INSIDER EVENTS

HERE’S AN IDEA:
The history of the Conejo Valley has a decidedly western flavor. To find out why, trot on over to Newbury Park, where the STAGECOACH INN MUSEUM preserves the area’s legacy. Originally the Grand Union Hotel, built in 1876 and designated a California Registered Historical Landmark in 1965, the Monterey-style building is surrounded by four acres of property with nature trails, an archeological site of a Chumash dwelling, a Spanish adobe, a carriage house, a blacksmith shop, a 300-year-old sycamore tree, and a schoolhouse. Inside are dolls, furniture, décor, and musical instruments spanning various periods. Take a tour with a docent from the Conejo Valley Historical Society to find out about the museum and the area’s development; stagecoachmuseum.org.

FAMILY FUN

January 15–18
MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL
San Luis Obispo County locations. Keep an eagle eye out for the white-breasted nuthatch and other birds of a feather at this educational and fun opportunity for all ages. Kids can participate in a critter crawl, birding hikes, kayaking, arts and crafts, and reptile encounters; morrobaybirdfestival.org.

January 15–January 31
LITTLE WOMEN OF ORCHARD HOUSE
San Luis Obispo Little Theatre. Fans of Louisa May Alcott’s classic story about the March sisters get a peek inside the author’s personal life in this play about the real Alcotts and their lives in Concord, Massachusetts. The show is performed by the young actors of the Academy of Creative Theatre; solittletheatre.org.

January 23
THE CAT IN THE HAT
Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts, Pepperdine University, Malibu. The fun’s never done in this play adapted from the original Dr. Seuss book. Follow the ever-curious cat as he leads a brother and sister from a humdrum rainy afternoon to a day filled with misadventure and mayhem; arts.pepperdine.edu.

January 28
PURPLE REIGN
Chumash Casino Resort, Santa Ynez. Jason Tenner puts on a Prince tribute show like no other. He captures the energy and vibe of The Artist and throws in a tribute to Morris Day, lead singer of the Time; chumashcasino.com.

February 13
BLACK TIE VALENTINE’S DINNER
Eberle Winery, Paso Robles. Be a sweetheart and take that special someone to a black-tie dinner in the winery caves’ Wild Boar Room. Chef William Bloxom-Carter, a former Playboy Mansion executive chef, cooks up a sumptuous repast of Central Coast cuisine; eberlewinery.com.

February 19–March 13
CABARET
San Luis Obispo Little Theatre. Christopher Isherwood’s story about a quirky romance that takes place in 1931 Berlin foreshadows an era of violence and hatred. Kander and Ebb’s remarkable score contributes a decadent, haunting quality to this play, now in its 50th year; solittletheatre.org.

February 21
THE OKEE DOKEE BROTHERS
UC Santa Barbara, Campbell Hall. Introduce the kids to American folk music performed by Parents’ Choice Award winners Justin Lansing and Joe Mailander. The duo tells stories and sings about their adventures canoeing down the Mississippi and hiking the Appalachian Trail; artsandlectures.ucsb.edu.

BY HEIDI DVORAK
**INSIDER**

**HOT TICKET**

Book your seats now for these upcoming events.

**JANUARY**

**Through January 16:** It makes perfect sense that the library of the 40th United States president and star of the 1940 film *Knute Rockne: All American* is the venue for *FOOTBALL! THE EXHIBITION!*, a massive collection of football memorabilia. The exhibit traces the history of the sport with more than 600 artifacts from the game’s legends. On view are Lombardi and Heisman trophies, scores, authentic jerseys, cleats, helmets, and, of course, footballs; Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, Simi Valley, reaganfoundation.org.

**Through February 1:** Works created by historic and contemporary artists depict the dramatic changes over time of Santa Barbara’s landscape in *LEGACY AND LOSS: LANDSCAPES OF THE SANTA BARBARA REGION*. Special attention is paid to the wilderness and regions conserved as open space; Wildling Museum, Solvang, wildlingmuseum.org.

**Through February 14:** Learn about the diversity, complexity, and universality of Latin American culture in *LOOKING IN, LOOKING OUT: LATIN AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY*. The selected images explore the culture, politics, environments, and people from Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, and other Latin nations. The photographs are chosen for either the ability to depict history, capture the present, view the future, or reveal the relationship between photographer and home country; Santa Barbara Museum of Art, sbma.net.

**Through February 21:** DayGlo acrylics and Roll-A-Tex are just two of the unusual elements implemented in *GEOMETRY OF THE ABSURD: RECENT PAINTINGS BY PETER HALLEY*. The artist’s work represents prisons, cells, and communication conduits. This is the artist’s first solo museum exhibition in the western United States; Santa Barbara Museum of Art, sbma.net.

**Through February 29:** Get *THE DIRT ON TRACTORS*, an educational exhibit about how these vehicles played a major role in the evolution of Ventura County’s farming industry and why they still are vital to the agricultural community. Several vintage tractors are on view; Agriculture Museum, Santa Paula, venturamuseum.org.

**Through March 13:** Object prosthetics—or the reconstruction of broken remains—is the subject of *INTERVENTIONS: CAYETANO FERRER*, a site-specific museum installation. The artist turns architectural fragments into hybrid sculptures that represent objects and ideas. His *Composite* series is made of pieces of marble and stone augmented with digitally printed PVC boards.
For 4th year in a row, SmartLipo named BEST OF BODY CONTOURING by American Health and Beauty.

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Remnant Recomposition is created from casino carpet remnants; Santa Barbara Museum of Art, sbma.net.

January 16–17: Relax and float downstream while listening to HANDEL’S WATER MUSIC SUITE, performed by the Santa Barbara Symphony. The concert program also presents the U.S. premiere of Italian composer Cristian Carrara’s Machpelah, featuring guest artists Francesca Dego on violin and Robert deMaine on cello, as well as Giovanni Gabrieli’s Sacrae symphoniae and Béla Bartók’s Concerto for Orchestra; The Granada, Santa Barbara, thesymphony.org.

January 17: In the first concert of the year, Central Coast flutists Suzanne Duffy and Paul Fried present a two-hour classical music program in the afternoon for the LOMPAC MUSIC ASSOCIATION CONCERT. Christopher Davis provides musical accompaniment on the piano; Valley of the Flowers United Church of Christ, lompoc.chambermaster.com.

January 22–23: An evening of music by GERSHWIN AND RAVEL comprises the New West Symphony program conducted by Marcelo Lehninger. Featured compositions are Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess and An American in Paris as well as Ravel’s Piano Concerto in G and Suite No. 2 from Daphnis et Chloé. Denis Kozhukhin is featured on the piano; Oxnard Performing Arts Center and Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, newwestsymphony.org.

January 29–February 14: Go back in time to ancient Rome, where a slave named Pseudolus tries to win his freedom by helping his master’s son get a girl. A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM combines music, dance, and slaphappy comedy in this Tony Award-winning play from 1963, presented by the Cabrillo Music Theatre; Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, cabrillomusictheatre.com.

February 3–13: More than 200 films, including more than 50 U.S. premieres and 25 world premieres, are the stars of the SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL. Filmmakers and industry bigwigs are on hand to share their stories at discussion panels and parties. Check out what screened before the talkies at Super Silent Sunday, attend celebrity tributes, and network at the Festival Pavilion, where everyone congregates for seminars and happy hour mingling; Santa Barbara locations, sbiff.org.

February 3–13: Skip the popcorn and Raisinets during the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, because running concurrently is FILM FEAST, which offers 11 days of eating and drinking pleasure around the city. This year’s theme is>
The Perfect Pairing, and restaurants, bars, and hotels are offering special packages, VIP menus, dishes, and drinks that pay tribute to the town's culinary and film cultures. Check the site to find out what venues are part of the action; Santa Barbara locations, santabarbaraca.com/filmfeast.

February 23–28: “Rag Doll,” “Big Girls Don’t Cry,” “Sherry,” and “Walk Like a Man” are just a sampling of the hit songs performed in JERSEY BOYS, the Tony Award-winning musical stage play about the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. The lookalike, sound-alike actors re-create the spirit and sounds of the quartet from New Jersey with panache; Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, broadwayinthousandoaks.com.

February 26: She’s looked at life from both sides now, so listen up to folk singer JUDY COLLINS. Traditional and unconventional, she addresses the subjects of social activism and love solely with her mellifluous voice and guitar; The Canyon, Agoura Hills, canyonclub.net.

MARCH

March 5–6: For more than five decades the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society has proved to be a shining example of how to heighten the public’s interest in gems, fossils, minerals, and lapidary arts thanks to its VENTURA GEM SHOW. Along with examples of the aforementioned are demonstrations, door prizes, silent auctions, children’s activities, dealers, and a country store with flea market finds and plants; Ventura County Fairgrounds, vgms.org.

March 12–14: View the work of Latina screenwriters, directors, and actresses at the second annual LATINA FILM FESTIVAL. This showcase of shorts and features, called Latina Voices, Visions, and Stories, focuses on issues that are relevant to all cultures; Museum of Ventura County, venturamuseum.org/latina-film-festival.

March 21: It’s loud. It’s intoxicating. Follow the beat of the Taiko drums in TAO: SEVENTEEN SAMURAI, a production combining movement and the traditional art of Japanese drumming. The instruments convey powerful sounds that accompany innovative choreography that is executed with extraordinary precision; Performing Arts Center, San Luis Obispo, calpolyarts.org.

March 24–27: Follow the journey of an upper-class American family, a Jewish immigrant and his daughter, and a Harlem musician and his brood in their search for equality, meaning, and joy in America in RAGTIME. E.L. Doctorow’s compelling story about life in early 1900s New York gives audiences a look at the country’s history and evolution as told through song and dance; Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, civicartsplaza.com.
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT
Fun and fundraising go hand-in-hand at these local events.

JANUARY

January 23: Appreciate the challenges of the sight-impaired by having DINNER IN THE DARK. Yes, it's exactly as titled, a dinner consisting of three courses that is eaten without any light. A pre-dinner introduction by optometrist Pinheo Southaphanh leads guests into this unique experience. Dinner is served by members of the U.S. Air Force. Proceeds from the event support the Vandenburg Village Lions Club's White Cane Fund for sight and hearing conservation efforts; La Purisima Parish Hall, Lompoc, lompocchambermaster.com.

January 29–31: Eighty select merchandisers show off their wares at the CALM ANTIQUES, DECORATIVE ARTS AND VINTAGE SHOW AND SALE. Partial proceeds from the event benefit Child Abuse Listening and Mediation, a nonprofit agency dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. On offer are garden artifacts, decorative accessories, historic folk art, period furniture, paintings, estate jewelry, silver, textiles, linens, glassware, porcelain, and china; Earl Warren Showgrounds, Santa Barbara, calmantiqueshows.com.

FEBRUARY

February 5: Learn about how dreams can come true at the Make-A-Wish Tri-Counties WISH NIGHT!, a dinner that honors the organization’s mission to grant wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. Money is raised through Fund-A-Wish and also through an auction and a raffle; Hyatt Westlake Plaza, Thousand Oaks, tricountieswish.org.

February 5: Take matters of the heart seriously and wear red at the VENTURA COUNTY GO RED FOR WOMEN LUNCHEON, co-sponsored by 805 Living. This is the 12th anniversary of this event, which features a health expo with booths manned by experts with information on how to make lifestyle change and hear about the latest in preventive care and treatment; Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village, goredvc.heart.org.

February 19: Celebrating 20 years of fighting heart disease for women in Santa Barbara, the Central Coast Division of the American Heart Association hosts the SANTA BARBARA GO RED FOR WOMEN LUNCHEON, co-sponsored by 805 Living. It kicks off with a health expo filled with learning opportunities about the latest research and treatments for heart disease followed by a luncheon and program featuring distinguished guest speakers; The Fess Parker: A Doubletree by Hilton Resort, goredsb.heart.org.
February 20: Get gussied up in black-tie attire or a costume for the 24th annual MARDI GRAS BALL, where the spirit of New Orleans is celebrated. It all begins with a champagne reception and continues with live music performed by the Riverboat Dixie Jazz Band. Bid in silent and live auctions, enjoy a gourmet dinner, and dance the night away to 1950s and ‘60s classics performed by Captain Cardiac and the Coronaries. The Community Conscience fundraiser supports the Under One Roof Human Services Center serving Thousand Oaks and the Conejo Valley; Hyatt Westlake Plaza, Thousand Oaks, communityconscience.org.

February 21: Who can forget the sporty AC Six that Downton Abbey’s Matthew Crawley was driving before he met his untimely demise? Fans of the period drama should get a kick out of this year’s WESTLAKE VILLAGE CONCOURS D’ELEGANCE, which celebrates the ever-popular PBS series and the golden age of automobiles. On view are vintage cars from museums and collectors, historic and celebrity cars, and Pebble Beach Concours D’Elegance winners. Guests may wear post-Edwardian attire to this English garden party that features jazz performed by the Yellowjackets. The event supports the newly remodeled Petersen Automotive Museum; Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village, wlvconcours.com.

MARCH

March 4: Women can learn to become advocates of their own wellbeing at BLOOM: EDUCATE, ADVOCATE, CELEBRATE, a daylong women’s health symposium and interactive conference. Health experts share their knowledge on subjects such as heart health, organization and stress, and sleep. The fundraiser is sponsored by the Centennial Guild of Children’s Hospital Los Angeles; Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village; centennialguildchla.org.

March 12: An evening of fine wines and exquisite foods plus a high-end auction offering lifestyle experiences and rare library wine lots are on the docket at the SANTA BARBARA WINE AUCTION. One hundred percent of the money raised benefits Direct Relief in order to improve the health and lives of those affected by poverty and emergencies in the United States and the rest of the world. Since 2000, more than $3 million had been raised for the cause; Bacara Resort & Spa, sbwineauction.org.

March 19: Get Fido in on the fundraising action by taking him along for a noncompetitive walk at BARK FOR LIFE, an American Cancer Society fundraiser. Aside from the walk, the day’s activities include an opening ceremony, a survivor and caregiver ceremony, a luminaria ceremony, and dog-centric events such as agility demonstrations, contests, and a rescue parade; Lemon Park, Simi Valley, relayforlife.org/barksimivalleyca.
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**WORTH A DRIVE**

Venture just outside the 805 for these choice events.

**End date imminent:** While many think they can visit Eli Broad’s exquisite museum, The Broad, at any time, due to its tremendous popularity planning ahead is key to seeing it in the near future. Coupled with the fact that Yayoi Kusama’s **INFINITY MIRRORED ROOM** is only on exhibit for a limited time (it may close by the end of February), it might be wise to plan now to see this spectacular chamber of mirrors with a striking LED light display. Admission to the museum and exhibit are free, but the exhibit requires a separate ticket that can only be obtained at the museum; The Broad, Los Angeles, thebroad.org.

Through–February 7: For those who don’t believe in dreams coming true, this grand production might be a game changer. Time comes to a halt in the latter half of the 19th century in Cirque du Soleil’s **KURIOS—CABINET OF CURIOSITIES**, a story about strange and otherworldly characters inhabiting a magical cabinet. The show is part circus, part spectacle, with acrobats, jugglers, aerial artists, fantastical lightning, poetry, humor, music, and mystical sights that make the imaginary seem real; Dodger Stadium, Los Angeles, cirquedusoleil.com/kurios.

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**GIVE BACK**

Whatever your interests, there’s a volunteer opportunity just right for you.

Nurturing and nourishing others warms the heart and soul. Get back what you give by preparing and delivering a home-cooked meal to a patient and family one day a month through the **CAMARILLO HOSPICE SUPPER CLUB**. The program is designed to give a caregiver a night off from the kitchen and a family a break from making meals as well as provide elderly clients with supportive contact. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age, willing to cook within dietary restrictions, able to drive, and capable of sharing a visit with the meal recipient, if requested. If cooking isn’t a strong suit, the Camarillo Hospice can always use assistance with caregiver respite, friendly visits, tasks, giving practical and emotional support, counseling, and education. Patient care and bereavement volunteers are required to complete a 24-hour training course taken over eight weeks, which is offered twice each year; camarillohospice.org.

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If you would like to submit your event or organization for possible inclusion in Insider, please email the information and a contact number/email to insider@805living.com. Please submit your request no later than 14 weeks prior to the issue in which you’d like the information to appear.