

Home Almanac

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Ilan-Lael Foundation Hubbell tour resumes

The unique home and art studios of James and Anne Hubbell are clearly rising from the ashes of the 2003 Cedar fire. The enchanting compound near Santa Ysabel was severely damaged by flames and heat, but the Hubbells, their assistants and volunteers have been working ever since to restore or rebuild the fanciful buildings. Now, among the original cottages and studios made of adobe, stone and wood, they've added hope-filled new features, such as a garden and hiking trails.

Like the Hubbells and their grown sons, Olivia Hancock is always optimistic and energetic. She is program director for the Ilan-Lael Foundation, the nonprofit group that has taken over the Hubbell property for future educational use.

"It is very beautiful and magical up there, just as it was (even) when it was black and covered in ashes," she recently wrote of the mountaintop retreat. "The beauty is in the spirit and is difficult to capture in a photograph."

Still, photos show progress is being made – and how much work of all kinds remains to be done.

See for yourself on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., when the annual Hubbell Open House resumes after being suspended last year. Returning visitors – and future volunteers? – can expect a very different landscape now, as the recovery effort by humans and nature is ongoing throughout the property.

Proceeds from the open house will go toward rebuilding and restoring structures and their handmade embellishments of stained-glass, mosaics, wrought-iron and ceramic sculpture.

Tickets are \$40 per person through Wednesday by mail or through electronic billing. Send a check, payable to the Ilan-Lael Foundation, to P.O. Box 1221, Julian, CA 92036. To use the PayPal online payment service, log on to www.hubbellandhubbell.com/whatsNew.htm. Tickets may also be purchased Saturday for \$50 per person.

For more information and a map, see the Hubbell Web site (click on "Open House Flyer") or call (619) 819-7590.

–ANN JARMUSCH

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