



# The Pattern of Life

By James Hubbell

**T**ry to imagine our world as great music made up of piles of broken tiles, all kinds of colors and textures, just like people with their endless diversity to celebrate. Our job as artists and craftsmen is to find where each piece fits, and to find the special place where all together we make one grand symphony.

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# The Pattern of Life

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What comes to mind is all the years Ilan-Lael volunteers have been crossing the border to work with volunteers at *Colegio Esperanza* kindergarten, elementary and high school, founded by Christine Brady. I would often work with people who had never laid tile, let alone mixed cement. I usually set some tile to start a pattern and set some limits of what colors of tile we should use.

It was like playing with a jazz band that could not read music and could not play an instrument, yet somehow it worked. There were volunteer days and classes where, in the course of a year, maybe 60 or 70 people contributed. For each of them their day was a story. Perhaps they had made a friend, maybe from another part of the world, or they had felt the joy of making something that will be here tomorrow and is beautiful. They put the broken pieces together and imagined the world as ... music.

*James Hubbell*

*“... the joy of making something that will be here tomorrow and is beautiful.”*



PHOTOS: Laurie Dietter

*Colegio Esperanza founder Christine Brady (left), James Hubbell, and Christine's daughter during one of the Tijuana schools' workdays.*



## HIDDEN LEAVES

VOL 5 - ISSUE 2

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Photo by Alex Mortensen, a participant of the Pacific Rim Park, Yantai team.

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# Seasons of Ilan-Lael

## A Message from the Executive Director

November is a flamboyant time at Ilan-Lael. Toyon branches bend with red berries, golden oak leaves flicker in the breeze, white sage turns frosty-green, and persimmons bronze in the sun. At Ilan-Lael we enjoy cooler days and cloudless skies. Hundreds of people fill our tours and art classes, seeking to learn about art and architecture and nature, and ways in which all three dance together throughout the seasons on a mountaintop not so far from San Diego.

With the opening of the Ilan-Lael Center in January, 2018, we've seen a steady increase in the number of people interacting with us. We are thrilled to watch people discover their own creativity, however they choose to express it. Whether they learn from studio artists, spend time in our gardens, or simply walk about and take it all in, the beauty and serenity of the Hubbell home and studio are more available to the public than ever before. The ILF Center is also an ideal place for important meetings and events, and more and more people are using our facility for board meetings and retreats, art performances and exhibitions, and gatherings of like-minded people who want to have important conversations.

*“...the beauty and serenity of the Hubbell home and studio are more available to the public than ever before.”*

—Marianne Gerdes

all the way to China, with the completion of a new Pacific Rim Park in the city of Yantai in the Shandong province. We take you there on pages 4 and 5.

Now, we're on to the next big things. Jim Hubbell has an exhibition at the Oceanside Museum of Art called "Seeking Balance", a retrospective featuring art from his college years to the present day. Never one to rest on his laurels, Jim is helping new art take shape at the ILF Center in its Tide Room (formerly called the Jewel Box, this is a connecting space between the Center's office and meeting room). Under Jim's watch, stones and tile, bronze and glass are adorning a fountain that will add the lyrical elements of spilling water and dancing light to yet another beautiful space. Look for it the next time you attend a tour, class or volunteer workday.

2018 has been a fruitful season for Ilan-Lael, here at home and in far-flung places. Soon, the replenishing rains will come, and a new season of growth will edge out these last moments of 2018's brilliance. But until then, let us bask a bit longer in the glow of a good year and its seasons of discovery and growth, beauty and purpose, potential realized, and creativity unleashed.

PHOTO: Chris Henry



Venturing far beyond Hubbell Hill, our philosophy reached

Brickwork disappears into sculptural plaster on the Boys' House on Hubbell Hill

## ART & GOINGS ON AROUND TOWN

### James Hubbell: Seeking Balance Thru February 3, 2019

Sculptures, paintings, stained-glass windows, maquettes, and poetry. Select photographs also tell the story of churches, parks, and public spaces around the world designed by Hubbell that function as community gathering places and environments for worship and contemplation. [Oceanside Museum of Art, OMA-online.org](http://Oceanside Museum of Art, OMA-online.org) (760) 435-3720.

### Artifacts: Allied Craftsmen of San Diego • February 15 - July 8

Artistic interpretations of everyday objects that give viewers an artifact-like experience. [Oceanside Museum of Art, OMA-online.org](http://Oceanside Museum of Art, OMA-online.org) (760) 435-3720.

### Exquisite Views – Selections from the San Diego History Center's Fine Art Collection • Thru Dec 30, 2018

Fine art early views of San Diego, portraits of prominent San Diegans, artwork by Theosophical Society members, art from the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, and landscapes by Southern California plein air artists. [SanDiegoHistory.org](http://SanDiegoHistory.org).

### SOHO (Save our Heritage Organization) Property Tours • Ongoing

Great winter weekend getaways. Marston House Museum & Gardens, Santa Ysabel Store, Whaley House (Old Town), Warner-Carrillo Ranch, and others. Visit [SohoSanDiego.org](http://SohoSanDiego.org) for more information.

### PLAN YOUR VISIT: Ilan-Lael Father's Day Open House and Studio Tour Sunday, June 16, 2019

Plan now to tour one of the most unusual homes in San Diego and meet the artist who built it. Tickets go on sale March 1, 2019. [IlanLaelFoundation.org/open-house](http://IlanLaelFoundation.org/open-house).

### Robert Treat: Animistic Ground: The Volcan Project • Thru December 9

Hurry! Technically and artistically amazing landscape photographs of Volcan Mountain area. [santaysabelartgallery.com](http://santaysabelartgallery.com).

### Lael Corbin: "Camber" Thru December 19

San Diego-based artist Corbin creates a complex and stimulating site-art experience. [La Jolla Athenaeum, ljathenaeum.org](http://La Jolla Athenaeum, ljathenaeum.org).

### Modern American Prints 1920-1949 Through February 3

Lithography, etching and wood engravings, many not seen in 25 years, at San Diego Museum of Art, [sdmart.org](http://sdmart.org).

### Tangible Memories: Recollections of La Jolla Pioneer Women Feb. 9 - May 19, 2019

Life and history of 10 women, artistically interpreted by 10 female contemporary artists at La Jolla Historical Society, [lajollahistory.org](http://lajollahistory.org).



# A NEW PARK RISES ON THE PACIFIC RIM

Story by  
Marianne Gerdes

Photos by  
Alex Mortensen

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**B**uilding a park in thirty days is a serious challenge and not for the faint of heart. And yet, *Tides Park*, a new Pacific Rim Park in Yantai, China — the culmination of months of effort last summer by the Ilan-Lael Foundation and many other individuals, partner-organizations, and countries — has joined our PRP family!

“It makes your heart feel so full,” said Kyle Bergman, lead instructor and project architect. “We’ve all put so much time and effort and energy and our hearts into not only building a park but building connections. Although most of us were there as architects, artists and builders, this project was really not about building a park; it was about building a community.”

The Pacific Rim Park community is the network of people in previous PRP cities around the world who are energized by the power of this hands-on art and architecture experience. Students form the work team: 23 came from ten Pacific Rim cities and spent one lunar month designing and building a James Hubbell design after he coalesced the design ideas of the entire team. Supporters, from individuals such as June Shilman, President of the Yantai Friendship Society in San Diego, to alumni from previous park projects and government officials, provided behind-the-scenes support.

Rain and hot, humid weather made the work conditions taxing for young and old alike. A plywood form filled with just-poured concrete collapsed, sending spirits crashing and bringing work to a halt. One student suffered a serious hand injury while moving rocks. And, in an extraordinary incident, our PRP team rescued a father and two young boys when they got in trouble in ocean waters offshore of the park building site. Their cries got the attention of students and leaders, who sprinted into action, swimming out to help the struggling family until a water rescue team arrived. Students were later honored by government officials for their bravery and quick thinking.

Despite these struggles, the experience created close bonds and imparted many valuable life lessons.

“This challenging project, at such a fundamental time in student’s lives, provides many important opportunities” said Kyle Bergman. “As a young person, it’s hard to learn to trust yourself — honestly trust yourself. We want them to come away from this experience trusting that the world is a good place full of amazing opportunities. It will serve them well for the rest of their lives.”

**For more of the Yantai story, film, photos, and credits — and news of future projects, please visit [PacificRimPark.net](http://PacificRimPark.net).**



Hard work builds a powerful hunger. Mongolian Hot Pot was a favorite local cuisine enjoyed by Yantai hosts and PRP team.



Jim Hubbell and Garrett Goodwin review a maquette for a future PRP sculpture that will travel from country to country.



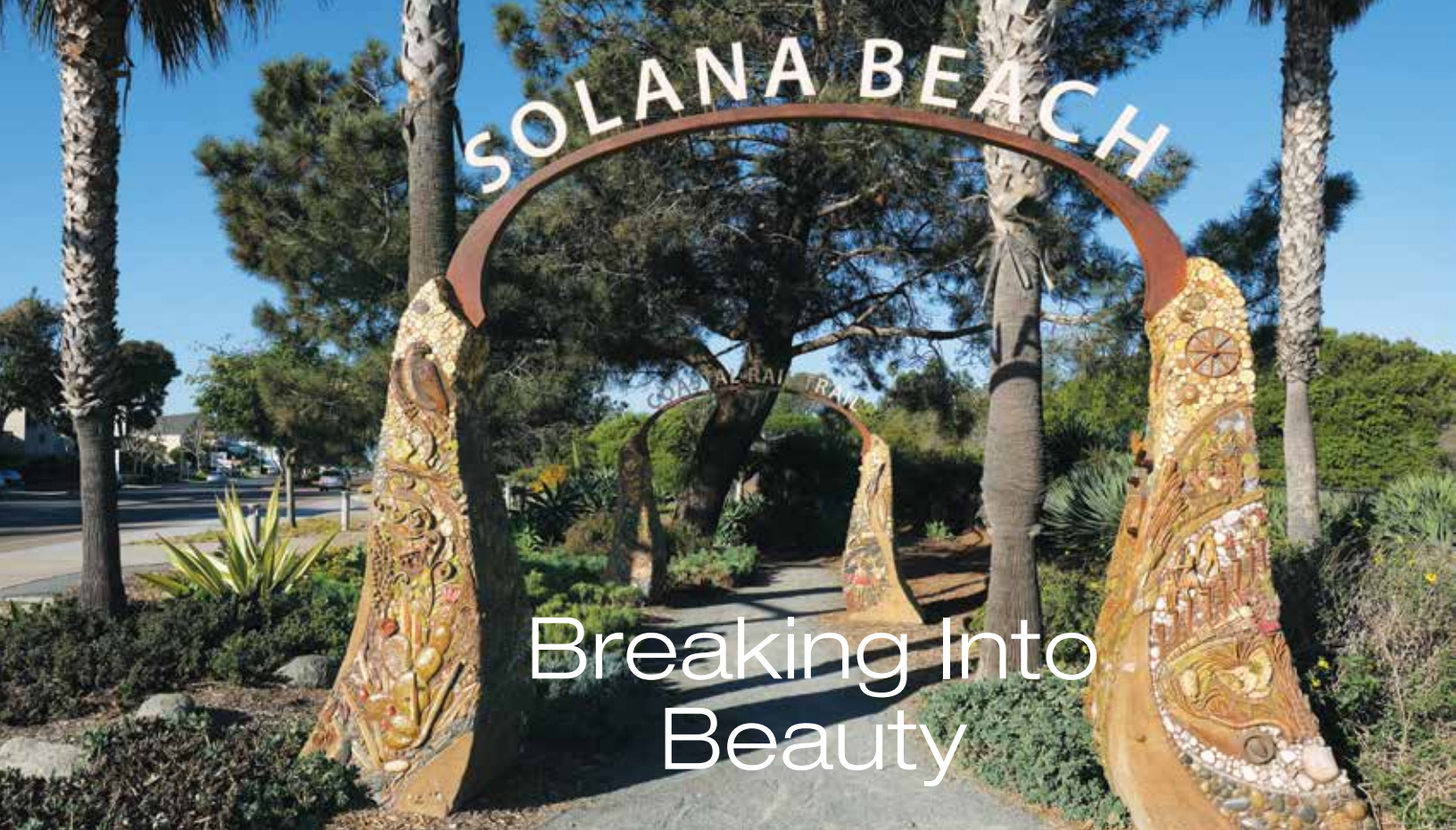
VIPs at the dedication (from left to right): Construction Manager Chuck Lang; Xxxxx Xxxxx City Architect of Yantai; PRP Executive Director Kyle Bergman; Yantai Mayor Zhang Dialing; San Diegan June Shilman of Sister Cities Yantai Friendship Society; Namjim Kim of Korea; Professor Seong Joon Ko of Korea.



An ambitious pathway of salvaged stone welcomes visitors. Students spent days crouching down, or on their knees.



Yantai Architecture students pose for a photo on the shore of the Yellow Sea.



# Breaking Into Beauty



## Story and photos by Peter Jensen

Whether covering a dusty floor in a Popeian or Delosian palace, adorning a welcoming gate in a modern coastal city of San Diego, or a lamp in a living room, mosaics continue to capture our minds and love of metaphor like few other art forms.”

When what is broken — accidentally or on purpose — transforms into complex beauty, we view it with inherent pleasure and often astonishment, especially when thousands of hours of handwork are obviously on display.

San Diego has an active community of mosaic artists creating both public works and private commissions. Ilan-Lael co-founder James Hubbell may be the patriarch of the group in both age and prolificness, but he cites the work of many others as exciting contributors to the genre.

Several San Diego artists, like Betsy Schulz and the late Rhoda LeBlanc Lopez, combine traditional mosaic techniques using found items, broken tile, and glass or tile chips, with sculptural tiles and textured bricks of their own design, some very elaborate. The boundaries of what is a “mosaic” have been stretched, even broken!

Is it time for you to commission a mosaic? Visit a public-art mosaic? The list at right will get you started. We’re trying to pull together a master list of public-place mosaics (historic and contemporary) and active artists in the San Diego region, so please contribute by sending your additions to [ilanlael@mac.com](mailto:ilanlael@mac.com). We apologize if we missed you. Special thanks to Keith York (his [modernsandiego.com](http://modernsandiego.com) is a treasure trove of mid-century modern artist and architect profiles), Dirk Sutro, Tomás Herrera-Mishler, and Carolyn Owen-Towle.

## ON THE MOSAIC TRAIL Mosaic artists and artworks in greater San Diego

**ITALO BOTTI,\* Botti Studio of Architectural Arts, New York, NY, [bottistudio.com](http://bottistudio.com). His massive “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” mural (pictured left) on Villa Harvey Mandel (St. Vincent DePaul), at 72 17th St. is a classic homage to volunteer spirit in the community.**

**STUART BURTON (artist and mosaic teacher), Art Academy of San Diego, [artacademyofsandiego.com](http://artacademyofsandiego.com), (619) 231-3900.**

**JANE CHAPMAN\* and WALTER CHAPMAN. Especially active in San Diego craft circles in the ‘50s-’60s. Furniture and household adornments. See their profile at [modernsandiego.com](http://modernsandiego.com)**

**KIM EMERSON (artist and mosaic teacher), San Diego Mosaic School: [kimemersonmosaics.com](http://kimemersonmosaics.com), (619)379-1123. Her masterwork “River of Life” (pictured right) at Rady Children’s Hospital, 3020 Children’s Way, SD.**

**BRENNAN HUBBELL, (619) 632-8213, son of James Hubbell. Mosaic, sculpture, mixed-media, public art.**

**JAMES HUBBELL, [jameshubbellart.com](http://jameshubbellart.com), Santa Ysabel, (760) 765-0171. Mosaic, sculpture, mixed-media, public art. Of hundreds of mosaics and similar works in San Diego, most accessible is Pacific Rim Park, 1407a Shelter Island Drive.**

**RHODA LEBLANC LOPEZ\* (b. 1912-d. 1993). Visit her memorial wall at First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front St. Two large murals are in San Diego Juvenile Hall, 2801 Meadow Lark Drive.**

**CHERRIE LAPORTE (artist and teacher), [cherrielaporte.com](http://cherrielaporte.com), (760) 500-8707. Workshops. Visit Vista Library mosaic, 700 Eucalyptus Avenue, Vista.**

**NIKI DE SAINT PHALLE\* Colorful, cartoon-like monumental figures by an internationally known artist. Visit Queen Califia’s Magical Circle in the Iris Sankey Arboretum in Escondido’s Kit Carson Park. Limited hours. See [escondido.org](http://escondido.org). Also famed “Sun God” on the UCSD campus and sculptures at Mingei Museum entrance, Balboa Park.**

**MILLARD SHEETS,\* architect and artist whose murals and artworks adorned the facades of numerous Home Savings banks in California. See a great one at 4650 Mission Bay Drive at Garnet Avenue. Largest mural was “Word of Life” (also known as “Touchdown Jesus”) on the Notre Dame campus, Indiana.**

**BETSY K. SCHULZ, muralist, artist, landscape designer; Del Mar, [betsykschulz.com](http://betsykschulz.com), (858) 692-6661. Nature-scape murals of all-original sculpted tiles and found objects. Visit Solana Beach Gateway Arches (pictured above) on Coast Highway, and Harbor Point Mural, 5055 N. Harbor Dr., among many.**

\* (Deceased)



PHOTO: Peter Jensen

## The Hawk Has Landed

Here’s an example of how one small piece of public art can launch a city on a much larger public-art “path.”

Three years ago artist David Arnold, a Del Mar resident, was walking his favorite cliff-side trail below his house when he noticed a crew of workmen in fluorescent orange vests cutting down several dead or dying Torrey pines, victims of the bark beetle infestation that had been ravaging local Torreys. He convinced the crew to spare part of one particularly large dying tree for a short while — at least until he had time to approach the city with an idea inspired by the tree’s leaning trunk.

City officials gave Arnold time to fashion a clay *maquette* of his concept for a bench and a carved 4-foot-tall red-tailed hawk. A Parks and Recreation committee approved it, as did the full City Council.

Arnold, working with wood sculptor Tim Richards of Encinitas, transformed the tree trunk into “Sunset Seat.” After its completion, public excitement over this small work of public art ramped up even more, and soon a dedication ceremony recognized it as Del Mar’s first public art. The “Pathway to Public Art” project followed: Arnold’s and city-beautiful proponents’ concept of installing more public seating that is also public art.

As “Pathway” comes to fruition in the next year or two, Arnold will continue to take his daily pilgrimage to his lordly hawk, both of them ever-gazing out to sea. He also

brushes another layer of a marine-grade finish on every six months or so, keeping it pristine. Today the carving has become a popular touchstone for sunset-watchers and wedding ceremonies.

—Peter Jensen

## Neuralscapes and Landscapes at UC Irvine

Science and art meet in this lecture/conversation between Dr. Arnold Starr, Research Professor, Neurology School of Medicine at UC Irvine, and James Hubbell about the intersection of science and art as “seen” by the brain. A corresponding exhibition features neuralscapes by Dr. Arnold Starr and landscapes by James. **Viewpoint Gallery, UCI Student Center, Nov 27 thru Dec 11, 2018.**

## Our popular art classes continue

Art workshops taught by notable local artist and craftspersons: including Mosaic Fused Glass w/ Cherrie LaPorte, Ornate Basket Coiling w/Nadine Spier, Watercolor Painting w/ Joe Garcia, and Stained Glass w/ Cindy Shriver. Visit [www.ilanlaelfoundation.org](http://www.ilanlaelfoundation.org) for information and to sign up.

## Our Favorite School Needs More Santas!

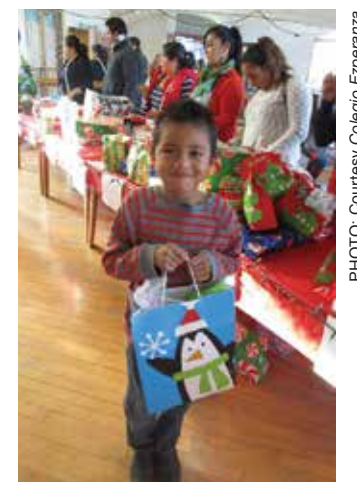
On page 2 of this issue, Jim Hubbell mentions *Colonia Esperanza*, a school located in a *colonia* of Tijuana. The buildings

were designed by Jim and built and adorned with mosaics over many years by Ilan-Lael volunteers, parents of school children, and the children themselves.

Every year The Americas Foundation sponsors a Christmas party (Sunday, December 16 of this year) for the *La Esperanza* schools as well as a *posada*. Donations of presents for the students as well as members of the community (wrapped, with a note indicating appropriate age and gender of recipient) are welcome.

For more information (or if you wish to attend the actual party), please contact Jessie Meacham, at (858) 273-8677 or email her at [cmeachm42@gmail.com](mailto:cmeachm42@gmail.com).

Presents can be dropped off at the office of Hubbell & Hubbell, architects, 1970 Sixth Avenue at Grape Street, by Friday, December 14. Monetary donations are also welcome at [http://christine.americasfoundation.net/construction/Make\\_a\\_donation\\_Page.html](http://christine.americasfoundation.net/construction/Make_a_donation_Page.html)



A happy little boy at the annual holiday party at Colegio Esperanza.

It’s time to celebrate great mosaics — and their artists — here in San Diego



**ILAN-LAEL**  
**FOUNDATION**

CONNECTING PEOPLE, ART & NATURE

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# We are the caretakers of something very special...

**A**nne and I want Ilan-Lael to be used for important work that bridges

differences, dreams big dreams, and inspires people through art and nature.

Ilan-Lael, our Julian home, remains central to our operations and is growing into a viable and valuable community resource that will long outlive us both. People and their passions are ignited in this tranquil and peaceful retreat. It's wonderful to see new ideas take hold and life being celebrated here via art classes, exhibitions, folk dancing, and meetings. But there's plenty of potential that remains untapped.

**Your donation is also your membership, and each of you makes a difference!**

Thanks to you our dreams get even bigger. With your help, we are sure Ilan-Lael will exist 100 years and more from today. On one level Ilan-Lael is a story about our family and our way of life as we raised four boys and pursued our art. We also believe that Ilan-Lael has become a beacon of friendship, respect for the natural world, and the value we all should place on creativity and

*“...Ilan-Lael has become a beacon of friendship, respect for the natural world, and the value we all should place on creativity and self-discovery.”*

self-discovery.

As you can see from some of our recent projects such as Yantai, we dream often, and we dream *big*. Your financial support is vital to Ilan-Lael's work. The Board of Directors and Executive Director of non-profit Ilan-Lael Foundation, a 501(c)(3), are committed to helping carry on this spirit of helping people discover and celebrate their own creativity, and put it to work in their communities. Your financial support is vital to our work.

With deepest gratitude,  
 Jim and Anne

