

A private magazine serving the residents of the Rancho Santa Fe area

SEPTEMBER 2017

Connector

'The Art Issue'

The Secret Sauce of
Success-The Hug Recipe

INSIDE:

Behind the scenes;
Art of Fashion and
Local Diamond Expert
Give Us a Sneak Peek



Best Version Media®

Cover photo by Felice Kinnear



Dear Readers

There are several masters of the arts in our midst. The Country Friends and South Coast Plaza explore new avenues to inspire imagination through fashion on September 14th with the fabulous Art of Fashion Show. This month we peeked behind the curtain with Co-Chairs, Maggie Bobileff and Denise Hug.

The show will be a mesmerising collection of the latest trends from the titans of the fashion world who help style our lives. The best part of the day is 'the show' before the fashion show. Many Rancho Santa Fe locals will become live works of art with creativity put into each outfit, perhaps inspired by the late Oscar de la Renta's acute observation:

"Women dress today to reveal their personalities. They used to reveal the designer's personalities. Until the 70's, women listened to designers. Now women want to do it their own way. There are no boundaries"

-Oscar de la Renta

We look forward to seeing you there!

Cheers,

Felice Kinnear

Co-publisher

Photographer



Cover shoot team: Clothing and necklace; Ralph Lauren, La Jolla, Models; Maggie Bobileff and Denise Hug, Make-up; Anya Baker, Hair; Victoria Sexsmith, Styling; Amanda and the team from Ralph Lauren, La Jolla



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DUE DATE FOR CONTENT	MAGAZINE EDITION
December 5.....	January
January 5.....	February
February 5.....	March
March 5.....	April
April 5.....	May
May 5.....	June
June 5.....	July
July 5.....	August
August 5.....	September
September 5.....	October
October 5.....	November
November 5.....	December

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PORSHA VOGT is the owner of Golden Care, providing in-home care to individuals requiring assistance to remain in their homes independently. Some of the services are companionship, light house keeping, cooking and running errands. For more information she can be reached at 760-828-5201 or porsha@getgoldencare.com.

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reFRESHing

BY PAULETTE BRITTON

Every Sunday from 9:30-2:30, locals head over to the Rancho Santa Fe Farmer's Market for some of the freshest fruits, vegetables, spices, nuts, honey, flowers and desserts that this area has to offer. With the end of summer still in full heat mode, light, fresh foods and refreshing drinks are still the name of the game.

Keeping it light and yummy is easy with the great resources so near Rancho Santa Fe. Grab a little organic granola, apricots and plums while adding a dressing mix of 1 ½ teaspoons of tahini paste, 2 tablespoons of full fat organic plain yogurt, the juice of a lemon half whisked together. Drizzle over the cut fruit and granola.

Add to this fabulously fresh fruit bowl a tasty organic Hibiscus Margarita! Fruitlab Organic Hibiscus Liqueur (given 96 points from Wine Enthusiast Magazine) is a great base for a yummy drink. With a shot of organic tequila and the juice of an organic lime added to the mix – iced or frozen, it is a delectable addition to the savory and sweet fruit bowl.

As a side note, Fruitlab is part of the world's largest portfolio of organic spirits from a company right here in SoCal – Greenbar Distillery. Greenbar Distillery, founded in 2004, is Los Angeles' first distillery since Prohibition (1920-1933), and one of the first craft distilleries in the United States.

Go fresh, clean, light and yummy with foods from the local farmer's market and drinks from your local three story wine cellar, beer cave and spirit provider at Holiday Wine Cellar. Order from HWC online at holidaywinecellar.com and get it delivered to your front door or call 888-492-1965. Visit HWC at 302 West Mission Avenue, Escondido and the RSF Farmer's Market at ranchosantafefarmersmarket.com and Sundays at 16709 San Dieguito Rd. at the Del Rayo Village Shopping Center.

Exploring the Art of Diamonds in Rancho Santa Fe

BY FELICE KINNEAR | PHOTOS BY BEATA PEVNY COPYRIGHT 2017



John with an example of the earrings he designed at an early Art of Fashion meeting. All will be revealed on September 14th at The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe where one lucky lady will win a similar design

John Matty is a jewelry designer based in Rancho Santa Fe who specializes in turning rare gems into works of art. Once peering through a loupe into a 13.87 carat diamond in the rough, I instantly understood his passion. The architecture of the diamond causing the light to dance with its complex infrastructure of tiny triangles revealed the x-ray of the mysterious stone. The intrigue created by the arcane world of diamonds came into focus.

John walked me through the process of examining a diamond in the rough. The challenge is; how do you cut out the imperfections of the stone while keeping as many carats as possible in the process. A diamond's lack of imperfections or 'inclusions' directly affects its ability to transmit and scatter light. It is a high risk, high reward art form and certainly not for the faint hearted.

As I held the rough to the light, John revealed what to look for. "When you look through the loupe, you'll see that it is an octahedron crystal structure and it actually fractures in triangles. Each one of those angles is how it shears. Essentially the stone is shaped from the outside. Once the angles get going, the stone is refined. The facets are finished with diamond dust and bees wax which help it stick."

John's impressive knowledge and passion for 'the extraordinary' has established a backdrop for a truly one of a kind story. He has seen 'The Beluga' at 255 carats during the cutting process when Motti Bernstein was working on the stone before it was developed into the largest oval-cut diamond in the world. The regal stone finished at an impressive 102.23 carats. Only 1% of diamonds make it into this category and as a result, it is now part of a 'Royal Collection.'

In 1999, William Goldberg asked John to become one of his sole sales representatives. William took a shine to John and showed him one of the rarest diamonds in the world providing insight into the meticulous cutting process. At his New York office on 'William Goldberg Way,' he handed the 'Guinea Star' to John.

In the rough, the 'Guinea Star' weighed over 255 carats, approximately the size of a packet of cigarettes. After several months of cutting with fierce precision and acute intuition, William Goldberg's effort was rewarded with the three specular diamonds. An 8.23 carat pear shape, a 5.03 carat heart shape and the exquisite 'Guinea Star' weighing in at 89.01 carats, all D Flawless diamonds. His experiences with these rare gems have become a constant source of inspiration.

“There is beauty in subtlety”

-John Matty

After John experienced several encounters with some of the best diamonds in the world over his 30-year career, he decided to settle in Rancho Santa Fe to start his own jewelry design business. John has mastered the art of translating his vision in custom-made jewelry. How does he materialize an idea to a gorgeous piece of jewelry? He has found his own process by sitting down with the client and gathering information about their lifestyle before designing.

John sketches out ideas with the client and sends them to his Parisian artist. She then develops the sketches further and sends back five versions, some precise and some she has elaborated on. Lastly, John sits down with his client

again and offers them their choices. “My curse is I notice everything, but that’s good when it comes to finishing a piece and making it exactly perfect. I like to get it right the first time.”

John’s involvement in the Rancho Santa Fe community has become invaluable. His recent creation designed specifically for The Art of Fashion event will be part of an opportunity drawing. One lucky member of the audience will take home a pair of orange tourmaline and micro set diamond flower earrings. These will be a highlight of the events prize section and will bring excitement to the crowd on September 14th at The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe. We look forward to what John crafts for the community next.

For more information check out: www.johnmatty.com www.thecountryfriends.org





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Jenny Craig's Granddaughter Colors Flower Hill Mall

BY FELICE KINNEAR

PHOTOS BY REMINGTON WEINGER

Remington Weinger was born in San Diego and has been busy decorating Flower Hill mall with her colorful creativity. She creates with several different mediums; primarily painting and photography. Deeply personal, her art draws from the natural world and vivid hues deriving from her surroundings of home and travels. Remington had an early introduction into the art world. She first entered the world of film and darkrooms at Francis Parker School and later honed her skills with years of painting and educational art experimentation across the United States and abroad. She graduated with a BFA from the University of San Diego and her passion for the arts has been developing ever since. In 2016, she opened a temporary studio gallery in La Jolla.



Remy with creation Polly before her unveiling



Denise Hug and Maggie Bobileff with Remy's life-size sculpture in Flower Hill Mall-Del Mar

Remington uses a brush, palette knife, kitchen tools and spray bottle for her creations and her experience with photography has had a major influence on her painting. Inspired by light, movement, surprising color combinations, social interaction, patterns and drips, she forms abstracted, pixelated compositions. The balance between control and chance that Remington maintains throughout her working process produces compositions that can have a sense of calm tranquility. She has the ability to create visual texture with a rich, adventurous color palette and expressive layered marks. Working from various mediums, Remington creates large abstracts that magnify and celebrate the common pattern while also amplifying the beauty of negative space. She is highly influenced by the way color evokes emotion and she demonstrates that emotion through her paintings.

Initially, Remington was drawn to the contrast in black and white. She applies the same principles of contrast by using color, exemplifying the dichotomy in life, which is demonstrated in an abstract way. The colors speak to one another and breathe life into the work, with hard-edged, bold acrylic paintings bursting with color. In all of Remington's pieces, there is an energy that is created in her paintings which seems to permeate the space. A similar technique is applied in the black and whites with dramatic textures, using shading, big gestural strokes and drips. Each painting is a one-of-a-kind piece. Remington's paintings reflect a depth that has garnered her a devoted following from interior designers to collectors. Her works, both deliberate and wildly gestural in stroke, can be found on a variety of mediums from canvas to wood panels. We look forward to what she creates next!

A Secret Sauce for Success

-The Hug's recipe

PHOTOS AND ARTICLE BY **FELICE KINNEAR**

The mystique behind Denise and Bertrand Hug's charm can be found in their recipe for success. Their warm personalities are a lattice of charisma, philanthropic spirit and a strong work ethic. Through their 30 plus years in Rancho Santa Fe, they have honed their ability to engage in conversation with patrons of all nationalities. The Hugs have also mastered the art of tailoring French cuisine to engage American tastes catapulting their restaurants into decades of success.

Together they own Mille Fleurs, which means 'a thousand flowers.' The French restaurant nestled in the heart of Rancho Santa Fe has been a 'tour de force' in the neighborhood for over 30 years. Most of 'the Mille Fleurs family' has remained working at the restaurant since it opened in 1985. The couple has also become a philanthropic pillar in the community by sponsoring several local charities.

Denise's story begins with her parents' first introduction in Northern California just after World War II. Denise's father, John, who was playing for the San Francisco 49ers at the time, met some football friends at a popular hotel downtown unknowingly about to encounter a life changing rendezvous.

Her mother, Dorothy, had just finished singing operatic back up for the famed performer Ezio Pinza and was passing through the same hotel after her performance when she caught John's eye. Spellbound by Dorothy's entrance, John made a beeline for her and introduced himself.

Their first date turned into a whirlwind romance and within a year they were married and started a family. John progressed into the OSI (Office of Special Investigation) in the Air force and eventually retired as a Colonel setting a backdrop for travel and adventure for a young Denise.

Denise, a third generation Californian, was born in Sacramento but grew up primarily on the east

Denise Hug welcomes us into Mille Fleurs which means 'a thousand flowers' located in the heart of the covenant





Denise and Bertrand on a tropical adventure

coast of southern Maryland. "We were Air Force brats and my four siblings and I were all born in different states! We had a wonderful childhood full of outdoor activities and family get-togethers."

Denise enjoyed living in Annapolis with her active family. She graduated high school in 1966 then attended some college before progressing to work for Portuguese Airlines. She also studied at Patricia Stevens finishing school where she became immersed in the modeling and the fashion world which activated her interest in discovering a strong sense of style.

In her early 20's, she participated in the Miss Southern Maryland beauty pageant, a preliminary contest to Miss America. She was awarded runner-up and was voted Miss Congeniality from her competitors. "It was an adventure! It taught me not to ever be discouraged, just always be yourself and have fun no matter what you're doing." Wise beyond her years, her outlook held value for what was to come.

Bertrand Hug was born and raised in Toulouse, a city in Southwest France. He was destined for a career in banking until a fluke encounter after college obscured the course of his compass. He obtained a degree in economics in 1970 from the University of Toulouse and set out to look for a summer job abroad. He was exploring Toronto with some friends before he went back to school to complete his masters when a serendipitous meeting altered his career path entirely.

While Bertrand was inquiring about opportunities within a hotel in the Toronto area, his distinctive accent stopped the general manager in his tracks. "The person he was talking to at the time, asked Bertrand if he had any restaurant experience," explained Denise. "As Bertrand was answering 'I have no experience at all,' a curious voice from the other room inquired 'where are you from?'"

The voice happened to belong to the general manager of the hotel who turned out to be from the same city of southwest France as Bertrand. The manager and Bertrand hit it off instantly and a job offer was made. The job eventually led him to work in Annapolis, Maryland where another unexpected meeting would change his life forever.

In 1972, Denise and Bertrand met while he was working at a restaurant in Annapolis. Denise was dining at the restaurant with friends when she began to notice Bertrand was 'unusually attentive' to her company by delivering complimentary beverages. Her date soon excused himself for the bathroom and Bertrand seized the opportunity for them to speak alone. Enchanted by Denise, he insisted they were to have dinner the next night.

Bertrand made a reservation at the 'La Niçoise' restaurant a distinguished French restaurant in Georgetown. "He called me at 7am that morning to confirm our date," she reminisced. "The restaurant was very glamorous. All the servers were dressed in white and on roller skates. I asked Bertrand to pick something for me. He ordered 'Cervelle de Veau,' (calves brains) a French delicacy that was certainly a surprise! He has a great sense of humor," she said light-heartedly.

On this day, their world changed. The pair started dating and Bertrand soon became set on Denise becoming his wife. He took her back to France to meet his family and friends within just a few months. His family and friends wined and dined them which left a lasting impression on Denise.

"My favorite thing about France was getting to know his friends and family. Also, the food and the history are just incredible," she said. "We were shown a beautiful side of France. What I learned after a few visits is if you make an effort to speak in their native tongue, it is a positive experience."

continued»»



Mille Fleurs maître d, Marko looking sharp and ready to welcome Rancho Santa Fe





{ resident feature continued }

on the off-season and sponsor charities in the neighborhood. "The most valuable thing we've learned from traveling is it is a fun way to enjoy a history lesson. Paris, Tuscany and Venice are some of our favorites." Some of their recent favorites to visit are Saint Barth's and the Caribbean which have contributed their quest for new flavors.

The Hugs are engrossed in the heart of the community with Mille Fleurs and their active participation in local charities. "We try to support as many non-profits as we can," said Denise. "Some of those being, Children's Hospital, Kids Korps, Old Globe, Pro Kids Golf, Casa de Amparo, Monarch School and of course, The Country Friends."

Denise and Bertrand recently hosted the VIPs that have contributed to The Country Friends at Mille Fleurs. "Bertrand and I have enjoyed sponsoring their Patron Party for The Country Friends for a few years now. We wanted to do something fun for The Country Friends sponsors and for those people who have contributed so much."

During the year they were married, in 1973, they moved to La Jolla to start their very first restaurant 'Le Côte D'Azur' on Prospect Street. This was the start to a series of their other successful culinary endeavors.

Their other dream was to find a spot in Rancho Santa Fe to open a restaurant near their home in the Covenant. Bertrand had his eye on a specific property in the area before it became vacant. Once the property became available in 1985, the Hugs opened Mille Fleurs the same year. The quaint charm of his 'home away from home' has been popular with the community ever since.

Denise and Bertrand's other successful restaurant, Mister A's, was opened in 2000 in Bankers Hill, downtown San Diego. The establishment is located in the penthouse of the Manchester financial building with a sterling view overlooking the San Diego Airport.

Over the years, Bertrand and Denise have developed an acute understanding of how to cross-pollinate Bertrand's knowledge of fine French culinary art and hospitality to appeal to Californian dining culture. "I love his outgoingness and ability to engage anyone in conversation," Denise extended. "He is also an amazing cook. He can concoct almost anything and he does the grocery shopping!" Denise said.

Denise and Bertrand's culinary success has allowed for their love of travel to transpire

The Hugs next flight will be to Africa to enjoy a safari trip. However, they will arrive back to California just two days before Art of Fashion. "It's definitely not glamping!" said Denise. "We are going to be driving our own vehicles for a full-on safari and we will be sleeping in tents on top of our vehicles to keep safe from the wildlife. It is making me a little nervous especially as we arrive back just two days before Art of Fashion."

Denise, along with her good friend, Maggie Bobileff, and members of The Country Friends have been busy preparing for Art of Fashion in partnership with South Coast Plaza. "We are very much looking forward to this event in September. We have not found our outfits yet but I love to experiment mixing the best of one designer with the other," she said. "One of the best features of the event is the 'show' put on by all who attend prior to the fashion show."

Perhaps it is Denise and Bertrand's positivity, wisdom and passion for people that is their secret sauce to success. "I think it is important to not let the trends dictate to you but be yourself, have fun. One of my favorite philosophies is to enjoy to the fullest whatever you can and to always remember the good things in life first!"



Four Signs It May Be Time to Stop Driving

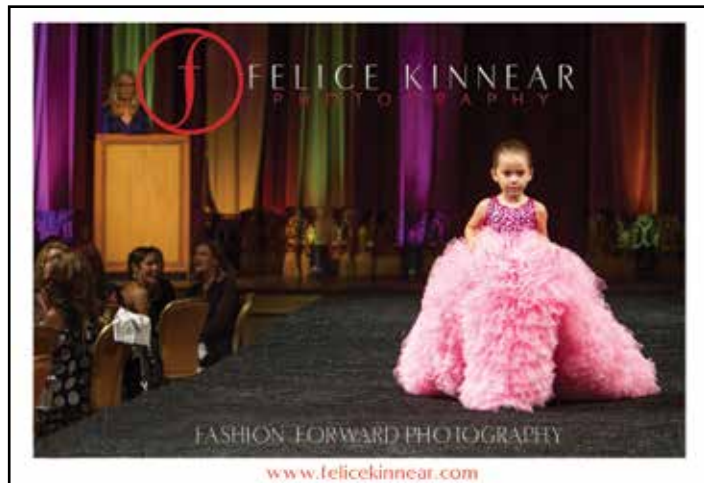
BY RACHEL URBINA

Has an aging loved one recently had a car accident? Maybe it was just a fender bender, but it may point to a larger issue. Have you noticed dents or scrapes on their car, curb, or fences? No one wants to be told that they are no longer fit to drive, but by intervening you may be saving the life of the one you love or the life of a stranger. Here are four important signs that it may be the best move to put the brakes on driving.

1. Trouble Seeing. This may seem obvious, but unless a senior explicitly tells you they are having problems with their eyesight, you may have difficulty figuring it out. A person may be having difficulty seeing while driving if they are getting lost in familiar areas, missing turns or exits, or not following traffic signals. There are many diseases and eye issues that come along with aging, and all of these can affect the safe driving of an adult.

2. Trouble Hearing. If a person cannot hear well, they may not be able to hear a horn honking in warning, the blaring of a police car or ambulance as it barrels down the road, or notice strange noises coming from their own car. It is recommended that persons over the age of 50 have their hearing checked every three years. Suggest that the aging adult speak with their doctor, as sometimes there are tools that can help them if they have hearing loss.

3. Trouble Moving. Stiff joints, arthritis, and muscle pain can affect the reaction times of anyone. Imagine not being able to move your foot quickly enough from the gas pedal to the brake pedal, or not being able to feel how much pressure you are putting on the gas pedal. If you cannot easily and quickly look over your shoulder, how will you change lanes or merge safely? These can cause serious safety problems and should not be overlooked or taken lightly. Hand controls are available to put into cars if someone suffers from leg problems. Exercise and a healthy diet also ensure that joints and muscles remain loose and pliable.



4. Trouble Focusing. If a loved one gets easily confused, lost, or has a hard time remembering daily tasks, it's probably safe to say that they are not driving safely. Is your loved one easily distracted, forgetful, or easily angered? Cognitive decline can slowly creep into the minds of our loved ones and we don't always notice the signs right away. These factors make for a very unstable and unpredictable driver.

If you notice these signs in a loved one, or perhaps yourself, AARP offers a Driver's Safety Course that can evaluate if it's still safe to be on the road. Perhaps all you need is a refresher course on the rules of safe driving. If you think you may have to have that difficult talk with a loved one, AARP also has an online seminar called We Need To Talk that can help walk you through the steps of how to approach this difficult subject.

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Lights, Camera, FASHION!

BY FELICE KINNEAR

When fashion is confronted by the genius of The Country Friends and South Coast Plaza, magic happens. Maggie Bobileff and Denise Hug are currently curating the Art of Fashion event and have found their collective 60 years in the fashion industry experience invaluable to their new co-chair roles. The pair has enjoyed oiling the infrastructure behind the scenes of the Art of Fashion which will be held at the Inn at Rancho Santa Fe on September 4th, 2017 from 10am - 4pm.

This year marks the 50 year anniversary of South Coast Plaza located in Costa Mesa. Multiple couture garments will be delicately transported to Rancho Santa Fe specifically to showcase during the event. Kathleen Bade, Fox5's primetime anchor and multiple Emmy award winner, will present the fashion show and looks forward to unveiling the latest trends from Bally, Brunello Cucinelli, M Missoni, Max Mara, Oscar de la Renta, Ralph Lauren, Roberto Cavalli, Saks Fifth Avenue, Salvatore Ferragamo, The Webster, Versace and Weekend Max Mara.

Originally from Herisau, Switzerland, Maggie Bobileff's passion for style led her to towards an exciting life of fashion. After attending trade school where she became fluent in design, construction, textiles and retail management in her five years of college, she progressed to attending fashion week on business trips to Rome, Milan and Paris in her early 20's. During one of her excursions, she was introduced to Giorgio Armani, Gianni Versace and Gianfranco Ferré, which refined her fashion palate and motivated her further into styling fashionistas across the globe.

Maggie eventually moved to California in 1997 determined to bring European fashion to life in her own store. Soon after she settled in San Diego, Maggie met her husband, Gary Bobileff. He is a local Ferrari and Lamborghini restorer who connects with style.

The pair discovered they share an entrepreneurial spirit. In 2005, they decided to open a luxury clothing store in Rancho Santa Fe and eventually Maggie decided to open Maggie B's, a female clothing store. In 2014, she found a spacious venue in Flower Hill Mall to have both stores side by side. The boutique houses fine Italian leather and several high-end local designers including San Diego based Maceo who dressed John Travolta to host the 59th annual Grammy Awards, DJ Skrillex and NBA stars.

Denise Hug, a third generation Californian and empress of hospitality is immersed in the Rancho Santa Fe community. She co-owns two of San Diego's most successful restaurants, Mister A's downtown and Mille Fleurs in Rancho Santa Fe which was named one of the top 25 restaurants in the nation. She is also fluent in fashion and has been modeling since her early 20's. She was runner-up in a preliminary competition for Miss America in Maryland and was also voted 'Miss Congeniality' by her competitors.

Currently, she is an active Country Friend and has been an imminent influence behind the success of this year's Art of Fashion. Her understated elegance and magnetic personality have brought sponsors together and fashion to life for the event. "The best thing about the Art of Fashion is seeing 'the show' before the fashion show with all your friends. The audience is a walking work of art! We have also been working on

something very special for centerpieces to celebrate the 50th anniversary for South Coast Plaza. It's going to center around the golden anniversary and it will be a special surprise for our guests!"

Maggie and Denise's acute eye for style and talent has come in handy in their new roles as co-chairs of The Art of Fashion. The dynamic duo have articulated their grace and agility to nurture an ongoing dialogue between Country Friends and South Coast Plaza. The Art of Fashion is also honoring weight watchers pioneer, Jenny Craig. The highly anticipated fashion show will raise thousands for The Country Friends who will donate the proceeds to many local charities. We are counting down the hours until lights, camera, fashion!

For more info check out www.thecountryfriends.org www.southcoastplaza.com

Maggie Bobileff and Denise Hug enjoying the elegance of Ralph Lauren clothing. Outfits were put together by the talented team at the La Jolla store





Maggie Bobileff's niece frosting her hat



KUSI's Sandra Maas joins us to make a hat from scratch for their feature on local Millener Diana Cavagnaro



The KUSI team behind the scenes

Hat Making with Local Milliner Diana Cavagnaro

PHOTOS BY FELICE KINNEAR

Up close and personal with the cogs of hat-making



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Deana Savvy organizing the hat competition which brings in thousands of people for opening day



The 2017 winner of the famed hat competition which brings in thousands of people



Around Town

PHOTOS BY FELICE KINNEAR

Del Mar Opening Day at
The Races



The fabulous Valenti team painting the tracks red



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 - Social Support
 - Redirection



Creating a safe, comfortable environment with a care plan for loved ones who want to remain independent in the comfort of their own home.

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