

STUDIO CITY SUN

VOL. 4 NO. 14

WWW.STUDIOCITYSUN.COM

MAY 5-11, 2006



SUNDIAL
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

COMMUNITY

L.A. City Pet Adopt-A-Thon

Puppies and kittens are up for adoption at all six L.A. Animal Services shelters to launch national "Be Kind to Animals Week." May 6, 8am-5pm; May 7, 11am-5pm. East Valley Shelter: 13131 Sherman Way, North Hollywood. (323) 224-3548

S.C. Chamber First Friday Club with Councilmember Bernard Parks

Discussion will include the city budget and the possibility of a new or relocated football team in L.A. May 5, 7:30-9am. \$12. Wine Bistro, 11915 Ventura Blvd., Studio City. (818) 655-5916

Town Hall Meeting on Clean Money

Join L.A. City Councilmembers Wendy Greuel, Eric Garcetti and Bill Rosenbald for a panel discussion on Clean Money programs for city campaigns. May 9, 6:30pm. Collax Elementary School, 11724 Addison St. in North Hollywood. RSVP to Eric Tang at (310) 481-0814 or eric.tang@caclean.org

St. Michael's Fair to Benefit Wounded Veterans
Music, BBQ, cake walk and craft sale plus a letter writing station to U.S. troops and visits by vets. Proceeds to benefit veterans, their families, and overseas troops. May 7, noon-5pm. St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, 3646 Coldwater Canyon, Studio City. (818) 763-9193

Annual Fair at St. Francis de Sales School
Children's rides, carnival games, food from around the world, music and fireworks. Entertainment includes The Cowbills and country singer Lisa O'Kane. May 5, 5:30-11pm; May 6, noon-11pm; May 7, noon-7pm. 13368 Valleyheart Dr. (corner of Dixie Canyon and Moorpark). (818) 784-9573

Millikan Middle School Mardi Gras Gala
Millikan Middle School and Performing Arts Magnet hosts their "Jazzed about Millikan" fundraising gala, featuring cocktails, auctions, dinner and live music. May 7, 5:30pm. CBS Radford Studios in Studio City. \$60. To reserve tickets, call (818) 345-9081 or visit millikan.gala@pacbell.net

The Great Los Angeles River Cleanup
May 5, 9:30am: River School Day press conference and cake-cutting, where students will learn about the L.A. River. May 6, 9am-noon: Live music and "spring cleaning" to take place at 14 sites along the river. Find out where at www.FoLAR.org or (323) 223-0585

Friends of the Family 10th Annual Families Matter Benefit and Celebration
Jimmy Jam and Lisa Harris are recipients of the 2006 Dreamweaver Award, recognizing noble advocacy of family friendly policy and action. Fri. May 19, (818) 988-4430. www.fofca.org

Twelfth Annual "Bike to Work Day"
Metro will offer commuter bikes and accessories to those who register online at Metro.net/biketowork and help alleviate gridlock by biking. Free Metro bus and train rides to cyclists throughout L.A. County. May 18. Metro.net or call (800)-COMMUTE

continued on page 24

INSIDE

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| News | 5 |
| Habitats | 8 |
| Comings and Goings | 9 |
| Community Compass | 10 |
| Notes from the Beat | 10 |
| School Notes/School Sports | 13 |
| Over the Hill | 17 |
| Back to the Kitchen | 19 |
| Restaurants | 20 |
| Now and Then | 22 |
| Galleries | 23 |
| Theatre | 24 |
| Short Cuts | 26 |
| Scoops | 27 |
| Destiny Quest | 29 |
| Sudoku | 30 |

Twice exceptional students flourish at Bridges

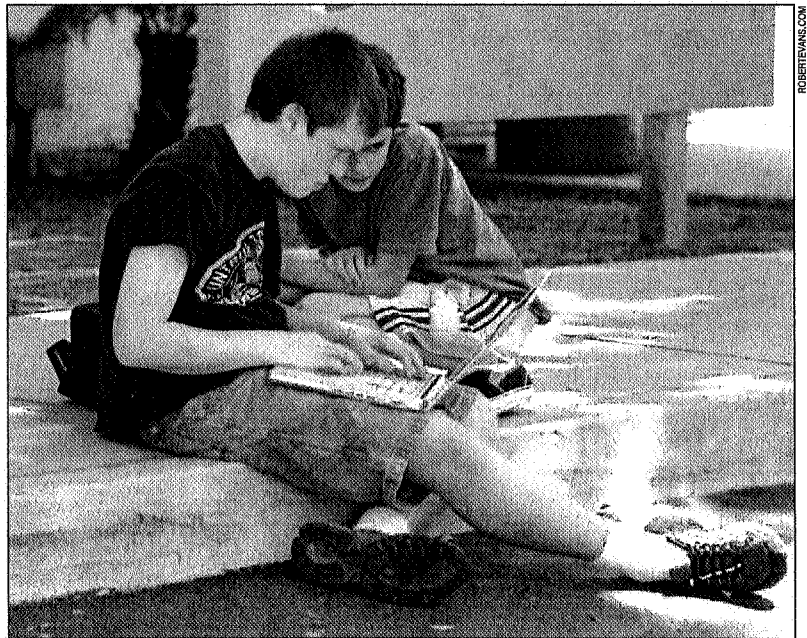
Recognizing unique learning differences is key to success

BY RACHEL HELLER

Down a corridor rendered in bright blue and teal, the thirteen classrooms are casual by current standards: moon chairs and beanbags sit dispersed among traditional desk and chair ensembles, arranged indiscriminately by rows, columns, or semi-circles. An exceptional learning environment, to be sure, but the "twice exceptional" students of Bridges Academy wouldn't have it any other way.

Each morning, 82 students spanning 6th through 12th grade flood a second-floor wing at the Osaka Sangyo University of Los Angeles campus in Studio City, and take their unusual seats for role call. They are regular middle school and high school students, with a "2E" spin: they have been assessed as gifted or highly-gifted, and diagnosed with learning disabilities.

"We look at ourselves as a very unique school," said Director of Admissions Doug Lenzini. In his five years at



Students working together enhances learning.

Bridges, Lenzini has hand-picked students who are hungry for the challenge of the school's curriculum, but whose public school records reflect differences in the ways they learn. "Despite their abilities, they may struggle with class work and homework due to ADD, ADHD, or organizational problems," he said.

"Some may simply be bored with the curriculum."

It's situations like these that Bridges founder Carolyn McWilliams first sought to address, said Head of School Carl Sabatino. Eleven years ago, educator McWilliams developed her unique schooling program for young athletes with abnormal schedules into

a massive model for learning disabled and gifted teaching.

After McWilliams retired in 2003, the Board of Trustees set their sights on Sabatino – a jovial, bass-voiced veteran of 2E teaching – for the first permanent head of the school. "As a director, I need to have the sensitivities to get to the kids both intellectually and empathically," he explained. "They're complex kids."

The school doesn't try to diminish its students' complexities. In fact, it embraces them.

In second period math class not long ago, teacher Jena Knox covered a graphing lesson as her six 7th grade students worked on their laptop computers. She drew on the board so her visual learners could keep up and explained the drawings verbally for her audio learners. Nico Bartoli even listened to supplementary material through an earpiece hooked up to his computer. Sydney Frank, a sandy-haired girl in Con-

continued on page 15

Remembering faces of missing children

Valley artist paints images never to forget

BY SOPHIA LOUISA LEE



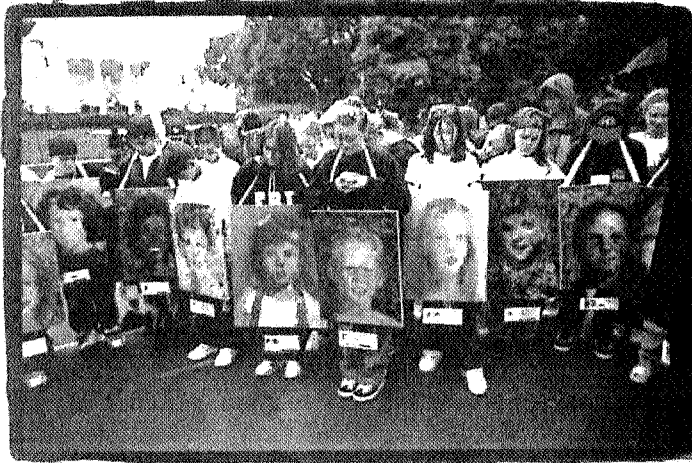
SOPHIA LOUISA LEE

We all receive flyers in the mail of a missing child that asks the question, "Have you seen me?" If you're like most people, those mailers end up being ignored and generally tossed in the trash.

John Paul Thornton, a Valley-based artist (and president of The San Fernando Valley Arts Club, which supports VIVA Gallery and

continued on page 11

Green Candidate Byron DeLear ♦ Mexico Cruise ♦ Carlos Fuentes



"Living" exhibit in remembrance of Missing Children's Day in Washington D.C., May 2000.

THORNTON from page 1

SFV Arts Council), stopped throwing away those mailers when one of his art students became a missing child.

From the early to mid-1990's, Thornton spent six years counseling and performing crisis intervention for at-risk youths, runaway teens, abused children, and young gang members. "I felt that through art I was able to make a difference in the lives of these children," says Thornton. Not long into his new teaching position, a young girl in his class was abducted.

The incident left such an impact on Thornton that he felt he had to do something about it. At first he wasn't sure what to do or how to help. Ultimately, he turned to painting. Looking at a mailer of a missing child, he saw the image in a new light.

Thornton recalls, "The first portrait I painted of a missing child was started on a warm spring night in 1991. It was very emotional. I sat on the floor of my apartment with one of the 'have you seen me?' cards. I could barely make out the monochrome face of a smiling child whom I had never met, and I applied thick, flowing paint until the image of his face came to life on the canvas."

It was the first of hundreds. "I kept these paintings private for a very long time. It was a very powerful process for me," he says.

A friend invited him to exhibit his work at the Hollywood Loft Gallery in 1996, where he hung paintings on the wall, and laid them on the floor so viewers could touch them, and in effect, interact. The show consisted of 100 paintings and was aptly called "Missing Children."

The paintings, however, were not, and are not, for sale. "These paintings are to bring awareness, to make a difference. These are for the families," Thornton adamantly states.

In 1999, Thornton visited Italy, and it was there he saw how people came together at a central getza (gathering place). This was something he knew Los Angeles did not have, but realized he could unite members of the community by bringing an awareness of missing children.

He gained such an opportunity at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art

(LACMA) in November 1999, when two hundred portraits of missing children were displayed in an incarnation of the "project without walls" he had done a few years earlier. Hundreds of people gathered in front of LACMA to wear a portrait of a missing child in what turned out to be a 'living exhibition.'

Reflecting, Thornton says, "I really needed people to touch these paintings. At LACMA, hundreds of people were able to carry my paintings on their shoulders. Fingerprints are still on the paintings now. It was an incredibly moving thing."

In May 2000, in remembrance of Missing Children's Day (May 25), Thornton was invited to exhibit his work at the White House and the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. With 300 portraits, he brought the community together again to hold up these paintings of missing children — one of the people in attendance happened to be a found missing child.

The next time you see a "Have you seen me?" mailer, take a moment and remember that the picture tells a story about a child. Take some heart in knowing that these pictures do, in fact, help recover some missing children.

And John Paul Thornton will never let them be forgotten. *

John Paul Thornton's work can be viewed online at www.johnpaulthornton.com He will be presenting an exhibition of his work of missing children in a solo show, "Compulsion/ Compassion" at Infusion Gallery located at 828 S. Main Street, Downtown Los Angeles www.infusiongallery.com Runs through June 30. The first month of the exhibition will focus on an installation of hundreds of portraits depicting the faces of America's missing children. The second month will feature a celebratory series of works based on ceremony and the search for spiritual identity in our lives.

For information about the National Center for Missing & Exploited children's photo-distribution program, call 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678).

Sophia Louisa Lee is an artist living in Studio City. View her online gallery at www.sophialouisa.com. Email: sophialouisaart@yahoo.com

Largest Selection of Safes on the West Coast



Dean Safe Company
www.DeanSafe.com

8616 Woodman Ave.
(1 signal north of Roscoe)
Arleta/Van Nuys, CA 91331
(818) 997-1234



Are you struggling with nicotine addiction?

You can kick the habit NOW in one 30 minute treatment* with our NutraHab™ laser therapy.

"The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that one in every five deaths in the United States is smoking-related."

- Painless
- Fast
- Effective
- and Affordable

If you want to stop smoking, and are looking for an edge to help you curb the cravings so you can put yourself on the path to better health, then call us today to schedule your appointment.

866-NUTRAHAB
866-688-7242
Sherman Oaks • West L.A. • Westlake Village



Windermere
Bill Toth & Associates
818.569.0210

www.windermere.com • www.billtoth.com

"Magnolia Park"
2 Kingsite Bedrooms, 2 Remodeled Bath home & Family Room with high Ceiling & Fireplace. Large lot w/Pool & new Landscaping. New Hardwood Floors. Crown Moldings. French Doors. Remodeled Kitchen w/Granite Counters. \$799,000.00

"A Rose is a Rose is a Rose"
But a home is not a home is not a home. This Toluca Woods Rose is an exceptional & stylish adobe. 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath, Master Suite, Numerous Skylights. Open Gourmet Kitchen. A Family room with walls of glass. Private rear yard with paved patio & pool. \$959,000.00

"The Meadows"
Another rare Burbank Meadows offering. 2 Bedroom, Den, 1 Bath, Hardwood Floors, Fireplace, Large Yard. Beautiful home. *Burbank Meadows is the fictional neighborhood created to help Bill Toth sell his Listings. \$579,000.00

"High on the Hill"
Burbank Hill Home. 3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath, Hardwood Floors, Newer Kitchen. Very Large Lot plus RV parking. \$719,000.00

"Contemporary Masterpiece"
3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, with Family Room. Beautiful Black Bottom Pool. New Kitchen w/Granite. Studio City Hills. \$1,195,000.00

"Perfect Starter"
2 Bedroom, 1 Bath w/central air. Large Yard. New Paint. A-3 Zone, Excellent upside potential. \$559,000.00

"Burbank Hills Townhome"
3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath. Light & Bright Townhome end unit in small & friendly complex above Glenoaks. Custom Tile & Colors. Laundry area inside unit. Low HOA. Easy to Show. \$519,000.00

"Terrific Burbank Townhouse"
2 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath Decorator Perfect. Remodeled thru out Kitchen w/stainless steel appliances. Laundry in unit. Huge Master Suite. Very low HOA. 2 car parking. Ready to move in. \$669,500.00

"Large Home"
6 Bedroom, 3 Bath home with lots of room. Rear 2 Bedrooms have Private sitting room & kitchenette. Central air, new dual-paneled Windows. Hardwood floors, all wood cabinets in kitchen. large back Yard, all for only... \$689,000.00

"And How!"
2 Bedroom, 1 Bath Remodeled in Toluca Woods. New Kitchen, Bath, Formal Dining Room. Guest house with Kitchenette, Bedroom & Bath. 4 Car Garage. \$769,000.00

Remembering faces of missing children

Valley artist paints images never to forget

BY SOPHIA LOUISA LEE

We all receive flyers in the mail of a missing child that asks the question, "Have you seen me?" If you're like most people, those mailers end up being ignored and generally tossed in the trash.

John Paul Thornton, a Valley-based artist (and president of The San Fernando Valley Arts Club, which supports VIVA Gallery and SFV Arts Council), stopped throwing away those mailers when one of his art students became a missing child.

From the early to mid-1990's, Thornton spent six years counseling and performing crisis intervention for at-risk youths, runaway teens, abused children, and young gang members. "I felt that through art I was able to make a difference in the lives of these children," says Thornton. Not long into his new teaching position, a young girl in his class was abducted.

The incident left such an impact on Thornton that he felt he had to do something about it. At first he wasn't sure what to do or how to help. Ultimately, he turned to painting. Looking at a mailer of a missing child, he saw the image in a new light.

Thornton recalls, "The first portrait I painted of a missing child was started on a warm spring night in 1991. It was very emotional. I sat on the floor of my apartment with one of the 'have you seen me?' cards. I could barely make out the monochrome face of a smiling child whom I had never met, and I applied thick, flowing paint until the image of his face came to life on the canvas."

It was the first of hundreds. "I kept these paintings private for a very long time. It was a very powerful process for me," he says.

A friend invited him to exhibit his work at the Hollywood Loft Gallery in 1996, where he hung paintings on the wall, and laid them on the floor so viewers could touch them, and in effect, interact. The show consisted of 100 paintings and was aptly called "Missing Children."

The paintings, however, were not, and are not, for sale. "These paintings are to bring awareness, to make a difference. These are for the families," Thornton adamantly states.

In 1999, Thornton visited Italy, and it was there he saw how people came together at a central getza (gathering place). This was something he knew Los Angeles did not have, but realized he could unite members of the community by bringing an awareness of missing children.

He gained such an opportunity at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) in November 1999, when two

hundred portraits of missing children were displayed in an incarnation of the "project without walls" he had done a few years earlier. Hundreds of people gathered in front of LACMA to wear a portrait of a missing child in what turned out to be a 'living exhibition.'

Reflecting, Thornton says, "I really needed people to touch these paintings. At LACMA, hundreds of people were able to carry my paintings on their shoulders. Fingerprints are still on the paintings now. It was an incredibly moving thing."

In May 2000, in remembrance of Missing Children's Day (May 25), Thornton



John Paul Thornton.

was invited to exhibit his work at the White House and the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. With 300 portraits, he brought the community together again to hold up these paintings of missing children — one of the people in attendance happened to be a found missing child.

The next time you see a "Have you seen me?" mailer, take a moment and remember that the picture tells a story about a child. Take some heart in knowing that these pictures do, in fact, help recover some missing children.

And John Paul Thornton will never let them be forgotten. *

John Paul Thornton's work can be viewed online at www.johnpaulthornton.com He will be presenting an exhibition of his work of missing children in a solo show, "Compulsion/ Compassion" at Infusion Gallery located at 828 S. Main Street, Downtown Los Angeles www.infusiongallery.com Runs through June 30. The first month of the exhibition will focus on an installation of hundreds of portraits depicting the faces of America's missing children. The second month will feature a celebratory series of works based on ceremony and the search for spiritual identity in our lives.

For information about the National Center for Missing & Exploited children's photo-distribution program, call 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678).

Sophia Louisa Lee is an artist living in Studio City. View her online gallery at www.sophialouisa.com. Email: sophialouisaart@yahoo.com

WE DOUBLE MANUFACTURER'S COUPONS

Cambridge FARMS

\$1.79
LB.

Ground Beef
30% Fat Family Pack

79¢
LB.

Foster Farms
Whole Chicken

5 LBS. FOR
\$1

Watermelon
Seedless

59¢
LB.

Red Bell
Pepper

2 LBS. FOR
\$1

Persian
Cucumber

2 FOR \$4

Fritos
or **Cheetos**
Assorted 9-10 oz.

\$3.99

Le Nature's
Natural Ice Water
24.5 liter Bottle

2 FOR \$5

Florida's Natural
Premium Orange Juice
64 oz.

\$8.99

Beaulieu Vineyards
BV Coastal Estates Wines
Assorted 750 ml. Bottle

\$22.99

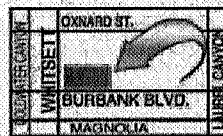
Tequila Reserva
1800 Reposado
Gift Box with Margarita Mix
750 ml. Bottle

\$11.99

Budweiser
or **Bud Light**
20-pack 12oz. Bottles

Prices Effective through May 9, 2006
We reserve the right to limit quantity on items advertised.

12431 Burbank Blvd.
at Whitsett
Valley Village
(818) 506-6661



OPEN EVERY DAY 7 A.M. TO 10 P.M.

10% OFF ANY ORDER
WITH THIS COUPON (Over \$25.00)

Does not include liquor, wine, or cigarettes. Expires: 5/18/06