HILBERT MUSEUM GATHERS HONORS, ADDS A NORMAN ROCKWELL

The much-honored Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University – named the Best Art Museum in Orange County by OC Weekly in 2018 – keeps getting better. The Hilbert’s newly acquired Norman Rockwell drawing, “Crestwood Commuter Station,” created in 1946 as a study for one of his iconic Saturday Evening Post covers, is on display at the museum through Oct. 19 as part of the exhibit “Sincerely, Norman Rockwell: Celebrating a New Acquisition.”

Tucked away near the Orange Metrolink Station and Ruby’s Diner and Streamliner Lounge in the historic depot, the Hilbert is an easy stroll from the Orange Plaza and surrounding Old Towne neighborhood.

Last fall brought a harvest of awards for the museum, which opened in 2016. In November, the Orange City Council honored founders Mark and Janet Hilbert along with the museum and Chapman University with a proclamation recognizing the positive effects of the museum on the city.

The Hilberts also recently received the Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award in Arts Philanthropy from Arts Orange County. In addition, the couple represented the museum at the council meeting by accepting a certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Mimi Walters, then the outgoing representative for California’s 45th District. Also on display at the Hilbert through Oct. 19 are 20 brilliantly colored paintings by Disney artist Mary Blair, featuring Dumbo, Cinderella, Alice in Wonderland and Peter Pan as well as her ingenious concepts for “It’s a Small World,” one of Disney’s most beloved rides.

On view through April 27 are more than 60 paintings of Bay Area scenes in the California Scene style capturing the beauty of the Golden State that is central to Walt Disney’s “Suburban Life,” one of Disney’s most beloved rides.

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ALUMNA TATTOO ARTIST USES HER SKILLS TO RESTORE

The electric tattoo needle humming along the edge of Linda Lee Franklin’s eyes sounds like a bumblebee. But Franklin isn’t worried. The retired schoolteacher is happy to lie still as Chapman alumna Kimberly Armstrong (M.A. ’98) gently inks in feathery arcs of pale brown color along the rims of her eyelids.

Because after years of coping with hair loss caused by alopecia, Franklin is happy to summon patience and time for Armstrong’s skills.

“I was humiliated, upset and saddened when I lost my hair,” Franklin says. “Now to get up in the morning and look in the mirror and see eyebrows and lashes, it’s like a brand-new world.”

Moments and stories like these are not new for Armstrong. Over the past 10 years, the permanent-makeup tattoo artist has expanded her business to serve an increasing number of clients who come to her for artful restorations that also restore confidence and change lives. But whether the task is re-creating areolas and nipples for a breast cancer survivor or camouflaging a dog bite scar for a young woman, Armstrong says she is transformed, too.

“It’s unbelievable. Every day is filled with new possibilities and opportunities to help people feel normal again. It’s an unbelievable experience,” she says, sitting in her spa-like studio in Laguna Hills.

She tears up as she tells these stories, then laughs as she brushes away tears.

“We’re always laughing and crying in here,” she says. Armstrong didn’t anticipate this path when she earned a master’s degree in rhetoric and composition from Chapman. But she’s never shied away from shifting gears.

“Life is full of surprises and you never, never know where your path will take you,” she says. “You just have to trust the journey.”

Did You Know?

The Fish Interfaith Center, a spiritual home for students of all faiths on the Chapman campus, also offers occasional Sound Healing sessions that are open to the neighborhood community. Upcoming Sound Healing sessions in the beautiful Wallace All Faiths Chapel also include a labyrinth walk at 7:30 p.m. on April 1, and a mindfulness meditation class at 7:30 p.m. on April 29. Bring a blanket or yoga mat. All are welcome. Fish Interfaith Center regularly hosts events for students including Shabbat services, Jum’ah prayers and Catholic mass. The center is led by Dean Gail Stearns, a Presbyterian minister, with Rabbi Corie Yutkin and Shaykh Jibreel Speight on staff.

Need to report a concern?

Contact Chapman University’s Office of Community Relations at (714) 289-2097 or email neighbors@chapman.edu.

To report a disturbance that needs urgent attention, please call City of Orange PD dispatch at (714) 744-7444.
YOU’re INVITED!
Join us for these engaging events at Chapman

There are many terrific Chapman University events, and neighbors are always welcome. Here are just a few. Find more at the University’s online events calendar, www.chapman.edu/events. Advance tickets for performing arts events may be purchased online at www.chapman.edu/tickets.

Future of Transportation
Wednesday, March 27, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Beckman Hall 404
Traffic, transit and the future of high-speed rail are among the topics for this public policy conference hosted by Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mike Dukakis, a professor at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, is among the participants, along with the heads of California High Speed Rail, Caltrans and the Orange County Transportation Authority. Visit chapman.edu/publicpolicy for more information. Free.

Spring Choral Concert
Sunday, March 31, 4 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Orange
The University Choir and Singers invite the neighborhood to their spring concert, hosted by Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music and the College of Performing Arts in the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary at 191 N. Orange St. The choirs will be conducted by Stephen Coker, D.M.A., Chapman’s director of choral activities and an associate professor of music. Free.

Your Sustainable Home
Monday, April 15, 6 p.m.
Chapman Crafted
Mackenzie Crigger, Chapman’s energy conservation and sustainability manager, will offer insight into ways residents can be more energy efficient and reduce waste in their homes. This is the latest in Chapman’s Science on Tap program, a series of casual moderated discussions featuring experts who explore the intersection of science and culture. Chapman Crafted Beer, 123 N. Cypress St. Free. (Beverages available for purchase.)

Find more news at NeighborsofChapman.com

About 150 students from California’s 46th Congressional District visited Chapman on a Saturday in January for a half-day seminar as part of Rep. Lou Correa’s Young Congressional Leaders Program.

Mostly high school students from the congressional district that includes Anaheim, Santa Ana and parts of Orange, the young people in the program learn about the federal government, meet with local leaders and develop leadership skills.

At Chapman, they were welcomed by a member of Congressman Correa’s staff as well as by Jerry Price, the University’s vice president for student affairs and dean of students, and Jack Raubolt, Chapman’s vice president for community relations, whose office hosted of the event.

Many of the youth would be the first from their families to graduate from college, a group known as first-generation students. Christian Aguilar, a senior admissions counselor at Chapman who was a first-gen graduate himself, told them to work hard on their academics because that not only determines admissions but also can affect financial aid offers, in addition to demonstrated need.

“The higher their academic performance, the more offers and financial aid they will receive from colleges and universities like Chapman,” he says. “I make it a point to tell students not to shy away from applying to private institutions because of a ‘sticker cost’ of attendance.”

The group also toured campus and heard from a panel of Chapman students featuring Maria Harfouche ‘19, Charlotte Cavanaugh-Kerr ’21, Alisa Dreyer ’21 and Faith Escalera ’18 (M.S. ’19).

The panelists discussed work/life balance while in school, opportunities to get involved on campus, and how to make new friends.

Dean of Students Jerry Price welcomes local high school students to the University on their Young Congressional Leaders visit.

More inside!