

# HIDDEN LEAVES

A Publication of the Ilan-Lael Foundation

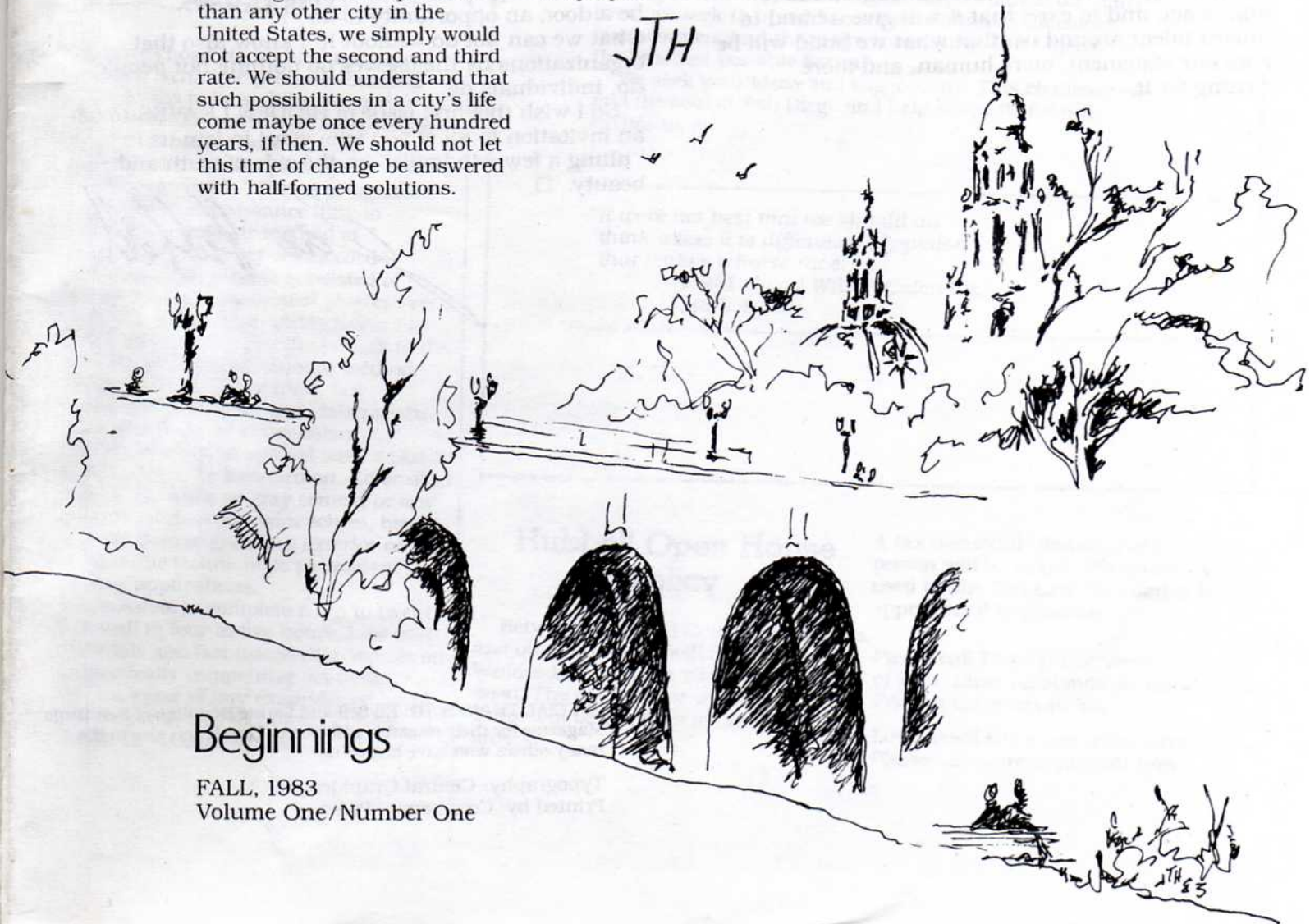
## For A Dash of Chauvinism

Is San Diego really at the beginning of a renaissance? Will it be a spiritual renaissance for San Diego and not just a merchant's dream of bigger and more? Do we understand and value the specialness, the genius of our place on this globe?

Is there enough chauvinism in San Diego of the kind that lifted city-states in Greece and later Italy into the times of pride for all men? Such a pride, if we allowed it to blossom, would have a profound effect on our city and region. If we realize that San Diego has more potential than any other city in the United States, we simply would not accept the second and third rate. We should understand that such possibilities in a city's life come maybe once every hundred years, if then. We should not let this time of change be answered with half-formed solutions.

The pride I speak of would not only affect land use and buildings, but business and government, community, crime, and the significance and quality of our art. Where does this kind of community come from? It comes from the beauty of Balboa Park, from the sweep of Coronado Bridge, from looking out to sea with so little between us and China. It comes from the Chargers winning, from the Old Globe, and from you. It should come from our artists. It comes from a vision and a sense of the uniqueness that is shared by all our people.

JTH



## Beginnings

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I keep trying to answer the question, "What is the Ilan-Lael Foundation?" not only for friends but for myself. Since I have no intention of becoming a director of a foundation, why start one?

I guess the foundation began from the realization that art and beauty have been an intense part of my daily life, not remote commodities in a specialty store. A definition of what the foundation is about might be: "To encourage through art and architecture, an understanding of ourselves and our time, and facilitate the ability to visualize and create forms that reflect the best of our age."

The old command, "to know thyself," is as true for the individual as for a culture. If we wish to do anything of real meaning, it is also true that what we do, what we make, and build, is how we understand ourselves. The artist should play an irreplaceable role in human evolution, for his function is to make the vision and the mystery of our existence real.

Another reason for the foundation is the tremendous possibilities that can be unlocked from living in a time of transition in a city with the tremendous potential of San Diego—both in place and in people.

I am hoping the foundation can help to focus leadership and discussion where they are needed; that it will get people in various backgrounds to talk, to act, and to care; that it will give a hand to unused talent around us; that what we build will be more our statement, more human, and more exciting for it.

Talking about starting Citizens Coordinate for Century 3 in an interview with Kay Kaiser, Lloyd Ruocco said, "The purpose was to meet together, to be astounded by the wit of man." I think what Lloyd wanted deep down, was to come to San Diego, or any city, and be awed by the grandeur, the beauty, the love, the soul that is in people and what they can build.

Some twenty years ago I did some playground sculpture for a crippled children's school. There was a little boy who would ride a small tricycle around where I was working. He had no legs, one hand and a hook. He would sit on the back footsteps, steer with his one hand and work the pedals with the hook. He was continually falling off, but always he bounded back laughing. Other children with various minor handicaps would sit and look at the wall, deep in depression. It isn't what we are given, it is what we do with what we have. Perhaps that little boy is responsible for Ilan-Lael as much as anyone.

I know a non-profit foundation can do nothing by itself, but it can be a door, an opportunity to do what we can not do without it. I know also that organizations by themselves do nothing, but *people do*, individuals do.

So I wish this first issue of HIDDEN LEAVES to be an invitation to all of you who want to join us in "tilting a few windmills" on the side of truth and beauty. □



Leo Rubell

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