artist Katrina McPherson, author of Making Video Dance and Course Leader of the MA Screendance at London Contemporary Dance School, for a practical two-day workshop in the art of screendance presented by Dance Camera West. Evolve the skills to create / adapt performance for screen and explore approaches to making screendance. Please bring a camera or phone to use and wear clothes that you can move in. There will be tasks set for you to do during and following the weekend for which access to some editing software is preferable but not essential. $200. For more information and tickets, please visit: https://dcw2024.eventive.org/schedule/2-day-workshop-with-katrina-mc-pherson-6580ce6fc421ae005a78e714

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events



Monday, Apr. 08, 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

New Roads School -- The Ann and Jerry Moss Theater, Herb Alpert Educational Village 3131 Olympic Blvd.

Rebel Wilson with Jess Cagle

Rebel Wilson is an Australian actress, director, comedian, writer, singer, and producer. She's known for her roles in the Pitch Perfect series, Bridesmaids, How to be Single, Senior Year, The Hustle, Jojo Rabbit, and more. Jess Cagle is SiriusXM's Chief Entertainment Anchor and host of The Jess Cagle Show. Before joining SiriusXM in 2019, Cagle was Editor In Chief of People magazine and Editorial Director of Entertainment Weekly. He has co-hosted ABC's Oscar red-carpet pre-show and appeared as a critic and contributor for CBS News. He is currently a senior fellow at the University of Southern California's Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership & Policy. $55 - $80.
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rebel-wilson-with-jess-cagle-tickets-845509280017



THURSDAY | APRIL 4

HOUSING COMMISSION

The Santa Monica Housing Commission is a city advisory body whose mission is to protect and improve the quality of life of all Santa Monicans by listening to input from city residents and staff, publicly deliberating, and providing recommendations to both the Santa Monica City Council and Santa Monica Housing Authority Board on issues related to housing in Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Housing Commission is committed to strengthening the social, economic, and cultural vitality and diversity of Santa Monica through habitable, fair, and equitable housing for all. City Hall, 1685 Main Street, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY | APRIL 5

PILATES MOVEMENT

The Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd., hosts a pilates movement class beginning at 11 a.m. Develop strength, flexibility and balance through the fusion of pilates mat and various styles of movement. All levels welcome. No entry after the first ten minutes. Program generously funded by the Friends of Venice Library.

SO HOW YOU DOING?

The play "So How You Doing?: A Playful Play on Co-Dependency," written and directed by Tom Parker and produced by Denise Klein, is a theatrical experience with audience participation based on codependency. The audience accepts the role of mental health colleagues and observers of a meeting of group therapy participants, sharing stories with humor, emotion and insight before tension mounts, requiring a solution. As a show souvenir, the host offers the audience a Codependency Assessment to take home "for someone who may need it." Starts at 1 p.m. at Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. Tickets $25. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/so-how-you-doing-a-playful-play-on-co-dependency-tickets-859861979327.

AN AFTERNOON WITH MEG MEDINA

Santa Monica Public Library and Children's Book World are honored to present an afternoon with author Meg Medina, the Library of Congress' current National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Ms. Medina will introduce her new platform, ¡Cuéntame! Let's Talk Books, a Spanish-English bilingual effort that encourages young leaders to connect with each other while talking about books. Starts at 4 p.m. in the Thelma Terry Room at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.

SATURDAY | APRIL 6

VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK FARMERS MARKET

The family market in the heart of Pico neighborhood's Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave, is widely considered to be among the best on the west coast. Featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more.

DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA WALKING TOUR

Discover the architectural gems and rich history of Downtown Santa Monica, beginning at Hostelling International Santa Monica, 1436 2nd St., at 10 a.m. Visit a 12-story Art Deco office tower, the British pub where Jim Morrison played his first show, the city's best example of a Queen Anne Victorian home, a lavish hotel that housed a speakeasy during Prohibition and more. Tours are approximately 2 hours and cover 6 blocks. Reservations suggested. Open to all ages. Tickets $10. For more information, visit: https://smc.givecloud.co/dwt.

GEEBO THE CLOWN

The Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd., hosts the incredible Geebo the Clown, El Payaso Loco, starting at 10:30 a.m. Think clown, magician, and incredible balloon animals. The whole family will enjoy this funny show full of magic tricks, sight gags and balloons. Geek's performance is to celebrate El die de los ninos/El die de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day), commonly known as Dia, a nationally recognized initiative that emphasizes the importance of literacy for all children from all backgrounds. This program is generously funded by the Library Foundation of Los Angeles.

COMMUNITY DOG TRAINING CLASSES

Love At First Sit, a pet care and dog behavior and training company in Santa Monica, hosts Community Dog Training Classes Saturdays at 12 p.m. at Virginia Ave Park in Santa Monica. Class fee is $5, then pay what you can after that. Class proceeds are donated to various charities for people and animals, animal shelters, and animal rescues. Class topics explore basic obedience, manners, enrichment and more.

PET-CHEWLLA PET ADOPTION FAIR & FESTIVAL

Green Dog Veterinary Center, 210 Main St., Venice, is hosting the second annual Adoption Fair and Pet Festival starting at 1 p.m. You'll have the chance to meet adoptable dogs and cats needing great homes from eight different Los Angeles-based rescues. A day filled with furry friends, fantastic food, lively tunes and refreshing drinks. Donate to the silent auction, shop local vendors and get your face painted or a flower crown for your dog. This event is family-friendly, and leashed pets are encouraged to come.

SOUNDWAVES NEW MUSIC CONCERT

Soundwaves celebrates LA's diverse history of innovative underground music with free performances by world-class artists. The show at the Edye Theater a t the Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., is Cold Blue Music-Compositions by John Luther Adams, Christopher Roberts and Nicholas Chase. Starts at 3:30 p.m.

THE ASTROLOGY OF 2024

This workshop, held at IntoMeSea, 1812 Lincoln Blvd., is designed to help you navigate these cosmic frequencies, aspects and transits. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., Gahl Sasson will walk you through the questions of 2024, and investigate things such as dates of Mercury, Mars and Venus retrogrades; Full and New Moons, how to work with Moon magic, blessed & challenging dates, eclipses and other important periods. Tickets $45. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-astrology-of-2024-the-once-and-future-year-with-gahl-sasson-tickets-853286150847.

FAT HAM

FROM PAGE 1

wanted to sort of dabble into adaptation, the first play that came to mind was Hamlet. It just made complete sense to make Juicy queer. I would have to make Hamlet queer. And knowing that helped me build the obstacles in the play, because I was very clear about why he felt shut out of his family. And so, the obstacle is this intense notion of masculinity, and some of the violence and signifiers of that kind of masculinity that show up in men and families that they inflict on the queer members of the family, whether intentional or unintentional."

Bringing the play to the Geffen was partially curated by the playhouse's Artistic Director, Tarell Alvin McCraney, who will be taking over the Geffen's slate of shows for the 2024-25 season.

"You are witnessing the West Coast premiere of a play continuing its history making run here at the Geffen," McCraney said in the show's playbill. "This play, its deep discourse with the classic tragedy 'Hamlet' and its intentional drive towards joy, felt like the perfect setting to celebrate 'what's next' at the Geffen."

The show, which officially opens on Thursday after a special Black Partners Appreciation Night held Tuesday and a preview show on Wednesday, will have much of the Broadway cast involved. Marcel Spears returns as Juicy, while the likes of Nikki Crawford, Chris Herbie Holland and Billy Eugene Jones will also be lending their talents to the Geffen production. Spears can also be seen on television co-starring in the CBS show "The Neighborhood" alongside Cedric the Entertainer.

After serving as Associate Director on Broadway, Sideeq Heard will take over the director's chair from Saheem Ali at the Geffen. Heard was recently awarded Best Director for the short film "Here Is a Man" at the 2023 Reel Sisters of the Diaspora film festival, and also serves as creator, director and co-writer of the soon-premiering digital series "Men Like Us," following the lives of three queer black men.

Following "Fat Ham," McCraney's inaugural season as Geffen Artistic Director begins in August with "The Brothers Size," followed by "Dragon Lady" in September and "Waiting For Godot" in November. To purchase tickets for "Fat Ham" (running through April 28) and for more information on upcoming Geffen shows, visit geffenplayhouse.org.

thomas@smdp.com



Photo By Jeff Lorch

FAT HAM: (L-R) Marcel Spears and Billy Eugene Jones star in "Fat Ham," premiering at Geffen Playhouse on Thursday.

TOWN

FROM PAGE 5

Further Afield: Masters of Taste Food Festival, returns to The Rose Bowl on April 7. 100% of the proceeds benefit Union Station Homeless Services.

Looking Ahead Around Town: Movie Fridays on 3rd St. Promenade (4/12, 5/10, 6/14), CicLAvia West LA (4/21), Santa Monica Wine Auction (4/21), KCRW's "Good Food" PieFest (4/28), MAINopoly (5/19), Make Music Day (6/21)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: Spring Activities Abound.

FARMERS MARKET

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

April is Earth Month at the Pico and the Main Street Farmers Markets. Look for an event packed month focused on food, farmers, and the planet. We are trying to do our part in making the markets as eco-friendly as possible by requiring vendors to use recyclables and to compost their food waste. Please help us with this mission by using the bin that corresponds with your throw aways. Not quite sure what goes where? Ask the information booth. We are more than happy to demystify. :)

Inspired to plant a garden or maybe a window box? Master Gardeners will be coming to the markets with planting activities and gardening strategies.

As you have probably noticed, all your favorite fruits and veggies are taking a little longer than usual because of the March rainstorm and cooler weather. Look for plenty of yummy offerings to come and prepare to be amazed at what a little rain can do. And yes! Harry's Berries is back at the Main Street Farmers Market with organic strawberries. Organic sweet cherries arriving in May!

Snap peas? Yes please! Looking for a fun healthy on the go snack? Sugar snap peas are the perfect springtime go to for a delicious treat by itself, on a cheese platter or tossed in a salad.

Look for returning vendors and new pop ups including Blue Plate Oysterette, Triple Beam Pizza and Kavahana at the Main Street Farmers Market.

APRIL CALENDAR 2024

Pico Farmers Market

April 6 Music: DJ and the Greenleas
April 13 Music: Teddy Bang Trio
April 20 Music: East of Lincoln

MASTER GARDENERS

April 27 Event in the Park: Arts and Literacy Festival

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET

April 7
DJ and the Main Street Jam - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Dance with Miss Alice market parade – 9:30 a.m.
Kiki and the Sunnyside Chalkers!

April 14
GM Jazz Quartet – 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Kymberly Stewart – Kids Singalong 9 a.m.
Coffee with a Cop – 10 a.m.

April 21
Earth Day Celebration with Lazy Dog Mountain Band – 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
YARI – Dog Adoption / Master Gardeners Planting activities – 10 a.m.
Sound Bath on the lawn

April 28
Celebrating International Jazz Day with The SaMohi Jazz Bands – 10 a.m.
Master Gardeners Planting Activities and B2R Instrument Petting Zoo – 10 a.m.



Courtesy Photo

FARMERS MARKET: The April calendar for local farmers markets includes fun, healthy snack offerings like snap peas.

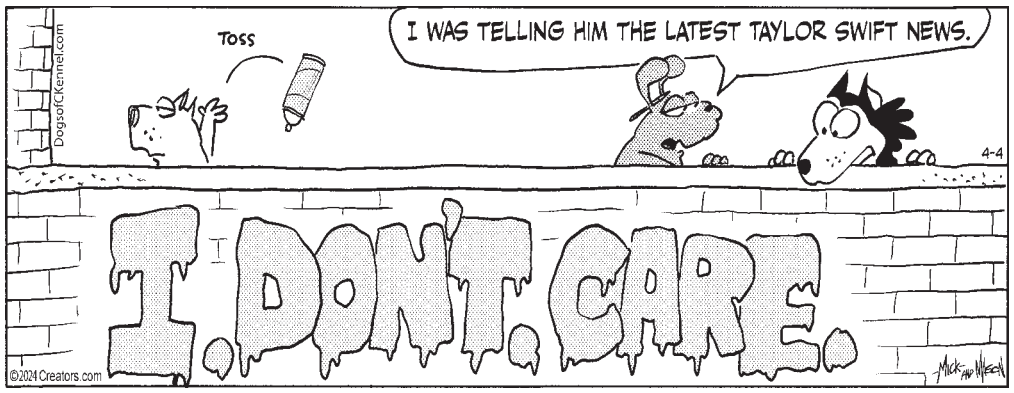
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



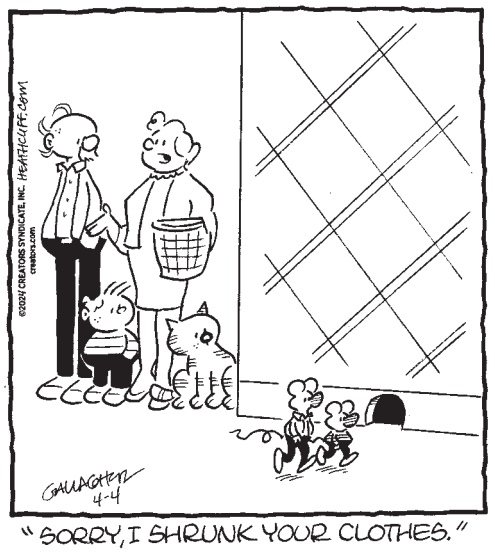
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"SORRY, I SHRUNK YOUR CLOTHES."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 15 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Downsizing sale

C A T H A R T I C H U T N E Y
O R O O D T H A T S C H A I R
A B E D S N G A T E Y T P M E
T T S O P E H S P M A T S F L
L S H E E T S F B F T L S U T
A A E G C G I I A S E Q E N U
S C E K I I D O G A K U L D C
D R C D A L R I S N C I E S S
R O A D L C E P R T A L S G S
O W P D I R T D H F J T U O V
C D S G N I V O M A E J Y S A
E K I B O O K S M R G L E E S
R S Y O T S U D J C R G B X E
U K I T C H E N W A R E L A S
T O O L S N S O E D I V K E T

Atlas	Craft	Funds	Sign
Axes	Crowd	Gate	Skis
Bags	Cutlery	Haggle	Space
Beds	Deal	Hats	Special
Bike	Delight	Jacket	Stamps
Books	Dirt	Jugs	Table
Cage	Dish	Kitchenware	Tent
Cakes	Door	Moving	Tools
Cathartic	Dust	Prices	Toys
Chair	Early	Quilt	Useless
Chutney	Empty	Records	Vases
Coat	Fridge	Sale	Videos

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Some perennial favourites

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 4)

The wide variety of your experiences will stretch beyond your dreams. Your bright burning curiosity becomes a spotlight for interconnectedness and unity. More highlights: Love expands your thinking and sparkles up your lifestyle. You'll free yourself from excess responsibility and the principles of minimalism will deliver you into clarity and fulfillment. Virgo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 10, 4, 41 and 5.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're so consistently impressive that by now "exceeds expectations" is your brand. Of course, it's easier to pull off when you also underpromise. You'll offer something small and then deliver something big.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Emptiness is the source of fullness and vice versa. Embracing emptiness will allow you to be receptive to the richness of life and to experience true fulfillment. "The world is won by those who let it go." - Lao Tzu

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Friends who don't agree can be the luckiest relationship you have. Somewhere between your differing points of view lies an answer that has, in more agreeable company, eluded you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Once you thought you needed more money, hotter tickets or better company, when you really needed a sense of purpose. Today's meaningful work makes you feel more like yourself and simultaneously connected to all.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It would be impossible for experiences to play out as you project because reality involves more factors than could be contained in your mind. Knowing that everything is different in motion, you'll reserve judgement until after you've put it in motion.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you invest too little in a relationship, it will still take your energy and give nothing in return. For this to be worth your while, either ramp up your commitment or get out completely.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll meet people who check a lot of boxes for you - people who like similar activities, have compatible communication styles with yours and who prefer compromise over conflict, resolution over drama, which is key for a lasting tie.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). This is the moment to involve yourself in a positive and gradual change. Be like the methodical tortoise, setting a pace for the long game. Small steps ever-forward will add up to the win.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). How do you know if you're in alignment with the natural flow of things? For starters, it won't require big amounts of effort. Think of yourself as a sailboat. Rotate your sail until you catch the wind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Charity is among your key values and you'll happily give to those who are not in a position to give back. But among those who are fully able to reciprocate, some are not so inclined. Many will want your attention. Who's earned it?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Responsibility isn't always burdensome. In a strange way, one duty can prop up another one. You'll take on more and thrive because of it. Your rewards could come as soon as this evening.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Everyone remembers things differently and each will be convinced of their own rightness, so there's no use arguing about it. Focus on telling your story, your way, to the people whose reactions matter to you.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

B	A	R	O	N			J	A	B	S		K	F	C
A	L	O	N	E		M	A	R	I	O		O	L	A
S	O	L	E	T	R	A	D	E	R	S		S	I	C
S	E	E	M		E	V	E	N	T		S	H	E	A
			E	S	P			T	H	E	H	E	R	O
T	O	N	G	U	E	T	W	I	S	T	E	R		
O	R	O		M	A	U	I			C	E	D	A	R
T	A	T	A		T	E	D	D	Y		P	E	R	U
S	L	O	P	E			O	R	E	S		L	I	D
		U	P	P	E	R	W	E	S	T	S	I	D	E
R	E	C	L	I	N	E			Y	E	T			
A	C	H	E		C	A	S	I	O		A	B	L	E
R	O	I		L	A	C	E	C	U	R	T	A	I	N
I	N	N		E	S	T	E	E		O	U	T	E	D
N	O	G		T	E	S	S			W	E	E	D	S

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

4	5	2	7	3	8	1	9	6
3	7	9	6	2	1	8	4	5
8	6	1	5	9	4	2	3	7
6	9	3	1	7	2	5	8	4
5	4	7	8	6	3	9	1	2
1	2	8	4	5	9	6	7	3
7	8	4	2	1	6	3	5	9
2	3	5	9	8	7	4	6	1
9	1	6	3	4	5	7	2	8

	2		8			3		
8		6		2			7	
	4		3	5	6		8	
		8			2		9	
3	1			8			5	6
	7		6			8		
	9		4	1	8		2	
	5			7		9		8
		2			9		1	

Newsday Crossword

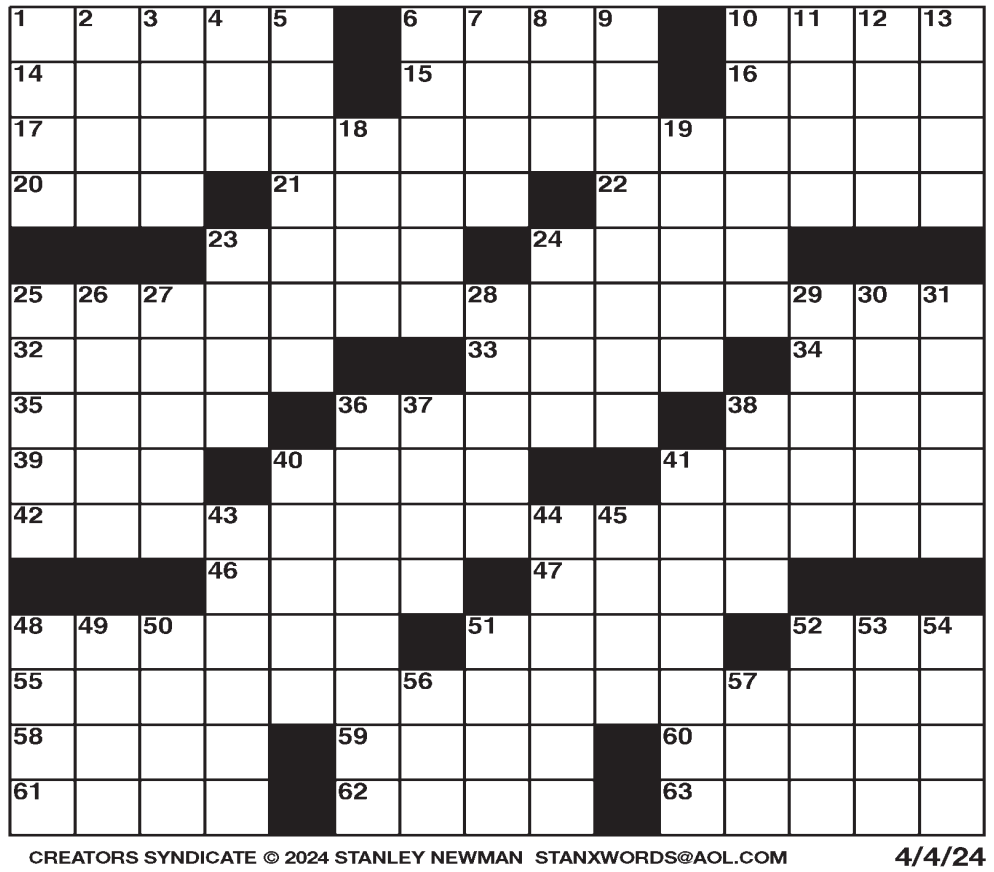
A LITERARY GROUP by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Singing group
6 Comics canine
10 Certain sale condition
14 Sharp weapon
15 Short-tailed feline
16 Diversionary tactic
17 Arthur Conan Doyle novel
20 Identity query
21 Comprise
22 Rides with motors
23 Capture
24 Spill everything
25 Charles Dickens novella
32 Name on a Frankmobile
33 City near Santa Barbara
34 Big brute
35 Nickname like Sandy
36 Nursery rhyme eater
38 Google cofounder Sergey
39 French diarist
40 In fine shape
41 Viennese analyst
42 Ernest Hemingway novel
46 Celestial bear
47 Pull down
48 Failed to
51 Rebel against
52 Big name in cloud computing
55 EM Forster novel
58 Picasso contemporary
59 Round cracker
60 Artificial turf material
61 Arabian Sea port
62 Enclosure convenience
63 Speculate

DOWN

1 End of some hammers
2 Discuss, with "out"
3 Informed about
4 RN assignment
5 Jefferson had it
6 Peak of Jerusalem
7 Measure of force
8 Helpful connections
9 Does superbly in
10 Spanish cheer
11 Be mopey
12 "Gotcha"
13 Decides upon
18 Won't shut up
19 Beaded counters
23 Jurassic period predator
24 Tijuana's region
25 Whirlpool sister brand
26 Where Mt. Shasta is
27 Doglike scavenger
28 Gourmet mushroom
29 More atypical
30 YSL fragrance
31 Impart
36 Reeled
37 Call for help
38 Brown rice, in part
40 Long lunches
41 Dividing into branches
43 Arrests
44 Painter of *Washington Crossing the Delaware*
45 Fiesta fare
48 Bit of baby talk
49 Apple tablet
50 Broad lowland
51 Amounts at risk
52 Sit at a light
53 Profiles, for short
54 Le ___, France
56 Angelina supermodel role
57 Lower Manhattan campus



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AUTHOR

FROM PAGE 1

ourselves and the world as we're unlocking the world of print and information ... I just felt like (it was) a very natural thing for me to do."

She added that no one genre or adjective defines what a "children's book" is, but that the most important thing is that the "book feels honest" in some way, not sugarcoating any topics because children can "smell a rat."

"(Kids are) very good at deciding when a book is heavy on the morals or trying to lead them to some sort of conclusion, so I think ... as far as genre, should it be exciting? Should it be quiet? Should it be mysterious? I think all of the above, because we have readers who come to reading with those interests and from all angles," Medina said.

The "Let's Talk Books" tour is centered around capturing that wide range of interests, wanting to reconnect children to literature that makes them feel connected to life experience. Medina brings books for appropriate age groups that captured her attention, but also asks for kids to bring their own recommendations with few limits. She noted that if a child wants to talk about a manga comic book, or a horror novel, that's no problem.

During the sessions, Medina brings children on stage for a "one-minute book talk," a "human commercial" for the book talking about why someone should read it, pivoting into a conversation about their reading habits and connections to literature.

"We get very far away from the joy of reading (with) the measurement of reading, the assessment of reading, the rigor of reading ... this tour is about reconnecting to (joy)," she added.

Saying that Santa Monica made a "really strong application" on why the city should be a stop on her tour, Medina said she is "delighted" to come to a "beautiful" and "varied" state like California. She calls her position an "immense honor," being part of the conversation of what kids are feeling and what they're reading, particularly coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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> - Meg Medina

"I think the most impactful thing for me as I've gone from place to place (is) just being given these beautiful welcomes by the community," Medina said. "It's always been so touching, and the kids are fantastic and funny and open. And it just makes a lot of hard work feel very worthwhile."

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Courtesy Photo

AUTHOR VISIT: Meg Medina will bring her book knowledge to Santa Monica on Friday and Saturday, holding two events in town.

ART FAIR

FROM PAGE 1

less pretentious atmosphere.

"So we're a little like the antithesis to traditional art fairs, ours is more like an art festival where you can go and buy art that you can actually afford," says Sarah Malone, the Other Art Fair's Marketing Manager. "So, you're not typically looking at gallery pieces that cost 10 grand, you're looking at works that range in price starting with prints and smaller pieces starting at say, 100 dollars and then they go all the way up in price to $1,500 and two grand mark."

Malone says that because of the pre-vetted nature of the fair's lineup, attendees can buy with confidence and discover the next generation of contemporary artistic talent.

Handpicked by a selection committee of art world experts, the 140 exhibiting artists will offer thousands of original artworks for sale across various media - including painting, photography, sculpture, mixed media, ceramics and more - all priced between $100 and $10,000.

Moreover, true to its continuing practice of subvert expectations and braking away from conformity, the fair, which is presented by Saatchi Art, will present "Perceive Me Redux," a free, nude portrait experience that invites visitors to strip down and see themselves through the eyes of artists, who will sketch their likenesses in a private pop-up group studio onsite.

Inspired by artist Kristine Schomaker's 2020 performance-based project of the same name, which saw 60 artists create nude portraits of Shoemaker, this highlight of the fair's program will - according to the promotional blurb - "offer attendees a body-positive opportunity to re-evaluate notions of self-worth, validation, and identity by challenging assumptions of perception."

Portrait sessions will be available to book each day at the Fair on a first come, first served basis, and sketches by a selection of artists will be available for purchase for $25 each. An exhibition of works featured in the original "Perceive Me" project will also be on view at the fair.

Kicking off the Fair's festivities during Thursday's opening night is a special live show by artist Scarlett Kapella who will treat guests to, what's been described as "a cheeky cake-sitting performance," which apparently seamlessly blends fetish, cake and art.

> So we're a little like the antithesis to traditional art fairs, ours is more like an art festival where you can go and buy art that you can actually afford
> - Sarah Malone, the Other Art Fair's Marketing Manager

Throughout the weekend, guests can look forward to drinks, food from a variety of local food vendors, sculptural installations, interactive features and more. "We are thrilled to bring The Other Art Fair back to Los Angeles, offering a dynamic and inclusive platform for artists and art lovers to connect," said Global Fair Director Nicole Garton in a statement. "With a diverse range of features and experiences, we aim to celebrate creativity, empower artists, and foster a sense of community beyond the bounds of the art world."

Opening night –Thursday, April 4 from 6–10pm (advance ticket prices start at $45). General entry – Friday April 5 from 5-9pm, Saturday April 6 from 11am–8pm and Sunday April 7 from 11am–6pm (ticket prices start at $25 depending on the time slot). Tickets and additional information can be found at theotherartfair.com/la.

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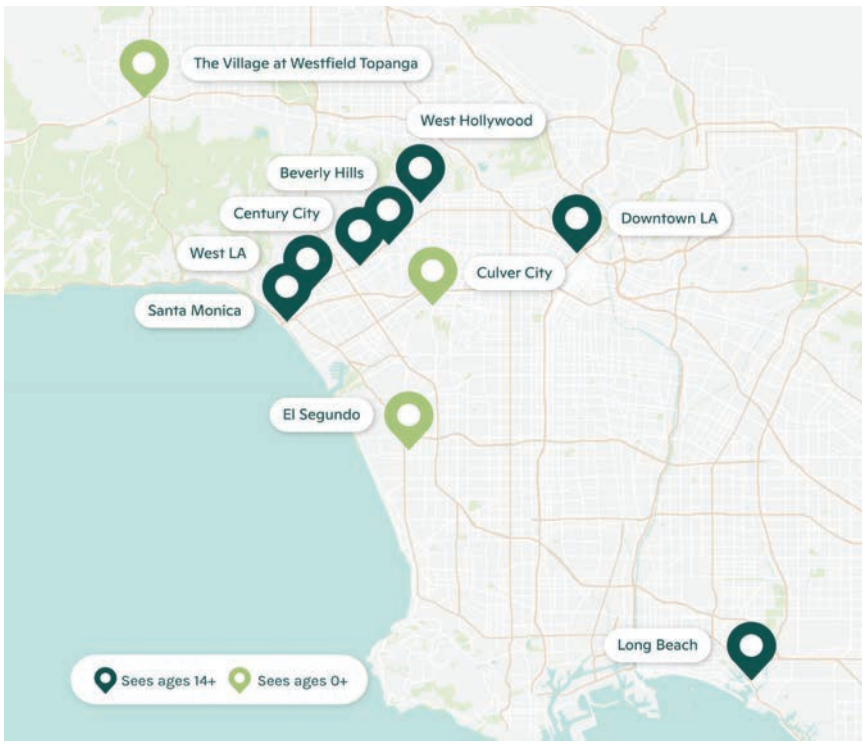
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