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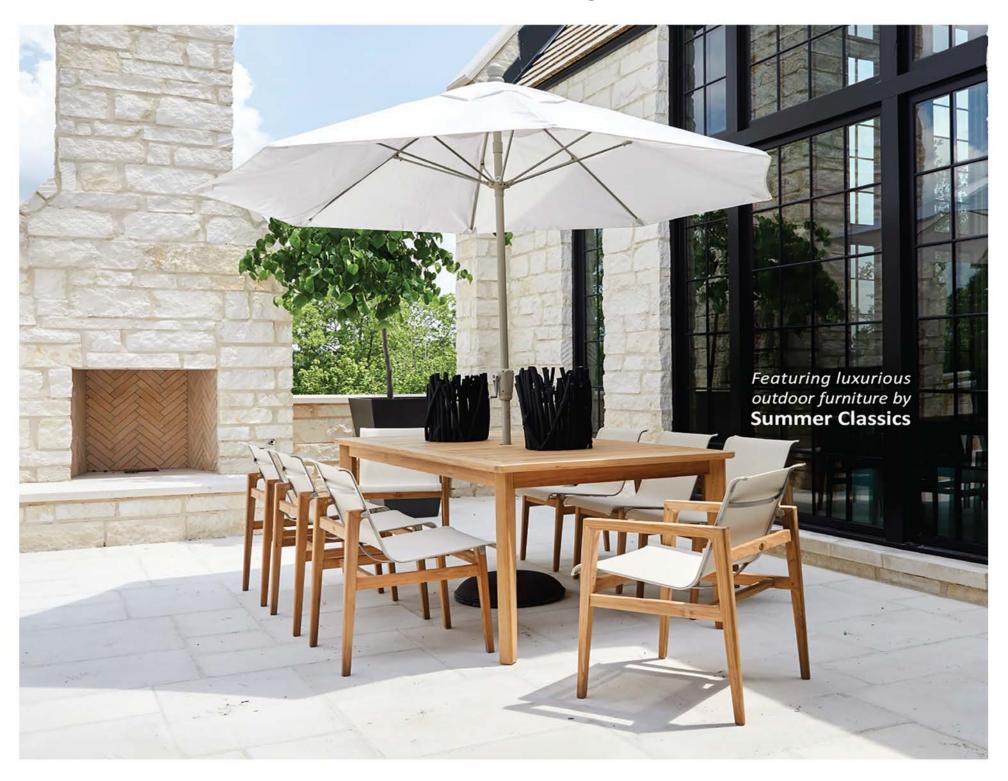
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THE VOICE WITHIN

FEATURING DYNAMIC KATHAK ARTIST SEIBI LEE

By Staff Writer

Los Angeles-based Leela Dance Collective presents The Voice Within, featuring veteran kathak artist Seibi Lee in an intimate dance performance exploring the themes of duality and paradox on Sunday, April 3, 2022, 5:00 p.m. at the UCLA Little Theater.

Performing two ancient stories in the traditional kathak style - Houyi and Chang'e, a heart-rending Chinese story about the love between a mortal hero and an immortal beauty, and Yuki no Onna, a Japanese tale evoking the mystery of the Snow Woman, these stories speak to the duality of the material and spirit worlds and experience the beauty and intensity of a love that can never be realized. Rather than interpret these stories as tragic, Lee, a dynamic kathak artist known for her exceptional mastery, sophisticated musicality, and dramatic brilliance, articulates us to embrace the beauty of these emotions and

to look closer to find their deeper meaning and beauty and the longing inherent in unattainable love.

"The world is filled with a myriad of voices. Which ones do you hear? Which ones speak to your soul? Which one is yours?", exclaims Lee when discussing The Voice Within, a profoundly personal yet universal story of the search for one's own true self

Lee's personal journey - navigating her mixed Chinese and Japanese heritage and her love of Western classical music and Eastern classical dance - is expertly interwoven throughout the two stories. In her own life she has struggled with being of many cultures and in some ways of none. This struggle gave way to possibility only when she learned to befriend the feeling of longing. Over time, she began to develop her own voice - a voice that transcends the conflict and confusion that often comes



with navigating personal and cultural identity.

Lee is joined on the stage by critically acclaimed musicians Jayanta Banerjee (sitar), Ben Kunin (sarod), Jay Gandhi



(bansuri), and Satyaprakash Mishra (tabla). Don't miss the exclusive Artist Talkback directly following the performance featuring an interactive Q&A session with the artists.

Leela Dance Collective is the only one of its kind Indian American dance company that brings together leading and emerging kathak artists. The collective has created and performed critically acclaimed works that are at once grounded in tradition and boldly innovative. Through its performances and educational programming, the Collective brings the joy of kathak dance to audiences and communities worldwide.

One of kathak's most notable characteristics is the fast, percussive footwork dancers perform by striking their bare feet on the floor using various techniques. In addition, it is known for swift pirouettes, a dynamic movement vocabulary, and compelling character portrayal. Dancers wear a string of 150-200 bells around each ankle to ornament their footwork and movements, and to highlight the rhythmic sophistication of the artform.

Tickets to The Voice Within are \$25 for General admission seating and \$50 for VIP tickets which include premium seating, free parking, and an exclusive pre-show digital concert guide. Tickets may be purchased through Leela Dance Collective at https://leela.dance/thevoicewithin/. Don't miss the exclusive Artist Talkback directly following the performance featuring an interactive Q&A session with the artists.



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COVER STORY



By Barbara Backley

Spring has sprung! And festivals are breaking out all over. From Chili cook-offs to Scandinavian dancing, car shows to Earth Day (April 22) and wine and foodie tastings galore. SoCal celebrations are calling your name!

Celebrate Conejo!

Yes! You can have it all. Just visit the Thousand Oaks Chili Cook-Off, Car Show and Craft Brew Festival (https://www.conejovalleyguide.com/local-events/category/Festivals), Sunday, May 1, noon to 5 p.m. at Conejo Creek Park North. Like chili? There's FREE unlimited chili tastings at 40 booths! Then, whet your whistle at the multitude of breweries at the event-within-an-event Craft Brew Festival. Are you a car guy or gal? Oooh and ahh at The Classic & Custom Car Show. Plus! Music on three stages: Country & Rock cover bands on the Logix Chili Bowl Stage; classic rock on the Main Stage, and a DJ on the Car Show Stage. If that's not enough – choose from 15 food trucks and beverage booths! And a free Kids' Zone. Cook-Off only, \$25. VIP, \$40; kids 10 and under, free. Cook-Off and admission to the Craft Brew Festival, \$75. VIP Chili/Craft Brew package, \$100.

Be the first to enjoy a first -- Westlake Village's 14 Cannons Brewing Co. is hosting the 1st Annual Brews and Crews Craft Beer Festival, May 21, 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Billed as an "epic lineup of Beergang's killer roster," 14 unique crafters including 14 Cannons, Long Beach Beer Lab and Rad Beer Company are pouring their best. Plus food trucks, games, local vendors and live entertainment. General 12:30 p.m. admission, \$50. VIP 11:30 a.m. admission, \$50.

Kick up your heels at the Topanga Days Country Fair Music Festival (www.topangadays.topangacommunitycenter.org), May 29 & 30, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. at the Topanga Community Center. Cheer the parade. Have family fun at

the Kids Zone, food vendors, games, competitions, arts, crafts and more. Check the site for ticket prices and updates.



Vikings reign at Southern California's largest Nordic celebration – the Scandinavian Festival (https://scandinavianfest.org/) at Cal Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, June 4 – 5. ABBAFAB tribute band to Swedish pop

ABBA, headlines, with Scandia and Swedish dance and musical groups, cooking and craft demos and more. Experience an authentic Viking Village and Saami Sliddastallan (community gathering). Frolic with loveable Norwegian Elkhounds. Make and wear those beautiful ribbon-and-flowers head wreaths. Enjoy Hans Christian Andersen puppet shows, and Nordic fare like lefse and "world famous" aebleskivers. Adults, \$15. Kids 12 and under, free.

Don't miss "the best food, wine, brews and desserts the Conejo Valley culinary community has to offer" at the 2022 Conejo Food & Wine Fest (http://conejofoodandwine.com/) June 26, 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. at St. Paschal Baylon School in Thousand Oaks. Please your palate with dozens of vendors including restaurants, wineries, breweries, bakeries and distilleries. Rock out to live music. Win prizes. All for charity. Tickets, \$37.50 to \$950. All tickets include a souvenir wine glass. VIP tickets include "extra special" perks like a larger logo wine glass, logo food plate, goodie-bag with event sponsors' specials, reserved table seating inside the VIP tent and food/beverage selections from VIP access-only vendors.

Head north, and put a spring in your step at the Spring Wine Walk & Street Vendor Fair (https://www.spring-winewalk.com/) in downtown Ventura, April 9, 3 – 6 p.m. Check out the street fair from 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., perusing hundreds of local crafters who line the streets surrounding Plaza Park. Then take the Wine Walk from 4 – 7 p.m., featuring 50+ wine, sparkling wine and craft beer tasting locations. General admission, \$49. VIP tickets, \$99 including access to the coveted VIP Bunny Lounge at Plaza Park, with a brunch buffet, mimosa, wine and champagne tastings, and – Bunny Ears to accessorize! Bunny Ears are also sold separately for \$5.

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COVER STORY

Or east, to celebrate our state flower during the California Poppy Festival (www.poppyfestival.com), April 22 – 24, at the AV Fair & Event Center in Lancaster. Thrill to poppies galore, music on four stages, and three new high-energy events: Motor Mayhem (extra \$20), a Monster Truck Nitro Show (extra \$20) and the Rural Olympics (extra \$6). Plus the popular beer garden, petting zoo and more than 200 arts, crafts and food stands. Pre-sale admission is \$8 through March 31. For bonus fun, California's best poppy viewing is 15 miles west in the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve.

Enjoy family fun for all – and the planet -- at the West Valley Warner Center Chamber of Commerce 9th Annual Earth Day Celebration (https://www.woodland-hillscc.net/readpost.php?news_id=9833), April 30, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Tarzana Recreation Center in Tarzana. "Go wild" creating habitats with California native plants. Support the Art Poster Contest. Climb, bounce, have your face painted. Meet the animals at the Critter Squad Wild Life Defenders petting zoo. See Quest Martial

Arts demos and entertainment from the Elite Dance & Performing Arts Center, Miss Melodee Studios, Inc.; the School of Rock-Woodland Hills and others. Best of all, meet our heroes from the LAPD, fire fighters and local elected officials. Admission is FREE!*

The Classics – Better than Ever!

Don a crown and grab your scepter or maybe a pirate eye patch and scabbard. Live like it's 1599 at the Original Renaissance Pleasure Faire (https://renfair.com/socal/), Saturdays and Sundays, April 9 – May 22, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area in Irwindale. Make merry among costumed actors from Queen Elizabeth I to serving wenches and spear-toting jousters. New Theme Weekends and costume contests add to 16th century cheer.



"Pirate Weekend" – aargh matey – is April 16 & 17. Be your favorite sci-fi, anime, comic, TV or fairytale character during "RENNCON" weekend, April 30 & May 1 featuring The MARVELous Heroes and Villains Parade, and a Time Traveler Costume Contest. Best of all, join the Pub Crawl (11:30 a.m. and

1:30 p.m.) drinking at several taverns and public houses, with songs, jester jokes and riddles along the way. \$65 per person. Stroll the village streets and marketplace enjoying glassblowers, crafts, period clothing, jewelry; and contemporary and period foods such as Steak on a Stake and Tea with the Queen. Bring the kids, there are plenty of family activities and non-stop live entertainment in the streets and on stage. Merlin the Magician, One Man Shakespeare, English Country Dancers and pipers are just the

beginning. Adult single-day, \$38. Age 62 and older, \$33. Adult Season Pass, \$200. Child 5-12 Season Pass, \$100. Child 5-12 Single Day, \$23.

OMG! Do not miss the LA County Fair (https://www.lacountyfair.com/), May 5-30 at the Fairplex, Pomona. The theme is "Back to Our Roots" and they mean it!! Live concerts are back - with headliners the Beach Boys, May 8; The Village People, May 7; Brett Young, May 6; ZZ Top, May 28, to name a few. So are farm animals, the petting zoo and Future Farmers of America agri-competitions in the Big Red Barn. Master Gardeners in the Flower & Garden Pavilion, and tree climbers in America's Great Outdoors. Admire blue-ribbon sewing, crafts and quilting in the Home Arts building. Plus fancy foods, restored, 1980s classic arcade games and modern video games – all in the shadow of the beloved giant Ferris wheel. Choose from a range of prices including the \$179 Any-day Season Pass 4 Pack, \$75 Season Pass 4 Pack Restricted, \$20 Adult Advanced Online Any-day, \$19 Season Pass Weekday Adult, and \$12 Child Any-day tickets.



COVER STORY

In the OC

It's a no-miss. Especially if you're a redhead or a baby. The 62nd – that's a long time -- Garden Grove Strawberry Festival & Parade (https://strawberryfestival.org/), May



27 – 30, on The Village Green in Garden Grove. For starters, check out the "Strawberry Idol" karaoke contest. Don't miss the cake-cutting ceremony, Friday at 6 p.m., where EVERYONE gets FREE strawberry shortcake! And the "Berry Berry Beautiful Baby Pageant," and "Red-Head Roundup" contest. Plus bands everywhere, carnival

rides, dancing, games and food booths. Admission is FREE!

Strike a Great Gatsby pose amid ocean views and vintage cars at the La Jolla Concours d'Elegance (https://www.lajolla-

concours.com/), April 22-24, in La Jolla. Live music, champagne, judging and prizes combine with 125 one-of-a-kind autos – think Bugatti – for an impressive weekend. "Ferrari Friday," 5 p.m. to closing, features gallery receptions, retail specials, specialty dining and cocktails along Ferrari-lined Prospect Street. Saturday is "Le Cabaret du Concours" cocktail party, with hosted bar, silent and live auction and cuisine from San Diego's top restaurants.

\$275 to \$300. On Sunday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., it's live music and a champagne & honey tasting garden amid the autos. General admission, \$85-\$95. Premium tickets include unlimited beer, wine, cocktails, champagne and a commemorative poster, \$195 - \$225. The Ultimate VIP Package includes all events, \$375.



It's Oscar Night!

Make a date with Oscar, March 27 at 8 p.m. on ABC-TV to watch the 94th Academy Awards. (If you have tickets it's at the Dolby Theatre, Hollywood.) We're guessing the evening will be surprising – and definitely wild and crazy, with not just one – but three hosts: funny women Wanda Sykes, Regina Hall and Amy Schumer. Remember Neil Patrick Harris who stripped to his undies? Probably not here. But worth gathering with friends and family to root for your favs and Tweet your choice in the new (controversial, of course) "Oscars Fan Favorite" category.

As you watch Jessica Chastain or Olivia Colman or Penelope Cruz or Nicole Kidman or Kristen Stewart hold the Best Actress statuette – consider this. \$10 million is the cost of the look for an A-list actress attending the Oscars, according to www.wallethub.com. Makeup, hair, dress, jewelry, cosmetic treatments, limo, stylist, etc. Incredible! Safe to say it's way less moolah for Best Actor nominees Will Smith, Denzel Washington, Javier Bardem, Benedict Cumberbatch and Andrew Garfield.

Best of luck to every nominee. Enjoy!



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PUBLISHER Joshua S. Kushner, Sr.

EDITOR IN CHIEF Patricia Bradford Rambo II

SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITOR Barbara Beckley

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ASSOCIATE TRAVEL EDITORS Dru Jenson-Jones Ronnie Greenberg, Joshua Kushner, Jr.

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SENIOR TECHNOLOGY EDITOR Brad Winchell

> THEATRE EDITOR Steve Moyer

PET EXPERT/CONTRIBUTER Valli Aman

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Barbara Beckley, Jay Warsinske
Chris Boucher, Joanna Parker,
Bruce Wildstein Jonathan Weichsel,
Rick Castaneda, Kerry Reid,
James Domine (Classical Music)
Brenda Eichinger, Thomas Ferguson,
Lark Aldrin-Fieman, Rhonda Heaslip,
John Hershberg, Shea Vaugh,
Henshberg, Shea Vaugh,
Tony Reverditto, Joan Russell,
Tony Reverditto, Joan Russell,
Keri Schwab, Tim Wassberg,

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHY/WRITER Danika Levine, Joshua Shevchuk

> LAYOUT & DESIGN Pam Strugach

ADVERTISING SALES DIRECTOR Trisch Kushner

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CIRCULATION MANAGER Eric Escobar

> MAIN OFFICE (818) 888-2114

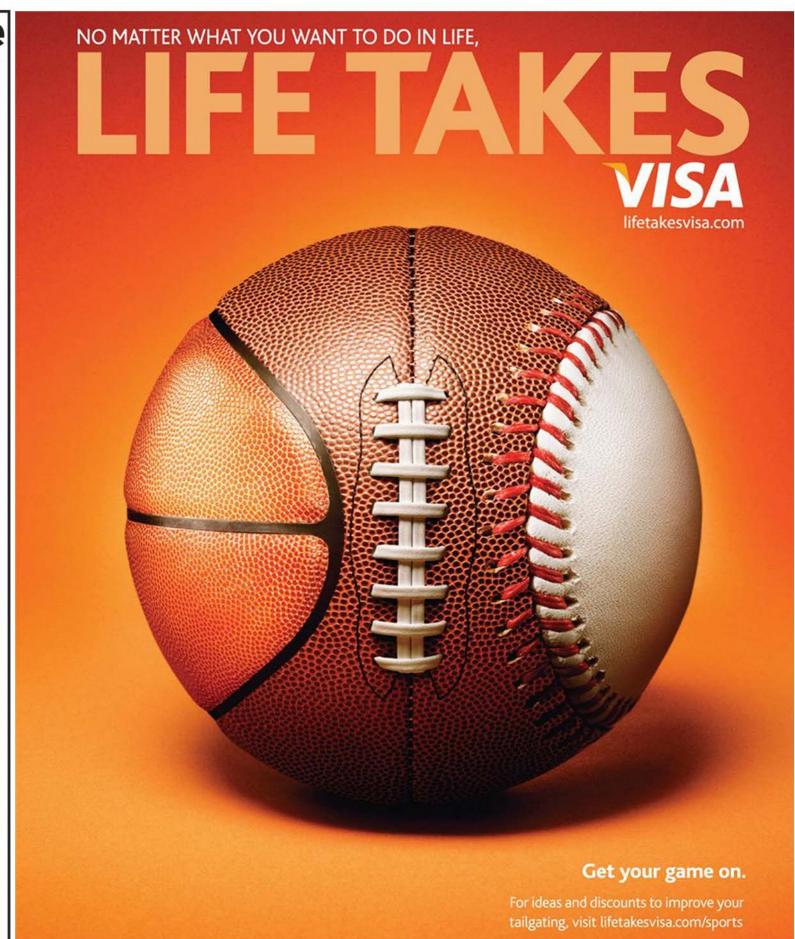
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E-mail contact@valleyscenemagazine.com

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MINUTIA TRAVEL SHY?

HERE ARE 5 WAYS TO RELIEVE ANXIETY

By Contributing Writer

esides the pandemic, travelers have multiple issues with flying. Here are a few ways to ease your mind and relax on your journey.

1. Prepare distractions for the flight
If you're nervous about flying, then
before boarding your flight, practice
breathing exercises and mindful physical
activities as these are powerful ways to
reduce anxiety. "It can also be useful to
utilise healthy distractions, especially things
that help you get into the flow, whether it be
games, music or creative activities", says
Psychologist and Wellbeing Consultant, Lee
Chambers.

2. Confront your surroundings

A great starting point for tackling your nerves is to confront your surroundings, reducing plane noises can be beneficial for some people and moving your body allows you to release any built-up tension.

"Positive, realistic thoughts can also help, perhaps think of the hundreds of safe flights that take off and land every minute, and believe in the fact that you can handle your nerves with techniques and support."

3. Talk to the flight attendants

Communicating with those around you may also relieve some anxiety, "Sharing your feelings with those you are sitting near or staff can feel a little scary, but it ensures



you have support on hand and you are not worrying about what others may think." says Lee.

4. Make a realistic plan

Holidays are costly and we naturally set high expectations as we want to make the most of our time away. You won't be able to control every aspect of your holiday and acknowledging that things are uncertain sometimes will allow you to manage the stresses of travelling. Set realistic expectations, get organised and manage your safety to keep stress levels

"We all know the feeling of the stress when going on holiday, before finally arriving and just letting it flow away. It is often a disruption to our routine, and knowing this can help us to feel less stressed about the unknown." Lee comments.

5. Visualise yourself

on vacation.

"If you do start to get anxious about your vacation going ahead, seek calming activities, and visualise yourself enjoying your break. It is also important you ensure you make the preparations to keep yourself safe and have these important items to hand to keep you feeling like you're doing everything possible. And finally, have some compassion for yourself, it's been a very challenging two years and the reward of travelling is something we should cherish."

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Teenage Drama Workshop (TADW) is a conservatory-style program at CSUN. Our goal is to teach teens ages 11-18 about the theatre arts. Join us for our 65th summer, which will culminate with HAMMERED: A THOR AND LOKI PLAY & Disney's FROZEN, JR! Enroll at CSUN.EDU/TADW

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ON SCREEN

By Contributing Writer

Turning Red

Turning Red" is like no other Pixar film.
The film, directed by Domee Shi, is the
first Pixar movie directed by a woman.
And its protagonist, 13-year-old Meilin Lee
(Rosalie Chiang), is a Chinese-Canadian
eighth-grader in the throes of puberty.

For Pixar, a factory of childhood whimsy designed to make adults cry, "Turning Red" fills in blind spots. Not only is the movie deeply rooted in a female and Asian-North American perspective, it wades into a chapter of life unfrequented by Pixar. This is the first film by the studio in which, for example, a sanitary pad is offered. And it's the first to feature twerking.

The best thing about "Turning Red" is how it broadens the horizons of the 36-year-old animation powerhouse with a refreshing point. If some of Pixar's greatest movies have used high concepts to illustrate quandaries, "Turning Red" (which is streaming only on Disney+) is one of the studio's most specifically drawn films.

Set in Toronto in 2002, Mei is a high-achieving, straight-A student — a teacher describes

her as "a very enterprising, mildly annoying young lady" — with a upportive group of friends: Miriam (Ava Morse), Abby (Hyein Park) and Priya (Maitreyi Ramakrishnan). But the most dominant relationship in Mei's life is with her mother (Sandra Oh). She's a domineering but loving parent whose high standards have stifled the anxious Mei. She keeps certain feelings — like urges, particularly when it comes to a boy band named 4-Town — hidden from her mother.

"I do make my own moves," Mei says.

"It's just that some of my moves are also hers."

But it's getting harder to keep those feelings inside for Mei. Her mother finds a notebook with swooning drawings of 4-Town, and immediately blames an older teen boy as a bad influence. Then Mei awakens to find the transformation that's been occurring within her has manifested: She turns into a big, fluffy red panda — and a walking metaphor for menstruation.

That "Turning Red" pivots this way — with Mei, as panda, cowering in the bathroom with her mother knocking outside — is a fairly radical move. But Shi, a longtime animator at Pixar, has never been one to shy away from a dramatic plot device.



"Turning Red" shifts its point of view to the child in a relationship, but it's likewise about the push-and-pull for the maturing offspring of an overprotective parent. The red panda transformation, which Mei learns she can suppress by moderating her emotions, connects to her heritage.

The Lees live in one of the oldest Chinese temples in Toronto, and that setting is just one way "Turning Red" plays with balancing cultural assimilation with preservation. Mei discovers that panda alter-egos run in the family. Her mother, and their other female relatives, have known the same struggles.

Where I think "Turning Red" misses is with the mom. The movie is structured for her to be the foil and friend of Mei, but her character isn't much more than an assortment of Asian tiger mom tropes.

"Turning Red" is free of humor or the visual wit that has been a Pixar hallmark. But "Turning Red" nails female adolescence with accuracy: the boy band. 4-Town is pitch perfect. But just as good is Mei's mother's critique as "glittery delinquents with their ... gyrations." "Turning Red," is rated PG. Two and a half stars out of four.

The Adam Project

By Contributing Writer

athos and action are found in "The Adam Project," the latest attempt by Netflix to create the throwback blockbuster that you might have paid to see in theaters.

Starring Ryan Reynolds as a time traveling pilot and directed by Shawn Levy, the movie takes the old cliche about what you'd tell your younger self and adds snark, space action, energy, a megalomaniac businesswoman, a dead father and a lost love. And it's pretty satisfying popcorn fare.

This is a project that has been around for a decade. But it languished in development and rewrites until Netflix acquired it.

In "The Adam Project," we're introduced to 40-something Adam (Reynolds) in a space chase. He's quick-witted and unflappable, so it's supposed to be jarring to cut back to see middle school Adam (Walker Scobell) as the little guy with the big mouth.

Adam and his mom (Jennifer Garner) are hanging on by a thread in the year after they lost his dad (Mark Ruffalo). But before things get too real, adult Adam shows up in the past and breaks all the known time travel rules when he accidentally runs into young Adam.

Adult Adam isn't there for young Adam, he just needs to treat his wound before going to look for his wife (Zoe Saldaña). The older self is dismissive, the younger one is desperate to know when he'll start getting ripped and having luck with girls.

And adult Adam is on a journey to make peace with his younger self and his parents. This is ultimately a film about boys and their dads.

Levy is a director who has found a successful lane in studio-made crowd pleasers. While they might not be the things taught in film school, they do have their place.

But nostalgia can be a tricky game and "The Adam Project" filmmakers could benefit from a little post-game introspection about the fact that they've made a loving film about family and forgiveness and made the villain a highly successful businesswoman (Cather-



ine Keener) whose origin story stems from her bitterness about having no husband or children.

Keener looks like she's having fun among the special effects and a de-aged version of herself. But it's hard to shake the feeling that we've somehow gone back to another staple that should have stayed in the past. The existence of Keener's character signals that ladies better find time for kids and mates before it's too late. In other words, "The Adam Project" should have taken a note from one of its own lessons.

The Adam Project," a Netflix release is rated PG-13 Two and a half stars out of four.

Grammy Artist Steve Tyrell

Will Perform Live at The El Portal Theatre NOHO

By Contributing WRiter

El Portal debut in support of his latest. greatest album, Shades of Ray, the music of Ray Charles.

Grammy Award winning producer and vocalist Steve Tyrell is the definition of a renaissance man. In his nearly five decades in the music business, he has achieved success as a singer, songwriter, producer, music supervisor, and most recently, radio

His breakthrough performances in Father of the Bride and Father of the Bride II helped Tyrell reinvent and re-popularize classic pop standards for a modern-day audience. His hits, The Way You Look Tonight, The Simple Life, Crush On You, and The Sunny Side of The Street, have launched millions of romances and been played at thousands of weddings, including Chelsea Clinton's!

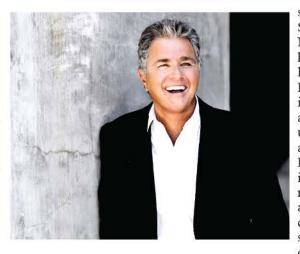
As an artist, all 9 of his American

he incomparable Steve Tyrell makes his Standards albums have achieved top 5 status on Billboard's Jazz charts. His first album, A New Standard, was amongst the best selling jazz albums for more than 5 years. Steve's latest album, That Lovin' Feeling, debuted in the top 5. On it, he celebrates what he calls the Great American Songbook 2, featuring seminal rock era classics penned by legendary songwriters, including Carole King, Burt Bacharach, Neil Sedaka, Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil, Mike Stoller and Jerry Leiber, among others.

> Experience this major jazz artist in the perfect setting of the Debbie Reynolds MainStage. In fact, we will toast to Debbie's birthday (April 1st) and celebrate the past and the present with the incomparable Steve Tvrell.

On his newest record "Shades of Ray", Tyrell relents "When a voice can come through the radio, make you stop what you're doing, and touch your soul, that's





powerful". "And that's what happened to me the first time I heard Ray Charles. There was nothing he couldn't sing-blues, soul, country, standards-and growing up in Texas, I'd sit in my room for hours on end just listening to Brother Ray."

Years later, Tyrell would find himself doing the exact same thing, hunkering down at home during the COVID-19 pandemic and playing Charles' records on repeat as he put the finishing touches on his thirteenth

studio album, Shades of Ray (The Songs of Ray Charles). Recorded in New York and LA, the collection honors the late soul icon's towering legacy, but it's no ordinary tribute. For starters, the record actually includes Ray Charles himself, who appears here on a previously unreleased duet with Tyrell, as well as a song Steve wrote specifically for Ray and Diana Ross. Tyrell's interpretations of the classics, meanwhile, are both deeply reverent and boldly original, with sweeping, cinematic arrangements that land somewhere between the lush orchestration of the Great American

Songbook and the old school rhythm and blues he cut his teeth on growing up in Houston. The result is a singular, wide-ranging take on one of the most revelatory artists of the 20th century, a joyful, exuberant celebration not only of Charles' well-established place in the American pantheon, but of his profoundly personal impact on Tyrell's own life and work.

For tickets and information visit: www.elportaltheatre.com







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By Contributing Writer

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you the power to work or play from the comfiest spot in the house without the aches and pains!

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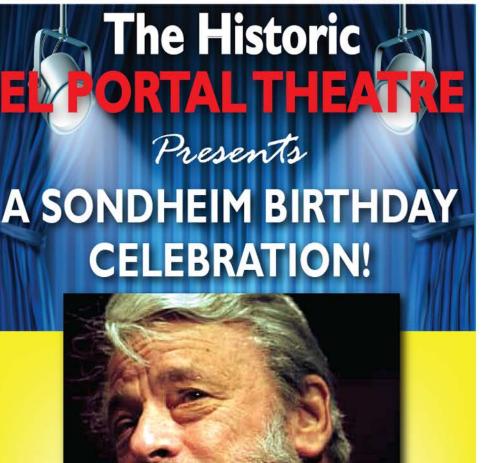
Patented ergonomics through side support cushions

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Convenient and easy to carry Ergonomically designed, the Couchmaster CYCON² is also essential for anyone recovering in bed (or just wants to work from bed), allowing for a back-friendly sitting position no matter where you want to log on.

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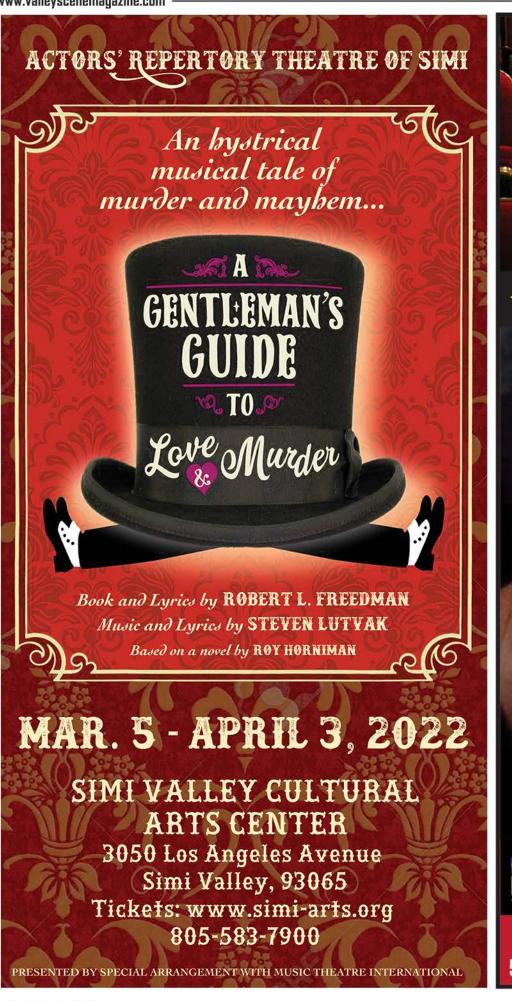
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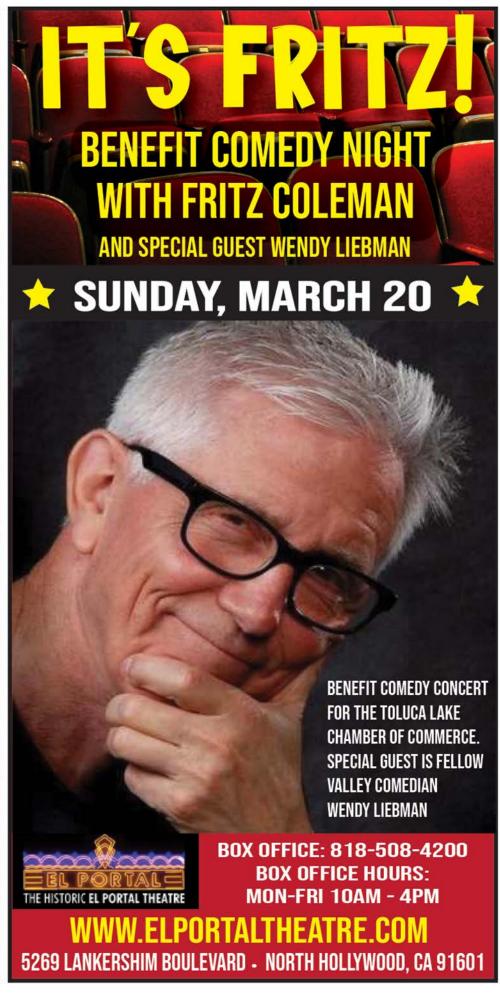


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SPIRITS/TASTES

TOP TIER TEQUILA

For Sipping & Tasting

By Contributing Writer

Does the word "tequila" bring to mind shudder-inducing shots on gritty bar nights? You're not alone; tequila, unfortunately, still has a bit of an image problem (let's call it a "hangover. But when people say they don't like tequila, what they usually mean is that they don't like *cheap* tequila.

In truth, this spirit – distilled from the blue agave plant in Mexico's Jalisco state – is one of the most diverse out there. Taste enough, and you're almost guaranteed to find a tequila you'll not just tolerate, but actually love drinking.

Style is your first consideration. While sub-classifications abound, there are three main types of tequila – blanco, reposado and añejo. Blanco's, also known as "silver", are crystal-clear unaged spirits, akin to vodka or white rum. Añejo's are aged in barrel for at

least a year, taking on honey-brown, whisky-style characteristics. Reposados, stylistically, tend to hover between the two – shorter barrel ageing gives them some oaky character, but still with the freshness of blanco.

These Tequilas are made from 100 per cent pure blue agave – so no "tequila mixtos" that blend agave with corn or cane sugars.

Top 3 overall rated – G4 Blanco: Smoothest:

With such gorgeous complexity wafting from the glass – floral, fruity top notes mingled in with classic agave, grass and a buttery undertone – we could sit sniffing this premium tequila all day long. You don't make a drink this good by accident, and the mix of experience – owner Felipe J Camare-

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na's family has been producing tequila since the 1930s – and prime terroir, with agave sourced from the Jalisco highlands, have gone into making G4 in the top tier.



It's an artisan tequila through and through. They make it using a blend of spring water and, interestingly, captured rainwater – talk about attention to detail – and employ a rather laborious, old-school method of processing the agave to ensure they have maximum influence over flavor. And as we've said, the care shows in the

glass. With an incredibly smooth mouthfeel and a long, minerally, delicate finish, this is a blanco you can definitely drink straight, as well as mix into cocktails; there's no place it won't shine.

Best: For whisky lovers

Storywood speyside 14 añejo With their rich caramel hues and aged oak

with their rich caramel hues and aged oak character, añejo tequilas are often compared to whiskies – and this one really does fulfil the expectation, given it's been rested for 14 months in ex-Speyside single malt Scotch casks. Those toasty, roasted and nutty notes from the barrel mingle

gorgeously with the deep vegetal richness of agave, creating a smooth, sipping spirit with a rambling, complex and savory finish.

It's good value for an añejo – it's not unusual to see these bottles at double this

Cheap tequilas are typically cheap for a reason – many are, in fact, "tequila mixtos" which means that the blue agave base has been blended...

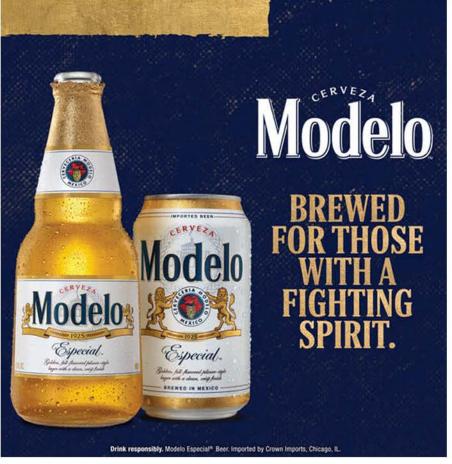
price – and we're big fans of the fun, fresh artwork on the bottle. While Storywood is certainly delicious enough to drink on its own (and that's how the creators suggest enjoying it), if you're a cocktail fan we'd also give it a go in place of whiskey in a classic Old Fashioned.

Best Bargain

El Jimador blanco

Cheap tequilas are typically cheap for a reason – many are, in fact, "tequila mixtos" which means that the blue agave base has been blended with other, less-costly fermentable sugars. In contrast, anything that states it's 100 per cent blue agave on the label will be the pure, premium stuff – including the impressively affordable, crystal-clear El Jimador.

Citrus, peppery notes lead to a gentle warmth on the palate; there's not huge amounts of complexity, but nor should you expect it at sub-\$40.00. A natural pick for when you're mixing up batches of tequila cocktails with plenty of big flavors, for example, a Paloma, made with lime juice and grapefruit soda.is always evolving and we have seen the growth of new breeds on old recipies, that is they very this that keeps you open to new flavors!



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CASUAL CONNDISSEUR

Tasty Seasonal Healthy Spring Foods

By Contributing Writer Ultimate guide to the best seasonal products in Spring

Spring is the time where all the flowers bloom and the fruit and vegetable world comes back to life. Gardens are planted and seeds are watered ready to grow the most delicious crops.



It must be said that winter vegetables are delicious, but everything is so much better when it warms up and we see fresh and bright colours sprouting in springtime. Similar as with other seasons, specific crops and precise harvest dates will depend on the climate you live in.



Artichokes

The main harvest of artichokes takes place in spring when the largest thistles are available. The edible portion of the plant consists of the flower buds before the flowers come into bloom.

In the kitchen: Artichokes can be eaten,

steamed, stuffed, baked, braised, as soup, and fresh with a vinaigrette.

Asparagus

May and early June are the best time to harvest asparagus. White or green they come from the same plant, but white asparagus grow underground. Once the tips break the surface, they are harvested to avoid sunlight turning them green.

In the kitchen: You always need to peel - white asparagus, even when thin, and break or cut the hard ends. Asparagus à la Flamande is a very popular dish but you can of course also have them in soups and salads.



Dandelion Greens

Most people consider them weeds but they are herbs. The whole plant is harvested with part of the root, because the root also tastes very good.

In the kitchen: The leaves are washed and can be cooked in a similar way to spinach. Young leaves are tasty in a salad with only some salt, olive oil and a dash of lemon juice. The roots can be used to infuse.

Fava Beans (broad beans)

These springtime beans are a Mediterranean and Middle Eastern delicacy. They are a species of flowering plant in the pea and bean family and can be harvested until summer in cooler regions. They are buttery and nutty and when eaten raw they have a light crunch.

In the kitchen: They can be prepared in a variety of ways and can be eaten raw, boiled, steamed, stewed, mashed, sautéed, fried, or roasted.



Fennel

Fennel is a flowering plant species of the carrot family and is naturally in season from winter and well into spring. This pretty looking vegetable consists of a white bulb base with green celery-like stalks and 'leaves' that look like dill. The entire plant is edible, and it tastes mildly like anise which is also used in pastis!

In the kitchen: Fennel is a delight when

paired with orange or mandarins in a salad. Once roasted they will be sweeter and it is great to add a refreshing twist to your recipe of gratin or soup.

Rhubarb

Rhubarb, which is in season from April onwards, is rich in antioxidants, particularly anthocyanins which give it its red colour. Only the stalks are edible and although you can eat rhubarb raw, it is not the most enjoyable way to have it because it is extremely sour and tangy.

In the kitchen: My mum made rhubarb as a side dish when having meatballs or meatloaf, but it is popular in desserts such as pie and crumble.

Watercress

Watercress is a species of aquatic flowering plant from the cabbage family. It is the oldest known leaf vegetable consumed by humans.

In the kitchen: It can be similarly prepared like young spinach leaves. It will flavour your salads, and watercress makes a fully flavoured soup. Enjoy!

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LIVE STAGE EVENTS

A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder

Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center

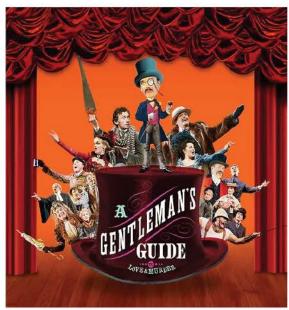
By Pamela Froman

A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder is playing at the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center. This musical comedy, with the book and lyrics by Robert L. Freedman and the music and lyrics by Steven Lutvak won four Tony Awards at the 68th Tony Awards.

The musical opens with Lord Montague "Monty" D'Ysquith Navarro, Ninth Earl of Highhurst in jail. Becuase he believes he is about to be executed, he decides to write his very murderous memoirs.

Vincent Perez plays Monty in the production. He plays Monty as scheming, yet lovable ruffian. We are rooting for him throughout the production.

Monty's mother has just died. Miss Marietta Shingle (played by Veronica Scheyving), a friend of the family, arrives to tell Monty that his mother was in fact a member of the aristocratic D'Ysquith family. Monty is ninth in line to inherit the earldom of



Highhurst. They is burst into song with the musical number "You're a D'Ysquith"!

Monty pens a letter to Lord Asquith D'Ysquith, Sr., explaining his connection to the family and inquiring if there might be a job.

Monty is in love with Miss Sibella Hallward, but she will not marry him. Sibella is played to perfection by Deborah Robin. Her spunky voice and demeanor bring life to her character. Sibella dubiously accepts Monty's story about his lineage, but remarks that eight people would have to die in order for him to become earl. And that line sparks Monty's quest! He will get the earlship whatever it takes – and that includes murder.

This Broadway hit is filled with unforgettable music, nonstop comedy, and a scene-stealing role for Adam Womack, the actor who plays all eight of the doomed heirs!

Monty tries his luck with the clergyman in the family, Reverend Lord Ezekial D'Ysquith. The Reverend gives Monty a tour of the ancestral family church. Monty and the Reverend ascend the bell tower, where the Reverend loses his balance and falls to his death – which is assisted by Monty refusing to pull him back up from the precipice.

Monty next sets his sights on Asquith D'Ysquith, Jr. He observes Asquith, Jr. and his mistress Miss Evangeline Barley as they go ice-skating, and Monty is struck by inspiration. He cuts a hole in the ice, and the skaters fall through and drown.

Monty then returns to London and receives a letter from Lord

Asquith D'Ysquith, Sr., inviting Monty to get a job.

Monty now fixes on his cousin Henry D'Ysquith. Henry is married but clearly prefers the company of men. Monty picks up on this and befriends him, singing "Better With a Man". Henry is also an avid beekeeper. Monty obtains a bottle of lavender perfume, to which the bees are attracted. He douses Henry's beekeeping clothes with the lavender, and while flirting with Miss Phoebe D'Ysquith Henry is stung to death. Phoebe is played by Siena Avila. She brings a sweetness to the role.

Next on the list is Lady
Hyacinth D'Ysquith, an unmarried
woman, who devotes herself to
philanthropic causes. Monty
encourages her to travel to
war-torn Egypt, then a leper
colony in India. To Monty's
chagrin, she returns unharmed
both times, before he sends her to
an African jungle where a cannibal
tribe lives. Monty is trying his
hardest to dispose of her!

Monty charms his way into acting as the Major Lord Bartholomew D'Ysquith's spotter on the bench-press. Monty adds more weight than Bartholomew can hold, and the barbell decapitates him.

The deaths leave only two people in the way: the present earl and Lord Asquith, Sr., Monty's employer and benefactor. Monty is conflicted, finding he has no desire to murder the kindly Lord Asquith, but is let off the hook when the old man succumbs to a heart attack.

"Why Are All the D'Ysquiths Dying?" Of course we know why! Monty is killing them!

Monty and Sibella continue their affair. While she is unhappy with Lionel, she doesn't necessarily regret marrying for self-interest, and wouldn't begrudge Monty for doing the same. Phoebe unexpectedly arrives, and Sibella hides in the next room. This was a hilarious number as Phoebe belts out the tune "I've Decided to Marry You" while Monty runs from one woman to the other!

Monty, Phoebe, Sibella, and Lionel are all invited to Highhurst for the weekend, so that Lord Adalbert can meet his heir.

Miss Shingle reappears; she's been employed as a servant by the D'Ysquiths for years! Lord Adalbert takes a drink and, to everyone's surprise, drops dead.

With Lord Adalbert's death,
Monty is now Lord Montague
D'Ysquith Navarro, Ninth Earl of
Highhurst. He and Phoebe marry
but he is arrested for the murder of
Lord Adalbert. Monty is charged
with the one murder he didn't
actually commit!

Phoebe and Sibella scheme together to provide reasonable doubt as to Monty's guilt. He is set free – but he better hide those memoirs!

A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder is playing through April 3 at the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center, 3050 Los Angeles Ave., in Simi Valley. Tickets are \$28 Adults, \$24 Seniors & Students and \$20 Children 12 & Under. You can buy tickets at (805) 583-7900 or at http://www.simi-arts.org

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HEALTH & BEAUTY

3 tips for heart healthy living

By Contributing Writer

Following a healthy diet, prioritizing exercise and limiting alcohol and tobacco intake can have a dramatic impact on your day-to-day life, especially if you have a heart condition such as atrial fibrillation (AFib).

AFib is an irregular heart rhythm that affects more than 6 million people in the United States and can increase the risk of stroke and heart failure. AFib symptoms include heart palpitations, fatigue, shortness of breath and difficulty breathing.

One of the most notable risk factors for AFib is high blood pressure. An unhealthy diet and unhealthy habits can be contributing factors to high blood pressure, so making adjustments to diet and daily routines can help manage symptoms and help you lead a healthier life.

Consider these three tips to help you start living a heart-healthy lifestyle.

1. Follow a Heart-Healthy Diet

Too much sugar and salt can lead to high blood pressure, putting you potentially at risk for heart diseases, including AFib.

When shopping for food, take time to read the nutrition facts and choose foods lower in sodium and sugar, or consider trying spices and herbs as a healthier alternative to salt. Another healthy swap is removing trans fats and saturated fats, like fried or fast foods and fatty meats like sausage and bacon, and instead trying unsaturated fats like seeds and avocados.

Whole grains are a good source of fiber that play a part in regulating blood pressure and heart health. When eaten as part of a heart-healthy diet, whole grains can help



reduce cholesterol, blood pressure and weight, and lower the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes by up to 32%. Dietary fiber can help improve blood cholesterol levels and lower your risk of heart disease. Incorporate vegetables, fruits, beans and whole grains into your diet to increase your daily fiber intake.

Get Some Exercise to Kickstart Your Heart

Exercise can help make both your body and heart stronger. The American Heart Association recommends at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity per week – that's 30 minutes a day, five days a week. Aerobic exercise can include walking, running, swimming, playing tennis and more.

It is also important to incorporate strength training exercises into your workout regimen at least twice a week. Any activity is better than no activity, so even making an effort to stand up throughout the day to walk around,

parking farther away from a destination, or taking the stairs can make a difference.

3. Limit Alcohol and Tobacco Usage Moderation is key when consuming alcohol, as excessive consumption correlates directly to increased risk for high blood pressure along with other negative side effects, like triggering AFib episodes. In addition, tobacco use is strongly discouraged as part of any healthy diet, but it has particularly problematic effects on heart health, like damaging the function of your heart and the structure and function of your blood yessels.



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CARSON VALLEY'S BUCKET LIST WORTHY EXPERIENCES

By Contributing Writer

dventurers around the world are facing a pent-up demand for travel. After two years of staying home, travelers are ready to get out and create some more memories in 2022. Nestled at the base of the Sierra Nevada just 25 minutes from Lake Tahoe and an hour from the Reno-Tahoe International Airport, Carson Valley, Nevada, brings big destination bucket-list worthy experiences for travelers seeking an escape that are easily within reach.

Soaring

Glider enthusiasts travel from around the world to experience a flight from Minden, and for good reason. Ideal air stream conditions mix with spectacular scenery to give riders the thrill of a lifetime. Carson Valley's Soaring NV takes guests on a flight high above both Carson Valley and Lake Tahoe by tow cable, before cutting them loose to soar the skies. Because gliders are engineless, there is no motor noise, giving passengers a rare, bird-like experience. There is no better place than Carson Valley to complete this bucket list experience.

Skydiving

If floating in a glider is too safe, adrenaline junkies can check out Skydive Lake Tahoe, also based at the Minden-Tahoe Airport. A common bucket-list item for thrill seekers around the world, Carson Valley's skydiving offers what many others cannot – views of the gorgeous Lake Tahoe while free falling. There's nothing quite like seeing the Sierra cradling the Lake Tahoe Basin, and the dramatic face of the mountains over the Carson Valley.

Hot Air Balloon Ride

Another common bucket list item, but with a Carson Valley twist – hot air ballooning. Balloon Nevada offers balloon rides with expert pilots guiding their crafts high enough to peek over the Lake Tahoe Basin

to capture photos of Lake Tahoe, one of America's most photographed lakes, from a completely unique vantage point. This is the perfect activity for those looking for just a little less heart thumping, though the views are no less thrilling.

Golf-Ski Challenge – Ice Tee as Locals Call It

There are only a few places in the county where you can ski in the morning and golf in the afternoon. Lovers of outdoor recreation may think they need to choose between a ski day or a golf day, but in Carson Valley that's not the case. Due to its proximity to Lake Tahoe, it's quite possible to hit the slopes at Heavenly Mountain Resort in the morning, then hit the links at one of Carson Valley's four golf courses in the afternoon.

Bike All Day and Fuel Up at Nevada's Oldest Thirst Parlor

There's no better bucket list item than a challenging mountain bike trail in the Sierra Nevada. Better yet, end the day at a historic saloon. With hundreds of miles of trails in the region, downhill thrill seekers can feel the rush of the descent and end their adventure in Genoa. Here, history buffs enjoy the thrill of walking in the footsteps of those from the past. Do just this at Genoa Bar, Nevada's oldest thirst parlor. Built in 1853, it's seen the likes of Mark Twain, Clark Gable, Red Skelton, Willie Nelson, Presidents Roosevelt and Grant, Johnny Cash and more. Pull up a stool and transport back to the wild west at this iconic watering hole.

Reconnect with Wild West Roots
Carson Valley was home to the first
non-native settlement in Nevada, making it
a perfect place to reconnect with the wild
west and pioneer culture. Always wanted to
feel like a legendary old west cowboy?
Take a wild horse tour with a local guide



and get up close and personal with these majestic wild creatures. Or take a photography tour to capture amazing birds of prey as they dive, swoop and capture their prey across the valley.

After the adventure, there's plenty of fine dining, relaxing and fun to be had in Carson Valley. Stop by Bently Heritage Estate Distillery for a tour and cocktail tasting from one of the country's few estate distilleries. Then check out some of Carson Valley's unique dining options, including an authentic, family-style Basque meal at JT Bar and Dining Room. To end the day, relax in natural hot springs at David Walley's Resort where the five pools are filled with natural hot spring waters. Whatever the desire for adventure and thrill, Carson Valley delivers.



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CELEBRITY NEWS

TIKTOK'S #1 WINE SPECIALIST

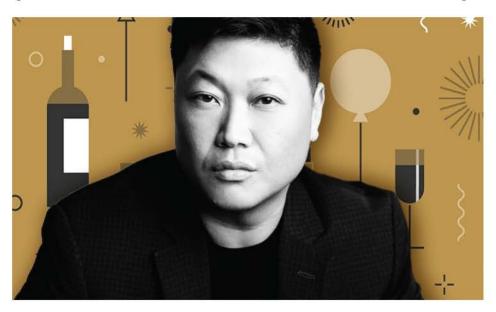
David Choi Reveals Picks and Pairings

By Contributing Writer

Born in LA, David Choi grew up in DC and eventually set roots again, literally, in California. David is proprietor at Magna Carta Cellars and Angel Falls Wines. He came through the ranks in wine retail, import and distribution before making wines. Savvy in social media, David found his way onto TikTok and has now become one of the early wine sensations on the platform with "Wine with David".

1933. Next, he dove deeper into the wine industry as an importer and wholesaler, learning all aspects of the industry. Today, David is one of only 60 living recipients of the Order of Agricultural Merit (l'Ordre du Mérite Agricole) in the United States and was inducted into Jurade of Saint Emilion, the oldest wine society in Bordeaux, in 2012.

With nearly 250,000 TikTok followers, David is behind the shift in marketing to



David also hosts his own talk show on Heritage Radio Network a listener supported podcast.

David Choi, has become the most famous wine expert on TikTok with millions of likes. David shares his fun & affordable wine recommendations, clever wine pairings (In'N'Out?!), along with the story of his meteoric social media rise.

As the proprietor of the two Napa Valley wine companies Angel Falls Wines and Magna Carta Cellars, David first found his passion for wine as the owner of the nation's largest and oldest wine stores, Pearson's Wine & Spirits in Washington, DC, which has been in business since young people by communicating directly through social media to the up-and-coming generation of consumers. On David's famous leading wine TikTok account, you can see him in fun quick clips teaching all things wine.

As a wine merchant, importer, and wholesaler enamored of high-quality French wines, David regularly travels to the source vineyards, connects with legendary winemakers, forms friendships, and showcases the wines in major cities across the USA. He now resides in his native California, running his two wine companies, where he believes Napa promises world-class, phenomenal grapes.





BUSY BODY

FINDING THE RIGHT FITNESS CLUB MAY BE A BIGGER CHALLENGE THAN YOU THINK

By Zach Hunt

fitness club can be the central part of your fitness regiment if you use the fitness club to your advantages. Since you are most likely paying for membership into one of these fitness centers, you might as well make it an integral part of the path to reaching your personal fitness goals.

The 411 On Fitness Clubs

Exercise equipment and overall nutrition information is only the beginning of what a good Health & Fitness club can offer. A fitness club can be the central part of your fitness regiment if you use the fitness club to your advantages

Since you are most likely paying for membership into one of these fitness centers, you might as well make it an integral part of the path to reaching your personal fitness goals.

Fitness Clubs Offer More Than Equipment

Perhaps the biggest mistake that an individual makes when investing their money into a fitness club is that they fail to realize the additional features of the center. Most people will obtain membership solely for the use of the fitness equipment. In reality, you should be doing more at your fitness club. A fitness club does offer fitness services beyond equipment.

For example, the fitness club may offer free dieting and nutrition planning to all of its members. Due to reasons like this, it is important that you realize that your fitness club is more than a building with expensive exercise equipment. In actuality, it should play a vital role in reaching your personal fitness goals.

Reaching Your Fitness Goals With A Fitness Club

The reason as to why you joined a fitness center that you wish to fulfill your individual fitness goals. Whether your goals



are large or small, a fitness club can be the foundation to your success. Most people join a fitness club without the knowledge of how helpful the club can be to the improvement of their health.

Exercise equipment is an important factor to reaching your fitness goasl, yet there are additional things that will help you reach your goals more quickly. For example, many fitness centers are now offering in-house spa systems. A spa is a great way to refresh the body and mind after a fitness session.

Additionally, many fitness clubs offer a class along the lines of Pilates or Yoga that will allow the individual to improve their mental health and speed the process of physical health improvement.

Good Nutrition At A Fitness

Nutrition is perhaps the second most important aspect of a fitness club, behind the type of equipment that the club is stocked with. Your local fitness center can be a wealth of information on the subject of nutrition if you take the initiative to find out what they have to offer.

To receive more from your exercise session nutrition information from the fitness club is extremely importnat. The local athletic club can recommend a certain diet for an individual interested in losing weight. There are many quality options when it comes to a fitness club. The most important thing in your decision is that you should find the fitness club that gives you the best chance at reaching your fitness goals.



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PETPOURIE

LUXURY DOG BEDS THEY WILL LOVE THIS!

By Ivana Crnec, DVM

The best luxury dog beds are made with premium materials that will leave your dog sleeping in blissful calm. Your dog spends between 12-14 hours a day sleeping; therefore, it is important to provide comfortable beds to help them get optimal rest that will power their waking hours.

While regular dog beds come with plenty of comfortable features, a luxury dog bed takes it one step further, using only the absolute best soft materials to ensure the bed becomes the only favorite place your dog loves to be.

Luxury beds are also perfect for oldies suffering from arthritis. The memory-based foam provides succor to aching muscles and joints. They are also aesthetically pleasing and come in styles that will surely complement your home décor. The combination of functionality and style makes this dog bed more expensive than regular dog beds. If you own a large pet, check out our post on XXL dog beds, you may find something that suits your pet.

What Makes a Dog Bed Luxurious?

Material

The type of material used on a luxury dog bed is different from what obtains in regular beds. Some luxurious beds come crafted with faux shag fur, faux leather upholstery, and other high-quality materials – premium materials that provide class and blissful rest. They are usually aesthetically pleasing and durable while providing comfort that is a tad higher than what obtains from the regular dog beds.

Style and Design

Style and design matter when it comes to luxury dog beds. People shopping at this end of the market are on the lookout for dog beds that will complement their interior decors. If your living room has a modern setting, for instance, the Treat A Dog Puprug Faux Fur Foam Bed will complement it perfectly.

Comfort

Aside from aesthetics, when you shop the luxury dog bed market, it is also about premium comfort. Consider the Sealy Lux Quad Layer Dog bed that comes with a unique blend of features engineered to help your dog have a comforting rest. It is unlike any other regular dog bed. The price for more comfort is a higher expense. While luxury beds are pleasing to the eye, they are also designed to provide a higher comfort level.

A Few Top Picks... Enchanted Home Pet Sofa

In actual fact, there are a number of good quality leather and faux leather dog sofas out there, but the Enchanted Home Pet Sofa earns the highest rating in our book. Although this dog bed comes in small, medium, and large sizes, they all have a floor to cushion height of less than 9 inches. This means puppies, small and large dogs will have no problem lounging on this bed. Sealy Lux Quad Layer Dog Bed

The Sealy Lux Quad Layer Dog bed comes with four impressive features that make it worthy



of a position on this list. First, it comes with a cooling energy gel that regulates your dog's body temperature. It moves heat away from the sleeping surface, making it relatively cool.

Second, it features a pet-rest

technology in its foam that improves air circulation while adapting to your dog's body heat in an instant. Third, it comes with a layer of bio-green orthopedic foam that helps to spread your dogs' weight on the bed evenly. Fourth, its pro-charcoal HD foam base helps absorb odors resulting from accidents or dirt in general.

The combination of these features makes this bed perfect for your dog! You won't find this unique combo in any other product on the market. Laifug Orthopedic Memory Foam

This luxury product is designed to give your furry friend optimum space and support. It comes with a 100% waterproof liner that protects against odors, spills, and accidents of all kinds.

These products can be found at most online pet sites.





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www.ValleySceneMagazine.com Kala Koa Entertainment presents MIGUEL +:I)AWEDNESDAY | APRIL 13, 2022 | 8PM | WILSHIRE EBELL THEATRE TICKETS AND INFO: LAFLAMENCOFESTIVAL.COM with Jesús Guerrero (guitar), Miguel Soto Peña "El Londro" and Carlos Grilo (voice and palmas), Paquito González (percussion), Joan Albert Amargos (piano) Antonio Molina "El Choro" (dancer) "Affecting, heartfelt artistry." - The New York Times Considered a musical genius in his native Spain, superstar Miguel Poveda's nuanced and soulful voice is unrivaled in the world of flamenco. Possessing a strong technique and a charismatic stage presence, his concerts are inspired musical events. For his long-awaited Los Angeles solo debut, he takes the audience on a tour of the traditional musical forms of flamenco, from malagueñas and alegrías to seguirillas and soleás.

This special event is co-produced with FLAMENCO FESTIVAL









ENJOY YOUR GARDEN AFTER DARK

with Landscape Lighting

By Melinda Myers

njoy your garden and landscape once the sun sets with strategically placed and attractive landscape lighting. Select the best type of light that complements your garden design and best accomplishes the intended purpose.

Solar powered lighting eliminates the need low voltage lines. The solar panels charge during sunny days and can be mounted on the light or on a long cord, allowing you to

place the solar panel where it gets the most sunlight. Some lights turn on automatically at dusk, others have a manual on-off switch, and a few have a remote on-off control.

Votive and pillar candles are longtime favorites. Set them in a container on the table or line a pathway. Unfortunately, the wax does drip, there is a danger of fire, and the flame can blow out in a strong breeze.

Consider using battery-operated candles instead. These look and flicker like the real thing and eliminate

some of the problems and dangers of candles. Look for those with remote controls or timers to make lighting your space hassle-free.

Use these battery-operated candles in decorative holders like the Dahlia Blossom Punched Metal Lanterns (gardeners.com). You'll enjoy the copper cut lanterns as garden art by day and the intricate light pattern they cast at night.

Pot up your favorite flowers and tropical and edible plants in solar illuminated planters. Luminous solar-powered planters are frosted white by day and can be programmed to display one color or set for color-changing mode. These pots have a ten-foot cord, allowing you to place the pots where the plants will thrive and connecting it to its solar panel in a sunny spot nearby.

Solar torch lights have flickering lights that create a realistic look while lighting a pathway or sitting area. Use one to highlight a special

njoy your garden and landscape once the sun spot in your garden or several to light a pathway, sets with strategically placed and attracpation or larger space when entertaining.

Prevent trips and falls while also boosting safe access to your favorite outdoor spaces by lighting steps as well as pathways. Look for solar powered lights like Maxsa Solar Ninja Stars that can be mounted on steps, the ground, deck, wall, or other flat surfaces. The integrated solar panels come with a rechargeable battery.

Add overhead glow to patios, decks, or balconies with string lights. They come in a variety of styles to light up larger spaces or highlight your favorite tree.

Multicolored waterdrop string lights will add a festive look to any space. Luminites® Solar String Lights feature Edison bulbs that provide six to eight hours of steady or gently flashing modes.

Add some fun, personality or added interest with specialty lights. Outdoor lights like the TwinkleliteTM Solar Stake Lights have flexible branches covered with 120 LED bulbs. Twist and bend

the branches to accomplish the look you desire. Then wait for the lights to turn on automatically at dusk.

Add some landscape lighting to help you enjoy quiet moments or festive gatherings in your gardens after dark. Select the best lighting options that are easy to use, complement your design and provide the needed lighting in your landscape.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening and Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Gardener's Supply for her expertise to write this article. Her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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March 18 - 31, 2022

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

By Andrews McMeel Syndication

Some romantic relationships are full of drama and strife, so maybe Sandra, 28, of Budapest, Hungary, has come up with a better model. According to Oddity Central, Sandra has fallen for Luffancs, a plastic model of an airplane. After breaking up with her latest human boyfriend in January, Sandra bought Luffancs for \$660 and fell madly in love. "I don't know why I love him, I just love him," she said. Sandra works in the aviation industry and is around airplanes every day, but says she will never cheat on Luffancs. In fact, she doesn't know if she'll ever date another human being. "Planes are more reliable as partners," she said.

When Bshar Ahmed, 30, of Youngstown, Ohio, was arrested on March 7, he told police that he was selling marijuana from the gas station where he was working the midnight shift because he just got out of prison and he needs the money, WKBN-TV reported. The owner of the station called officers about Ahmed and produced a bag, which Ahmed admitted was his, that contained bags of weed and a loaded .38-caliber semiautomatic handgun, along with suspected methamphetamine, crack cocaine, indeterminate pills and over \$1,000 in cash. Ahmed's previous convictions bar him from possessing a firearm.

When ya gotta go ... At 4:40 p.m. on March 4, Kenneth Clark Carlyle, 64, walked up his neighbor's driveway in his birthday suit and relieved himself, No. 2 style, on the neighbor's glass patio table, The Smoking Gun reported. The whole thing was caught on not one, but two "separate angles of the victim's home security video footage," the police report noted. Clearwater, Florida, officers arrived at Carlyle's RV camper, where they spoke to him "through the door ... and he was still visibly naked and highly uncooperative." The bond on this incident is \$250, but he was already in trouble from a December infraction, so he remains in the pokey.

Three Michigan men ice fishing in a homemade shanty on Saginaw Bay on March 6 went for the ride of their lives as winds nearing 50 mph pushed their structure about a mile across the ice, the Associated Press reported. The men had spent the night before in the shanty and were aware that a storm was approaching, but thought they could ride it

Some romantic relationships are full of out. But the next morning, someone onshore saw one of them struggling with the hut as it scooted over the ice. It eventually ended up about 1.5 miles offshore before deputies arrived; the men were able to return to shore without rescue equipment and were est human boyfriend in January, Sandra

As construction crews worked to remodel the Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center in Oakland, California, on March 9, they made an alarming discovery, NBC News reported. The building, which has been out of use since 2005, was the final resting place for "an unidentified, decayed body," said Lt. Ray Kelly of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. "We found remains best described as mummified," he said. "The conditions in the walls were such that the body was preserved in good condition." He said authorities will obtain fingerprints to try to identify the deceased. "Any theory is possible," Kelly said, "... from someone who got in behind the wall and became trapped ... to someone put the person there."

On March 3 in a quiet Denver neighborhood, someone broke into a box truck parked along a street and stole a box marked "Science Care," KDVR-TV reported. Inside the box were a number of human heads that were being transported for use in medical research. The thieves also stole a dolly. Isaac Fields, who lives nearby, was perplexed: Why was the truck parked in his neighborhood? Where was the driver? Why would someone steal human remains? Police wouldn't provide many details because the case is still open.

Yes, this item is about clowns. Or at least circuses. Or circus train cars. In Nash County, North Carolina, nine railroad cars from the 1960s Barnum & Bailey circus that had been abandoned in the woods caught fire on March 10, WRAL-TV reported. The cars were just outside the city limits of Spring Hope, where they were stored after the North Carolina Department of Transportation bought them in 2017, hoping to refurbish them for passenger service. Later they were put up for auction, but more recently the cars were a popular destination for urban explorers and people seeking shelter. At least four of the cars appeared to be badly damaged by the fire; the cause of the blaze is under investiga-

Crossword by Myles Mellor

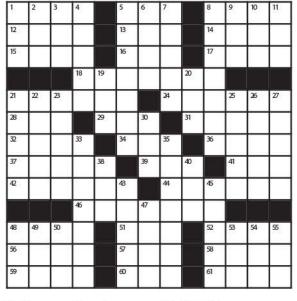
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Across

- 1. Angelina's beau
- 5. Automated teller
- 8. Detailed description
- 12. Referring to Christmas
- 13. Geologic time period
- 14. Starch source
- 15. Sushi supplies
- 16. L. ___ Hubbard, "Dianetics" Scince of Mental Health"
- 17. Twisted
- 18. Self-importance
- 21. Solar ___
- 24. Minted
- 28. Trouble
- 29. Zinger
- 31. Insinuating
- 32. ___ coffee
- 34. Brine-cured salmon
- 36. ___ you didn't know!
- 37. Orion star
- 39. Many a time
- 41. Approximate arrival time
- 42. Trends
- 44. Form of Greek verb
- 46. Cure-all
- 48. Core
- 51. Scorpio sign month
- 52. Dinghy or dory
- 56. Type of berry
- 57. Lennon's Yoko
- 58. Turn over
- 59. Get in tune with
- 60. The "p" in m.p.g.
- 61. Legal paper

Down

- 1. See ya!
- 2. Regret
- 3. Totality
- 4. Fix
- 5. Deodorant type
- 6. Certain horse race
- 7. Bouncing off the walls
- 8. Marathoner's need
- 9. Lion's foot
- 10. Misinterpret
- 11. Bashful
- 19. Tooth support
- 20. "___ Band"
- 21. Skating competition
- 22. Legal
- 23. Mournful poem



- 25. Japanese American
- 26. Deletions and changes
- 27. Take the oils out
- 30. Besides
- 33. Oracle related
- 35. Unknown element
- 38. Green area
- 40. Corn site

- 43. Meddle
- 45. Mad
- 47. Youth affliction 48. Ballet step
- 40 CLUE
- 49. Chilling
- 50. Sunbathe
- 53. Exalted poem
- 54. Cheers choice
- 55. Danson, of Cheers

Bad Dad Jokes

A man at a baseball game wondered why the ball kept getting bigger and bigger. Then it hit him.



Previous Puzzle

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¹⁵ D	Е	N		¹⁶ S	N	I	D	Ε		¹⁷ T	Е	N
	¹⁸ Z	U	¹⁹ L	U		²⁰ D	Ε	Α	²¹ T	Н		
			²² A	N	23	L	S		²⁴ Y	Α	²⁵ H	
²⁶ P	²⁷ A	²⁸ U	С	-1	Т	Υ		²⁹ E	Р	R	0	30 M
³¹ O	N	S	Ε	Т	S		³² E	N	1	G	М	Α
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⁴² E	⁴³ M	U		⁴⁴ E	N	Α	45 C	Т		⁴⁶ P	R	⁴⁷ E
⁴⁸ S	Α	С		⁴⁹ R	0	G	U	Е		⁵⁰ O	U	Т
⁵¹ P	0	Т		⁵² G	R	0	Р	Ε		53 N	В	С

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FINER THINGS

PLAY BALL!

Player Cards With a Whopping Sticker price!

By Matt McIntyre

Want to know what the most expensive baseball cards are worth?

Baseball is massively popular all over the world, particularly in its country of origin, America.

All sorts of merchandise and memorabilia are sold to baseball fans, but perhaps one of the most popular and enjoyable to collect, are baseball cards.

Like most collectables, baseball card values depend on factors, like market values, trends, age, grading and overall condition.

So, without further ado, we're going to take a look at 10 of the most expensive baseball cards in the world, and see how they stack up!

The 5 Most Expensive Baseball Cards in received such a high rating, which to the World

5. "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, 1909 American Caramel

Cost: \$667,149

Being the most sort after card in the E90-1 Caramel set, this card was sold at auction in 2016 for \$667,149.

"Shoeless Joe" was the most high-profile player to be linked with the notorious Black Sox Scandal.

In 2016, a PSA grade 8 copy of Jacksons rookie card, sold at auction for \$667, 149.

However, in 2008, the same card, but with a much lower grade, sold for only \$86,975.

So, keep your cards in great condition, as it can literally make all the difference between making under a hundred thousand dollars, or hundreds of thousands of dollars!

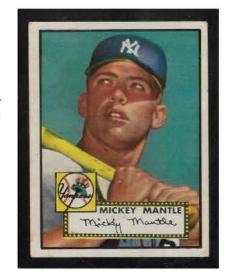
4. Pete Rose, 1963 Topps

Cost: \$717,000

Another card to be graded a perfect 10 by the PSA, is the Pete Rose 1963 Topps card, which sold for \$717,000 when it was last up for auction.

Perfect 10 cards are so rare, that they're considered to be up to one hundred thousand times more valuable than cards of lesser quality.

It's the only copy of its kind to have ever



collectors and investors, is a big deal.

So, combine a perfect 10 card with Pete "The Hit King Rose's" name, and you've got yourself one of the most expensive baseball cards in the world.

3. Babe Ruth, 1916 Sporting News Cost: \$717,000

Coming in at number three on our list of the most expensive baseball cards in the world is the 1916 Babe Ruth Sporting News

It sold for a whopping \$717,000 at auction in 2016 but was not the only Sporting News card with the same PSD grading to be sold at such a premium.

In 2017, another card sold with exactly the same PSA grade, sold for around \$550,000.

If you have a card that' doesn't have the best PSA grade but is in high demand, then it just goes to show that it's all about timing and finding the right buyer!

2. Mickey Mantle, 1952 Topps Cost: \$2.8 Million

The second most expensive baseball card on our list is the 1952 Topps Mickey Mantle

It's one of only two cards on our list to be worth over \$1 million dollars and is five times more valuable than the tenth card on

the list.

The card was recently discovered and was given a PSA grade 9, which is much higher than any previously sold.

When the card initially went up for auction, valuations and guestimations were be predicted of over \$3.5 million dollars, which if proved correct, would have made it the most expensive baseball card ever!

However, the card sold for \$2.8 million and earned its place as one of the most expensive baseball cards in the world.

1. Honus Wagner, 1909-1911 ATC T206 Cost: \$3 Million

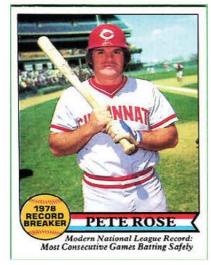
The Honus Wagner, 1909-1911 ATC T206, is the most expensive baseball card in the world.

If you know anything about baseball cards, then you'll know how baseball cards first came about, and who was responsible.

The American Tobacco Company came up with the idea to sell their cigarettes with baseball cards inside.

These cards were the first iteration of the baseball cards you see and can buy today.

The Honus Wagner card is widely considered to be the "Holy Grail" of



baseball cards among collectors.

The reasoning being is that Honus made the ATC pull his card from production, for reasons that are still unclear, and therefore, there were thought to be only 25-200 cards in known existence, making them extremely rare and incredibly valuable.

Now, over 100 years on, the decision to pull his card from production, resulted in his card being the most expensive baseball card in the world!



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March 18 - 31, 2022

KIDS & FAMILY

PASSOVER FUN: 5 EASY WAYS TO GET KIDS INVOLVED

By Contributing Writer

Getting the littles involved in religious celebrations is always a great idea (and easier said than done!). Lucky for you, Passover is one of the most kid-friendly Jewish holidays of the year. With its emphasis on jumping frogs and searching for buried treasure (that is, matzo), this celebration of freedom is a great way to get everyone participating. Read on to discover five ways to get little ones around and enjoying the seder table.

1. Make an Elijah's cup. Elijah the Prophet is an important part of Passover, and it's customary to leave a glass of wine on the table for his arrival. Kiddos can be part of this tradition by creating his cup. They can get crafty with multi-colored yarn and beads, or simply buy a plastic cup and grab some permanent markers. Then fill it with wine (or

grape juice) and wait for Elijah.

2. Put kids in charge of the Passover plagues. The ten plagues are an integral

part of the Passover story (blood, frogs, darkness, beasts, etc.). Before Passover begins, put a "goodie bag" together with items that represent each of the different plagues. Dollar stores are a great way to find inexpensive items for each plague. Finger puppets are also a great

alternative. During this portion of the seder, have the kids take over by explaining each plague and demonstrating it with the toys from the bag. If you have multiple kids

SOPHIE

attending, consider making a "plague bag" for each kiddo.3. Make a matzo house. Who said December is the only time to construct an edible house? Chances are you'll be buying

matzo for your seder anyway. So don't let the leftover crackers go to waste. Have kids create a Passover house out of matzo and decorate it with Passover candy. Then place them on your seder table as decorations.

4. Don't forget the afikomen hunt. Kids love to search for the afikomen (dessert matzo) during the seder. How about making it more involved by creating clues or a treasure map leading to the afikomen. Offer a prize for the kid who finds the treasure, as well as little gifts for all the kids who participate. And parents: while the kids are hunting, use this time of the seder to go back to the adult Haggadah.

 Create your own seder plate and haggadah. Nothing makes kids feel more involved in their Passover celebration than seeing their personal creations

on the on the seder table. Spend some time before the holiday creating a seder plate. There are so many ways to create a plate. You can buy an inexpensive glass plate and have kids decorate it with paint markers, or even use items such as LEGO or painted rocks (check out all the great ideas here). While the adults read from the traditional Haggadah, keep the kiddos entertained with their own booklet filled with Passover coloring pages and worksheets. Let the kids make the cover!

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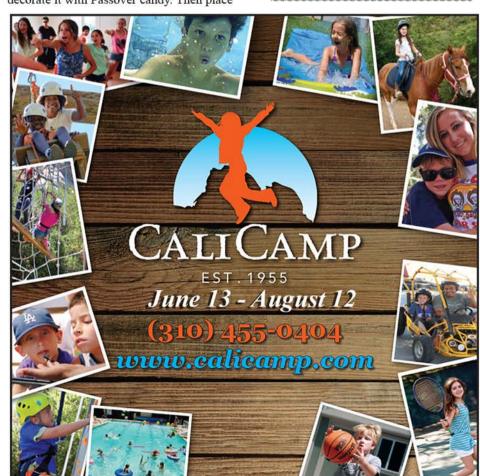
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KIDS FORUM

THE CATERPILLARS ARE COMING!

26th Annual Butterfly Season at Kidspace Children's Museum

by Contributing Writer

The Western monarch butterflies are returning to Southern California, and that's cause for celebration at Kidspace's annual Butterfly Season, running through May 31.

Only one year ago, researchers sounded alarms about the vanishing monarch after recording a record low population of wintering butterflies in California. This year, scientists report that the monarch is poised for a comeback, and Kidspace is celebrating with hands-on art and science activities for budding naturalists.

"Children have an affinity for nature and wild creatures, and our Butterfly Season invites them to get up close, learn, and actively support threatened butterflies and other pollinators that live in our neighborhoods," said Kidspace CEO Lisa Clements. "This year we're focusing on butterfly life cycle and habitat so that families can participate in supporting migratory species like the Monarch. We've joined forces with the University of Kansas to create a Monarch Waystation at the museum where visitors can learn how to spot, count, and record eggs and caterpillars, which is something they can continue to do at home."

BUTTERFLY SEASON HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Pollinator takeover in Nature Exchange. View live butterflies and honeybees, learn about the butterfly life cycle, and celebrate the role of pollinators in a healthy ecosystem.
- Bug safaris. Kidspace will provide the magnifying glass and some expert tips; you bring your curiosity and keen



creature-spotting skills and join in our search for eggs, caterpillars, and adult insects around campus.

- Create a caterpillar. What kind of fuzzy caterpillar would you like to create? Shape your creature out of clay, and then add seeds to sprout a fuzzy fellow of your own to take home.
- Flower showers. You can support pollinators such as butterflies by growing plants that attract and feed them. Grab a watering can and learn about what plants butterflies and other pollinators rely on while helping the flowers grow.
- Fantasy flutter-by play. Dress up like a butterfly, sit in a "chrysalis," and take your picture with a beautiful set of monarch wings.



• Live caterpillar adoptions. They're back! A living science project the whole family (or classroom) will enjoy; raising and releasing native Painted Lady butterflies. The whole process takes about two weeks from tiny caterpillar through metamorphosis to lovely butterfly, ready to release into nature. Caterpillar adoptions are available onsite through the Kidspace store or online at store.kidspacemuseum.org. All caterpillars must be picked up in person at the museum.

Caterpillars start at just \$6 for one, and care instructions are available online.

In addition to celebrating butterflies and pollinators during Butterfly Season, families can enjoy their favorite Kidspace features including playing in the Interpretive Arroyo Stream and water features, navigating the Ant Tunnel,

exploring what's over the rainbow at the top of our Raindrop Climber, and getting hands-on with science in our Physics Forest.

Visit kidspacemuseum.org to reserve tickets for Butterfly Season, included at no additional charge in museum general admission. For the latest announcements and updates, follow Kidspace Children's Museum on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter



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FASHION

LOOK LIKE A CELEBRITY WITH By Susan Castro

FASHION JEWELERY



lady's wardrobe is inadequate without stylish pieces of jewellery in addition to rings. Gold is getting pricier each day and that is what inspiring more ladies amass not anything but only fashion jewellery. And fair enough. In spite of everything it is a trendy choice of adding fashion to your outfit; it is additionally the most perfect approach to stay attentive of the freshest fashion trends. Style adomments are pretty as well as eye catching! And the outlines are getting improved in each season.

You can select from a varied line of fashions as well as patterns. The most chic patterns as well as shapes are hearts, flowers and butterfly. The prices are reasonable in addition the designs are remarkable as well. They could be produced from plastic, ceramics, alloys, glass, clay as well as metal silver. Some fashion jewellery online shops exchange as well as offer attractively gorgeous designs as well as colours. The trend of designer jewellery is 'in'! Indeed, stars favour mould jewelleries to add enchantment to their looks. Handcrafted as well as beaded jewellery is very popular with the youngsters and college girls.

The method of fashion jewellery online stores is fast catching up. More clients are requesting jewellery on the web. Truth be told, wearing outfits jewellery has turned out to be a craze. With

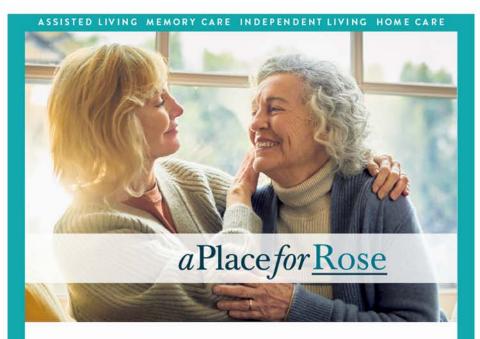


TV broadcasts and music movies stressing the coolest jewelleries, ladies and young ladies are looking for the best accessible bargains. The youngsters adore on copying their best-loved pop star or onscreen icon. They as a rule purchase whatever they observe to make the extreme style statement.

Vintage gems have returned of late; dazzling rock crystal broaches are ending up being trendy. Vintage jewelleries are produced from non-valuable materials for instance cut glass. While obtaining vintage jewellery recognize the value. Twice check all the pieces and see to it that your entire purchases are in the unique condition as well as working reasonably. You most likely would prefer not to pay for something that gets unusable inside a couple of days. With vintage jewellery you can get the look which you desired the most.

Irrespective of the fact whether it is studs, trinkets, pendants, or any type of precious metal adomments, fashion jewelries are remarkably elegant and long-lasting. They help you to get the look that you really wanted for quite some time now. If purchased from an esteemed store or corporation the jewellery will by no means lose its polish as well as colour. Rings in addition to necklaces are at present the most universal fashion jewelleries.

Ladies have dependably been attracted to the studs. They are extraordinary as endowments as well. Assuming that you are confounded about what to purchase for a specific event pick Diamante adornments without an apprehension. Diamante jewelleries look somewhat like real diamonds or rhinestones and are products made of rock gem, glass, or acrylic. A classy match of precious stone studs or a bold bit of ring will most likely be a work of art!



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