



KEEP IT LOCAL

- **1/26** Art & Wine Show benefiting The Roundhouse Aquarium on the Manhattan Beach Pier. Join local photographer Ken Pagliaro and Joel Danto at Barsha Wines and Spirits for an evening of art, wine, food & fun. 917 N. Sepulveda Blvd Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
- **1/28** Abigaile Kitchen Takeover II gathers chefs from around LA to collaborate in the kitchen together. This month's event will focus on global cuisine; each chef will create a dish that is a modern interpretation of their cultural background mixed with their personal culinary style. ENTER TO WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS at www.LAWonders.net

MORE TO EXPLORE

- **2/9** The inaugural Los Angeles Bacon Festival, presented by Mendocino Farms, will take place Feb 9th at the Petersen Automotive Museum. Featuring dozens of restaurants and bakeries, the event will play homage to all things bacon, presented in both sweet and savory dishes. www.LAbaconfest.com

By Jennalee Infanto & Matthew McIvor



Visit www.LAWonders.net and enter to WIN a PAIR of tickets to Abigaile's Kitchen Takeover II (\$130 value)!



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Through the Fire

Friends organize Jan. 26 fundraiser for Redondo Beach art commissioner who lost everything during a December fire

by Michael Hixon

A fire swept through a decades-old five-unit apartment building on The Esplanade in Redondo Beach in the early morning hours of Dec. 19, leaving its residents to pick up the pieces of their lives. Sheryl Nakano, who serves on the city's Public Art Commission, had lived there for 15 years before her life was upended.

"When I woke up there was smoke in the living room and then when I went to open the door, I saw there were flames coming up from underneath the floor where there's a heater," Nakano said. "I ran out the front door and my neighbor was on her front porch and asked me if everything was OK. I told her to call 911 ... so I ran and knocked on the doors of the other tenants to get them out. Then I ran back in to see if I could get my purse, but it was too intense, so I ended up not being able to salvage anything."

Since the building "went up like tissue paper," they were

lucky that no one was injured, but Nakano is still continuing to cope with what was lost. Friends of the museum consultant have organized a fundraiser on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Redondo Beach Women's Club, located at 400 S. Broadway, to help her in the slow process of recovery. Redondo Beach Art Group members Tasha Garfield (advisor/art director), Karen Baughman (co-founder and treasurer) and Nina Zak Laddon (co-founder) helped spearhead the fundraiser that will feature "art treasurers" from local artists.

"When I heard about this I was moved to action," Garfield said. "The executive board of RBAG got together to discuss ways to help one of our own, and the idea of a fundraiser was the only solution."

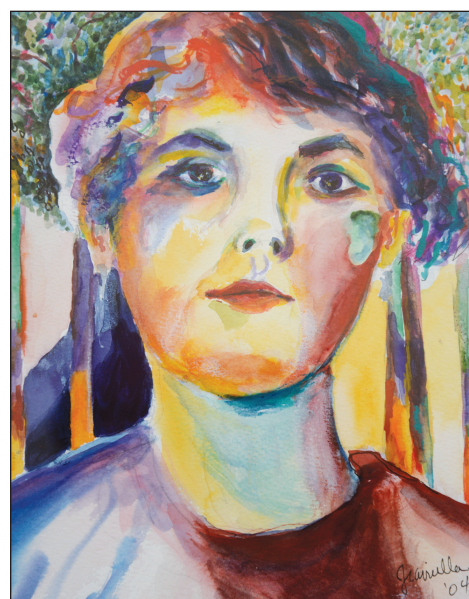
"It was impossible to imagine what Sheryl was going through, and we wanted to help her in any way possible," Baughman added. "She lost everything, and we're hoping people will open their hearts and help her through this difficult time."

Nakano, who is also an RBAG member, said she lost everything from important business documents to Christmas presents.

"You don't realize how much you have until it's gone," Nakano said. "You don't have shoes. You don't have a hair brush. You don't have pants. My keys to my car were in there. My wallet, my driver's license, my birth certificate, my passport, my credit cards, everything. I had a lot of art work. I'm a museum consultant. I lost all of that ... as well as personal memorabilia. I had my grandmother's kimono from the 1800s that she wore in Japan that was handmade that was hanging on my wall. I just lost my father a year ago, I had his things. That added a lot to the emotion of everything."

Nakano said the support she has received has been "overwhelming."

"I feel like so many times 'thank you,' it doesn't seem to possibly describe the depth of my profound gratitude and thanks to everyone who's been available and been here and helped me out, brought me something to eat or brought me some clothes or gift cards," she said. "The outpouring of support from the community, even the fire department ... it was right before Christmas and they brought me bags of food and invited me to have Christmas with them. It's really been hard to describe how awful it is, but I can't dwell on it. You have to move on. It's only going to make it harder to think about everything I lost. There's just so much. I'm trying to be very grateful for all the support that I have."



The images are just some of the donated artwork that will be available for purchase at the Jan. 26 fundraiser at the Redondo Beach Women's Club.

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