

OUT & ABOUT



Ronald L. Nye

Nye honored for nonprofit work

Ronald L. Nye is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Goleta Valley Historical Society. Dr. Nye has worked with the organization in various roles since 1988, including volunteer, historian, board member and president. He now serves on the advisory board. His efforts have benefited Rancho La Patera in many ways, such as helping establish the Conservation Assessment Program in 1999, a restoration of the buildings and securing Stow House on the National Registry of Historic Places. Dr. Nye, a registered architectural historian, was recently appointed to the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission.

—Charlotte Boechler

OUR TOWN

Call for lavender artists

Artists working in two dimensions are invited to submit their work for a juried competition in conjunction with the Ojai Valley Lavender Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 27 in Libbey Park in Ojai. Selected artists will have their work displayed and available for sale in the Art Pavilion at the festival. In addition, participating artworks will be on view at the Ojai Valley Artists Gallery in Ojai from June 17-26, with an artists' reception 6 to 8 p.m. June 19. Artists must submit their work in person 4 to 6 p.m. June 14 or June 15 at OVA Gallery, 108 N. Signal Ave., in downtown Ojai. They will be notified of their acceptance or nonacceptance on June 16, and work not accepted must be picked up on June 17 at the gallery. For work sold, a 20 percent commission will be taken by OVA Gallery or the Lavender Festival Association. For more information, call 646-3424.

—Marilyn McMahon

ON STAGE

Students to perform 'Willy Wonka Kids'

The Children's Montessori School will perform "Willy Wonka Kids" at 1 p.m. Saturday at Center Stage Theater, upstairs at Paseo Nuevo. The musical is the Lompoc school's 27th annual production and is based on "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl. It features music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley. Tickets cost \$12 for general admission and \$10 for children. To purchase, call the theater at 963-0408 or go to www.centerstagetheater.org.

—Dave Mason



Becoming Frida

Women to dress as iconic Mexican artist for museum benefit

By **DAVE MASON**
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Frida Kahlo bravely drew from her painful life in timeless self-portraits.

Now those self-portraits of the surrealist Mexican painter who has inspired women for decades are surrealistically coming to life during a Funk Zone benefit.

Attendees will be dressing like her from head to toe — with traditional hairstyle; her famous unibrow; and an indigenous Mexican top and skirt — to help raise funds for the Los Angeles-based National Museum of Animals & Society.

Dinner with Frida will take place 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday at Green House Studios, 136 E. Yanonali St. Organizer and Santa Barbara resident Carolyn Merino Mullin, who founded the animal museum in 2013, said she hopes to draw 75 people and raise \$5,000 for the museum's new building opening this fall at a yet-to-be-disclosed address near the Miracle Mile stretch of Wilshire Boulevard.

Women are encouraged to dress as Ms. Kahlo at the event. Men can come as Diego Rivera, a Mexican muralist and Ms. Kahlo's husband.

"As an anthropologist, I can understand why so many people are attracted to the work and image of Frida

Kahlo. She was a woman of strong convictions, sensitive to her cultural and political reality, and proud of her Mexican heritage," Carmen Geiler told the News-Press at Green House Studios. The Santa Barbara resident, 39, has toured Ms. Kahlo's house, now the Frida Kahlo Museum, in Coyoacan, part of Mexico City.

At Green House Studios, Mrs. Geiler, a member of the Dinner with Frida host committee, wore an indigenous Mexican skirt and top made in Oaxaca, Mexico, for a News-Press photo shoot. She joined two other women and a girl who also dressed like Ms. Kahlo for the session.

"They're adorable ... it's fun to see your friends dress up!" Ms. Mullin, 32, said about the group.

"She wasn't known as an exceptionally beautiful woman," she added, referring to the famed painter. "But there was something enigmatic about her."

Mrs. Geiler said Ms. Kahlo, whose success opened doors for other Latina artists, incorporated her culture into her work and lifestyle. That included her handmade clothing.

"Frida even designed her own jewelry to make sure it was big and visible," Ms. Geiler said.

Ms. Kahlo's art extended to food. Dinner with Frida will feature Mexican vegetarian dishes that Jason

Please see **FRIDA** on A7

IF YOU GO

Attendees will dress up as renowned Mexican artist Frida Kahlo and taste her recipes at Dinner with Frida, a benefit for the National Museum of Animals & Society, 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday at Green House Studios, 136 E. Yanonali St. The event also will feature an auction of "exquisite corpses" — surrealist works resulting from artistic collaborations.

Tickets cost \$100. To purchase, call the museum at 323-928-2652 or go to www.museumofanimals.org/frida.

Jason Wyrick, author of "Vegan Tacos" and executive chef of The Vegan Taste (meal delivery service and classes coordinated at <http://thevegantaste.com>), will teach a cooking class and sign his book at 1 p.m. Sunday at Green House Studios. A \$5 donation is requested.

Proceeds will benefit the museum's new building, which will open this fall at a yet-to-be-disclosed address near the Miracle Mile stretch of Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles. The museum features exhibits and talks about the connection between humans and animals.

HELENA DAY BREESE / NEWS-PRESS

From left, Carmen Geiler, Rene Marchington, Kathy Mills and Sophia Mills, kneeling, pose as Frida Kahlo at Green House Studios in the Funk Zone. Women are encouraged to dress as the legendary 20th-century Mexican artist during Dinner with Frida, a benefit Saturday for the Los Angeles-based National Museum of Animals & Society.