HIDDEN LEAVES

VOL 9 - ISSUE 2

FALL
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Doing What You Have To Do

Say yes
to building
a mountain
of light
that
spirals up.

Say yes
in color,
in sun,
in moon,
within
the whole.

Say yes
upon the
backs of crows
upon cries
upon my arms.

Say yes.

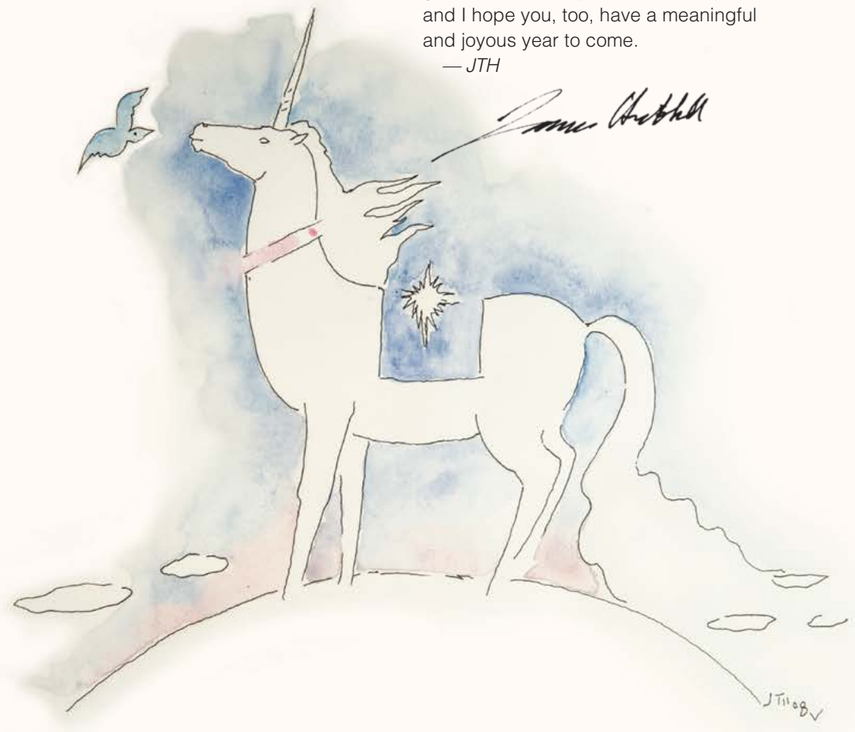
— JTH

I have learned over the years of being an artist that you don't do anything alone. Everyone and everything is important. One should always be conscious of being thankful for beauty in the world, and for friends—for without our friends, Anne and I would have lived a life full of imagination, but it would have been far less fulfilling.

But listening to everyone who likes your work can be dangerous to an artist's imagination. Egos can get in the way of our creative expression. When you mostly do what makes people happy, you find yourself using this comfort zone as a place to jump from, and that is what I sometimes refer to as "dangerous." Being imaginative comes from listening to your own voice, and doing what you have to do and what you should do.

Expressing my imagination through art—and building Ilan-Lael—has helped me come to terms with myself and the world. Thank you all for your good wishes on my recent birthday, and I hope you, too, have a meaningful and joyous year to come.

— JTH



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Untitled Watercolor
from the exhibit
"Cosmos: Touching Stardust"
by James Hubbell

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On Imagination

Laurel Costa

Jim Hubbell's daily surroundings may have changed but his curiosity and imagination have hardly dimmed. He recently showed me a sketch of a unicorn and a crow. A few days later, he asked several of us to help write a story about these unlikely allies: the white unicorn that lost its horn and how a black crow tried to help. This is Jim at his best, challenging us playfully, yet with all seriousness, to use our imagination to find answers to challenges, real or imagined.

This has been Jim's greatest gift to me — the encouragement to freely rely on imagination in my work. I have done so many times in the films and television programs I've produced—including those about Jim and Ilan-Lael. Directing a film has a lot in common with being the Director of the Foundation. It requires a clear vision, passion, commitment, and the efforts of many. Above all, it takes imagination to conceive of an idea and make it reality.

The launch of the Ilan-Lael Endowment is fast becoming the most important and imaginative work I've done. Ensuring Jim and Anne's legacy lives on for generations is a big responsibility and an awesome opportunity. I've been meeting one-on-one with long-time supporters and friends, and the reception I've received has been very positive and heart-felt. Our community loves and respects Jim and Anne and they're eager to show it. We introduced our Founder's Circle campaign a short time ago and we're already half-way to our initial $500,000 goal! There is much further to go, but this fundraising work is joyful thanks to all of you who so willingly return the love that the Hubbells and Ilan-Lael have brought to your life. In my wildest imagination, I would not have dreamed of such a welcoming reception.

During the holiday season, I can't help but be hopeful that we can continue to count on your annual donations that keep us strong, as well as additional endowment gifts that will seed the future. Let's invite Jim's unicorns and black crows to stoke all our imaginations and encourage us to become allies as we dream big for the future that lies ahead.

—Marianne Gerdes

"This is Jim at his best, challenging us playfully, yet with all seriousness, to use our imagination to find answers to challenges, real or imagined."

Above: Decorative sculpture and mosaics on the Boys' House at Ilan-Lael

Opposite page: Pen and ink with watercolor, 2008, James Hubbell

"BY GOLLY, IT WORKED!"

Environmentalist Diane Coombs, a friend of Ilan-Lael, looks back on battles lost and won

By Peter Jensen
Photos by Laurel Costa

Walking the grounds of Ilan-Lael with Diane Coombs is a special treat. Sure-footed for a 91-year-old, her eyes shine as she takes everything in — as if for the first time, but she's been here many times before. Her enthusiasm buoys all who follow her along the paths in search of several art "installations" being created by a group of high school students: a program called Watershed Explorers that she supports.

Diane is a good friend of the Hubbells. A staunch environmental and community activist, she has played a pivotal role in numerous land-use and preservation projects throughout San Diego County for many decades.

We spoke with Diane about the long struggle to save San Diego open space for all to enjoy—or at least lessen the footprint of development. She was soon to be on her way to Volcan Mountain to celebrate her 91st birthday with family and friends.

Diane Coombs, photographed at Ilan-Lael, visits students from High Tech High in San Marcos participating in the Watershed Explorers program.

Where did you develop your love of nature?

My earliest memories of the outdoors and natural world are from growing up on a farm in Utah where I wanted to be outside every minute! I would have, too, but my mother would hear our squeaky screen door and tell me to get back inside if I still had chores to finish.

What brought you to San Diego, and how did you keep your connection with nature?

My husband took a job at Convair and we moved into a little duplex in Clairemont that was right near a canyon. Next came our family house in Serra Mesa, also near a canyon but overlooking still-beautiful Mission Valley. We went down to the valley to buy our vegetables. It was one of the first watersheds in the county to be destroyed. Later they put 805 through. My son and his buddies were mad that they were destroying a canyon they played in.

Soon you were an environmental activist. How did that happen?

When I watched the high rises go up in La Jolla, I was inspired that a community like La Jolla could rise and say "enough." My involvement in community affairs really started in the early 1960s when a friend introduced me to the local scene. I was a young mother with one child at the time, two eventually, and I wanted to have an intelligent conversation or two beyond being home with toddlers. I joined Citizens Coordinate and League of Women Voters: both groups promoted good government, planning, and citizen participation. They lost the battle to save Mission Valley but won the battle to save the Tijuana estuary.

I then worked 15 years in the Board of Supervisors offices pushing preservation goals for five different supervisors. Next, I was asked to head up the Joint Powers Authority (JPA), where we worked for a decade to protect the remaining San Dieguito River Valley watershed. That was the last paid position I held. I continue to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee for San Dieguito River Park. We work to connect all member agencies, and it is an amazing way to continue to communicate and cooperate.

How did you first meet the Hubbells?

I met them when volunteering for C3 (Citizens Coordinate for Century 3) in the 1960s. We were given space in Lloyd Ruocco's office and I enjoyed every minute of it. Jim and Anne were great friends of Lloyd's. Our board included the Marstons, the Revelles, the Munks...concerned citizens all. Later we had meetings in the House of Hospitality in Balboa Park and Jim donated several paintings to be sold to raise funds. One hangs in my home now.

At that time there were several threats to the Julian area. A property on Volcan Mountain was proposed for development and C3 helped defeat that project. I was at the Board of Supervisors at the time. Funds from a state bond eventually helped purchase the property.

What do you find most attractive about the Hubbells' lives, their art, their dreams?

They are so generous and welcoming in sharing their magical place. They have a unique ability to bring young people together from all over the world, inspiring everyone to physically work together and get to know each other while designing and building peace parks in countries around the Pacific Rim.

Now they are sharing their amazing home with kids through the Watershed Explorer program. They realize we're all part of the whole, and this is how we reduce hate and build love.

Looking back on your life and career, what do you feel is your signature accomplishment?

I think watershed protection was key. I saw what happened to Mission Valley and what was going to happen to the San Dieguito watershed, and I decided "enough!" Of course, there were threats to ALL the watersheds. Watershed protection must cover our entire area from mountains to ocean.

You are a driving force of a new watershed program—in part—with Ilan-Lael. How did it come about?

The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, in partnership with Volcan Mountain Foundation, San Diego Archaeological Center, and San Dieguito River Park, wanted to help each organization expand individual nature education programs. Watershed Explorers was launched, but transportation was a problem. I went to Diane Jacobs and she said she would fund one of two vans. That was easy.

We try to focus on Title One schools, girl scouts, and other organizations in geographical locations where children don't have the opportunity to get out in nature very much. This has been a wonderful day. It is truly inspiring to see how much fun they are having. And then to see the artwork they created!

> **"They have a unique ability to bring young people together from all over the world, inspiring everyone to physically work together and get to know each other... They realize we're all part of the whole, and this is how we reduce hate and build love."**

Has the environmental and preservation movement in San Diego reached its full potential? Is creating a huge new park, like River Park or Mission Trails, still possible?

Not in the present environment. Environmental groups used to get together and spend most of a day talking about where we are, where we want to be, and how we can work together to get there. It looks like it won't happen this year. I've been a little concerned about some environmental groups that don't seem to have done their homework.

We need to go back to a city manager form of government and get rid of the "strong mayor" approach, so we don't have toadies appointed by the mayor. We need a professional manager who will appoint professionals to do the job right, without being influenced by special interests with campaign contributions.

What are the greatest threats to what's left of the natural world in San Diego?

I would say climate change and campaign contributions. And misplaced priorities. Talk of a "housing crisis" is an example. They're putting housing in the wrong places, and the housing they do build is not meeting the market deficit, which is low-income.

Is there any hope for San Diego Bay having a waterfront devoted more to open space than big projects like massive new hotels and football stadiums?

One battle right now is the proposal to redevelop Seaport Village, which will destroy Ruocco Park. I'm afraid we're going to go to court on this. In opposition, we have people involved who knew Lloyd Ruocco, and they're angry, and I'm angry.

Is using mitigation funds from a project that has destroyed habitat a good way to save habitat that is somehow more "worth" saving?

Mitigation funds create opportunities. One example: we got involved with saving Rutherford Ranch. Phillip Rutherford was a tough guy and wasn't going to sell. But a fellow at Trust for Public Lands made friends with Phillip and explained to him how if he sold at what WE could pay (via mitigation funds), he would get a tax benefit for the difference between his appraisal and ours. And by golly it worked.

A major source of funds was Southern California Edison. I was working with the Coastal Commission and they had to create wetlands. San Dieguito's lagoon restoration came to fruition. Currently Cal Trans's mitigation for widening I-5 will restore even more wetlands in the San Dieguito lagoon. With sea-level rise, we'll lose some of our wetlands, so we need to restore their more eastern areas.

Continued on next page.

Laurel Costa

Non-stop Creativity and Learning Flow at Ilan-Lael

Recently Ilan-Lael hosted 50 high school students from High Tech High in San Marcos, California, who spent a day learning to look at their world in a new way. **Watershed Explorers** is a program of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy that provides young people the opportunity to experience and appreciate nature, culture, and the art of the San Dieguito River watershed first-hand.

Artists Mati Moon, Jenna MacGillis, Emilie Ledieu, and Laurel Costa curated the day and led the classes. Students toured the property and observed how James Hubbell uses water as an inspiration for many of his designs. They were invited to paint, and construct nature-themed tableaus—an exercise inspired by the work of sculptor Andy Goldsworthy.

"Our day at Ilan-Lael allowed us to see that architecture is not just about houses. I learned that you could make art part of your everyday life...and we had the chance to see what two people accomplished. The spaces here are so well-loved!"—*Var, 8th grade, Watershed Explorers attendee*

Watershed Explorers at Ilan-Lael was made possible by Diane Coombs, a founding member of the program who is featured in this issue. It is her sincere wish that the Ilan-Lael community give generously to help the **Watershed Explorer Program** prosper and flourish at Ilan-Lael in the coming year.

Above and below: Students create tableaus with natural materials found at Ilan-Lael. Left: Program designers/instructors Jenna MacGillis, Mati Moon, Laurel Costa, and Emilie Ledieu. Bottom left: Students from High Tech High San Marcos painting with watercolors in inspiring surroundings.

Laurel Costa

Laurel Costa

Emilie Ledieu

"By Golly, It Worked"

Continued from page 5

How well is San Diego positioned in terms of offsetting issues that come with growth, such as congestion, pollution, and depletion (i.e. water)?

I like to say that the world has a carrying capacity. Everywhere has a carrying capacity, and water and air are everywhere. Bringing in yet more water from elsewhere is stupid.

Can neighborhoods and residents of lesser means create natural parks, open space, and nature education?

We're doing it by helping kids go home from programs like Watershed Explorers and saying to their parents, "You won't believe what I did today that I can't do in our neighborhood." San Diego City Counsel has done a terrible job of sending money to communities that don't need it. The city has vacant land. Pocket parks—built by community members so they feel a sense of ownership—should be created.

Where do you get your "nature fix?"

I'm living on top of Del Cerro and I find that going to Lake Murray is easy. I used to do a five-mile walk there, but now I'm down to two and a half. I see squirrels and occasional Canadian geese. I enjoy going to Volcan. And the beach, where we go to Kono's for breakfast and then walk. I like the entire River Park. We go to restaurants like Jake's or Viewpoint and take off on a walk from there. And finally, the wetlands trails are wonderful.

How would you counsel a younger version of yourself to take on the next big effort to save a San Diego wild place that is now in private hands?

Participate and help organize events. Get a message out via social media that tells other kids how cool it is to be involved with saving parklands and open space.

Laurel Costa

NEWS *from the* HILL & BEYOND

For more great stories and beautiful photos, visit ilanlaelfoundation.org/NEWS

Laurie Dietter

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Meet longtime Ilan-Lael friend Ingrid Coffin

"I met James in the '70s through our mutual participation in the world of stained glass. Our friendship led me to Ilan-Lael and an opportunity to meet Anne, his amazing wife. Over the years I have watched the remarkable accomplishments of the Hubbell family and have marveled at James's desire to make the world a better place through cooperation, beauty, and love of the earth."

In 2022, long-time supporter Ingrid Coffin made a significant gift to the **Ilan-Lael Founders' Circle** in honor of her long friendship and admiration for the Hubbell's. **The Founders' Circle** is a select group of friends and family who will be recognized in perpetuity for planting the first seeds of the Ilan-Lael Endowment. The Founders' Circle is open for a limited time, until we reach our initial $500,000 goal. Become a lifetime member of the Founder's Circle today with your gift of $500 or more.

Hans Peterman

The Wild, Wild Life!

Trail Cameras Capture Our Local Fauna

A one-eyed coyote, a very muscular bobcat, a ballerina fox…what else will we see? Recently our caretaker and resident mosaic guru Emilie has been working with Field Manager Hans Peterman from the Wildlife Research Institute to capture some footage of our furry friends on the Ilan-Lael property. He and Emilie chose four spots to set up cameras. The cameras are on loan from WRI and Hans is volunteering his time to install, collect and maintain the cameras. This effort was just a test to see what kinds of creatures we could photograph and the results are impressive.

Want to see the footage?

Hans and WRI's loan inspired our good friend Kat Pephens of Team3B, aka Books, Balanced, and Beyond, to donate three permanent wildlife cams to Ilan-Lael. Follow us @ilanlael on social media to monitor our local denizens. And many thanks to Hans, Emilie, and Kat for introducing this new program to I-L.—*Laurel Costa*

Collecting San Diego

Celebrating Artists At Two Local Museums

Collecting San Diego is an initiative of the **San Diego History Center** to bring those remarkable collectors and collections that reflect the city's history past, present, and future to light.

The first exhibition in this series features selections from the collection of **Sandra and Bram Dijkstra** who have built an impressive assemblage of American and European art that includes many works by San Diego-area artists, including James Hubbell. A Hubbell watercolor is featured on the cover of the exhibition catalog.

At a time when San Diego was still stereotyped as a region that had not produced serious art, the Dijkstra's collected local art that moved them, rather than being driven by recognizable ''names." As a result, they gathered many examples by forgotten and undervalued San Diego artists, including many women.

The show is currently on exhibition at the History Center's Balboa Park site located in the Casa de Balboa on the Prado.

On the other end of the county, the **Oceanside Museum of Art** celebrates its legacy of exhibitions and artists presented over the last quarter century in a special exhibit. James Hubbell is one the artists featured. James's beautiful **Firebird** stained glass window is on display. This may be your final chance to see it before it heads to its Findhorn, Scotland home next year. The exhibition, curated by Danielle Deery, is up until January 29, 2023.

The Friendliest Walk

PRP Friendship Walk and Celebration

Blessed by a classic Santa Ana day, the Ilan-Lael **Pacific Rim Park Friendship Walk** saw a large gathering of friends meet at James' monumental sculpture Pacific Portal near the roundabout on Shelter Island. The "Chunky Hustle Brass Band" led our departure, and we streamed, several hundred strong, down the sidewalk to Pearl of the Pacific.

A contingent from Jeju, Korea, flew to San Diego specifically for the celebration. They represented Jeju's "Peace and International Affairs Division," and joined PRP Director Kyle Bergman in addressing the crowd about our hopes of building more parks, while always fostering strong ties of friendship and education throughout the Pacific Rim nations.

Above: A mosaic pearl fountain is the central element in San Diego's Pearl of the Pacific Park.

Below: The PRP Friendship Walk was well attended. Japanese Taiko drummers were a highlight of the celebration of friendship and peace.

Laurel Costa

Laurel Costa

John Durant

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Your annual support directly touches lives, allowing our Ilan-Lael home to provide respite, education, and inspiration. James and Anne Hubbell's message of respect for nature and the power of beauty in building a more humane and harmonious world continues to guide all we do.

We humbly thank everyone for your generosity in 2022. Please support our work in 2023!

Happy holidays and happy New Year!

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