

culture&events

arts@ojaivalleynews.com

WEAVING WORDS

Perry Van Houten
perry@ojaivalleynews.com

Yoga teacher, meditation practitioner and fabric artist Kate Kilmurray of Ojai has just published her first book, “The Weaving Way — a journey of a handweaving community.”

The 116-page book contains more than 70 color photos and features Kilmurray’s work and the work and stories of women from across the United States.

“The book is an acknowledgment of nine other women’s stories,” she said, “because I really believe that there are many layers to who we are, and when we create something there’s a deeper expression that comes through, and I wanted to document that and have women show their workspace, where their inspiration comes from, and why weaving matters.”

Kilmurray, 65, was inspired to write the book during the pandemic, when she began teaching online weaving classes and inviting other weavers to tell about their work. “In 2020, something shifted and there was an incredible surge in interest in this, publicly,” she said. “These weavings that have historically been for children have been elevated into a whole new terrain.”

After she decided to write the book, she put out a call to the weaving community for submissions. “I chose women who I felt were really doing the most original work,” she said. “Ultimately, I wanted them just to drop in and share their story in the most authentic way.”

Each weaving is like a person’s signature, according to Kilmurray, who wanted readers to see the weavers’ faces and hear their voices. “If we look at each of the weavers, their faces are different, their styles are different, but the bottom line is we’re all feeling nourished by this craft,” she explained. “But at the heart of it is connection: women coming together to listen, to learn, to be inspired and to support each other.”

Handweaving is a life-changing form of expression that tells the stories of our lives, helps us navigate transformative moments, and allows us to slow down and find peace, Kilmurray said. “The idea of slowing down, going inwards and just allowing ourselves to really drop into a quiet space, to be able to then use our hands to make something simple and beautiful.”

Kilmurray’s designs “emerge from meditative and quiet communion with the colors, textures and patterns of the natural world.”

The first 100 copies of “The Weaving Way” sold out within three days. “To me, that really speaks to the nature of community. Right now, it feels like my mission; that we need creativity, we need community, and then it’s got to be bathed in love,” Kilmurray said.

Encouraged by recent coverage of her work in local and national publications, Kilmurray was inspired to write her first published article, “Weaving with the Color of Calm,” in Little Looms magazine. “To get this kind of recognition was very endearing,” she said. “This is a real high, to be able to see



Kate Kilmurray, a fabric artist who has been practicing and teaching yoga and meditation for more than 30 years.

Photos provided

this acknowledgement.”

Kilmurray came up with the cover for the book after her husband, Arthur, gave her a woven basket in which she placed a number of her indigo blue weavings bound for Vienna, Austria. Her son, Sean, a photographer, took a snapshot and “voilà, the cover of my book came to be.”

Kilmurray hopes readers of the book will be inspired to do something with their hands. “Just anything, to use our hands to help to give another dimension to who we really are,” she said. “I’d like my deeper message to be ‘anyone can do this.’ If your heart is in it, you can create anything you want.”

“The Weaving Way — a journey of a handweaving community” is available for \$22 at KateKilmurray.com.



The cover of “The Weaving Way — a journey of a handweaving community,” by Kate Kilmurray.

‘The Townies Ink’ reading marks group’s send-off

The Townies, Inc., will launch a locally printed, limited edition print anthology at Kim Maxwell Studio, 226 W. Ojai Ave., Suite 102, on Saturday, Nov. 25, at 7 p.m. in the Townie way — with live stories and a big ol’ party! Event tickets are \$10; journals are sold separately for \$30 and can be shipped within the United States for an additional \$5. Tickets and journals are available here: the-townies-inc.square.site

After nearly three years in production, “The Townies Ink: An Anthology of Resilience” is launching just in time to be the perfect send-off for The Townies, Inc. organization, which will go into hibernation at the end of the month. Saturday’s event will combine a classic Townies live storytelling show with a book launch and signing, and a joyful curtain call for the nonprofit which has brought countless people together through stories since its inception.

The performances will begin promptly at 7 p.m., highlighting a number of brand-new, never-before-seen pieces from within the anthology. Immediately following the show, a number of featured writers and photographers will be available to sign copies of the journal (which are available for preorder online and for in-person purchasing at the event).

The blurb for the anthology reads: “From humor to reckoning, from introspection to battle cry, written by newbies and seasoned professionals, the pages of ‘The Townies Ink’ contain 36 pieces crafted in The Townies’ storytelling workshops over the last few years. In chronicling a period that will long be defined by resilience, these works offer a reminder of a shared humanity.”

In-person performances are where it all began. Filled with laughs, risks and a lot of love, these gatherings are where audience members have begun to wonder: “What if I got up there? What story might I tell?” So what better way to launch the journal and honor the organization than a finale performance?

Come for the live performance and book signings, stay for a celebration of The Townies, Inc., as the organization goes on pause — you can expect dancing!



“The Townies Ink: An Anthology of Resilience” cover. Stories from the anthology will be performed at Kim Maxwell Studio on Saturday, Nov. 25.

Image provided

DIANNE MILLER TRIO

AVAILABLE FOR HOLIDAY PARTIES

805.798.2003

OJAI MYSTIQUE

OCT 20-FEB 4

PAINTINGS BY 21 NATIONALLY RENOWNED ARTISTS

Shop small, save big! 20% off everything in the museum gift shop this weekend.

Ojai Valley Museum | 130 West Ojai Avenue
ojaivalleymuseum.org

paintings

**josef albers
max bill
john mclaughlin**

oct 26 – dec 10

canvas and paper

311 n. montgomery street
thursday – sunday
noon – 5pm

canvasandpaper.org

NORDHOFF HIGH SCHOOL DANCE PRESENTS

ALWAYS

FALL DANCE CONCERT 2023

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

WITH 2 SHOWS:
5:30 PM & 8:00 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE
NHS DANCE.COM

BRING FOOD DONATIONS FOR
HELP OF OJAI'S COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM