

OCMA rolls out summer selection

A trio of new exhibitions at the Costa Mesa museum feature work from Alice Neel, Tony Lewis and Yu Ji.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

The way we see ourselves and the way others see us are rarely the same. In a time when filters abound, the lens through which American figurative painter Alice Neel, who was active from the 1930s to the 1980s, saw her subjects is a stark contrast to today's selfies.

Portraiture by the renowned artist have less to do with how the subject would like to be seen and more to do with how the world, or more specifically Neel, saw them.

"She didn't refer to her work as portraits, but called them pictures of people," Courtenay Finn, chief curator at the Orange County Museum of Art, said of Neel. "She wasn't being commissioned and she wasn't trained to paint them as flattering versions of themselves, she was trying to capture the true essence of a character."

Rather than artifacts of vanity, the paintings tell the truth.

"As a result, some of the paintings might not look the way the people who sat for them were hoping they would turn out," said



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

A GUEST LOOKS at a piece by Alice Neel titled "The Robinson Family" during a preview of Orange County Museum of Art's new summer exhibitions in Costa Mesa. The native Pennsylvanian's work is spotlighted in OCMA's exhibit titled "Alice Neel: Feels Like Home."

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Schism over LGBTQ+ stance puts local churches in bind

SoCal congregations try to cut ties with United Methodist Church over its acceptance of gay and lesbian pastors.

BY ERIC LICAS

Surf City Church in Huntington Beach, the Fount in Fountain Valley and numerous others whose congregations disagree with the California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church's inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community into its leadership want to leave the organization, but say they're being held ransom.

The Fount is one of 22 Southern California churches attempting to cut ties with the denomination in a process called "disaffiliation." The small Orange County congregation began considering the option shortly after the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, which the California-Pacific conference is part of, proclaimed that their region was a "safe harbor" for clergy who identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community, the Fount's lead pastor, Glen Haworth, said.

"It's the Bible that we disagree on," Haworth said during an interview at Surf City Church alongside others trying to leave the confer-

ence on June 19. "And the progressive end of the church wants to basically negate all of the teachings of the Bible that have to do with sexual morality."

He said his congregation's differences with the UMC lie in their fundamental understanding and interpretation of their faith, not just the conference's acceptance of gay and lesbian pastors. That's why the Fount's members voted unanimously to disaffiliate from the UMC last October.

In the past, that usually meant paying off pensions and any other outstanding dues before going on

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ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

KIDS AT COSTA MESA SHALIMAR CENTER LEARN MORE THAN MOVES IN 'DANCING FOR DIFFERENCE' PAGE A2

True farm-to-table experience at café in San Juan Capistrano



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

GUESTS EAT lunch at the Campesino Café at the Ecology Center on Wednesday in San Juan Capistrano. The café is situated on a 28-acre Regenerative Organic Certified farm and education center.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

There are many Orange County restaurants that boast a farm-to-table menu, but Campesino Café may be the only restaurant situated on said farm. The newly opened casual eatery at the Ecology Center in San Juan Capistrano serves a menu that nourishes the community in more ways than one.

"Everything comes from our farm and our fermentation lab," said Evan Marks, founder and executive director of the Ecology Center.

Founded in 2008, the Ecology Center is a 28-acre Regenerative Organic Certified farm and education center that host a variety of events and programs, all aimed at creating an abundant future.

"Campesino is the Spanish word for farmer," Marks said. "I spent about seven years in Latin America, and part of the journey in pretty much every country I went — from Peru to Mexico to Costa Rica — was identifying with

the *campesino* as the caretaker of the land. That is ultimately what the Ecology Center seeks to be as well."

The Ecology Center's dedication to ecological foodways can be found in current projects like an apprenticeship program that teaches "the next generation of farmers, chefs, and food system changemakers." Its Nourishing Neighbors program, which donates 20% of what is grown on the farm to the food insecure and the farm stand, is open seven days a week with a designated section of produce available free of charge to promote equity.

Serving well-prepared food has also been a long-standing practice of the center with the Community Table dinner series, prepared by guest chefs hosted twice a month, and the annual Green Feast, the center's cornerstone fundraiser. Campesino Café is another way the Ecology Center is continuing its mission.

See **Café**, page A2

Kids at Costa Mesa Shalimar center learn more than moves in 'Dancing for Difference'

BY SARA CARDINE

For a group of Costa Mesa youngsters on summer break from school, a dance lesson Thursday at the Shalimar Learning Center was an opportunity to move, play and listen to some tunes.

But if you were to ask instructor Ava Biagiotti, a Mater Dei High School sophomore and competitive dancer, what the day was about she'd confess there was more behind the jumps, leg kicks and spins — a lot more.

In "Dancing for Difference," a free, two-day workshop at the small neighborhood center on the city's west side, Biagiotti guided a contingent of youth through a series of dance moves and exercises designed not only to build strength, but also confidence and self-expression.

Using the tagline, "Where rhythm meets radical acceptance," the 16-year-old Newport Beach resident developed the curriculum to help students feel more comfortable about identifying different moods and emotions and sharing them with others.

The lessons are born from Biagiotti's own experience as a competitive dancer who sometimes found herself in scenarios that made little room for dancers' personal experiences.

"The dance environment has been very high pressure and, I feel, has lacked inclusivity. I wanted to make a change to that stigma," she said of the impetus for the lessons. "I wanted to start this so kids could express themselves and almost find their confidence through dance, because dance is a great way to do that."

During Thursday's lesson, Biagiotti started the group off with warm-up exercises that quickly segued into basic techniques — jazz walks, leg kicks



AVA BIAGIOTTI, left, demonstrates a dance move Thursday to participants in "Dancing for Difference," a two-day dancing workshop at Costa Mesa's Shalimar Learning Center. Biagiotti's dream turned into a full-fledged lesson plan thanks to a fellowship offered by nonprofit Dragon Kim Foundation.

Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

and full-body turns that started on a count of 5-6-7-8.

"That was a jazz walk. Did everyone like it?" she asked at one point, receiving a resounding "Yeah!" in response.

After getting some basics under their belts, participants were given workbooks that introduced various dance styles, described the benefits of dancing on the

body and mind and encouraged them to record their favorite songs along with the feelings and dance moves they inspire.

In a second session Friday, students began combining moves and techniques in preparation for a culminating presentation for Shalimar staff and parents.

"Dancing for Difference" went from a dream to a full-fledged

lesson plan thanks to a fellowship offered by the nonprofit Dragon Kim Foundation that encourages high school students to use their passion, creativity and talent to make a difference in their local communities.

Those selected are given up to \$5,000 in seed money and paired up with a mentor who helps them execute their plan and

imparts skills about leadership, organization and decision making in what organizers call "an MBA in a box."

"They guide you through mentoring," Biagiotti said, describing weekly meetings and assistance in making the necessary arrangements to pull off a class. "It really

See **Dancing**, page A5

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SELECTION

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Finn.

OCMA's new summer exhibitions includes "Alice Neel: Feels Like Home," putting the spotlight on the native Pennsylvanian's work.

Neel's life spanned much of the 20th century and her work bears witness to historical events and movements of her time.

"She was born in 1900 and died in 1984 and she used to joke that she was just four weeks younger than the century," Finn said. "But she was basically a witness to and a participant in all of the defining moments of the 20th century — the Great Depression, World Wars, Vietnam, civil rights, woman's liberation, gay liberation — and through it all she was really committed to painting."

Neel was also committed to figuration and representation at a time when abstraction was more fashionable. Rather than paint abstractly, Neel leaned into the details of the intimate.

"She really wanted to capture the essence of the people she painted and of the people around her," Finn said. "She painted friends, her own family, neighbors and her extended community."

Neel's first daughter was lost to diphtheria before her first birthday and her second was taken to Cuba in 1930 by her husband and fellow painter, Carlos Enríquez. The loss of her husband and child led to a nervous breakdown and a stay in the suicide ward of Philadelphia General Hospital. When she was released, she spent time in her hometown before



CHRIS JUSTICE BOSTER, left, and his mother, Kari Boster, look at a piece of art work from Chicago-based artist Tony Lewis during a preview of Orange County Museum of Art's new summer exhibitions, which includes work from two other artists.

Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

returning to New York City, where she found her true home and chosen family.

"Feels Like Home" features her 1932 work "Movie Lobby," which captures the opulence of the upper class, enjoying entertainment in carpeted ballrooms full of pink upholstered chairs, alongside work like 1947's "Fish Market," which depicts the working class butchering fish in aprons stained with blood.

"She lived in Greenwich Village, she lived in Spanish Harlem and then the Upper West Side," said Finn. "And throughout it all she paints the people of New York through this evolving time."

While the portraits, or pictures of people, are not necessarily painted in a flattering manner, they are painted in a loving one. Finn said the show leans

into the idea of found family and community.

"The show focuses on what it means to feel like you belong and what it means to find a home, and how that can be with people, either your blood family or your chosen family or with your pets or with a place," Finn said.

Neel's show is accompanied by "Tony Lewis: CASUAL T," an exhibition that highlights the Chicago-based artist's affinity to combining art and writing. A large installation incorporates graphite, paper, collage and uses the artist's affinity for the comic strip "Calvin and Hobbes" to tell a new story.

Upstairs at the museum, "A Guest, A Host, A Ghost" is the first U.S. museum solo exhibition by Chinese artist Yu Ji.

"Since opening our new building in October,

OCMA has welcomed almost 200,000 visitors, and it is our great privilege to share the work of remarkable artistic voices like Yu Ji with as many people as possible," Heidi Zuckerman, chief executive and director of OCMA, said in a statement.

Born in 1985 in Shanghai, China, Yu Ji uses installation, sculpture, video, and harnessing architecture to explore the relationship between bodies and the built environment.

The three new summer exhibitions are open now at the Orange County Museum of Art, 3333 Avenue of the Arts, Costa Mesa. More information can be found at ocma.art.

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Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

GUESTS PUT their lunch order in at Campesino Café at the Ecology Center in San Juan Capistrano.

CAFÉ

Continued from page A1

"The design of the organization was to always be a thought leader and an incubator for the next generation," Marks said. "We have had this vision of a food center for so long."

As a Regenerative Organic Certified farm, the Ecology Center not only follows agricultural practices that benefit the land, but business practices that consider the health and well being of people, animals, and the planet.

"We are pretty much the only farm that is certified Regenerative Organic in Southern California," Marks said. "You first have to take poisons off the land, so you have to be an organic certified farm ... the next level up of making your farm non-toxic is regenerative, [which means] caring for your work force and your people, paying everyone a living wage."

Since synthetic fertilizers and pesticides can destroy soil, leave toxic residue on produce and be harmful to farm workers, they aren't used at the center. The health of soil is measured through the quantification

of organic matter and specific patterns of crop rotation are employed.

"We measure the health of the soil through the rotation and the menu is designed to tell that story," Marks said. "It is a four-year rotation that symbolizes the health of the land. If we grew strawberries like many conventional farmers would do in the same land year after year, the only way we could do that is by poisoning the soil with fumigants."

The menu reflects the crop rotation by being divided up into four sections. "Fruit Forest" includes dishes that utilize in-season fruit, like a goat's milk yogurt parfait with farm granola, berries and honey. The "Cover Crop" section features items made from organisms that add nutrients back into the soil, like a fermented vegetable salad made with herbs, crunchy cover crop grains and seeds all dressed in a guajillo vinaigrette. "Market Garden" has substantial salads, like a raw squash and squash blossom dish and "Milpa" offers roasted vegetable tamales in both blue and yellow corn masa and charred

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CHURCHES

Continued from page A1

to either operate independently or join a different denomination, Haworth said. Those were the terms of a protocol drafted in 2019 among churches within the conference to allow conservative congregations to part ways.

But the leadership of the California-Pacific Conference has not allowed that deal to come to a vote, Haworth said. Instead, the organization has told the Fount and 21 other churches they must pay half the value of their real estate in order to disaffiliate. Otherwise the conference is claiming the authority to seize the property they worship on.

"This annual conference and a couple others out there are adding onerous provisions for disaffiliation that make it literally impossible," Haworth said. "My church has 50 members, and they want \$3 million dollars. And they say that's fine, that's fair. I say: fair to who?"

Conference leadership had revisited the arrangement posed to churches try-

ing to leave, but "ultimately decided to keep the terms the same," the superintendent of California-Pacific Conference's South District, the Rev. Sandra Olewine, wrote in an email on June 23.

Haworth said he is hoping some other arrangement that might allow the Fount to survive can be worked out before the conference meets in November and votes on whether they will be allowed to disaffiliate.

But he's not optimistic. Meanwhile, Surf City Church wasn't given an option.

AN "UNVIABLE" CONGREGATION

The intersection of Delaware and 17th streets was on the outskirts of Huntington Beach when Surf City Church moved into their campus there in 1967. The residential community that sprang up in the area was, in many ways, built up around the house of worship, John Leonard of the church's board of trustees said.

They rebranded themselves, taking on their current name and dropping any connection with the

United Methodist Church in their public messaging, about 10 years ago, Leonard said. That's because the Huntington Beach congregation hoped to distance itself from conflict already brewing within the larger organization over its stance on LGBTQ+ issues.

Instead, they focused on concerns within their community. They, along with former pastor Anthony Boger, began streamlining their leadership structure to cut back on red tape and make it easier to organize events. They also welcomed partnerships with other churches, including the Well, a non-denominational congregation that rents part of Surf City Church to conduct worship.

When the conference invited Boger to help them expand in Riverside County in 2018, he may have taken it as an endorsement of Surf City Church's community-centered approach. However, the pastor sent by the United Methodist Church to replace him, Amy Yoon, appeared to toss all of their efforts out the window, Leonard and fellow board member Marge Mitchell said.

Olewine said Yoon was sent to Surf City Church to continue the work Boger had started. The superintendent noted that Yoon attempted to create new programs at the Huntington Beach congregation and was working with members who had recently stepped into leadership roles.

Olewine said COVID-19, lockdowns and a subsequent decline in attendance were a struggle for Yoon and the local church to overcome. Those factors created an impossible financial situation, resulting in conference officials' decision that Surf City Church should be shuttered. Yoon is now the pastor of Chino United



THE FOUNT, a Methodist church in Fountain Valley, is one of 22 Southern California churches attempting to cut ties with the denomination in a process called "disaffiliation."

Raul Roa | Los Angeles Times

Methodist Church.

Leonard and Mitchell said during Yoon's stint at Surf City, a popular men's choir and various committees were disbanded. Membership started rapidly shrinking even before the pandemic hit, the Well's lead pastor, David Housholder, said.

Housholder, Leonard, Mitchell and Haworth suspect the goal of placing Yoon at the congregation was to undermine Surf City Church so that their property might eventually be seized and sold by the United Methodist Church.

"I think the conference and the district have been looking at this property for some time and have lusted after it," Haworth said. "They're thinking: 'If a church gets weak, we can take it over and sell it. We can send someone who's going to weaken it without them knowing.'"

Olewine, however, said Surf City Church had been deemed "unviable" after "10 years of efforts to revitalize and focus the mission and ministry there." As a result, a vote was held and the decision was made by conference leadership to close it.

The United Methodist Church's superintendent

added that Surf City Church did not raise the issue of disaffiliation until after its closure was approved, and members labeled unviable are not typically eligible for the separation process.

"If we're not viable, then half the churches in the O.C. are not viable," Housholder said. "This is an active little church. It's got some resources and history and quite a bit of chutzpah."

Surf City Church's leadership were in the process of building it back up when they were summoned by the conference to a meeting to discuss "legacy" in February 2022. Leonard said many of their jaws dropped to the floor when they learned their parent organization wanted them to either shut down immediately, or continue operating temporarily as a "mission church." The latter meant retaining their identity as a congregation, but selling their current building and possibly resettling in another one later.

They sought a third option: disaffiliation. Leonard requested a meeting to weigh that possibility, but the conference was not receptive.

"We got a letter from [Yoon] saying at the request

of the district superintendent ... we were gonna have the meeting, but disaffiliation was not on the agenda."

THE TRUST CLAUSE

A "trust clause" included in Surf City Church's membership agreement with the conference means the larger organization can legally claim all of the local congregation's property as their own. It's the basis of a lawsuit filed by the United Methodist Church last November.

Last month, a judge delivered a preliminary decision siding with the conference, Leonard said. They and the Huntington Beach congregation are awaiting a final ruling outlining exactly how ownership will be transferred, although attorneys for the larger organization have unsuccessfully filed motions to allow them to seize it immediately.

During the course of their legal battle with the United Methodist Church, members of the local congregation claim they have been harassed by parties representing their parent denomination, according to Leonard and Mitchell. Early-

See **Churches**, page A5

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THE BUTTER lettuce and Green Goddess salad served at the Ecology Center's Campesino Café.

CAFÉ

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vegetable pozole with hominy and herbs served in a rich chile broth.

The cafe also offers a selection of coffee drinks and agua frescas, as well as teas and kombucha that, like the side of pickles and house-made jams, come from the center's fermentation lab.

Marks said he was inspired to start the lab by his time spent at Camp Joy, a homestead established in 1968.

"What I learned at Camp Joy is everything you grow has value, there is no such thing as waste," Marks said. "And we need to add value to a lot of our ingredients to make the farm work."

So extra strawberries get turned into jam or strawberry vinegar, and cabbage becomes sauerkraut. An example of the zero waste menu at work is the Upcycled Almond Pudding, made from by products of the almond milk the cafe makes for its coffee drinks and horchata.

"So we take the waste and we upcycle it into this pudding that is a little bit of the almond butter and almond meal, with fresh fruit," Marks said.

Diners order from a window set into a shipping container and then take a number to the wooden tables and chairs situated under a covered patio not far from the farm stand. Water, napkins and utensils are available on a service station.

The menu will change seasonally and Marks said further expansion of Campesino Café has already been approved.

"This is 1.0," said Marks. "The 2.0 is a big outdoor kitchen that is going to be built."

A comal used to make tortillas and a pizza oven for fermented sourdough pizzas are among the plans Marks has for the foreseeable future, along with continued support of the land and of course, the people.

"It is natural for us to expand and to meet the needs of the community," he said.

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NOTICE is hereby given that a report has been filed with the Secretary of the Irvine Ranch Water District relative to having sewer charges for certain parcels of land within the Newport North area of the District collected on the tax roll. The report contains a description of each parcel and the amount for annual charges for Fiscal Year 2023-24 (annual charges of \$398.88 per year for single family units and \$277.20 per year per apartment). The report is on file with the Secretary of the District at the District Office and is available for public inspection on the District Bulletin Board located at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA. This report is filed pursuant to Section 5473 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California.

NOTICE is further given that on Monday, July 10, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. (or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable) in the District's Board of Directors meeting room at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA, the Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing and consider all objections or protests, if any, to the report.

Dated: June 25, 2023 /s/ Leslie Bonkowski
 July 2, 2023 District Secretary
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The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
 Orange County Superior Court
 700 Civic Center Drive West
 Santa Ana, CA 92701

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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DANCING

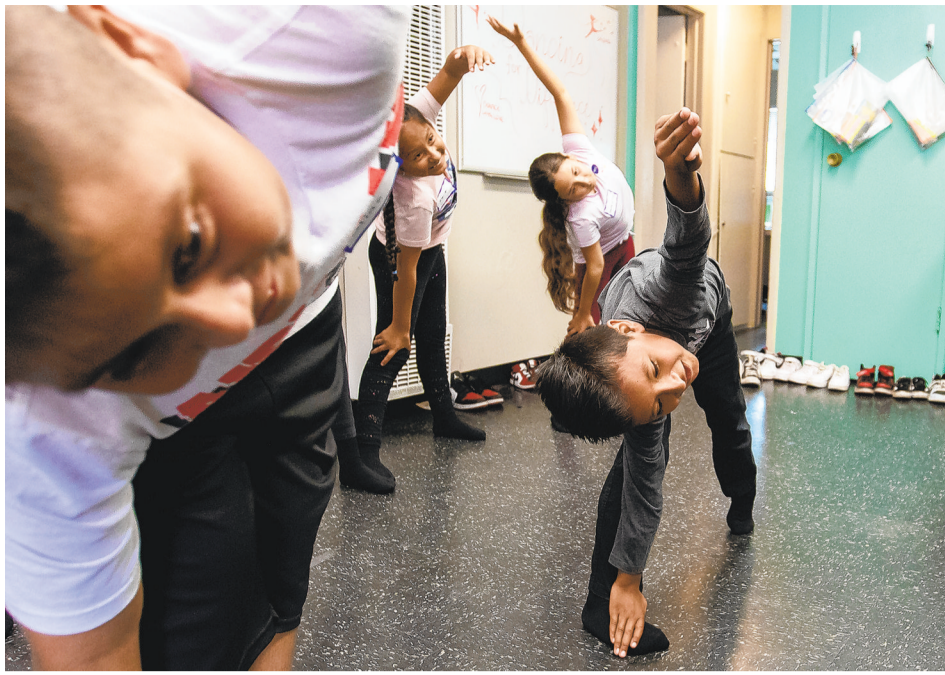
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helps you get your project running.”

Last year's cohort included 35 projects led by 72 fellows who recruited 216 teens, college students and adults to help them impact more than 7,800 people in their local communities.

Daniel Kim, who in 2015 founded the nonprofit with wife Grace following the accidental death of their son, Dragon, said high school students often have great ideas about how to make positive change but are overlooked for their lack of experience or resources.

“They're very sensitive to what their communities need. A lot of them live and breathe these issues that are in these communities,” he said Thursday. “They're also very creative and have ideas for how to address some of these things. But



JUAN HERNANDEZ, 6, center, stretches during a two-day dance workshop instructed by 16-year-old Ava Biagiotti at the Shalimar Learning Center in Costa Mesa on Thursday.

Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

very few people give them credibility or attention. “So we thought, you

know what, not having any money, experience or connections, these are all solv-

able issues,” he continued. “What's harder to teach is sensitivity, creativity and

passion. And they have that in abundance.”

Biagiotti on Thursday easily interacted with the class members, ages 6 to 11, maintaining an open line of discourse and keeping kids' attention focused on dancing, music and expression.

Melissa Arambula, a coordinator for Think Together, which provides programming at the Shalimar Learning Center, said the dance course came at just the right time.

“We have a lot of students who are very excited about dance, but we just don't usually have the capacity to do that,” she said. “We also really hit on the self-expression part of it, because that ties in to what we'd been doing with social-emotional learning at the end of the [school] year.

“[We told students] this is a safe space, where they're going to be able to try something new.”

During a snack break Thursday, students Suleyma Ocanas, 11, 9-year-old Aleida Gutierrez and Citlali Rodriguez, 7, discussed their favorite songs and how they liked to sing and dance along.

All three were looking forward to finishing out Biagiotti's lesson plan.

“I like dancing because it's fun,” Citlali said, popping a green grape into her mouth. “It's fun and I like to move.”

“I like how when a song is good, you kind of get addicted to it,” Suleyma chimed in.

“Yeah,” Aleida agreed. “You can express yourself.” That's exactly what Biagiotti is going for.

“I really hope for these kids to feel more confident in themselves, like they can express themselves more and find themselves through dance,” she said.

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CHURCHES

Continued from page A4

er this year, they received an email claiming they were illegally operating their preschool and had to shut it down. That was followed shortly thereafter by a visit to the school by state inspectors who said they were responding to an anonymous tip. However, they found no issues.

Surf City Church member Terri King handles the preschool's finances. When she tried to pay their teachers' salaries earlier this month, she found out that the accounts holding their wages had been frozen by attorneys for the conference. She reached out to them to get more information but was informed that everything in the building belongs to the conference.

The preschool serves about 95 children from the community, King said. They normally host a summer program, but have decided to cancel it this year “because we have no guarantee that we will be able to pay

the teachers,” she said.

Bible study, worship and other programs are still being hosted at Surf City Church with the aid of guest pastors. Members still shuffle into their sanctuary's pews and take inspiration from its stained glass windows. Most remain committed to their faith, even if they're practically regarded as squatters by the conference.

“[Surf City Church] is no longer a chartered congregation and due to the failure to participate in the mission congregation process that designation was terminated on December 31, 2022,” Olewine said. “They have no official standing in the denomination any longer.”

A PERIOD OF REFORMATION

An internal divide over its stance on LGBTQ+ issues along with the challenges of the pandemic have had a toll on the United Methodist Church in recent years, Olewine said. About 20% of their congregations have disaffiliated from the denomination.

The funds generated by churches paying to leave the organization and the sale of Surf City Church's campus are necessary to ensure that the conference can continue its mission, especially in communities where previous members have disaffiliated, the superintendent said. However, the crossroads the denomination finds itself in may also be a window to modernize.

“The issue of homosexuality and same-sex marriage is the presenting issue currently,” Olewine wrote. “But there are other challenges we must face that have existed for far too long: systemic racism, persistent sexism, and impacts of colonialism both within the U.S. and globally are just a few. How to be church as we approach the second quarter of the 21st century is up for grabs. We are amid a period of reformation, which is not a bad thing, but it is a challenging thing.”

Leonard, Mitchell, Hawthorn and Housholder believe the United Methodist Church is trying to leverage its survival against what



Eric Licas

MEMBERS OF local congregations attempting to break away from the United Methodist Church protest on June 17.

they describe as a ransom on those trying to part ways with it.

“People in the pews, they're the ones who are just unbelievably disappointed that they were part of a church that would say the kind of things and do the kind of things and take the kind of actions the church has taken,” Leonard said.

He added that Surf City Church existed as a congregation long before it joined the United Methodist

Church. Their sanctuary, preschool, fellowship hall and the rest of its facilities were all paid for by members of the community.

“The conference didn't pay a cent for any of that,” Leonard said.

FOUNDED ON SHIFTING SANDS

Surf City Church started out in 1904 as a “tent church” set up at the shore in Huntington Beach, Leonard said. It moved to its first

brick and mortar location on 6th Street and Orange Avenue about 10 years later and then another a few blocks down on 11th street in the '20s.

King was baptized in that building, and some of her most cherished memories were formed there. She recalled often gazing at a stained glass window that had been donated by the Newland family, which was eventually taken out and reinstalled in Surf City's current sanctuary.

“When I think of what Jesus looks like, it's that stained glass window that's in my head,” she said.

Like many in King's community, her religion lies at the core of her upbringing and identity. But her local congregation's conflict with the conference has forced her to reexamine her ties to the United Methodist Church.

“If they close this church down, I don't know if I'll ever step foot in a Methodist church again,” she said.

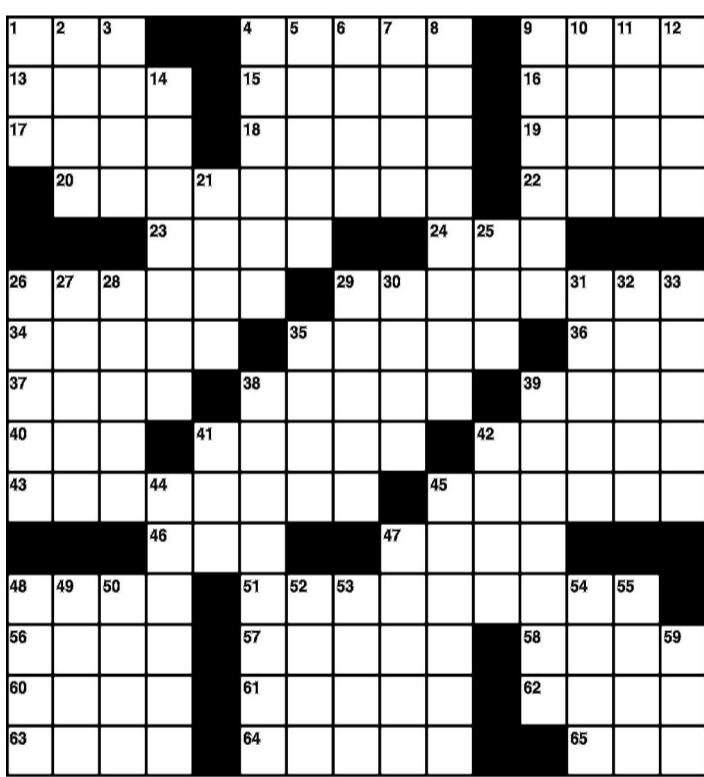
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS 1

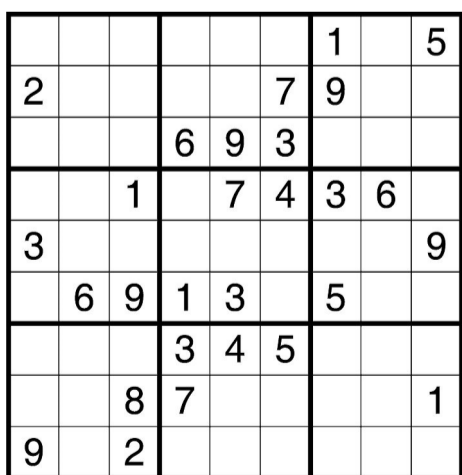
- Calendar page
- 4 Raw fish dish
- 9 Swiss peaks
- 13 W followers
- 15 Dam on the Nile
- 16 Clinton's 1996 opponent
- 17 NBA's Chamberlain
- 18 Commandment verb
- 19 Word of disgust
- 20 Meatballs accompaniment
- 22 Places to stay
- 23 Smokey, for one
- 24 Singer Davis
- 26 Defective
- 29 Disciplines
- 34 Ms. Moorehead
- 35 Track-and-field events
- 36 Old soldier
- 37 Bony fish
- 38 Man of the cloth
- 39 In this place
- 40 Tell it like it isn't
- 41 More miffed
- 42 Begin a tennis game
- 43 On the class roster
- 45 Fireplace shelf
- 46 Go blond
- 47 Flying insect
- 48 Not indecent
- 51 Roman amphitheater
- 56 As a _; generally
- 57 Come _; unravel
- 58 Deadly critter, for short
- 60 Weapons
- 61 On edge
- 62 Door handle
- 63 Most ideal
- 64 Look of contempt



SUDOKU

By The Mephram Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A4.

- 65 Final-yr. students
- DOWN
- 1 Feline sound
- 2 WWII power
- 3 Sharp shrill cry
- 4 Strut about showily
- 5 Theater attendant
- 6 Shemar Moore TV series
- 7 Stop walking
- 8 Very personal
- 9 Rehab resident
- 10 Forsaken
- 11 Think ahead
- 12 _ up; arranges
- 14 Horse homes
- 21 Obtains
- 25 Brayer

- 26 Story from Aesop
- 27 Once more
- 28 Bobby or Al
- 29 Relinquished fellow
- 31 Chris with a racket
- 32 Chutzpah
- 33 Horseshoe material
- 35 Actress Winningham
- 38 Skunks
- 39 Carp at
- 41 Devious
- 42 Talk back
- 44 Most peculiar
- 45 Learn well
- 47 Better's opposite
- 48 _ Louie; "King of Salads"
- 49 Tempt
- 50 Money for the poor
- 52 Daytime shop sign
- 53 Walkway
- 54 Fancy vases
- 55 Othello, for one
- 59 "CSI: Vegas" network

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