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Santa Monica Daily Press
THURSDAY
05.28.20
Volume 19 Issue 160

**Hello Jello and Jones**
Charles Andrews has music recommendations.
Page 4

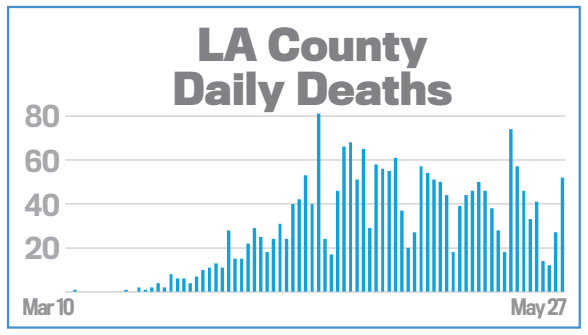
**The Accidental Novelist**
Culture Watch has a book review this week.
Page 6

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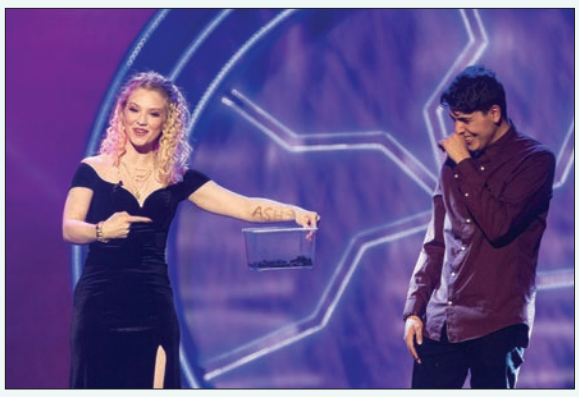
## CORONAVIRUS DEATHS per 100,000

| SANTA MONICA | LA COUNTY | CALIFORNIA | USA | WORLDWIDE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18.6 | 21.7 | 9.8 | 30.1 | 4.6 |

SMDP Graphic - Data from Johns Hopkins, WHO, LA County Public Health




# Westside magician prepares for upcoming television appearance





Courtesy photo

**MAGIC: A local magician is making her television debut this week with the Masters of Illusions show.**

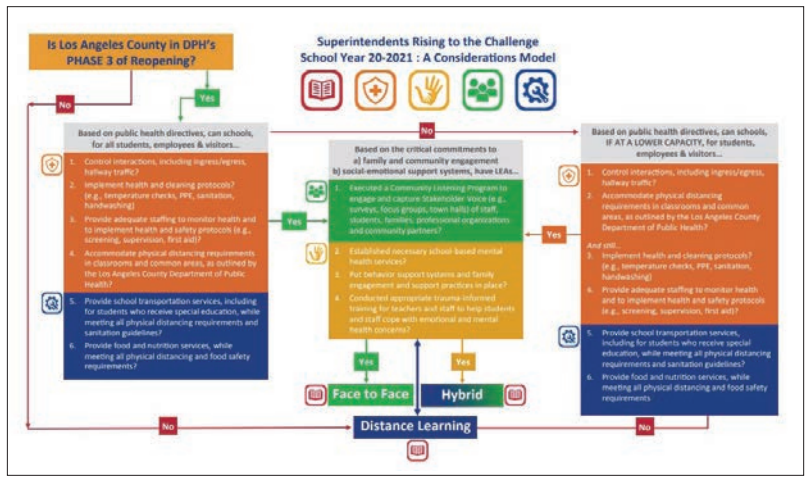
**BRENNON DIXSON**
SMDP Staff Writer

With the help of her telepathic earthworms and sassy voodoo doll Agnes, longtime Westside resident Krystyn Lambert has become a household name in magic and is currently preparing to hit the television screen this Friday.

Lambert began practicing her craft at the age of 10-years-old and has found her life to be one long magical experience ever since. After all, she's traveled to Thailand, toured with Criss Angel in Las Vegas and is now set to appear on The CW's Masters of Illusions seventh season premiere.

SEE **MAGICIAN** PAGE 11

# Schools considering options for next year




Courtesy image

**PHASES: County officials are outlining steps for reopening schools.**

**MATTHEW HALL**
Daily Press Editor

The 2020-21 SMMUSD school year will start on August 20. Of that much, the district is certain. However, every other detail is still up for debate.

As schools continue to adapt to the changes forced on them by the

SEE **SCHOOLS** PAGE 7

# Los Angeles County allows retailers, houses of worship to reopen below capacity

**MADELEINE PAUKER**
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica stores, churches and synagogues will be permitted to reopen at decreased capacity under a Tuesday order from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Faith-based organizations may hold in-person services at up to 25% of the maximum number of congregants the building can hold or 100 people, whichever is lower. Lower-risk retailers such as clothing stores, furniture stores and bookshops, including those within indoor and outdoor malls, can open at 50% capacity.

The county order aligns with a Monday announcement from Gov. Gavin Newsom permitting houses of worship and lower-risk

SEE **REOPENING** PAGE 11

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Every Californian can safely help their community during these difficult times. Here are some ways you can make a difference:

**Deliver Meals**
Vulnerable seniors are at greatest risk amid COVID-19. Let's help keep them safe and cared for. Contact your local Meals on Wheels organization, visit **www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org**.

**Donate to a shelter or food bank**
During this time organizations are running low on food items, help them stay well stocked for those in need. Visit **www.serve.ca.gov** to find one near you.

**Volunteer at a food bank**
Food banks are in great need of volunteers to help pack and sort food. They are taking precautions to prioritize volunteer safety. Visit California Association of Food Banks at **www.CAfoodbanks.org**

**Support Nonprofits**
Nonprofit organizations serving vulnerable communities – like seniors and low-income families – need your help. Find a fund to donate to nonprofits in your community on the Philanthropy California COVID-19 Response Page: **www.philanthropyca.org/covid-19-response**.

**Wellness Checks**
Check on Older Neighbors with a Call, Text or Talk through the door

**Hygiene Kits**
Create hygiene kits and drop off at a shelter for people experiencing homelessness to help them stay healthy.

**Donate Blood**
Donated blood has decreased dramatically. Healthy, eligible donors are urged to come out and give to ensure there's lifesaving blood on the shelves for those who need it most. Visit the American Red Cross: **www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive**

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# Shaggy Californians welcome back hair salons, barber shops

AMY TAXIN AND ASHLEY LANDIS
Associated Press

The mop of black hair was getting into Nathan Vick's eyes. His friends begged him to keep it; his girlfriend wanted it gone. She won.

As soon as Vick saw a barbershop near him was re-opening, the 28-year-old highway worker from Huntington Beach — who's out of work due to the virus crisis — was among the first to get in Wednesday. His temperature was taken, a masked barber wiped down the seat, and soon, his thick locks fell to the floor.

"Six months without getting a haircut, I start to look like a caveman," Vick said. "It's just like toilet paper — who would have known it was so essential to life? It really is."

The day after California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced hair salons could re-open, Vick was among those who quickly made appointments to get themselves back in the chair. What for some might seem an occasional luxury or whimsy is a vital service for those who get regular cuts to meet work requirements or to just feel like themselves.

Louie Ruvalcaba was another customer at Orange County Barbers Parlor, a shop decorated with photos of baseball players and Kobe Bryant. The 30-year-old firefighter had been coming in for a haircut every couple of weeks for the past three years until the closure.

One of his fellow firefighters had been trimming his hair to keep a clean look for work, Ruvalcaba said. But he was quick to nab an appointment with his regular barber to get a cut and renew acquaintances with someone who has become his friend as they chatted about baseball and music.

"We just hang out and chill and it's good," Ruvalcaba said. "It's like a man cave in there."

The camaraderie of the barbershop and salon is part of regular life for many Californians that was shut off as people retreated into their homes in March under the state's orders aimed at preventing the spread of the virus.

For weeks, salon owners lobbied for local and state governments to let them reopen. The owners argued they already must meet detailed health safety requirements to be licensed in California and they provide an essential service.

On Tuesday, Newsom announced hair salons could reopen in the 47 counties that have been cleared by the state to move faster on lifting virus restrictions, a surprise to many who had expected a longer wait. Newsom, whose well-coiffed hair grew noticeably longer during the shutdown, also revealed that during the weekend his young children had trimmed his "mullet."

When Susie Smith got the news Tuesday afternoon she took down the curtains at her Huntington Beach salon to wash the windows in preparation for reopening. Customers immediately came knocking, asking for a haircut.

She said she's fielded calls these past two months from men nearly in tears offering to pay her double to cut their hair so they felt like themselves again.

On Wednesday, when she reopened her Makin Waves salon blocks from the beach, four women were eagerly waiting to get in. Because of state regulations Smith can only use half of her eight chairs and walk-ins aren't allowed.

But she said it's good to be back.

"We're just happy to have light back in the salon," she said. "Our hands were really tied."

That's not to say hair cutting wasn't happening. Some stylists were making illegal house calls or allowing haircuts in their homes or on an individual basis behind closed doors at their shops.

Under rules for reopening, physical distancing of at least 6 feet (1.8 meters) must be maintained except during hair cutting and other close-contact services and appointments must be staggered to reduce congestion and allow for cleaning of chairs and implements between visits.

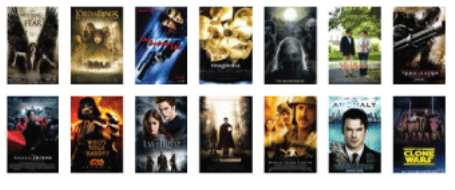
To comply with the state's rules, Country Club Barbers in Escondido, north of San Diego, left two of its five chairs empty. A bottle of Lysol and pair of surgical gloves lay next to shaving supplies. Stylists wore black face coverings, and a customer lifted the elastic from his own mask off his ear so he could get his sideburns trimmed.

But the men didn't mind the changes and had no qualms about returning to their longtime shop. After watching his hair grow with each passing week of Zoom calls, high school teacher D.J. Goodwiler said he was glad to finally do something about it.

"It's good to get some of the bulk off your head and feel cleaner," said Goodwiler, who wore a black mask as his barber snipped his hair. "I trust my stylist. I trust the shop."

Associated Press writer Julie Watson and photographer Greg Bull in San Diego contributed to this report.

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# Too soon for data, California reopens more businesses

KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

Gavin Newsom has crafted himself as a data-driven governor, letting the facts dictate what has been a largely cautious approach to public safety amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Now some California health officials are wondering if that's still the case as he moves rapidly through his four phases for reopening the state. Among the critics is Sara Cody, the Santa Clara County health officer at the forefront of shutting down the San Francisco Bay Area in mid-March, which served as a model for the state and other parts of the country.

"The state modifications are being made without a real understanding of the consequences of what the last move has been," she told the county board of supervisors Tuesday. "Making changes too frequently leaves us blind."

In less than 10 days, Newsom has announced rules allowing 47 of the state's 58 counties to reopen restaurants and malls, religious services and, as of Tuesday, hair salons. He said Wednesday that gyms could be open within weeks. All must be done with modifications.

He leaves all of the reopening decisions to local officials, laying out goals counties should hit on testing, tracing and caseloads. But the rapid relaxation has raised concern from some health experts and lawmakers given that it can take two to three weeks for a new outbreak to show up in the data. Counties in the Bay Area, like Santa Clara, haven't gone as quickly as the state. Los Angeles County, the epicenter of the state's coronavirus outbreak, said Tuesday it plans to seek approval from the state to start reopening.

"We have dry tinder everywhere and we do not want to have a large fire again," Cody said Wednesday. "What we don't want is a fire burning out of control that we can't see, so that's why we're going to move slowly."

Only two of the six Bay Area counties that initially all made the mid-March decision to lock down, San Francisco and Santa Clara, have seen the rate of cases level off or decline in the last week, one of the requirements under Newsom's initial directive to begin reopening. Hospitalizations have flattened or decreased in all six counties.

David Relman, a microbiologist and immunologist at Stanford Medicine, shared Cody's skepticism. The criteria around testing and tracing is reasonable, he said, but he questions whether counties are really able to implement the rules and respond to potential outbreaks.

"If something fails we have two problems: One is we're not going to know for a little while and during that lag time things are worsening without us knowing it," Relman said. "And the second thing is that you then have to be able to catch back up, to push back and restore stability."

Spokespeople for Newsom and the state's health department did not respond to requests for comment Wednesday.

The Democratic governor on Tuesday said he's confident about moving forward because the state is now testing more than 60,000 people a day, has stable rates of positive cases, adequate protective equipment for workers who need it and roughly 3,000 contact tracers to track the spread. That's still short of his goal of 10,000.

Still, he acknowledged: "We are entering into the unknown, the untested," and that the state and counties must be prepared to tighten restrictions again if necessary.

From Sacramento County, which reopened restaurants last week, Sen. Richard Pan, a doctor, says he's a "little concerned with the rapidity with which we're moving." He was not surprised about the state's move to allow restaurants, shopping malls, child care and other services to open with modifications. But he was surprised to see the governor's quick announcement, less than a week later, that churches and hair salons could reopen.

Other Democrats supported Newsom's move, including Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris, who represents parts of Orange County, which was also cleared to reopen restaurants over the weekend.

"If everyone follows the rules and the guidelines and the modifications . . . we absolutely can move through this safely and responsibly," she said.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death. California has had nearly 100,000 cases and more than 3,800 people have died.

Associated Press writer Janie Har in San Francisco also contributed to this report.

# Appeals court sides with tech giants in activists' lawsuit

MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

A federal appeals court on Wednesday upheld the dismissal of a lawsuit that accused Twitter, Facebook and other tech giants of conspiring to stifle the political views of a far-right activist and a conservative nonprofit.

A three-judge panel from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that Laura Loomer and Freedom Watch Inc. don't have any viable claims that the companies violated their First Amendment free speech rights.

In November 2018, Loomer handcuffed herself to the front doors of Twitter headquarters in New York after the company banned her. The company permanently suspended Loomer's account, which had more than 260,000 followers, after she tweeted that Minnesota Democrat Ilhan Omar, one of the first two Muslim women to serve in Congress, is "anti Jewish" and supports Sharia law.

Facebook also banned Loomer, who is running for a Florida congressional seat as a Republican.

Freedom Watch is a political interest group founded by attorney Larry Klayman, who named Black Lives Matter as a defendant in a lawsuit he filed in Texas after the 2016 sniper attack on Dallas police officers. Klayman also sued former President Barack Obama, former first lady and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and other political figures, accusing them of inciting a "race war" against police officers.

The lawsuit filed by Loomer and Freedom Watch also accused Google, Facebook, Twitter and Apple of violating the Sherman Antitrust Act and the District of Columbia Human Rights Act.

In March 2019, U.S District Judge Trevor McFadden said their suit raises "non-trivial concerns" but didn't tie these concerns to viable legal claims.

The judge also rejected their discrimination claims that the online platforms are "places of public accommodation" under the D.C. Human Rights Act. The D.C. Court of Appeals has held that a place of public accommodation must be a physical location, the judge noted.

"Indisputably, platforms like Facebook and Twitter have changed the ways people interact with each other, and these social media networks now permeate most aspects of our lives. But any decision to extend the coverage of existing laws to these networks must be made elsewhere," McFadden wrote.

Company lawyers argued that private online service providers are not "state actors," so their moderation of online content moderation is not limited by the First Amendment. The appeals court panel agreed, saying the First Amendment generally "prohibits only governmental abridgment of speech."

"Freedom Watch's First Amendment claim fails because it does not adequately allege that the Platforms can violate the First Amendment," the panel's four-page ruling says.

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## Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Ta Ta Taix, Hello Jello & Jones



Courtesy photo

**MUSICIANS:** Charles Andrews, Terry Reid and Jello Biafra at a Simon Stokes show.

**TAIX**

This just in! You'll be thrilled to know that Echo Park will soon have something it needs so very badly, 170 butt-ugly apartments jammed onto the space where a revered restaurant and live music venue used to be. For 56 years.

But it's OK! Because the cherished Taix restaurant will be back, brand new. On the ground floor. One-third its former size. Fitting right in with the crappy six floors of "luxury" apartments on top of it, no doubt. No word on whether they will have live music but what difference would it make. It was the ambiance that made going to shows there such a different delight, and that vanished when the original building was torn down for this abomination. Seems like they could have preserved it, built around it.

But that might have interfered with the glorious pedestrian walk-through, that goes from Sunset Boulevard to... Reservoir Street, which no one would have any reason to go to unless they lived in an apartment there. Likely they'll fill that in with more much-needed ground floor retail, as brick and mortars are becoming dinosaurs. Open space? — you've got your roof decks facing downtown LA. Just across the street another developer tore down two single-family homes to put up an even butt-uglier building with 27 apartments, averaging less than 400' sq. Lord I love developers.

Taix was a real "East Hollywood" musicians' hang. For the music, the vibe, and the great grub and stiff drinks you could down while listening.

**I DIDN'T GO REGULARLY**

Long drive, but I saw some great acts there since moving to LA in 1980, my favorite being the inimitable Simon Stokes, several times. He liked the joint. I thought he seemed particularly menacing on that small stage, jammed against a dark back wall. He did look and sound like the kind of dude (even at about 5'4) who would just as soon slit your throat in a dark alley as explain to you why you needed it. He wrote and performed the most ghastly songs. And he was one of the sweetest, most kind, soft-spoken, generous gentlemen I've ever known in the music biz. Unreservedly and sincerely humble, and you should read his bio.

If you had more than three musicians on that stage it looked like they might have to take a seat at somebody's front row table. For sound and vision there wasn't a bad spot in the small room, but I liked squeezing into the bar.

**THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR JELLO**

I met Jello Biafra at a Simon Stokes show there, and got one of my three most precious rock gods photos in the hallway at Taix, a smirking Terry Reid with the legendary Jello smiling next to him. (The other two were with Simon and the great fiddler and actor Brantley Kearns, and with Henry Rollins and former Gen X lead guitar Bob Derwood Andrews at the latter's show at Farmers Market.)

The last time I was at the Taix bar I was chatting with the great British rock screamer Reid, who graciously came on my cable TV show and surprised me, with that raucous rough voice of his, by singing mostly Christmas songs and some standards, with his young daughter. It was years later that I learned that Simon was Terry's father-in-law, by daughter Annette. Can you imagine the singing at those family get-togethers? Robert Plant calls Reid the defining voice of his generation (!), and he's still in demand to collaborate with very big names. Yeah, he's still got it. But R.I.P. Taix, more good music times now only a memory.

**NICOLE RECOMMENDS:**

DUST-TO-DIGITAL — is a Grammy award-winning record label that specializes in documenting the history of American popular music, but it is so much more than that. It is

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 7

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## DAILY POLICE LOG

### SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 282 CALLS ON MAY 26

Report Of Shots Fired 12th St / Wilshire Blvd 12:53 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Now 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 2:00 a.m.
Burglary Just Occurred 2100blk Main St 3:42 a.m.
Burglary Just Occurred 300blk Wilshire Blvd 4:09 a.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 6:10 a.m.
Extortion Investigation 1300blk 2nd St 6:17 a.m.
Construction Noise 1700blk 17th St 6:49 a.m.
Scar Investigation 300blk Olympic Dr 7:06 a.m.
Stolen Vehicle 1700blk 12th St 7:08 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 0blk Arcadia Ter 7:38 a.m.
Construction Noise 1000blk Centinela Ave 7:49 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1200blk Palisades Park 7:55 a.m.
Construction Noise 1500blk 11th St 7:57 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1400blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:00 a.m.
Encampment 1800blk Broadway 8:12 a.m.
Attempt Burglary Report 800blk Princeton St 8:17 a.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk Stanford St 8:18 a.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk 17th St 8:21 a.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk Stanford St 8:37 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1000blk 9th St 8:50 a.m.
Burglary Report 1400blk Stanford St 9:04 a.m.
Bike Theft Report 2600blk 28th St 9:35 a.m.
Lewd Activity 2500blk Lincoln Blvd 9:45 a.m.
Death Investigation 1300blk Pearl St 10:03 a.m.
Found Property 2300blk 4th St 10:17 a.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 100blk Alta Ave 10:27 a.m.
Found Property 1200blk 24th St 10:32 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2300blk 3rd St 11:12 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 17th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:21 a.m.
Domestic Violence Just Occurred 2300blk Ocean Park Blvd 11:22 a.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 1300blk Pacific Coast Hwy 12:15 p.m.
Found Property 1100blk Lincoln Blvd 12:39 p.m.
Battery Report 2000blk Wilshire Blvd 12:50 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1800blk 19th St 1:08 p.m.
Burglary Report 800blk 3rd St 1:10 p.m.
Burglary Report 300blk Olympic Dr 1:24 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 00blk Vicente Ter 1:25 p.m.
Battery Report Ocean Ave / Hollister Ave 1:30 p.m.
Found Property 1200blk Princeton St 2:02 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 2:08 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1200blk 9th St 2:18 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1700blk Ocean Park Blvd 2:25 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 33rd St / Pico Blvd 2:26 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Cloverfield Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 2:27 p.m.
Burglary Report 1200blk 12th St 2:39 p.m.
Missing Person 1800blk Euclid St 2:45 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 800blk Ocean Ave 2:56 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 00blk Bay St 2:59 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 800blk Wilshire Blvd 3:04 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 3:04 p.m.
Found Property 1300blk Pico Blvd 3:11 p.m.
Attempt Auto Theft Report 2700blk 4th St 3:19 p.m.
Armed Robbery Just Occurred 00blk Bay St 3:20 p.m.
Critical Missing Person Unknown 3:28 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 700blk Pacific St 3:40 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2300blk Ocean Park Blvd 3:50 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300blk Barnard Way 4:08 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 18th St / Washington Ave 4:44 p.m.
Burglary Report 2400blk 16th St 4:47 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 200blk 16th St 5:03 p.m.
Encampment 1700blk Olympic Blvd 5:05 p.m.
Encampment 1800blk Broadway 5:16 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 900blk 20th St 5:21 p.m.
Assault Just Occurred 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 5:36 p.m.
Burglary Report 2800blk Washington Ave 5:38 p.m.
Smoking Violation 1900blk Lincoln Blvd 5:46 p.m.
Encampment 1700blk Olympic Blvd 5:56 p.m.
Smoking Violation 800blk Broadway 5:58 p.m.
Public Intoxication Ocean Ave / Alta Ave 6:00 p.m.
Burglary Report 1300blk Harvard St 6:04 p.m.
Burglary Report 1500blk 6th St 6:05 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1400blk 4th St 6:23 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 20th St / Pico Blvd 6:35 p.m.
Found Property 19th St / Pico Blvd 6:59 p.m.
Fight 4th St / Colorado Ave 8:10 p.m.
Burglary Report 2800blk Washington Ave 8:55 p.m.
Drinking In Public Ocean Ave / Arizona Ave 9:08 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 9:17 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1500blk 2nd St 9:19 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 500blk Wilshire Blvd 9:55 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 20th St / Pico Blvd 10:16 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Lincoln Blvd / Navy St 10:18 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Broadway 10:32 p.m.
Report Of Shots Fired 2200blk 20th St 11:19 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500blk Yale St 11:39 p.m.

## DAILY FIRE LOG

### SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 30 CALLS ON MAY 26

EMS 1300blk Ozone Ave 1:21 a.m.
EMS 700blk 20th St 1:43 a.m.
EMS 900blk 3rd St 2:54 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 2:59 a.m.
Flooded Condition 800blk 7th St 4:29 a.m.
EMS 1800blk 17th St 5:41 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 800blk Wilshire Blvd 8:41 a.m.
EMS 1200blk Franklin St 8:45 a.m.
EMS 1300blk Pearl St 9:37 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 6th St 10:19 a.m.
EMS 1000blk California Ave 10:50 a.m.
EMS 1800blk Main St 11:50 a.m.
EMS 12th St / California Ave 11:57 a.m.
EMS 400blk 10th St 1:24 p.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 1700blk Pico Blvd 1:53 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 800blk 2nd St 1:58 p.m.
EMS 3200blk Wilshire Blvd 2:03 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 33rd St / Pico Blvd 2:26 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 4th St 2:26 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Euclid St 2:34 p.m.
EMS 12th St / California Ave 2:54 p.m.
EMS 1200blk Princeton St 3:14 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 600blk Lincoln Blvd 3:28 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 2800blk Neilson Way 3:41 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 3rd St 3:58 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Bay St 4:03 p.m.
EMS 15th St / Wilshire Blvd 4:37 p.m.
EMS 400blk Ocean Ave 4:53 p.m.
Arcing Wires 1900blk 14th St 6:49 p.m.
EMS 100blk Foxtail Dr 10:26 p.m.

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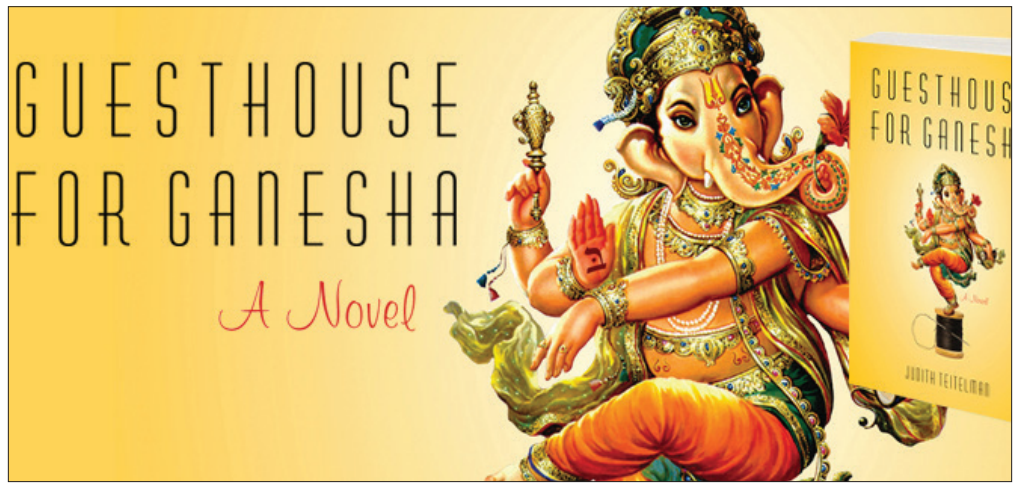
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# Culture Watch

By Sarah A. Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# The Accidental Novelist




Courtesy image

**BOOK:** Judith Teitelman's accidental novel is Guest House for Ganesha.

Judith Teitelman says she never planned to write a novel; but she doesn't believe in accidents or coincidences. After being dragged "kicking and screaming" into a writing workshop run by a friend in 2001, a number of dots scattered throughout her life got connected.

To begin with, "I've had this Hindu god, Ganesha, hanging out with me for a very long time," she told me in an interview. "I'm the daughter of Holocaust survivors. My mother was in the Kindertransport program (predominantly Jewish children taken from Germany to England during WW2) and my father was the son of an Orthodox rabbi.

"But like many children with traumatic childhoods involving religion, you either hold really fast to it or push it away. My parents pushed it away and looked toward Eastern beliefs in their thinking. The gift of my mother, who mostly raised me (her parents divorced) was to say 'choose what you want; my goal is to raise good human beings.'"

Judith thinks her mother's game plan worked for her; she's been a consultant and teacher in the non-profit community for many years, and has written and been published professionally. But creative fiction wasn't on her radar.

### INSPIRATIONS AND INFLUENCES

Exploring churches and temples of all faiths while growing up, Judith says, "I found myself drawn to Eastern thinking, and Ganesha was a Hindu god who appealed to me from my earliest memories. Besides, I always liked elephants!"

When her grandmother died, Judith heard for the first time the story of why she became a "mean, nasty woman;" it shifted her understanding and later became the inspiration for her protagonist's arc.

The protagonist is 17-year-old Esther Grünspan, who arrives in Köln, Germany in 1923, "with a hardened heart as her sole luggage." She's been left at the altar ("under the chuppah") in her tiny community (shtetl), as her intended runs off with the richest girl in town, a shocking betrayal of what she thought was the deepest and truest love.

This actually happened to her grandmother. Judith says, "I never knew, and it gave me a sense of compassion for her situation. I had recently been dumped and I knew how devastating it was."

Many years later, Judith's husband read her the obituary of the man who'd dumped her. After digging out an old journal from that time, she found the title, "Guest House for Ganesha." Later, in a yoga class, the teacher read a poem by Rumi that now serves as an introduction to Judith's novel, whose first line is, "This being human is a guest house."

And the many parts of "Guest House for Ganesha" began coalescing.

### OBSTACLE MAKER/BREAKER

Ganesha is the narrator and the elephant-headed Hindu god who both destroys obstacles and puts them in your path, testing your mettle to stay on track.

Esther is shut down emotionally, focused solely on survival. Her master skills as a tailor and furrier allow her to pass as a Gentile, navigating the treacherous waters facing Jews in Europe during Hitler's rise to power and the ravages of the Holocaust.

This, too, was how her grandmother made it through.

One day Esther happens upon an unexpected sight, a pop-up booth selling samosas, decorated with India-themed art. Inside, she locks eyes with an image of Ganesha, and feels a deep connection to the Hindu god, who becomes an invisible hand guiding her life. He sees into Esther's stone heart and knows that she understands what love really means, so he chooses to help her get where she needs to go.

### RESEARCH-BASED MAGICAL REALISM

A lifelong lover of learning, Judith researched deeply to write this book. Despite being born Jewish, "I probably knew more about Hinduism, India and Ganesha than I did about the Jewish experience," she said.

One summer, she spent one day every week for seven weeks, watching testimonies at the Shoah Foundation by people who passed for Gentiles and survived the Holocaust. "I knew Esther wouldn't end up in a camp," so she fictionalized some of these testimonies into situations Esther faces.

And, Judith still needed the voice of Ganesha. What helped? "I discovered, in researching the Hindu pantheon, the

SEE **CULTURE WATCH** PAGE 11




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## NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 4

a combination of both label and archive, preserving, digitizing, and making publicly available hundreds of historic recordings, interviews, photographs and more, and as the name would suggest, the label wholeheartedly embraces the virtues of social media. They are probably my favorite account that I follow, posting daily (often rare) photos and videos by all kinds of artists from around the world, from the very well known to the totally obscure. Most of their posts are from a bygone era, but they will sprinkle in the occasional present-day video, acting as a kind of archive-in-motion. As much as I like to think I know about music (and long-forgotten folk music, at that), I am always learning something new and wonderful from Dust-to-Digital. I follow their Instagram, but they have numerous platforms, all linked at the bottom of their homepage: https://dust-digital.com/

**RICKIE LEE JONES**

I've watched both of her first two home concerts and both were a treat, every minute. You not only see that you are in her living room in New Orleans, she makes you feel welcome, c'mon in, make yourself at home. She's casual, no star attitude, just, you know, Rickie. Just like you and me, only, very talented, and having lived a much more interesting life.

These have been really great Rickie Lee Jones concerts, an hour long, and isn't that just great? Sound and video is superb. She's telling stories, spinning sometimes long yarns that are captivating, and when she finally gets to the next number, you loved the journey as much as the song. I suppose you have to be a fan. What I love from Rickie Lee would drive me nuts from Celine Dion.

**HOME CONCERTS THIS FRIDAY AND SUNDAY**

As far as I can tell she'll be on Friday 5 p.m. PDT and Sunday 10 a.m. (she said she added the Sunday concerts for her friends and fans in Europe, so they wouldn't have to stay up till 2 a.m. to hear her. She's been a little iffy on dates and times in the past so your best bet is to check in on her FB page, under "Live from my Living Room,"

No cover charge but she is taking donations on the page because she has a new album and book and was supposed to be on tour and she says she knows almost everyone is hurting right now but well, if you can spare it, she'll be grateful.

You never know what she's going to do. It looks as though she doesn't know, until deciding spontaneously. Last time she did some great covers, including the Stones' "Sympathy for the Devil" (?!). I haven't been a big fan of quarantine virtual streaming concerts but… Rickie is different, no?

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 2,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 34 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

## SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 1

ongoing Coronavirus crisis, State, County and local officials have begun to plan for the upcoming school year but those plans are still in the formative stages.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education released a 45 page report this week outlining possibilities for the year including three kinds of educational system, Face to Face, Hybrid and Distance.

In the Face to Face model the teacher and the student meet physically in a set place for a set time for either one-on-one learning or, most commonly, in group classroom lessons with social distancing and health and safety measures in place. This would be essentially a return to normal operations with some additional restrictions.

Distance Learning describes the situation for most students at the end of this year with students and teachers separated by time and distance and therefore unable to meet in a traditional physical classroom setting.

The Hybrid Learning approach combines elements of both.

SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati said a hybrid approach could work locally.

"Variations being discussed under this hybrid approach are consideration of an alternating schedule throughout the week where a group of students stay home and a group are in school on any given school day," he said in a letter to parents. "Another variation of a hybrid model being discussed in the county is a version of a half day schedule where a group of students come in the morning and another group attend in the afternoon."

The County report recommends schools that do incorporate physical learning do so with restrictions based on health guidelines. The document says the school day should allow time for hand washing, limit travel on school grounds to prevent crowding, consider health screens or temperature checks, require face masks and lower class size to provide more space in the classroom.

Drati said SMMUSD will be considering its options in the coming weeks and will provide more information when it is available. While County officials have released their guidelines, state regulators are still working on their reopening recommendations.

"I realize many people are expecting more specific details to what school will look like when we open, but this is the most I can provide to you at this moment," said Drati's letter. "I know that you may be anxious and that is understandable. The situation is fluid and the needs of each community are different in terms of child care and access to all necessary tools and environment to maximize a student's learning experience while keeping student and staff health at the forefront. More details will be shared as the information and refinement of our plans evolve."

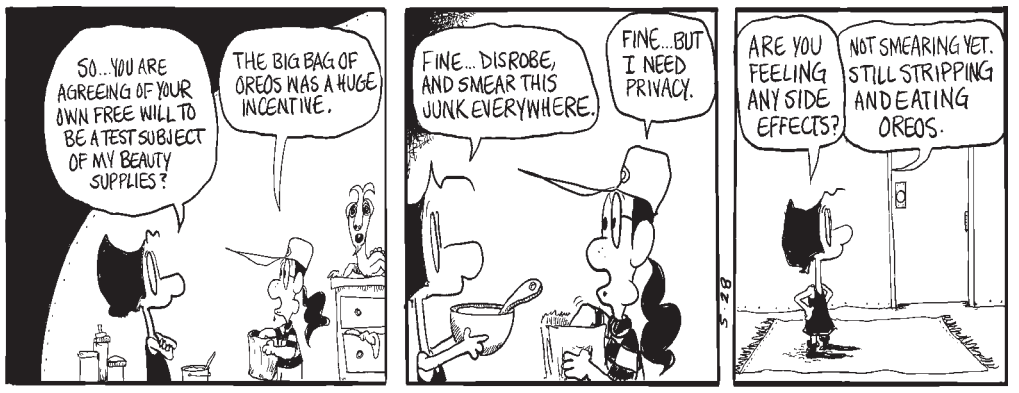
To view the county report, visit https://www.lacoe.edu/

editor@smdp.com



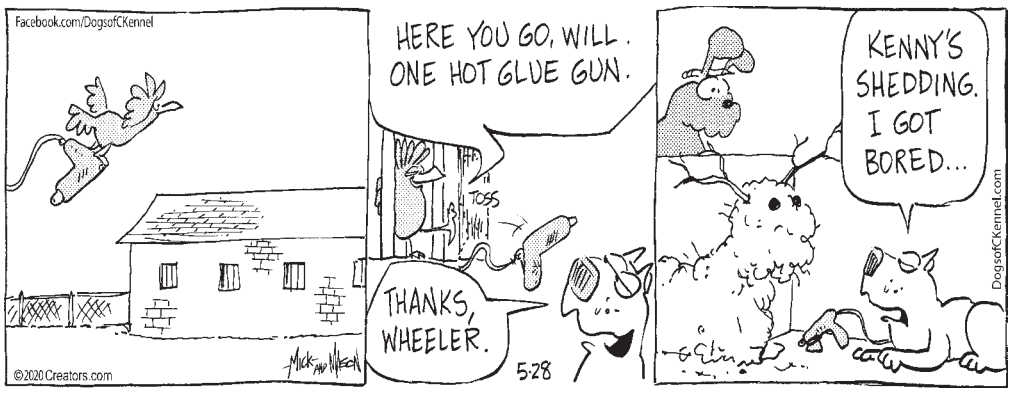
## Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



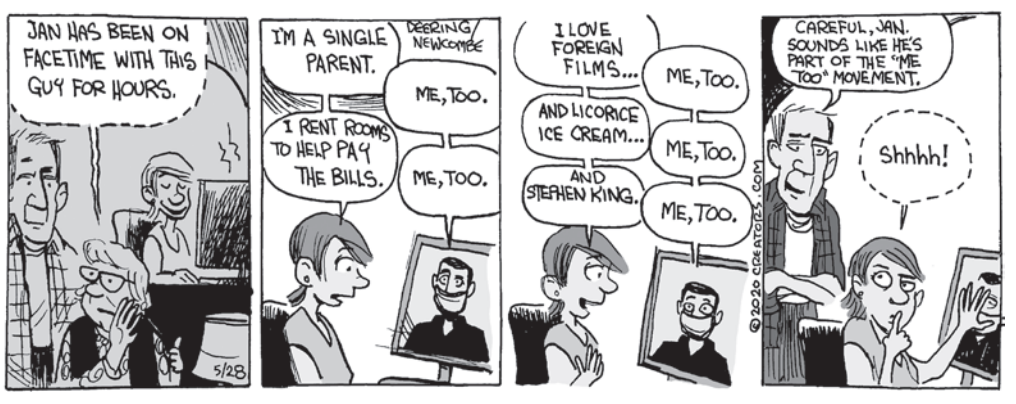

## Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART




## Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE




## Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER




"NO HECKLING ALLOWED."

## Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING







## SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 62.6°

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft Waist to chest high
Long period SW/SSW swell holds. Small NW swell.

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 3-4ft Waist to chest high
Stronger new SSW swell building over top of old SW/SSW swell. Small NW swell. Wind looks manageable for the morning.

## WEATHER

**Thursday:** Areas of dense fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 72. Light south wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.
**Thursday Night:** Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.
**Friday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 69.
**Friday Night:** Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.
**Saturday:** Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 69.
**Saturday Night:** Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.

| Date | Day of the Week | Time (LST/LDT) | Predicted (ft) | High/Low |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2020/05/28 | Thu | 12:55 AM | 4.97 | H |
| 2020/05/28 | Thu | 08:48 AM | -0.19 | L |
| 2020/05/28 | Thu | 4:23 PM | 3.57 | H |
| 2020/05/28 | Thu | 8:18 PM | 3.01 | L |
| 2020/05/29 | Fri | 02:08 AM | 4.58 | H |
| 2020/05/29 | Fri | 09:51 AM | -0.04 | L |
| 2020/05/29 | Fri | 5:10 PM | 3.97 | H |
| 2020/05/29 | Fri | 10:18 PM | 2.69 | L |
| 2020/05/30 | Sat | 03:38 AM | 4.24 | H |
| 2020/05/30 | Sat | 10:49 AM | 0.10 | L |
| 2020/05/30 | Sat | 5:49 PM | 4.46 | H |
| 2020/05/30 | Sat | 11:42 PM | 2.00 | L |
| 2020/05/31 | Sun | 05:06 AM | 4.07 | H |
| 2020/05/31 | Sun | 11:39 AM | 0.28 | L |
| 2020/05/31 | Sun | 6:26 PM | 5.02 | H |
| 2020/06/01 | Mon | 12:45 AM | 1.16 | L |
| 2020/06/01 | Mon | 06:23 AM | 4.02 | H |
| 2020/06/01 | Mon | 12:25 PM | 0.51 | L |

## DAILY LOTTERY

**POWERBALL**
Draw Date:05/23
2 8 18 21 23
Power#: 16
Jackpot:114 M

**MEGA MILLIONS**
Draw Date: 05/26
34 52 58 59 62
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 336 M

**SuperLotto Plus**
Draw Date: 05/23
7 27 35 43 45
Mega#: 15
Jackpot: 9 M

**Fantasy 5**
Draw Date: 05/26
2 11 12 15 22

**Daily 3**
Draw Date: 05/27
Midday: 9 9 4
Draw Date: 05/29
Evening: 5 0 5

**Daily Derby**
Draw Date: 05/26
1st: 2 - LUCKY STAR
2nd: 5 - CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
3rd: 07 - EUREKA
RACE TIME: 1:48.70

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## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MAY 28)

Your solar year will be rich in karmic exchanges. You'll pay back a debt – the sweetest relief! Later you will pay forward a kindness, which will bring deep satisfaction. So many varieties of love will run through your heart, and you'll need an outlet for celebrating this expression of joy in your life. Music could be the ticket. Leo and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 12, 3, 33 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Most of the time that goes into a project will be the research, planning and prep work. The more organized and methodical you are, the better you'll be at pulling this off.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Put your back into the obvious things. Better to get your full energy behind the no-brainer than to waste fuel deliberating overcomplicated and multivariate scenarios.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Telling yourself to change without changing the environment, too, rarely works. But if all you change is the environment, chances are good that what's inside will follow suit.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You firmly believe that money should be used to balance power and not to deliberately create an imbalance of power. When power is significantly inflated or deflated, it tends to bring out the worst in people.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You strive to continually give more to a situation than you get back. When you go to a new place, you look for what there is to appreciate while also watching out for what is needed and wanted that you might be able to give.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may get annoyed with those who display an overly inflated sense of self, but you'll counter the dynamic with your belief that everyone is noteworthy and unique, and has the right to think highly of themselves.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Struggle expends energy that could be used for surviving and thriving. When you catch yourself in a struggle, get still. Sink into the situation. If you hit a bottom, you can use that to bounce yourself up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You know your best hours. Tackle the important things while you're at your strongest and most alert. You'll even have energy to burn at times of day that have been historically less productive for you, so schedule accordingly!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Some think emotional intelligence is about understanding one's own emotions. While that is included in the package, you'll have continued success with what you've been doing — relating to the feelings of others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Transformation is the name of the game today. The growth of others can be inspiring, painful and all around fascinating to watch. Part of you changes right along with the process.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If cooperation is forced, it's not cooperation; it's control. You'll be keenly tuned in to people's reactions to the circumstances. You'll steer all toward empowering options.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Accountability is the magic ingredient that will make your plan come to life. Put your system in place. The simple act of telling your goals to someone could be enough of a system to keep you on track.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

## 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

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

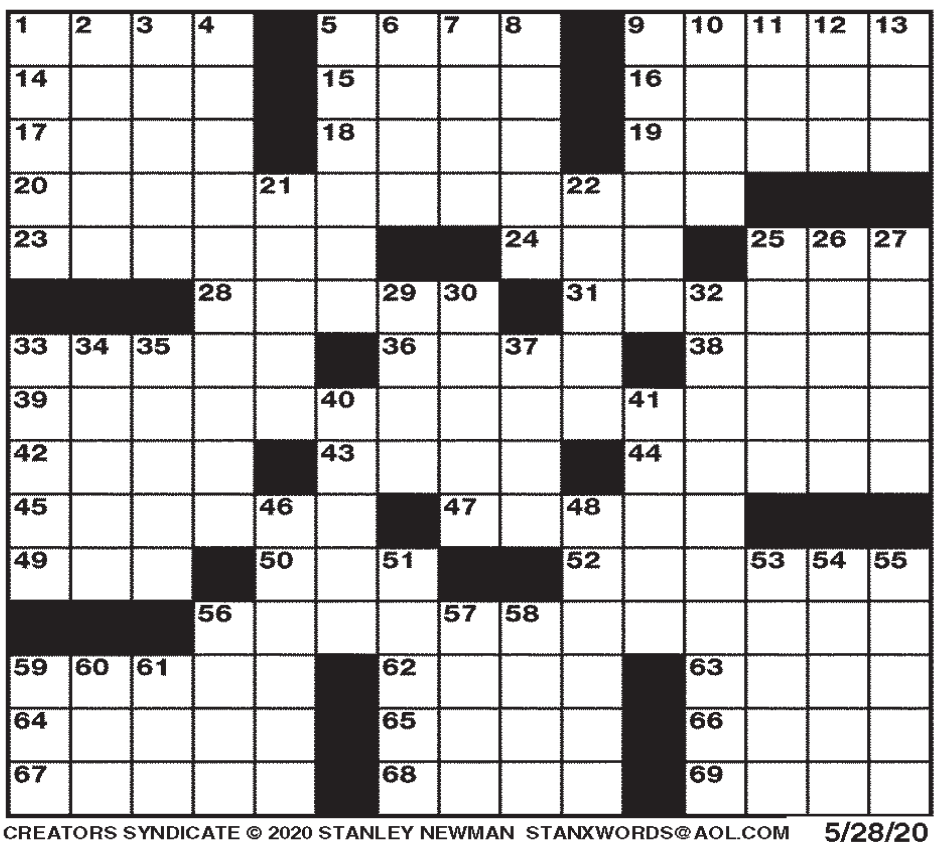
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | 4 | | | | 8 | | 1 |
| | 7 | | | 4 | 8 | | | 5 |
| 1 | | | | 5 | 9 | | 7 | |
| | 1 | | | | | 3 | | |
| 5 | | 2 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 7 | | 4 |
| | | 7 | | | | | 9 | |
| | 2 | | 6 | 8 | | | | 9 |
| 3 | | | 2 | 9 | | | 8 | |
| 8 | | 6 | | | | 5 |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

## Newsday Crossword

**PET SOUNDS** by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**
1 Mardi __
5 Name that sounds like a monastery
9 No longer avid
14 Reckless speed
15 Romance novelist Roberts
16 Banish
17 Dependent on
18 DEA agent
19 Easy basket
20 SIAMESE
23 Bic rival
24 Late lunchtime
25 Where rtes. meet
28 Reckless speed
31 Guarantee
33 Person taking target practice
36 Like any part of 20 and 39 Across
38 Show approval
39 POODLE
42 Verdi masterwork
43 Water conduit
44 Conscious
45 Arbitrary explanation
47 Top scout
49 Pro skaters' org.
50 Ill-gotten, informally
52 Flared dresses
56 GOLDFISH
59 Honey's hue
62 Minute matter
63 Novelist Emile
64 Behave toward
65 Final Four org.
66 Issue
67 Casserole handlers
68 Mongol leader's title
69 Start the day

**DOWN**
1 Sourpuss
2 Mumbai money
3 __ Martin (British auto)
4 Be a guide
5 Neutralizes
6 Tusked beast
7 "It's cold!"
8 Upper-crust craft
9 Futuristic toon family name
10 Line of rotation
11 Temporary downturn
12 New Haven alum
13 Home for a dragon
21 Precious person
22 Volunteer's offer
25 Oscar winner as Erin
26 Model T starter
27 *Dances with Wolves* dwelling
29 __ purpose (pointlessly)
30 Obliterate
32 French physician and Peace Nobelist
33 Request to repeat
34 Dublin-born
35 Relating to form
37 Surveyor's calculation
40 Photo session
41 Word on a Washington map
46 Part of a soccer uniform
48 Guy paid to be funny
51 Cite in an acceptance speech
53 Actress Watts
54 __ Island Immigration Museum
55 Shade of gray
56 Well-organized
57 Longing
58 Hurricane tracking agcy.
59 Casino convenience
60 X-ray alternative
61 Something placed in a pot



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2020 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 5/28/20

## Binary Puzzle

Each cell should contain a zero or a one. No more than two similar numbers below or next to each other are allowed. Each row and each column is unique and contains as many zeros as ones.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | 0 | | | | | | | | 1 |
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# 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 21 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.**

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## Way out west

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

Arid
Australind
Blue
Boya
Brockman Highway
Burswood Park
Bush
Calm
Charm
Daily
Dukin
Eats
Exmouth
Fitzroy Crossing
Friendly
Grasses
Guide
Hamersley Range
Hazards
Holiday
Jetty
Ketch
Moora
Nacre
Ocean
Old Mill
Ord River
Ritual
Shore
Surf
Swim
Telfer
Tour
Towns
Trips
West
Wild
Wine

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
**Checking out the street art**

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## CULTURE WATCH

FROM PAGE 6

brilliance of childrens' books in taking big concepts and distilling them down into very clear language." In the novel, Ganesha doesn't necessarily speak directly to Esther but rather to the reader, albeit haltingly with elliptical pauses between his thoughts, and his words are printed in italics. Though he speaks in a poetic prose, his thoughts and ideas are straightforward and universally understood.

Oh – and he likes cookies!

### THE 18-YEAR JOURNEY

It took Judith 11 years of writing and re-writing, "betwixt and between my consulting, teaching and traveling," she recounts, "then a year and seven months to find my literary agent, three-plus years to find a publisher, then two years to publication."

She chose She Writes Press, a hybrid publisher. Audible bought the rights to produce an audio book. Judith was challenged when Audible kept sending samples of voices for Ganesha, but when she heard one sentence read by Fajer Al-Kaisi she says, "I burst into tears, because that was the voice in my head."

Awards and honors have come her way, including a Gold medal from the 2020 Independent Publisher Book Awards; Silver from The Independent Book Publishers Association Ben Franklin Award for audiobook/fiction; and a finalist for the honor that means most to her as an admirer of the author, the eponymously named (May) Sarton Women's Book Award for Historical Fiction in 2019.

Find links to the books and audio book at Judith's website, https://guesthouseforganesha.com

Sarah A. Spitz is an award-winning public radio producer, retired from KCRW, where she also produced arts stories for NPR. She writes features and reviews for various print and online publications.

## MAGICIAN

FROM PAGE 1

Airing at 8 p.m. Friday, Lambert said in an interview this week that viewers can expect a number of surprises in the episode where she intends to make use of her creeping invertebrates.

"The piece that I'm going to be doing on Friday is one of the first works that I came up with; of course, it has gone through many iterations but this is the framework for one of the first earthworm tricks I ever did," Lambert said, detailing how there are many different forms of magic so it's not too common to see bugs used in a routine. Nor is it common to see a leading woman in the industry.

As a young girl, Lambert's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer so, in an effort to distract the future magician, Lambert's mother soon started immersing her daughter in a number of different activities.

"I had seen magic growing up here and there, and I always really, really loved it," Lambert said. "I was very active in theater and film, but magic really appealed to me."

So, she put all of her energy into the craft, and anyone who walked in the house was subject to a magic show by The Great Krystini, illusionists to kings.

"And, you know, it didn't really occur to me that magic was something that girls didn't do. I mean, I knew I hadn't seen any women performing but I never thought specifically about it so I didn't know that it was a big thing until I joined the Magic Castle Junior program at age 12," Lambert said, detailing how she walked into the room for the first meeting of the prestigious program and noticed only two other female performers. "But now a little girl watching Masters of Illusion is going to be able to see 10 different females performing, which is a really exciting thing to think about when you consider how different it was even back in the 2000s."

Lambert would remain in the Magic Castle Junior program until she graduated to become a full member, which is a status she retains today. Within a few short years of her graduation, Lambert started to win international competitions and eventually starred in the award-winning documentary, Make Believe. She has also used her philosophy degree from UCLA to deliver a TedX Talk and has had the opportunity to tour Asia on behalf of the United States' State Department.

One of her most memorable experiences was having to swallow razor blades with Angel while she was taking antibiotics to treat MRSA.

"Performance is really magical. I've been keeled over with sickness, and then the announcer says, 'Krystyn Lambert,' and, all of a sudden, I can stand up straight and go on out there," Lambert said. "I've had all kinds of injuries from the different stunts that I've done, You name it, I've had it and still have had to go out and perform. There's something about the magic of performance where you can just get out there and make it happen no matter what you're facing."

Lambert added, "Magic requires a dedication in the same way that a sport does. You have to practice, practice, practice, because the goal is to create something that is essentially going to fool someone, so you have to get it perfect… There are plenty of books and DVDs and teaching methods that give you the scripts but if you're really doing it right, then you're creating everything originally."

It's been years since Lambert has used The Great Krystini moniker that family and friends on the Westside were first exposed to years ago, but the former Malibu High School graduate hopes to wow her hometown — and the rest of America — when they tune in Friday to see the show.

"You can watch it on The CW's website," Lambert said, "if you aren't able to see it on Friday."

## REOPENING

FROM PAGE 1

retail to reopen across the state at diminished capacity. Newsom said Tuesday that salons and barbershops may reopen in counties that have met the public health metrics required to move into Stage 3 of the state's roadmap to recovery.

Although salons and barbershops will remain closed in Los Angeles County, which has more than 48,000 confirmed coronavirus cases, the county will also allow drive-in theaters, flea markets and swap meets to resume operations. People will be able to access pools, hot tubs or saunas provided by their apartment complex or homeowners association.

The order also stipulates that public protests should be limited to 25% of an area's maximum occupancy or 100 people, whichever is lower.

Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said Wednesday that Los Angeles County can continue to reopen in phases because hospitalizations and deaths have continued to fall and the county has adequate testing capacity, personal protective equipment and hospital beds.

She reiterated that people must continue to wear masks, practice physical distancing and stay home if they are sick, elderly or have chronic health conditions.

Of the additional 2 million county residents who will leave their homes to go to work or visit businesses and houses of worship, 40,000 could be infected with coronavirus and many could be unaware of their status, Ferrer said.

If they do not take the proper precautions, they could each infect at least one other person. In a couple of weeks, 80,000 people would be infected and 4,000 would need to be hospitalized.

"There is a lot at stake as we reopen," Ferrer said.

While more than 1,200 California pastors threatened to resume in-person services this Sunday regardless of whether Newsom allowed it, many Santa Monica religious leaders said it would still be unsafe to bring congregants back to their synagogue or church.

To date, Santa Monica has had 259 confirmed coronavirus cases and 17 deaths. A record low of eight new cases were diagnosed last week.

Rabbi Jeffrey Marx of The Santa Monica Synagogue said he does not plan to reopen the synagogue under the county order because it would be dangerous to bring even a limited number of people into the synagogue's small sanctuary for in-person services.

"If we're singing together, I can't think of a better way to spew droplets into the air," he said.

Rabbi Neil Comess-Daniels of Beth Shir Shalom also said singing in an enclosed space would be risky.

"The problem with singing is you need to be more than six feet apart from each other," he said. "It's at least 80% of what we do when we gather, which makes it impractical, if not impossible, to do what we're doing. My obligation is to keep people safe, and I can facilitate a spiritual experience with the technology we're using."

Marx said The Santa Monica Synagogue will continue streaming services and classes online for the foreseeable future, and is even planning to hold virtual High Holy Days services this fall.

"We are staying in as best contact as we can with one another," he said. "But I feel this will continue for months, and I absolutely don't want to risk peoples health and lives."

The Rev. Eric Shafer of Mount Olive Lutheran Church said the church has no immediate plans to begin in-person worship and will continue virtual services and meetings.

"It is not a matter of reopening — we never closed," Shafer said in an email. "Whenever we do return to in-person worship, we plan to continue some sort of online worship. The numbers of attendees online have been double or triple our in-person worship attendances."

However, St. Monica Catholic Church — one of the largest Catholic parishes in Los Angeles — does intend to reopen in a few weeks with the permission of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, said administrative director Felipe Sanchez. The church is developing cleaning procedures and other safety protocols, he said.

"We want to be able to ensure the health and safety of everyone first," Sanchez said.

Many business owners also plan to reopen their stores, although operating at 50% capacity could make it difficult to turn a profit.

Allison Whitney, co-owner of Santa Monica antiques shop California Rediscovered, said she is planning to reopen the store a few days a week and will continue to build its online store.

But she said she is unsure whether the store will bring in enough in-person sales to justify reopening.

"It might end up costing us money to reopen, because we would be paying someone to be there," she said. "I don't know how the public feels about going shopping — we get people peeping in the windows, but I don't know how they'll feel about coming in."

Whitney said the store's single employee, who has been working to fulfill online orders, has said he would feel safe coming back to the store with a mask and perhaps a plexiglass shield in front of the cash register.

She said customers would be required to wear masks and surfaces would be disinfected every 30 minutes. The store was never crowded before coronavirus, so Whitney isn't worried about exceeding maximum capacity.

Still, there are lingering questions about the reality of reopening — for example, would customers have put on gloves when they come in, or would they just be asked to refrain from touching the merchandise?

"I think I'll say please try to not touch anything unless you want to buy it, but our store is so much about nostalgia and browsing and hanging out — that's what people come to do — so I'm not entirely sure how it's going to work," Whitney said.

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**Thai Dishes,** 123 Broadway, (310) 394-7105, thaidishessantamonica.com
**The Hive,** 606 Broadway Ste 102, (310) 899-6298, www.thehivesm.com
**The Rooster,** 2301 Santa Monica Blvd, (310) 264-0999, https://www.theroostersantamonica.com/
**Tocaya,** 507 Wilshire Blvd, (424) 268-8219, https://tocayaorganica.com/
**Trimana Fresh Market,** 1348 3rd Street Promenade, (310) 393-2486,
**Truxon's,** 1329 Santa Monica Blvd, (310) 393-8789, http://www.truxtonsamericanbistro.com/
**True Food Kitchen,** 395 Santa Monica Place, (310) 593-8300, www.truefoodkitchen.com
**Tsukiji Sushi Sen,** 2915 Main Street, (310) 581-3525, http://www.tsukijisushisen.com
**Tumbi Craft Indian Kitchen,** 115 Santa Monica Blvd, (310) 829-7200, www.tumbibar.com
**Unurban Coffee**, 3301 Pico Blvd, (310) 315-0056, UnUrban.com
**Upper West,** 3321 Pico Blvd, 310-586-1111, theupperwest.com
**Vito,** 2807 Ocean Park Blvd, (310) 450-4999, http://vitorestaurant.com/
**Wally's Wine & Spirits,** 214 Wilshire Blvd., (424) 293-5500, www.wallywine.com
**Wexlers Deli,** 616 Santa Monica Blvd, (424) 744-8671, http://www.wexlersdeli.com
**Ye Olde Kings Head,** 132 Santa Monica Blvd, (310) 394-8765, www.yeoldekingshead.com
**Yogurtland,** 304 Santa Monica Blvd, (424) 500-8487, www.yogurtlandsm.com
**Yum Yum Donuts,** 2628 Pico Blvd, yyds18@yumyumdonuts.com
**Zabies Restaurant,** 3003 Ocean Park Blvd., (310) 392-9036, www.Zabies.com
**Z Garden Mediterranean,** 2350 Pico Blvd, (310)392-2900, zgardensantamonica.com