



FIVE.ROADS.TO.ROME
An E-zine Sponsored by Kairos Los Angeles

SPHERE by Zebulon Telfer

December 13, 2003

A Note from the Editor

Numbers are funny things. Sometimes they just pop up where we least expect them. In Kairos, we seem to settle on 5 a lot. The five gifts for building up the church, our five values as a church... so it just seemed logical to carry on the theme. It used to be said that all roads lead to Rome, because, well, quite a few did. Road-building was one of the passions of the Romans. But in terms of art, it can also be said that all roads lead to God. That our creativity stems from being made in the image of our Creator, and when we experience great art – whether poetry, dance, music, film, etc. – we are touched by what John Eldredge and Curtis Miller call ‘the haunting’, or what C.S. Lewis called ‘joy’.*

Our hope is that as you engage with this microcosm of the artistic and cultural lives of those in Kairos and the community around us, you will catch a glimpse of something eternal. Or at the very least, something that will make you smile.

Christy Merry



Editor

FIVE.ROADS.TO.ROME

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**The Sacred Romance* Eldredge and Miller; *Surprised by Joy* C.S. Lewis

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ART

If it's bad art, it's bad religion, no matter how pious the subject...

— MADELEINE L'ENGLE *Walking on Water*

FACING REALITY Bob Lockridge



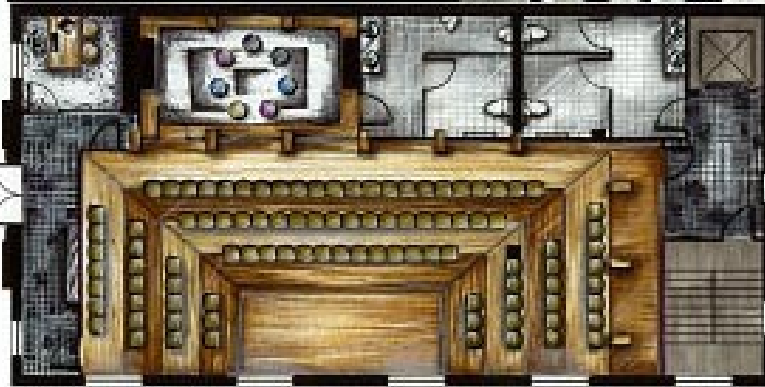


YOKE Jen Theisen

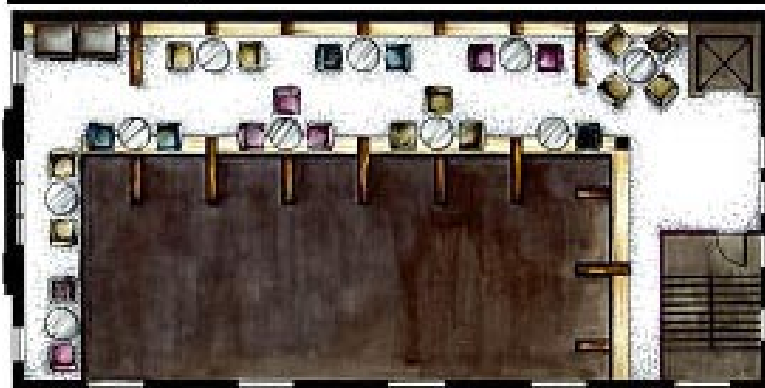
SENIOR THESIS

The
 u-ni-ver-si-ty (yoo 'ne-vur'si-te) n.,
unity in diversity
 Church

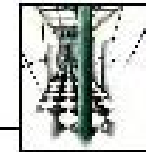
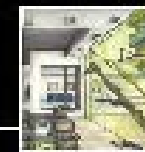
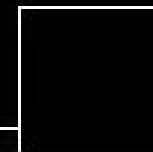
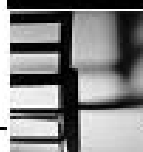
THE OBJECTIVE: THIS CHURCH/COMMUNITY CENTER'S GOAL IS TO CHANGE ONE'S TRADITIONAL VIEW OF WORSHIP, GOD AND CHRISTIANITY, IT IS A PLACE OF ACTION AND INTEREST, AND MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE GEN-X COMMUNITY. IT IS A COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT WITH AN URBAN DOWNTOWN FEEL. LIGHTING WILL LEAD TO A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AS WELL AS INSPIRE THE FORMS OF THE SPACE. IT IS A REFUGE OF INTERACTIVE UNITY, EXECUTED WITH ELEGANT SIMPLICITY AND A SENSE OF GATHERING AROUND. A PLACE TO HANG OUT AND EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY AS WELL AS EXPERIENCE GOD.



Main floor plan



Mezzanine floor plan





JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER Taejin Moon



WORDS

You don't have to suffer to be a poet;
adolescence is enough suffering for anyone.

— JOHN CIARDI

City of Angels

Red is the color of the water in the rock here.
Where the forest is far away, one is in the air,
And standing up on open ground,
Where wet wind once blew, only dry dust now settles.

White is where the branches of light are leafing to,
Floating bones of the moon, up from the sea falling,
Where the Shadow is now settling,
A pine's branches are hanging out horizontally.

Between the ocean and the moon spring the seraphim.
Angelic fluids are floating along in the desert,
Blood brimming in unseen hearts,
The depths of a blue-green leaf, bursting from the rock.

Have you seen black fire in brown eyes of a woman,
Shining as the sun on a smooth red skin, flowing
And curling and turning in a
Hair blowing horizontally, the pine's branch freed?

And have you seen the white-haired monk, who is walking,
And gazing and piercing slowly along in the desert?
His eyes are a union
Of the white in the sky and the Shadow in the branch.

His walk is the waking of the desert's evening, rising
Where the air is opening in the dry rock's pores.
There's a red crystal sky with a
Golden twinkle slowly turning in a walking.

And have you see hot white fire burning brightly,
The birch's branches pyre and the bright gulls gyre,
Reflection on rocks sitting still
In water within, and turning to white bark or skin?

—Jason Hesiak

Fear

Why must my confidence become water slipping
through my fingers when I gaze upon you?
My strength, the grass withering in winter
whenever you come near?
Why must my heart melt... as my tongue freezes...

Will the hurricanes within ever calm
or will turbulence always overtake me when love is at the door?

— Andrew J. Crandall

Instead

as green fades to yellow
the yellow shades turn red
first leaves are falling
sun lowers her head

be still now, my anxious mind
may anxious thoughts lie stilled
quiet, now, my racing heart
or this hour of peace be killed

the sacred quiet pervades my space
heart and soul are overwhelmed
as body, mind and spirit all
sit at peace in nature's realm

soon the sun will rise again
again this life will race ahead
for now lay all confusion down
let the heart be at peace instead

— Michael Durand

South Dakota Prairie Lands

Softly rolling along a long straight road somewhere
 Between Missouri River and some Grecian rocks,
 Likenesses of deserted sands and blowing winds,
 But having stronger sympathy with softer sky,
 Not so hard as parched old rock,
 Yet unsettled as young tender river.

Reaching at a meeting in the middle
 Pointing at other parallel river
 Quietly hiding and innocently smiling,
 Found and ground and only growing as tender grass
 Mischievously resembling fair young skin, quietly
 Swinging and singing under the high rising sky,

Then flowing and rolling over the glowing brim.
 Hilling and swelling of unseen other river,
 The bed of vertical meandering,
 Infinite axis of rivers' curvings,
 Incessant floating of an unseen womb,
 Just over the horizon hills run forever,

Peeking and seeking shyly across the prairie
 Into the Other far into eternity
 Who slowly graces us with glimpses of herself,
 And sometimes quietly concentrating
 Her expanse into little lone places,
 Where waiting before the land does expect.

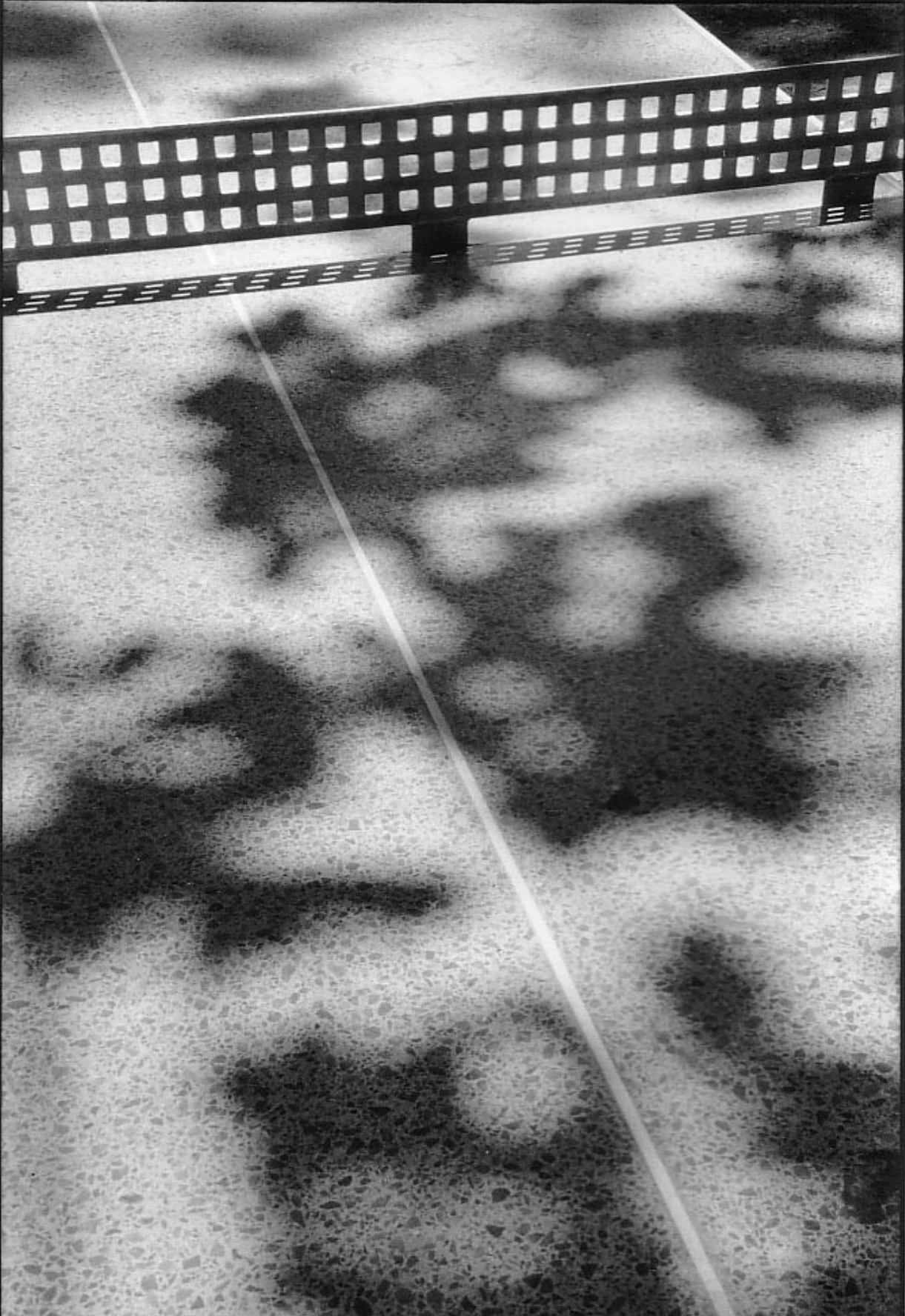
As hills are patiently and lightly rolling in
 To those places where eternity is sitting;
 Silent treasures as trees ascending from bottoms
 Of hills then inclining at little open flats.
 Alpha's hands closing and extending
 Are flats and trees from soft hills emerging.

—Jason Hesiak

Hands

I can't always feel their warmth
 Their gentleness eludes me again.
 All the same I know
 They are there and I am here
 Here inside suspended by love
 My heart is ash
 No ember to inflame
 No coal to ignite
 A thousand pieces all the same
 Picked up one by one
 And saved for the life you give.
 Stories unseen in the grey
 Blown by the grace of love.
 So here am I, and they are here
 As promised, you hold.

— Sara Lockridge



SHADOWPLAY Brent Medsker

PHOTOGRAPHY

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The camera is an instrument
that teaches people how to see without a camera.

— DOROTHEA LANGE

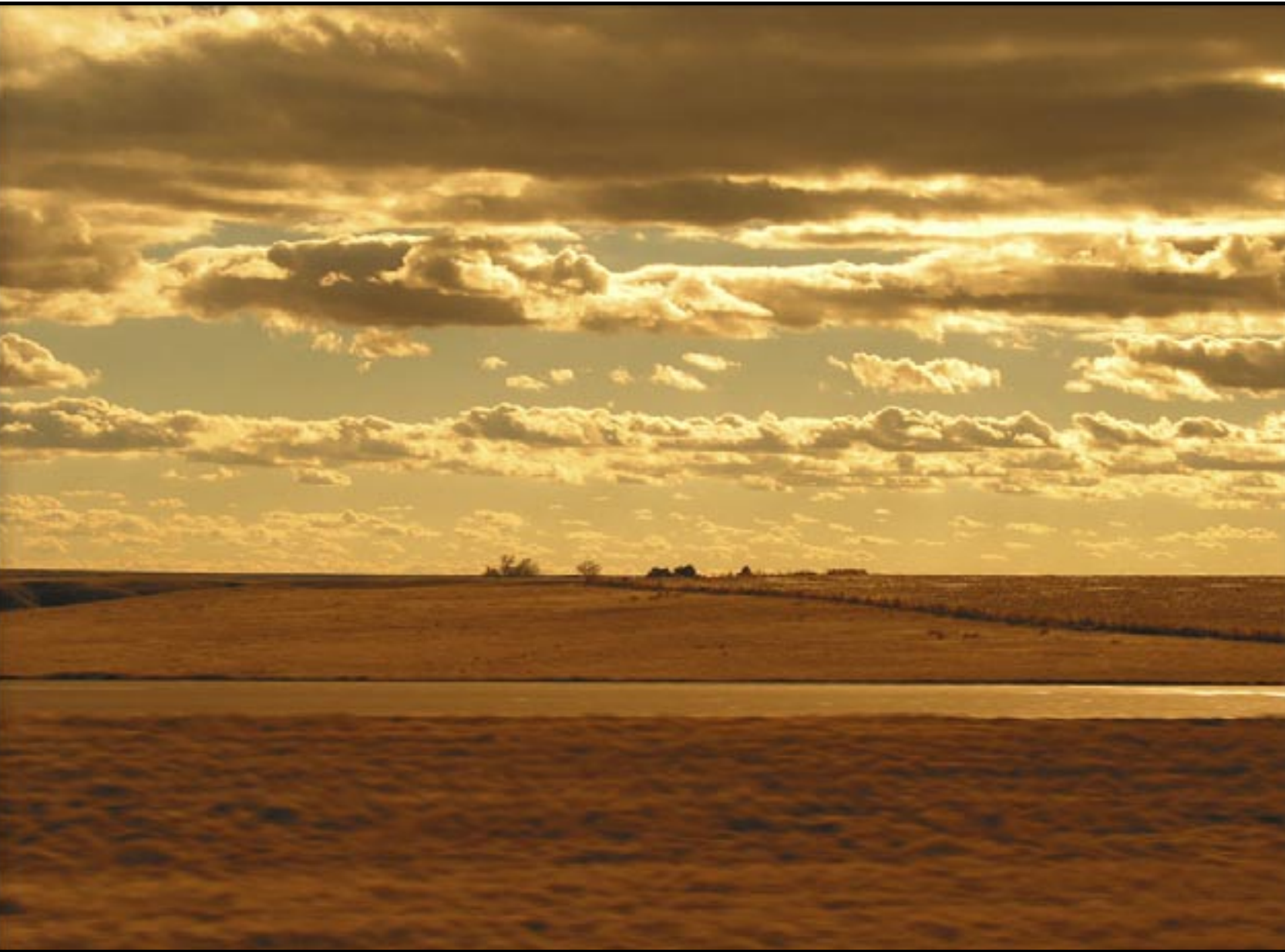
As quoted in Los Angeles Times, August 13, 1978



FAMILIARITY Sara Lockridge



DAISY & SKY Kevin and Annie Wylie



NEBRASKA PLAINS Kevin and Annie Wylie



BUNDLES OF LEEK Brent Medsker

REVIEWS

Part of the secret of success in life is
to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside.

— MARK TWAIN

Koi Restaurant

It's Saturday night, and you're with friends who are craving for some really tasty sushi. For an extraordinary sushi experience, why not try Koi Restaurant in West Hollywood? Not only will you feast on some of the finest sushi and Japanese-inspired cuisine with a California accent, but you'll also find the next stylish hot spot for sipping sake. Tall wooden gates surround this gem of a restaurant, which upon passing through the seemingly impervious wooden doors, offers an outdoor lounge area, a harmoniously "feng shui" arranged dining area, and a cozy back dining room equipped with a fireplace, Japanese-style trees, and comfy earth-tone furniture.

The menu offers several Koi signature cold and hot dishes which range from a seared tuna with Japanese salsa, a jumbo soft shell crab with spicy creamy sauce, or a grilled Maine lobster with garlic butter soy sauce. I would recommend black cod bronzed with miso, my favorite since this dish offers a secret blend of sweet miso and soy sauce which balances so delicately with the flavor of the fish. One can also try the very light and pristine tempura dish of shrimp, snow crab, scallop, rock shrimp, and whitefish. And for sushi lovers, a choice of mouth watering "special" California rolls created from sauteed shrimp or baked crab await your taste buds. While sitting at the sushi bar, one can gaze at the sushi chef's dexterity and artful touch as he creates the pieces of sushi. Chef enthusiasts can also enjoy the beauty of the many savory dishes carried out of the kitchen by the waitstaff to eager customers awaiting their dinners.

The bar offers a choice of exotic, light and smooth sake by the bamboo... not to mention their impressive wine list and a wide selection of Asian beers as well. The soft lighting and natural décor makes this place ideal for relaxing and catching up with friends.

— Susan S. Choi

730 N. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069 (310) 659-9449
Lunch Mon-Fri 11:30a-2:30p (\$20 per person), Mon-Fri 6:30p-11p, Fri-Sat 6:30p-12a, Sun. 6:30p-10p (\$45 per person)

Rockotitlan Cafe

Hollywood's best little cafe is right down the street from me. Now some would say that's the reason I consider it to be the best, and it's one of them, and probably what got me in the door initially. And to be quite honest, I'm not a coffee drinker usually so if you want some insight on the coffee quality, I'm the wrong person to ask. If that's some kind of prerequisite for writing coffeeshop reviews, you can stop reading right here. But if you're still reading, I can comment as a connoisseur of fine people, which I am, and say that there are few places you'll find with such hearts as I've found in Ignacio, Marlene, Cynthia and Nayeli (pronounced 'nah-yay-lee'), the Rockotitlan's fabulous crew. If that doesn't intrigue you, I suppose I'll have to mention the art shows which change monthly, the colorful decor, the cushy chairs, the music which is always great (ranging from U2, Bjork, Sixpence and others I recognize to Hispanic and eclectic artists I've never heard), and the many live shows of music and spoken word which are hosted pretty much weekly (featuring rock, jazz, techno etc.) I also recommend visiting their bathroom, one of my favorites in L.A.

If you insist you actually want to know about their food and drink offerings, I'll have to suggest their Chicken Caesar salad which is enough to serve me for two meals (\$5.75), fresh squeezed orange juice (\$3.00), or a Mexican hot chocolate (med-\$2.80., lg-\$3.00), all personal favorites. Their sandwiches are also great, & though I've never had their special - 'the Rockotitlan' - I hear it's the bomb.

The Rockotitlan has only been open for about 6 months and Ignacio, an artist/musician who opened the cafe to incorporate his many interests, is always open to your suggestions, so if there's anything they don't yet offer that you would like them to, be sure to let him know. So, have fun, tip liberally, & tell them 'Christy Merry' sent you!

— Christy Merry

1277 N. Wilton Place, Hollywood, CA 90038 (323) 468-8900 Hours:
Mon-Sat 7a-11p, Sun 8a-11p.

Enzo's Pizzeria In Westwood Village

Annie and I always keep our eyes out for a cheap restaurant, with a nice enough atmosphere that it feels like we're on a date. Enzo's has both of these qualities, and more.

The restaurant is cozy, with a candle-lit atmosphere at night, and bricks surrounding the interior of the small room. The artwork is mostly photography from the movie "The Godfather", as the restaurant has its roots from one of the actors in the movie. Two pieces of pizza and a drink will cost you about \$6.50, and the two of us can make it out in less than \$10. A great place for a date while on a tight budget. The taste and atmosphere for the price makes it worth trying.

— Kevin Wylie

10940 Weyburn Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90024 (310) 208-3696
Hours: Mon-Wed: 11a-12 midnight, Thurs-Sun: 11a-3a.

Benihana “Must Eat” Japanese Restaurant

When you first step into this restaurant you will receive a warm greeting: “irashaimase” meaning “welcome.” During a weekday you should be immediately seated by a host or hostess, while on the weekend you can expect a thirty-minute wait.

Fairly quickly a waiter or waitress will ask you for your drink order. One of the Japanese favorites is “sake.” You can order it hot or cold. For the main dish try the grilled chicken or steak. Then expect to be entertained as the cook prepares your table’s dishes right in front of you. When you visit the Benihana in Santa Monica, be sure to ask for Mary as your waitress and keep an eye out, you may see a movie star.

— Rudy Hermanto

38 N. La Cienega Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90211 (323) 655-7311
Lunch: Mon-Fri 11:30a-2p, Sat-Sun Closed, Dinner: Mon-Thurs 5:30p-10p, Fri-Sat 5:30p-11p, Sun 4:30p-10pm
1447 Fourth St., Santa Monica, CA 90401 (310) 260-1423
Lunch: Mon-Fri 11:30a-2p, Dinner: Mon-Thurs 5:30-10:30p, Fri 5:30-11p, Weekends: Sat 12 noon-10:30p, Sun 12 noon-9p.

Diddy Riese A Treat for You and Your Bank Account

Looking for a little treat to enjoy with friends while out on the town? Hope you brought your wallet. In Westwood village, a couple of donuts will run you two dollars and a sweet something from Starbucks is going to cost at least two to three bills. How about two freshly baked chocolate chip cookies and a generous scoop of rocky road ice cream? Well, that’s just a buck.

Hidden in the heart of Westwood village amidst historic movie theaters and \$8 lunches, there is a little shop called Diddy Riese Cookies. You might be able to find it by looking for the line of people out the door, or just ask one of the ten people you will walk by eating homemade ice cream sandwiches. Located at 926 Broxton Ave., about fifty feet from the Village and Bruin theaters, this small establishment has been serving up sweets since 1983.

Diddy Riese makes ten varieties of cookie and has twelve kinds of Dreyer’s ice cream. All of their cookies are made daily with top quality ingredients. Of course, if you are in need of something a little more nourishing, you can nab a jumbo hot dog and soda for \$1.75. Hands down, you aren’t going to find this kind of quality for these prices anywhere else in LA. And don’t worry about the line of people. They’ve got service down to a science. You’ll be in and out in minutes, every time. But don’t take my word for it. Come see for yourself.

— Josh Dull

926 Broxton Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90024 (310) 208-4958
Hours: Mon-Thurs: 10a-12a, Fri: 10a-1a, Sat: 12p-1a, Sun: 12p-12a

EVENTS

One ought, every day at least, to hear a little song,
read a good poem, see a fine picture and,
if possible, speak a few reasonable words.

— JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

Second Saturday: A Professional Forum 9:30-10 am coffee & donuts (nominal charge), 10-12 noon interview/forum, every 2nd Saturday of the month. 1760 N. Gower St., Hollywood, CA 90028. RSVP to (323) 462-8460 Entertainment professionals talk about what they do and answer questions. Put on by Inter-mission, a coalition of media professionals who approach the world from a Christian perspective. To find out who the guests are for the upcoming Second Saturday, go to www.inter-mission.net/events_la.html.

—Submitted by Scott Mclain

Dyamsay Writer's Workshop 7 p.m., 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, Cafe Bolivar, 1741 Ocean Park Boulevard, Santa Monica, (310) 581-2344. Bring 5-10 copies of your draft for critique and a suggested donation of \$3. To have your name added to the e-mail list if you are interested in the workshop, e-mail Ergzm@aol.com. This group is multi-cultural, encouraging, and will stretch you in your writing.

—Submitted by Christy Merry

Expressions Monday 8 p.m. Monday evenings, Rockotitlan Cafe, Corner of Wilton and Fountain, Hollywood, CA 90038, (323) 468-8900. The night starts at 8 p.m. sharp. Come early to sign in and get a seat. Host Harry Grammer welcomes music, poetry, comedy and dance. According to Harry, the evening is “a place to share more than perform.” Many folks have made their first step to the mic in this colorful cafe. It is asked every night that judgment be left at the door, as people from all backgrounds express themselves.

—Submitted by Shane Simonsen

The Violet Burning Annual Christmas Concert Modern Rock, 7:30 p.m., December 19th, FREE, Vineyard Christian Fellowship, 5340 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA, 92807, (714) 777-477 (hear them at www.thevioletburning.com). Literally, I cannot stress how ill-advised it would be to miss this concert. Quite simply, it is one of the best things to be excited about this time of year (after, of course, the obviously fabulous event of God becoming a man). Michael Pritzl and his band The Violet Burning have been rocking out since 1990 with music that is anything but a perfunctory oblation, engendering peace and passion, and ostensibly far more intelligible than this sentence. The Christmas concerts in particular are rumored to be fantastic – Michael buys interesting presents (to raffle I think?) and last year's pinata bashing was a hit. Too much fun to miss. Hope to see you there!

—Submitted by Christy Merry

Stavesacre Concert Hardcore – with Fun 100 opening. 8 p.m., December 16th, \$10 cover, The Talking Stick, 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405, (310) 450-6052. A rock and roll experience not to be missed! Stavesacre brings their distinctive brand of melodic hardcore and catchy grooves back to LA. With a punk-rock-laced passion, catchy grooves, and literate, insightful lyrics, this southern California band has built an enviable national following over the last decade and established themselves as one of the best-undiscovered acts in hard rock. After months in the studio working on their fifth album, they're playing a few select dates this December in southern California. Don't miss a chance to experience the unique energy and groove of one of one of the best bands in town.

—Submitted by Ryan Fritzsche

Walt Foreman

Has a novel that just came out in a few Barnes & Nobles' recently, entitled The Fairy Tale. Wrote a one-act play that was produced at the Stella Adler theater five years ago. Has also had short stories published in several literary anthologies. Currently pursuing a career as a screenwriter.

Christy Merry

Published poet, credits include Teen Quest (Dawson McAllister Ministries), Teen Power and Zelos (Scripture Press Publications) and several anthologies. Formerly a regular reader at the Pontiac Cafe, the Hungry Brain and Young Chicago Authors in Chicago, and former head of Incarnational Ministries, an outreach devoted to being "Christ in flesh" to that community through building relationships.

Lorenzo Ajello

Has a B.A. in International Studies, M.S. in Behavioral Science. Taught English as an adjunct at La Sorbonne in Paris. Has worked as a freelance writer for several periodicals and e-zines on the East coast before coming to L.A. to pursue a writing career in the entertainment industry.



Words Reviewers

Art Reviewers

**Christy Merry**

Only an artist herself in the most remote sense (occasionally draws tattoos on herself w/permanent markers), she has discovered and promoted the work of various Minnesota artists by booking shows for the bluer cafe and private parties. She also acted as Co-Editor for the not-yet-published arts magazine allweknew, also with bluer.

Ignacio Ramirez

Currently most well-known as being the owner of the relatively new but already well-beloved Rockotitlan Cafe in Hollywood, he supports the arts through booking monthly art shows for many local artists, and is also an artist himself, having begun painting three years ago and taken classes in art at Santa Monica College.

Rosalba Rios

An artist at heart and an avowed coffee-fiend, her sporadic bouts of creativity in paint have recently earned her a show at the Bluebird Gallery in Whittier (January 2003) and one at the Rockotitlan Cafe (July 2003). She moved to L.A. from Vera Cruz, Mexico with a B.A. in Art and is now in graduate school studying Psychology.

Photography Reviewers



Christy Merry

An amateur photographer herself, was in charge of booking a few photography shows for the bluer cafe in Minneapolis, MN in 2001-2002. Has had one photo published with Teen Quest and once won 3rd prize in 'Photos: Humoresque' in a contest at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Standing in as a reviewer here as the 'quintessential woman on the street.'

Courtney Oquist

Currently studying Art (photography and painting) at Cal State Long Beach. Works at the Huntington Beach Art Center and also with the OC (Orange County) Weekly in the editorial department, where she also occasionally has opportunity to contribute photography from time to time.

Ben Thompson

Began his training in photography in a high school darkroom class. Later while studying for his B.S. in Product Design at Virginia Tech, he studied photography and graphic design on his own. Worked as a photographer at The Ohio State University a year, and in September 2002 moved to L.A. where he serves as the Art Director for Kairos.

CREDITS

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Future Info

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