

The Highlands lowdown

January 2013

The Highlands Community Association Newsletter

Volume 59, Number 1

www.highlandscommunity.org

Get Involved in Organizing the 4th of July

by Jean-Pierre Bernard, HCA 2nd Vice President

With the beginning of the New Year, it's time to start planning our coming 4th of July celebrations. As every year, our first focus is to assemble the team to conduct the different components of the July 3 and 4 events, which for more than 50 years have been the pride and cement of our community. While we look forward to working with last year's organizers, we wel-



come new volunteers to supplement existing teams and ramp up to lead in the future. All residents who are interested in participating are invited to contact the HCA by coming to one of our next board meetings (4th Tuesday of each month), by emailing me at jpybernard@att.net, or calling me at 650-357-7644.

►4th of July: to page 5

LAFCO Review Stirs Our Community

by Jean-Pierre Bernard, HCA 2nd Vice President

The circulation of a draft review report from the San Mateo County LAFCO (Local Agency Formation) has generated much emotion over the last two months. Fortunately, our community's mobilization against some of the draft recommendations has put the review process on a better path.

The objective role of the Local Agency Formation Commission, a commission created in each county across California as a result of 1963 legislation, is to oversee local government boundaries and to evaluate and guide "the efficient, cost-effective and reliable delivery of municipal services to California's citizenry." As a means to achieve the general objective, LAFCOs,

from time to time, recommend annexation and incorporation of local independent agencies into the broader area of responsibility of cities.

In response to the state mandate, the San Mateo County LAFCO has been periodically reviewing agencies in the CSA1 perimeter, and namely, the Highlands Recreation District (HRD), which operates our Rec Center. A new review was launched around the middle of last year, leading to the preparation of a report produced last November in draft version. The draft, which was prepared after LAFCO's communication only with HRD's management and board, includes a recommendation to consider annexation of the HRD into the City of

►LAFCO: to page 10

HRD Meeting

Tuesday, January 15, 7 p.m.
Multipurpose Room

lowdown Deadline

February 8

HCA Meeting

Tuesday, January 22, 7:30 p.m.
Multipurpose Room

FROM THE HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Rick Priola
HCA President

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you enjoyed the holidays. Last year began with concerns about water, since the fall was very dry. That wasn't true this fall, and there was lots of snow in the mountains for skiers during the holidays. We had a

lot of rain in the Bay Area and strong winds that brought down some trees in the neighborhood. But it's dry and sunny as this is written, though very cold at night.

One thing that's the same this first week of January as the first week of last January is the position of the 49ers, who again have a bye-week as they wait to see whom they will have to play in their first game of the playoffs. The Bay Area is going from an exciting baseball season to an exciting football season, and even the Warriors basketball team is doing well so far.

LAFCO: About every five years, the Highlands gets involved with LAFCO, the Local Agency Formation Commission, and its review of government services and service districts in unincorporated areas of counties. This is a very important issue for Highlands residents to follow. Look for J.P. Bernard's article on page 1 of this *lowdown*, which explains what has been going on and how we have responded. Plan to come to the HCA meeting on January 22 to get up-to-date information.

Join the HCA: Next month will kick off the HCA's annual membership drive, and I encourage everyone to join.. Dues are still \$30 per household, a small amount to support activities to maintain the Highland's quality of life and community spirit that make our neighborhood so unique. The HCA produces the *lowdown*, now beginning its 58th year, and brings us the 4th of July celebration, also more than 50 years old. We work in partnership with the HRD (Highlands Recreation District) on many community issues and organize,

mobilize, and represent the community when land development, safety, or other issues come up. We work with nearby neighborhoods that are part of the service districts that provide our governmental services. So keep an eye out for the membership flyers and envelopes that will be included in the February *lowdown* and join the crew that supports the HCA.

Sewer Work on Ticonderoga: In case you've been wondering about those orange signs at the bottom of Ticonderoga, here's the story: The county has required a list of items that must be completed before the Chamberlain group can build any homes on their lots. The signs that are posted are notification that work will be occurring on sewer lines

As always, I look forward to meeting you and seeing you at the HCA meetings. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at hcapres@gmail.com.

HCA Meeting January 22, 2013, 7:30 p.m. Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Review and Approval of the Minutes
- III. Sheriff's Dept/CHP/CDR Cal Fire
- IV. Reports
 - A. First Vice President
 - B. Second Vice President
 - C. Treasurer
 - D. Membership
 - E. *lowdown*
 - F. Public Utilities Committee
 - G. Emergency Services Committee
 - H. Land Committee
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

HCA Board Officers for 2013

President:	Rick Priola	574-8313
Co-First VPs:	Beverley Madden	574-1593
	Liesje Nicolas	773-7805
Second VP:	Jean-Pierre Bernard	357-7644
Treasurer:	David Krakower	415-398-1100
Secretary:	Denise Haas	372-0373
<i>lowdown</i> Editor:	Dorothy Greene	341-1752

HCA Committee Chairs for 2013

Land:	Sam Naifeh	572-8787
Public Utilities Co-Chairs:	James Goodman	372-0986
	Wil Pinney	345-2546
Emergency Services:	Pam Merkadeau	280-9046
Membership	Kim Nations	415-505-3866
Welcome Co-Chairs	Lori McGilpin	415-314-0599
	Gretchen Skaggs	415-577-6941

HCA MINUTES

HCA Meeting November 27, 2012,

by Denise Haas, Secretary

I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by President Rick Priola at 7:35 p.m.

II. Review and Approval of the Minutes – A motion to approve the minutes of Oct 23, 2012, was moved by Jack Kundin, seconded by James Goodman, and carried..

III. Sheriff's Department/ California Highway Patrol/CDF Sheriff – Deputy Hatt reported one incident of a washer and dryer stolen from outside of resident's home. Traffic issues were also discussed with regard to the pedestrian crossing at Lexington and Newport. Cal Fire Chief Jabert reported that the majority of the 911 calls out of station 17, were traffic related.

Chief Ferrari and Peggy Jensen were in attendance to provide follow-up on the proposed closure of station 17 and the County study of Station 17 activity. Station 17 will remain open for fiscal year 2012–2013. Chief Ferrari also reminded residents who have received a bill from the State Board of Equalization to pay this fee.

IV. Reports

A. First Vice President – Liesje Nicolas reported that Jean-Pierre Bernard has volunteered to oversee the 3rd of July, but a chair is still needed for the 4th of July.

The 2013 HCA slate was presented: President, Rick Priola; Co-1st Vice-Presidents, Beverley Madden and Liesje Nicolas; 2nd Vice President, Jean-Pierre Bernard;

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THANK YOU. YEAH THANKS!

Secretary, Denise Haas; Treasurer, David Krakower; *lowdown* Editor, Dorothy Greene; Land Committee Chair, Sam Naifeh; Membership Committee Chair, Kim Nations; Public Utilities Committee Co-Chairs, James Goodman and Wil Pinney; Emergency Services Committee Chair, Pam Merkadeau; Jack Kundin moved to approve the slate and was seconded by Dixon Reilley. The motion passed.

Highlands Recreation District General Manager Brigitte Shearer and Board President Hal Carroll discussed the district's response to the upcoming LAFCO report and planned county meeting.

B. Second Vice President – No report

C. Treasurer – David Krakower announced that the final budget will be presented at the January 2013 meeting.

D. Membership – No report

E. lowdown – Dorothy Greene announced that the deadline for the January 2013 *lowdown* is Dec. 28.

F. Public Utilities Committee – No report.

G. Emergency Services Committee – No report

H. Land Committee – No report

V. Old Business – LAFCO, reported above

VI. New Business/ Announcements – None

VII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

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HIGHLANDS RECREATION CENTER NEWS



Holiday Event & Caroling Night

huge THANK YOU to Rebecca Cuthbert, Dianne Weitzel, and CAL Fire Station 17 for making our Annual Holiday Event and Caroling Night a great success. Our holiday event featured live music, a children's chorus and edible art projects. The night was capped off by Caroling with Santa.

Be A Sponsor

The Rec is looking for volunteers to help oversee the fire road clearing and pile burn efforts. Next training class: Jan. 30, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in Woodside. Must be 18+ and available on weekdays. Call the Rec, 650-341-4251, to RSVP for the training.

Now Hiring!

The Highlands Recreation Center is currently hiring lifeguards and swim instructors to work a variety of hours. Please contact Bryce for more info at 650-341-4251 or email brycer@highlandsrec.ca.gov

For more details on all the classes and programs listed below, please see our website or our Winter Activity Guide.

Pre-K Openings

Please contact Rebecca at Rebeccah@highlandsrec.ca.gov. She'll provide more info on options, schedules, tours, etc!

2013-2014 After-School Program Childcare Enrollment Start Dates

Our program filled quickly this year, so don't delay your registration! (Highlands Elementary. Students only)

Residents: Jan. 28

Current ASP Families: Feb 11

CSA1: Feb. 11

Non-Highlands/Non-CSA1: Feb. 18

Don't wait until August to enroll! We cannot guarantee that space will be available.

Spring Camp 2013

Don't miss the fun! Sign up now!
3/29/13 – 4/5/13 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 (10.5 hours of care)
 \$5 sibling discount
 Daily Fee \$65/70
 Field Trip Only Day Rate \$75/80
 Weekly Rate \$260/265

Kids Nite Out

Fri., Feb. 8 6 p.m. K-8th Grades

Need a post-holiday season night out? You know the drill: pre-registration required, no drop-ins permitted. K-8th grades, 4-year-olds allowed if sibling of ASP child and potty trained. Pizza dinner and movie provided.

\$30 per child

Location: Social Room

Highlands Rec T-Ball (CO-ED)

Sat. 3/23-5/18 Junior 9-10:15 a.m.

Sat. 3/23-5/18 Pee-Wee

9 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Fees: \$80/85 /player

\$5/sibling discount

Location: Highlands School grass field (off Bunker Hill exit)

Highlands Hoopsters 2013 (CO-ED)

Sat. 1/26-3/9 4th-5th grades 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Sat. 1/26-3/9 2nd-3rd grades 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Sat. 1/26-3/9 12:15-2:15 p.m.

Fees: \$60/65 per player

\$5/sibling discount

Location: HRC Gym

(No Games 2/16)

This non-competitive basketball program is designed for youth and is a volunteer parent-coached program where parents can enjoy teaching basic basketball skills to children.

Pre-Engineering with Lego

Tues. 1/29-3/19 4-5:30 p.m.

Ages 8-13 \$200/205

Location: HRC Gym

Growing Gourmettes

Tues. 29-3/19 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Ages 6-12 \$185/190

Location: Multipurpose Room

Beginning Leadership and Resiliency Training

Tues. 2/12-3/5 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Ages: 7-13 \$150/155

Location: Social Room

►Rec Programs: to page 10

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My very best wishes to you and your family for a New Year filled with good health, great joy, and peace!



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Highlands Book Club Welcomes You

by Jo Nassutti



We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:15 a.m. in Multipurpose Room B in the childcare center, south of the main Rec

Center building. Visitors are always welcome.

For **February 5** we will read *Moloka'i* by **Alan Brennert**. This fascinating novel of life in early nineteenth century Hawaii tells the story of society's outcasts. One of them, seven-year-old Rachel, sent to Kalaupapa, the leprosy colony, finds life doesn't end there, but rather, she finds a new beginning.

On **March 5** we will discuss *Ladies of the Lake* by **Haywood Smith**. This light read about four

middle-aged sisters describes how they deal with meeting the terms of their grandmother's will so that they can inherit the valuable property of 50 acres she owns in the gentile south.

Questions, call Betty O'Connor at 650-345-9764. **Curious**, come by and observe.

► **4th of July:** from page 1

- July 3: fireworks, bake sale, music and sound, preparation and clean-up of the grounds
- July 4: parade, foot race, food booth, tee-shirts, midway games, dunk tank, snow cones and cotton candy

Please consider volunteering. With your help, we can make July 4, 2013, a great success!

Learn About Coyotes

Wednesday, January 16, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

Rec Center's Childcare Center Multipurpose Room

Presentation: Coyotes in our Midst - Learning to Live with North America's Native "Song Dog"



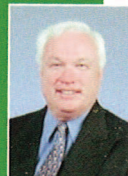
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COMMUNITY AND HIGHLANDS SCHOOL NEWS

January is Blood Donor Month

by Lieutenant Edmund Barberini, San Mateo County Sheriff's Department

Happy New Year! The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office wishes everyone a safe and prosperous 2013!

Since 1970, January has been designated as National Blood Donor Month. The Sheriff's Office encourages county residents to give or pledge to give blood. Blood is traditionally in short supply during the winter months due to the holidays, travel schedules, inclement weather, and illness. January, in particular, is a difficult month for blood centers to collect blood donations.

A reduction in turnout can put our nation's blood inventory at a critical low level. Every day in the United States, approximately 39,000 units of blood are required in hospitals and emergency treatment facili-



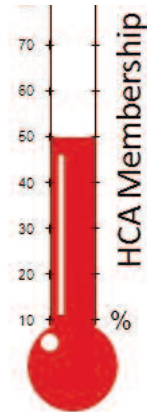
ties for patients with cancer and other diseases, for organ transplant recipients, and to help save the lives of accident victims. Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood, and a single-car

accident victim can require as many as 100 pints.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years of age and weigh at least 110 pounds. Donors must also present a photo ID and be willing to answer a list of personal history questions.

To learn how and where to become a blood donor, please visit www.redcrossblood.org/make-donation.

It's That Time Again



The annual HCA Membership Drive kicks off in February. Look for the flyer and envelope in the February lowdown. Send in your dues, and watch our temperature climb!

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COMMUNITY AND UMC NEWS

Crystal Springs UMC Activities

by Steve Schlichter

MEDITATION CLASSES

Rev. Hee-Soon has several ongoing Meditation Sessions at the church. Monday evenings 7-8 p.m. and Wednesday mornings 8:45-9:45 a.m. Anyone can join in. Call 650-345-2381 for more information.

CLASSES: Beth Covey-Snedegar, who led a dance class for kids this fall, is returning with several classes this winter. All classes are held at the church. If interested, contact Beth at 650-200-7331 or the-sassydiva@sassydivadesigns.com. More information is available at <http://brightideaconservatory.wordpress.com>.

All That Jazz Dance - Kids K-5, Mondays, 3-4 p.m., Jan 7-March 11 (no class 1/21 & 2/28) \$110

Students will learn the basics of ballet and jazz through warm-ups, across-the-floor combinations, and a choreographed dance. At the end of the 8-week session, students will perform the dance combination they learned for friends and family.

What a Character - ages 8-13 Mondays, 4:30-5:30 p.m., January 28-April 1 (no class 2/18) \$150.

In this class, students will begin to learn how to develop characters. Under instructor guidance, students will pick a character from a book, television show, or movie and develop a short monologue. As a group, students will get the chance to create their own show together promoting team work and creativity, also with the help of the instructor. Theater games and basic warm-ups will be used to educate students about theater life.

Rock Star: Beginning Guitar - ages 9+ Mondays 3:30-4:30 p.m. January 28-April 1 (no class 2/18) \$100 (Extra \$20 to borrow a guitar)

In this nine-week course, students will learn how to be the next rock star! Each student will be exposed to electric and acoustic guitars as well as other string instruments. At the end of the course, students will give a short concert for family and friends.

SUNDAY SCHOOL- The Sunday School continues every Sunday except for the first one of the month. All kids are welcome.

Join the HCA!**Cub Scout News**

by Deborah Dickinson



Pack 3 Cub Scouts would like to thank the Highlands Community for donating food during *Scouting for Food* back in November. Almost 1,000 pounds of food were taken to the Second Harvest Food Bank in San Carlos.

A special thank-you also to those Pack 3 Cub Scouts and their families who volunteered their time at the Barnes & Noble Gift Wrap Fundraiser. We truly appreciate your dedication and your enthusiasm in helping to raise funds for the Pack.

If you currently have a kindergarten who might be interested in joining Pack 3 as a Tiger Cub next year, please contact Cub Master Barrie Dickinson at 650-245-2251 for more information.

Pack 3 Leadership, Cub Scouts, and their families would like to wish you all the very best in 2013.

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HIGHLANDS SCHOOL NEWS

Message From Principal Gomez

by Etienne Vick

December was a light month without PTA meetings, but in light of the Newton tragedies there was definite school district response. The following message was written before the holiday break.

Looking back on 2012, we have much for which to be thankful. I sincerely want to thank the staff and faculty for their tireless dedication to the students and families at Highlands. This is an exceptional group of people who put kids first, and who have devoted themselves to creating a culture of inclusiveness, diversity, intelligence and warmth for our students. Likewise, we as a staff are so appreciative of the families we serve and the remarkable amounts of time and resources they share with our school

every day.

With the news from Connecticut on Friday, this week has been devastating for all of us. This is a time to be thankful for what we have, to hold our loved ones close, and to send our thoughts and love to those who have been affected by this tragedy.

This week we practiced a lockdown drill, in accordance with our district and county regulations. We continue to strengthen the Highlands safety protocol. In addition to the safety measures we've added in recent months, the district and I walked the perimeter last Tuesday to review our fencing. Highlands will be getting an entirely new perimeter fence, as well as some interior fences, to keep our public areas, like

►Principal's Message: to page 9

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Highlands lowdown

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Neither the lowdown nor the HCA is responsible for the accuracy of any information in the display or want ads. Readers are encouraged to check that licenses are current and to get references.

Subscriptions for non-residents of the Highlands are \$25 per year.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Upcoming CSM Events

by Valerie Anderson, President's Office Coordinator

FREE TAX PREPARATION AT CSM: On Saturdays from February 2 through March 30 (except for 2/16), CSM will once again be offering free tax services for members of the community provided by students participating in the Volunteer Income Tax Preparation course. Appointments are not needed; the drop-in service is available from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. in Building 14, Room 104. To qualify for this free service, last year's income must have been less than \$51,000. For more information, call 650-378-7323 or email VITA@smccd.edu.

ATTENTION: HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS—CASH FOR COLLEGE WORKSHOPS: On Saturday, January 19, CSM's Financial Aid Office will be hosting Cash for College workshops from 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. and again at



12:15 – 2 p.m. on the second floor of College Center (building 10). These free workshops provide assistance completing the Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA). All students who attend the workshop have the chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship. For more information visit collegeofsanmateo.edu/calendar/events

CSM's SPRING SEMESTER BEGINS JANUARY 14, 2013

► **Principal's Message:** from page 8

the field and blacktop, completely separate from the classrooms and office after school hours and on weekends. I will keep you posted on the progress of this project.

At 8:30 a.m. on January 25, I invite you to a Parent Education meeting from Safe Routes. Safe Routes will be working with our students on pedestrian and biking safety. In April they will coordinate a "rodeo" on our blacktop. This involves setting up a miniature city, where students will be coached in small groups on how to safely navigate streets both on foot and on bike.

I wish you all a peaceful winter vacation. I am thankful to be part of Highlands, and I am proud of the work we do here. Enjoy your time off, and Happy New Year.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

► **Rec Programs: from page 4****Highlands Rec Tennis****Sat 3/24-4/28 1-2 p.m.****No Class: 3/31**

Ages 3-13 \$50/55

Location: Tennis Courts

The Kitchen Garden from Design to Harvest**Wed. 2/13 6:30-8:30 p.m.****Wed. 3/20 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Ages 18 and up \$35/40

Location: Multipurpose Room

Join Master Gardeners Laurel Nagle and Marybeth Lybrand for this four-class session that will detail the entire process of growing vegetables, herbs, and fruit in your yard.

Online Driver's Education

Approved by the DMV. For more information, go to Economic Online Driving School at www.economicdrivingschool.com/online. When registering, be sure to complete the question that asks: "How did you hear about us?" by choosing Activity Guide. Then enter HRC code: 4251 Cost: \$68.50

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► **LAFCO: from page 1**

San Mateo.

The review process and, later, the existence of the draft report, were brought to the Highlands Community Association (HCA) board's attention at its October and November meetings. In reaction to the content of the draft report and the fact that it lacked involvement of our community, HCA's leadership, in conjunction with the other CSA1 community associations (Baywood Park, Baywood Plaza, San Mateo Oaks), reached out to the commission and asked that the draft report not be discussed as planned at the December 19 meeting. LAFCO contact information provided by the HRD also led many residents to send letters to LAFCO, expressing their opposition to annexation.

As a result, the LAFCO chair postponed discussion of the content of the report from the December 19, 2012, to its March 20, 2013, board

meeting, allowing time for the commission to seek input from our community. At the December 19 meeting, the review was mentioned only from a process standpoint. County Supervisors Dave Pine and Don Horsley stressed that HRD annexation should not be considered unless the community requests it.

HCA 1st Vice President Liesje Nicolas and 2nd Vice President JP Bernard voiced our community's concerns. A representative of the City of San Mateo stated that at this point the City doesn't see any interest in HRD annexation.

While there seems to be a consensus to reject the concept of annexation, the LAFCO review process will follow its course until the March board meeting. In the meantime, the commission is expected to seek official input from CSA1 communities. We'll continue to keep the community informed.

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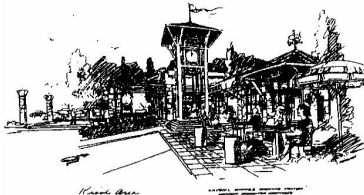
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A VIEW FROM THE HIGHLANDS

A Chance Encounter in the Highlands

by Adella Feinberg

When you go for a walk in the Highlands, you have to be prepared for all sorts of encounters. Depending upon the hour, you might cross paths with careening skateboarders, puffing joggers, sedate dog walkers, or school children bowed beneath the weight of their backpacks. Or, of an evening, you might even face off with a family of raccoons. But I recently met up with an entirely unexpected creature on Laurel Hill Court. Her elongated form, erect torso, and outstretched arms and legs reminded me of a leaping dancer or sprinter racing to the finish line. Motion and movement were everywhere...and yet she wasn't moving at all, her body firmly anchored to a base as her creator, Gwenn Connolly, was touching up the surface of her body.

The body in question was a work in progress by Highlands sculptor Gwenn Connolly. Gwenn was



Leap of Faith by Gwenn Connolly

Photo by John Feinberg

putting on the final surface touches in her driveway as I walked by. She explained to me that the sculpture, "Leap of Faith," is a commission for the atrium of a Highlands family. As a longtime resident of the Highlands, Gwenn has a love for the Eichler aesthetic which is clearly reflected in her art. It was, in fact, at Aragon High School that she learned the technique of papier mâché on a steel

frame. After the forms are completed, she applies a bronze finish. Her works are found in many public places, galleries and private collections.

For more views of Gwenn's work, check out her website www.gwennconnolly.com. Or go for a walk on Laurel Hill Court some weekend and you might find her out front tending to one of her fascinating creations.