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**EISegundo**  
**scene**



The monthly guide  
to art, culture,  
and community  
in 90245



**September 2018**

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# What's Inside

Happy autumn!  
 Please send your organization's upcoming El Segundo-based cultural events to [events@theelsegundoscene.com](mailto:events@theelsegundoscene.com) for inclusion in our guide.  
 Don't miss the beautiful bird photos taken by members of El Segundo Bird-watchers' Network in this month's Through the Lens!  
 Our next issue arrives in early October.



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# Let the Music Play

Part 1 of a two-part interview of El Segundo's own **Edie Rice**, the force of nature responsible for much of the music education of our city's youth. By **Maureen Kingsley**

If you've had a child in after-school or high school band in El Segundo in the last 20 years or so, or if you've ever attended a concert put on by any of the local South Bay Music Association's performing groups, you've probably encountered Edie Rice. A talented musician, gifted educator, and all-around Renaissance woman, Edie was instrumental (pun intended) in building El Segundo's youth band programs in the mid-90s to the thriving successes they are today.

From her own youth spent on a dairy farm on the East Coast to her current status as one of El Segundo's most beloved music educators, Edie's life story is a fascinating and inspiring one.

Edie is currently Education Director, South Bay Music Association (SBMA), which includes directing the after-school band programs at the elementary and middle schools in El Segundo and the South Bay Music Symposium. She is also Assistant Band Director of the ESHS Band and owner of ER Music, an instrument repair, sales, and education business. Part 1 of her story, told in her own words, is shared here.

**TESS:** How many years have you been working with El Segundo youth?

**Edie Rice:** I started working for ESUSD as an after-school band teacher in 1996 (until spring 2005).

From 2000 until spring 2005 I served as ESHS band director. In 2006, ESUSD outsourced the after-school band programs to SBMA, and I started as Education Director at that time.

**TESS:** What is your own musical background, and which instruments do you play?

**ER:** I started on piano; then clarinet, alto and bass clarinet in 4th grade; tenor saxophone and flute in 7th grade; and oboe and baritone saxophone in college. I completed my Masters in 2006 from Southern Oregon University (American Band College) in Conducting.

I played trumpet/brass when I started teaching. Band directors do training on all wind and percussion instru-



ments, but are usually more proficient at some. I perform on woodwinds, but not on brass and only on some percussion.

**TESS:** Where were you born and raised, and how did you come to settle in El Segundo?

**ER:** I was born and raised in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on our family's dairy farm that was homesteaded in the mid-1800s. I am the eldest of four children.

My family was a member of a fundamentalist church during my childhood, and I left home at 18 to go to the church school, Ambassador College in Pasadena, CA. I met my husband, Mike,

our freshman year, but we did not become a couple until four years later. In the meantime, I was able to take oboe lessons and play in the orchestra as well as perform half-time shows as a baton twirler and dance team member. I spent one year overseas teaching disabled students in Amman, Jordan. All four summers during college I worked at a church youth camp on the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond, Scotland, where I made bread for 250 students and staff every day, earning me the title of "Ediebread."

After several years of marriage, our young family with two little girls moved into a Quaker Friends church facility as caretakers. During our 1.5 years in the Friends church, I played piano for worship services for various groups. The summer of 1995, we decided to leave the ministry and found ourselves homeless in Pasadena for three months while Mike searched for work. Fortunately, his temporary job at a bank lasted the whole three months, and we stayed at the Hi Way Host motel on Colorado Blvd. Each Sunday we would get the *Los Angeles Times*, and Mike would apply for listed jobs. The girls would lick the envelopes and kiss them, wishing for a good job for our family. One weekend the applications were for some jobs in El Segundo, so we came for a visit. Of course, we fell in love with the town and hoped that Mike might get a job here!

**Part 2 of Edie's remarkable story will appear in our November 2018 issue!**

# Obsessed: What's Trending

**Create & Express**, a treasure trove of unique artwork, handmade items, crystals, and polished rocks, recently relocated to Downtown El Segundo.

By Christine Carpenter

If you blink while driving down Main Street, you just might miss the recently opened Create & Express. But trust me: you don't want to! Packed into this narrow shop at 405 Main Street is a trove of treasures, including crystals and rocks, jewelry, wooden coasters and postcards, leather crafts, and various unique art pieces—most created by local artists.

The shop moved to Downtown from Smoky Hollow only a few months ago, and it has an interesting history. It was created organically as an offshoot of owner Carrie Brooks' other business, True Insight meditation studio, which 35-year El Segundo resident Brooks has operated for 15 years. The studio happened



to attract many artists as students, and eventually, those students began bringing their work to the meditation classes and promoting it. In order to keep the meditation work separate from the artists' work, in 2012 Brooks devoted a downstairs room for displaying and selling her students' art. From this, Create & Express was born. According to Brooks, both are distinct working businesses,



Carrie Brooks

but "the inner vibe is the same." Both businesses share a focus on personal empowerment.

When asked to describe Create & Express, Brooks said that one word comes to mind:

"transformative." She added, "Fun, delightful, light. It makes people happy." Manager Caroline described the store as "a beacon of light" and said that people often come in and say, "I can't believe this is in El Segundo!"

Choosing the art to display is important to Brooks and her staff. Much of it is produced by artisans who are environmentally conscious and use upcycled materials. For example, one artisan creates candles using empty wine bottles and soy wax. Another creates leather goods, such as key chains and purses, using salvaged leather from movie sets. Some of the artists have careers in industries outside of art, and Create & Express gives them an opportunity to showcase their art. For example, one of the artisans is a rocket scientist who is also a scratchboard fine artist. Another was a waitress with a dream to start her own business. She has fulfilled her dream and currently has her wooden coasters and postcards on display in the store. (If you

Create & Express  
405 Main Street  
Tues.-Thurs. 10am-8pm  
Fri. 10am-6pm, Sat. 11am-4pm  
[createandexpress.com](http://createandexpress.com)

are a local artisan who thinks your art would be a good fit for Create & Express, send an email with pictures and information to [hello@createandexpress.com](mailto:hello@createandexpress.com).)

Although there is a lot of art on display in the shop, 60 to 70% of the store's inventory is crystals and rocks. They are very much a part of who Brooks is; in fact, she confessed that she used to eat dirt as a child. This



obsession is apparent in the huge variety of crystals, stones, minerals, and fossils in the store. There are bowls and bowls of glossy stones in an assortment of colors and types.

For those who like a bargain, check out the monthly sale table at the front of the store. Here you will find items that fit a particular theme or focus for 15% off the regular price.

Brooks and her staff enjoy meeting new people every day, as the previous location didn't get as much foot traffic as the new one does. When asked what her message to the community is, Brooks said, "Come by and say hi. Introduce yourself."



*Christine Carpenter is a language-arts teacher, a parent of two, and a resident of El Segundo.*

# Through the Lens

Eagle-eyed members of the El Segundo Birdwatchers' Network snapped these photos of beach & backyard birds of 90245.

Sponsored by:



"Jay at Feeder," Sarah Ainsworth  
 "Snowy Egret at El Segundo Beach," Harish Supe  
 "Front-Yard Hummingbird," Matt Thompson (submitted by Michaela Widener)  
 "Allen's Hummingbird," Leonard Koike  
 "Male Yellow Warbler," Eileen Bell



Where's Eyegor?

Where's Eyegor this month? Think you know? Send e-mail to [whereseyegor@esoptyometry.com](mailto:whereseyegor@esoptyometry.com). Correct guesses will be entered in a prize drawing! Last month's location: **El Segundo Preschool Academy** on W. Grand Ave.



# Sweet History

El Segundo's former Hungarian Strudel Shop has a rich history, and it continues to serve the city today as **Etta's Strudel**. By Maureen Kingsley

Long-time El Segundo residents may fondly remember the Hungarian strudel shop that opened on Main Street in 1978. (See image from *The El Segundo Herald* below.) Serving up sweet, fruity fillings enrobed in flaky pastry, Hungarian Strudel Shop at 423 Main Street was owned and operated by Sandor and Ethel Palfi, who had recently relocated to sunny El Segundo from Michigan. Ethel was the sole creator of the various delicious strudel recipes, which included six choices of filling and were available freshly baked or frozen.



The couple, originally from Hungary, left their home country as World War II was ending and emigrated to the United States. During the war, Ethel's father, Ferdinand "Nandor" Batisfalvy, a police captain, heroically risked his life moving Hungarian Jews to safety by helping them hide from the Nazis in priest seminaries. He was later recognized and honored for his courage and compassion.

After a death in the family, Hungarian Strudel Shop closed its El Segundo doors a year and a half after opening. The shop remained closed until 2005, when the family reopened its strudel business in San Pedro. Today, Etta's Strudel, as the business is currently known, takes phone and online orders for individual sales, catered events, and more. (Etta's recently sold strudel at El Segundo Art Walk.) Ethel's grandson, Alex Bisenieks, runs the business with his brother, mother, girlfriend, and Ethel herself (all pictured above right). Etta's Strudel maintains strong ties to El Segundo and serves its residents online, at <https://ettasstrudel.com>, and by phone, at 310-502-0059.



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# The Artist's Voice

Local artist and writer Natalie Strong talks with Artlife Gallery owner Vanesa Andrade.

Of all the places she has visited and all of the countries in which she has lived, local gallery owner Vanesa Andrade has chosen our corner of the world to call home for the past 25 years. Here in El Segundo, she's built a space for artwork and artmaking, art-talking and art-learning, art-buying and art-selling. It's called Artlife Gallery, and recently I pulled up a stylish armchair to chat with Andrade about her space and her philosophy.

Artlife Gallery (pictured) first opened in then-new Plaza El Segundo in 2010. Andrade wanted a place to showcase the work of artists she'd met during her years of teaching art, organizing art shows, and creating murals at area schools. She had considered placing her gallery in another LA neighborhood better known for its art scene, "but no place else spoke to [her]" the way the South Bay does. She's identified an atmosphere of casual familiarity here that doesn't exist elsewhere, and she feels a responsibility to maintain that feeling of community. Consequently, Artlife's artists are all local.

Andrade, an artist herself, has an unexpected background in optometry. She is inspired by what the eyes see, and why. She is also inspired by the interests of her family. Her husband, with his background in construction, miniature trains, and film-set building, brings a sense of how things work and how they are made, a quality visible in his delicate sculptures. Andrade's 11-year-old son is a self-taught musician, and her 20-year-old daughter is a writer, inspiring Andrade to develop a plan for upcoming poetry events.

The combination of these various interests makes Artlife a place of creation where anything is possible. Seven days a week you can find artists working in the gallery. Patrons of all ages can watch, and see the creative process up close—and all of it occurs in a high-ceilinged, airy space filled with artistic eye candy. It is a place where you can find inspiration to create or, if you are in the market, find a bit of inspiration to take home with you. Andrade believes that the moment of connection between an artist, their artwork, and the future owner of that art is "electric," and she enjoys seeing the process through from start to finish. She is available in person at the gallery during the majority of the gallery's open hours.

With prices ranging from giftable to collectable, the art in Andrade's gallery represents the work of an internationally diverse assembly of artists who've made Southern California their home. Chosen for their body of work and their commitment level, Artlife members work together toward career success in sales and development of technique. The gallery's focus is on the display of original pieces to encourage the artists to push constantly toward their next creation, though prints of some pieces may be available.

In addition to the daily activity of the artists, there are frequent evening and weekend events for the public. (See The El Segundo Scene's Guide to Cultural Events.) Exhibits change monthly, and each is celebrated with an opening reception; you can attend the next opening on September 15th, from 6-9 p.m. Artlife Gallery also hosts a monthly Sketch Night for all ages and skill levels. Bring your own art materials, and for a \$10 suggested donation, you can sketch a live model, a still life, or work on your own. Some instruction is provided. The next Sketch Night falls on September 27th from 6-8 p.m.



The gallery features art of various genres, styles, and media.



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# City Guide to Cultural Events

El Segundo's comprehensive monthly calendar of arts, culture, and community events. Submit local events for this guide to [events@theelsegundoscene.com](mailto:events@theelsegundoscene.com).

## September 2018

### 1 ES History Room



Sat. 1-3pm  
ES Public Library  
Free, call first 310-364-0117

### 1 Live Music

Sat. 7-10pm  
Smoky Hollow Tasting + Taproom  
Free, [r6distillery.com](http://r6distillery.com)

### 3 Garden Club & Senior Discount Day

Mon. 10am



International Garden Center  
Free, 310-615-0353

### 4-27 ARTistory kids' 4-week art history class

Tues., Wed., & Thurs. 9:30-11am  
Holly Socrates  
\$156 for four classes,  
[hollysocrates.com](http://hollysocrates.com)

### 5 Cocktails & Chords (live music)

Wed. 6-9pm  
Smoky Hollow Tasting + Taproom  
Free, [r6distillery.com](http://r6distillery.com)

### 5 Improve Stamina for Runners (all levels)

Every Wed. 9/5-10/31 (& 11/28), 10-11am  
XPand Health  
\$470, [xpand.health.com/improve-stamina.html](http://xpand.health.com/improve-stamina.html)

### 7 ESMoA "Just Draw" Club (adults)

Fri. 10-11am  
ESMoA  
Free, [esmoa.org](http://esmoa.org)

### 7 Live Music on the Patio

Fri. 5pm  
Deluca Pasta  
Free, [delucapasta.com](http://delucapasta.com)

### 8 The Sibling Workshop

Sat. 1-4pm  
Happy Baby  
\$150/family,  
[happybabyla.com](http://happybabyla.com)

### 8 LAX Talk: Open Forum

Sat. 2-4pm  
ESMoA  
Free; submit LAX questions to [submit@artlab21.org](mailto:submit@artlab21.org)

### 8 R6 Distillery Anniversary Party

Sat. 3-11pm  
R6 Distillery  
Free, [r6distillery.com](http://r6distillery.com)

### 8 Live Music

Sat. 7-10pm  
Smoky Hollow Tasting + Taproom  
Free, [r6distillery.com](http://r6distillery.com)

### 9 Giggle Water Comedy Show

Sun. 8pm  
Smoky Hollow Tasting + Taproom  
\$8 online, [r6distillery.com](http://r6distillery.com)

### 10 Garden Club & Senior Discount Day

Mon. 10am

International Garden Center  
Free, 310-615-0353

### 10 Maker Monday: Painted Rocks

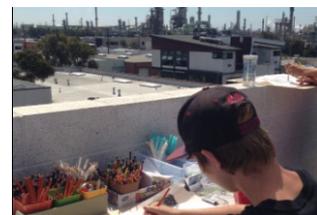
Mon. noon-1pm  
ES Public Library  
Free, 310-524-2728

### 12 Cocktails & Chords (live music)

Wed. 6-9pm  
Smoky Hollow Tasting + Taproom  
Free, [r6distillery.com](http://r6distillery.com)

### 13 "The Rewards of Easy Everyday Creativity" workshop w/Darrell Fusaro

Thurs. 6-7:30pm  
ESMoA  
Free, [esmoa.org](http://esmoa.org)



### 14 ESMoA "Just Draw" Club (adults)

Fri. 10-11am  
ESMoA

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Free, esmoa.org

## 14 Live Music on the Patio

Fri. 5pm  
Deluca Pasta  
Free, delucapasta.com

## 15 Coastal Cleanup Day

Sat. 9am-noon  
Ballona Ecological Reserve  
Free, Friends of Ballona Wetlands: 310-306-5994

## 15 Artlife Gallery Reception

Sat. 6-9pm  
Artlife Gallery  
Free, 310-938-2511



## 15 Mums & Bubs Playdate

Sat. 10am-1pm  
Recreation Park  
Free, happybabyla.com

## 15 GROUNDED w/Art Muse LA

Sat. 11am-12:30pm  
ESMoA

\$20 payable to Art Muse LA, esmoa.org

## 15 CREATE: My favorite souvenir

Sat. 1-4pm  
ESMoA  
Free, esmoa.org

## 15 Bartz BBQ at El Segundo Brewing Co.

Sat. 1-7pm  
El Segundo Brewing Co.  
Free, elsegundobrewing.com

## 15 ES Auxiliary Wine Festival & Silent Auction

Sat. 5-7:30pm  
International Garden Center  
\$50 donation benefiting CHLA, elsegundoauxiliarychla.org

## 15 Live Music

Sat. 7-10pm  
Smoky Hollow Tasting + Taproom  
Free, r6distillery.com

## 16 Porsche Gathering 2018

Sun. 9am-2pm  
Automobile Driving

Museum  
\$5/kids free, theadm.org

## 17 Garden Club & Senior Discount Day

Mon. 10am  
International Garden Center  
Free, 310-615-0353

## 19 Cocktails & Chords

Wed. 6-9pm  
Smoky Hollow Tasting + Taproom  
Free, r6distillery.com

## 19 Meditation in Library Park

Wed. noon-1pm  
Library Park  
Free, 310-524-2722

## 21 ESMoA "Just Draw" Club (adults)

Fri. 10-11am  
ESMoA  
Free, esmoa.org

## 21 Live Music on the Patio

Fri. 5pm  
Deluca Pasta  
Free, delucapasta.com

## 22 El Segundo Woman's Club Parking Lot Sale



September 22, 2018

Sat. 8am-2:30pm  
El Segundo Woman's Club  
Free, 310-322-5428

## 22 The Fair on Richmond Street

Sat. 9am-5pm  
Downtown El Segundo  
Free, faironrichmond-street.com

## 22 Gluttony (food) Festival & Salsa Contest

Sat. 12-5pm  
International Garden Center  
Free, igardencenter.com

## 22 Live Music

Sat. 7-10pm  
Smoky Hollow Tasting + Taproom  
Free, r6distillery.com

## 23 Dollface Dames Speakeasy (burlesque)

Sun. 8pm  
R6 Distillery  
\$20+, r6distillery.com

# City Guide to Cultural Events

## 24 Garden Club & Senior Discount Day

Mon. 10am  
International Garden Center  
Free, 310-615-0353

## 24 Maker Monday: Fairy Jars

Mon. noon-1pm  
ES Public Library  
Free, 310-524-2728

## 25-29 34th Anniversary Jewelry Sale

Tues.-Sat. 10am-6pm  
The Jewelry Source  
310-322-7110

## 26 Breastfeeding & Newborn Care Workshop

Wed. 6-9pm  
Happy Baby  
\$100/couple,  
happybabyyla.com

## 26 Cocktails & Chords

Wed. 6-9pm  
Smoky Hollow Tasting + Taproom  
Free, r6distillery.com

## 26 Book Discussion Group: A Place for Us

Wed. 6:30pm  
ES Public Library  
Free, 310-524-2728

## 27 Food & Wine Pairing, Custom Design & Construction

Thurs. 6pm  
Custom Design &

Construction  
\$5 donation benefiting  
Habitat for Humanity  
RSVP AliciaH@  
VisitCustomDesign.com

## 27 Sketch Night at Artlife Gallery

Thurs. 6-8pm  
Artlife Gallery  
\$10 suggested donation,  
310-938-2511

## 28 Live Music on the Patio

Fri. 5pm  
Deluca Pasta  
Free, delucapasta.com

## 29 JDM at the ADM (Japanese Car Show)

Sat. 10am-2pm  
Automobile Driving Museum  
Admission varies,  
theadm.org

## 29 Aquatics Center Ribbon Cutting

Sat. 1-4pm  
201 N. Douglas St.  
Free, esaquatics.org

## 29 Live Music

Sat. 7-10pm  
Smoky Hollow Tasting + Taproom  
Free, r6distillery.com

## 30 Ladies Car Care 101 + 201

Sun. 10am-3pm  
Automobile Driving Museum  
\$5, theadm.org

## 30 Couples Childbirth Intensive Workshop

Sun. 1:30-6:30pm  
Happy Baby  
\$225/couple,  
happybabyyla.com

## 30 Jelani Eddington Pipe Organ Concert

Sun. 2:30pm  
Old Town Music Hall  
\$20,  
oldtownmusichall.org

# October

## 26 Fall Festival

Fri. 4-8pm  
Richmond Street School  
Free admission,  
richmondstreet.org

## ESMoA Video Art + Film Festival: OPEN CALL

Established in 2017, the **ESMoA Video Art + Film Festival** is a free international festival inviting filmmakers of all ages and backgrounds to submit short films around a theme. This year, the festival's topic is **MATRIARCHS**.

What does "matriarch" mean to you? Make a 60-second film and submit it to this year's festival by **OCTOBER 31, 5:00PM PST**. More information at [esmoa.org](http://esmoa.org).

## Want more El Segundo event information?

Visit our online Guide to Cultural Events at [theelsegundoscene.com](http://theelsegundoscene.com).

To submit an El Segundo cultural event, send e-mail to [events@theelsegundoscene.com](mailto:events@theelsegundoscene.com).

**All event information is as accurate as possible at time of printing. Dates subject to change; contact event organizer to confirm.**

## THE DIGITS

Useful phone numbers in town

El Segundo Public Library: 310-524-2728

El Segundo Recreation & Parks: 310-524-2700

El Segundo Unified School District: 310-615-2650

El Segundo Police Dept. Non-Emergency Dispatch: 310-524-2760

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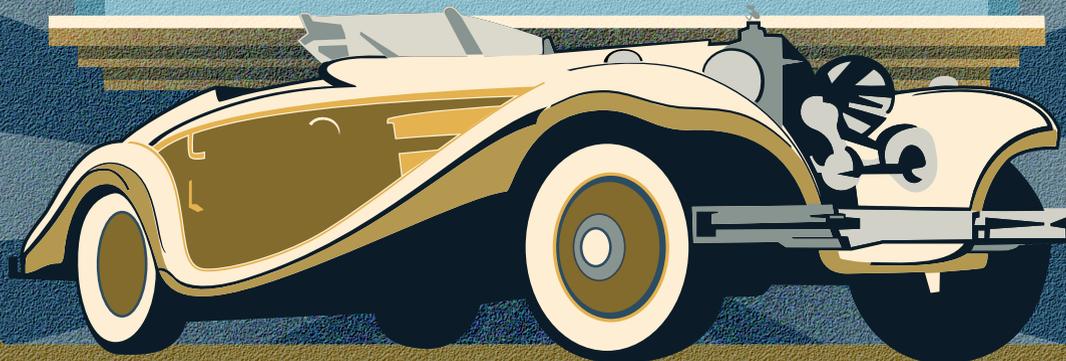
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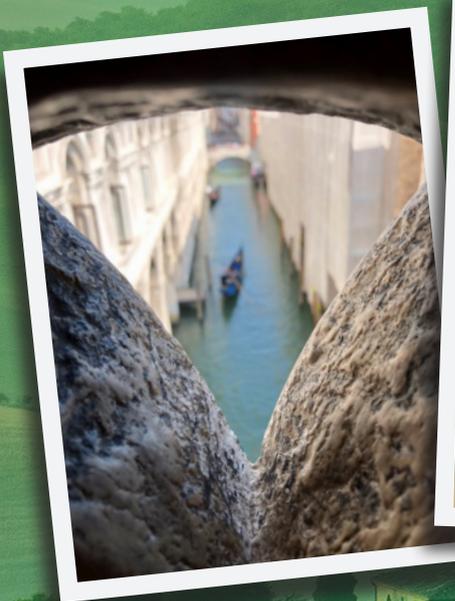
610 LAIRPORT ST. EL SEGUNDO (310) 909-0950

CREATIVE KIDS

# Young Artists of 90245

This month, El Segundo Middle School student Ethan Dea offers photos, notes, and advice from his summer trip to Italy.

This month's young artists sponsored by



## A Kid's Mini-Guide to Italy

By Ethan Dea

Hello, El Segundo! I went on a trip to Italy this summer and would like to share a few tips I learned throughout my journey.

I stayed in Italy for nine days in a tour group and visited at least eight cities, including Rome, Florence, and Venice, which are main tourist cities. My favorite city was Rome, because of its Colosseum. The Colosseum is really cool because in real life it is way bigger than you expect it to be, and it offers many different vantage points for photography. Next, gelato in Italy is one of the foods you have to eat; there is amazing gelato in every single city. Also, pastry and pasta in Italy are MUST-HAVES; there are many different flavors that are not like in the U.S with different styles of cooking and different exotic ingredients all around Italy in different cities. Going into Italy is very nice; of course, there are safety warnings, but at the same time it is an amazing experience that I think everyone should enjoy. I hope you will visit Italy in the future to feel the culture differences and see the works of art.

## Ethan's Tips for Going to Italy

- When going to Italy make sure you bring a reusable water bottle. All over Italy you will find water fountains to refill your water.
- Always be aware of your surroundings; there are some people walking around trying to steal your belongings, so just be watchful when you are in a crowd.
- Remember that Europe/Italy has different electrical outlet sockets in the wall for charging your phone, so make sure you have the correct charger converter.
- Always carry change on you! Public bathrooms cost around 1 euro every time you need to go.
- Before going to Italy, learn a little Italian, such as simple words like "grazie," which is "thank you" in Italian.
- Remember to wear comfortable shoes since you will walk around A LOT!
- Have fun! I know that sounds really cheesy but relax and appreciate the history of the country.
- Last but not least: try the food and be open to it, the food is amazing and is very satisfying.

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# El Segundo Eats

Don't be fooled by its humble exterior: **Workshop Enoteca** is hiding flavorful, interesting dishes behind its unassuming façade. **By Tesse Rasmussen**

There are some dishes in your culinary life that stay in your memory long after the meal itself is over. For me, it's the grilled buffalo octopus at that little place in Waikiki; the oxtail ragu at the now-closed cafe in San Diego...and now, the paccheri rigati paired with the magical kale salad at Workshop Enoteca here in El Segundo.

What is it about these dishes that makes them so special? Is it the local, market-driven ingredients? The diamond-in-the-rough location between a music school and a Hawaiian fast-food joint? The focused menu and intimate dining room? It's all of those things—but there's something more. To get to the bottom of this, I spoke with Chef/Co-Owner Jackson Kalb and Co-Owner Melissa Saka. Michelin-trained chef Kalb is creating the kind of food he's dreamed about for years while working at some of the best restaurants in the nation. Pair this with Saka's enthusiasm for creating an exceptional dining experience, and the duo has created a lot of buzz around a tiny restaurant! But what Workshop Enoteca lacks in size, it makes up for in flavor.

Combining traditional Italian dishes with a modern California twist is the theme of this venture. A focus on local ingredients provided by a long list of farmers ensures that

the menu changes frequently to take advantage of seasonal products. Right now, the kale salad tops my list of dishes to die for—it's a



Handmade pasta dough at Workshop Enoteca

unique combination of thinly sliced kale, reggiano, and fresh herbs with a sweet and spicy almond vinaigrette coating every ruffley piece of roughage. I kept tasting the dressing over and over to try to figure out what made it so addictive!

The pastas are house-made daily, and range far beyond your traditional penne. The paccheri rigati is a ridged tubular pasta that collapses in on itself—a new dish for me. It's not often that a dish goes from fork to mouth to tummy and makes you feel like you just ate a hug. I'm not sure if it was the perfect *al dente* texture or the pork ragu that coated

the pasta, but I walked away in a fog (and subsequently accidentally left my credit card behind—whoops!). I have to warn you, Melissa says this

happens quite a bit—apparently, it's the new version of leaving your wallet in El Segundo.

I was fortunate enough to enjoy a lunch here on the day they offered key lime pie—I consider myself a key lime pie connoisseur, and I wasn't disappointed. The whipped cream topping was plentiful and allowed me to decide how much tartness to cut out. The graham-cracker pie crust was just the right amount

of crunchy. And the filling was tart yet creamy. I was supposed to share the dessert with my dining companion, but when she turned away, I admit I stole extra bites. (It was worth it.)

Melissa told me that they thought it was a good idea to set up in this location, but it's turned out to be even better than they had anticipated. The city has been very helpful as the restaurant works toward its beer/wine license (with plans to offer a full wine list and corkage policy soon), she said, and patrons have been incredibly nice, even when there is a bit of a wait.

One last tip—don't leave without checking out the unique mural in the bathroom.

*Tesse Rasmussen is a resident of El Segundo and mother of two.*

Workshop Enoteca, 241 Main St.,  
El Segundo, tel. 310-648-8554  
Tues.-Thurs. 11am-2:30pm, 5:30-9:30pm,  
Fri.-Sat. 11am-2:30pm, 5:30-10:30pm,  
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# Adjacent: Field Trip!

Enjoy Japanese curry, boba tea, anime plushies, and more at **Sawtelle Japantown** in West LA.

**Sawtelle.** I merely hear the word and my mouth starts watering.

This historically Japanese neighborhood in West LA—officially designated “Sawtelle Japantown” in 2015 by the city of Los Angeles—stretches along Sawtelle Boulevard between Santa Monica and Pico Boulevards. However, the main section of interest is the several blocks just north of Olympic Boulevard.

Here, you’ll find an absolute wealth of delicious restaurants, as well as unique shops and a few karaoke bars—enough fun to easily fill an afternoon or evening.

I was first introduced to the area almost 20 years ago when I attended UCLA, and I’ve been a frequent visitor ever since. I’ve even passed along my love for Sawtelle to my kids, who crave the food—and the desserts—as much as I do.

On a recent summer afternoon, the kids and I headed north to drop in on a few of our favorite spots.

First up was Hurry Curry of Tokyo, which specializes in Japanese curry, katsu, and pastas. We are nothing if not predictable here: all three of us always get the chicken cutlet curry, the kids with mild sauce, while I get hot with eggplant added in. The meal begins with a small salad dressed with an addictive soy vinaigrette, followed by a crispy panko-encrusted chicken cutlet, mound of rice, and cabbage salad. It might be my favorite meal in all of LA. I often bring home leftovers, though generally only to save



room for sweets. On this particular day, however, I ate it all.

Next stop, to give ourselves a chance to digest before dessert: shopping! My kids love Daiso, the Japanese equivalent of a dollar store, where most items go for \$1.50. We get some school supplies at a great deal, plus a few fun extras. I dare you to enter the store and leave empty-handed.

Other shops we love: Tokyo Japanese Outlet offers items directly from Japan, including stuffed anime characters, Pokémon paraphernalia, housewares, and more; Giant Robot features eclectic art, clothing, comics, gifts, and more from around the world; and Blackmarket has funky clothing, shoes, and accessories.

Dessert always presents a challenge, as you’ll find so many good choices. This time, we went to Volcano Tea for jasmine milk tea with boba. On other visits, we might choose Blockheads Shavery snow cream, or B Sweet Dessert Bar’s specialty bread puddings or halos (glazed-donut ice-cream sandwiches, nom nom), or Beard Papa’s cream puffs, or Brian’s Shave Ice & Boba...

And now I’m hungry. But I know I’ll be back to Sawtelle soon.

*Jenny Gardner lives with her*



*family in El Segundo and loves reading fiction and eating something sweet while her kids are in school.*



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