

Art-inspired events in Palo Alto this week

Singer and actress Carol Channing addressed the California State PTA Convention in San Jose on May 2 and made an appeal to bring the arts back to schools. Channing and her husband, Harry Kulijian, produced a DVD for distribution on which a few of their friends, including JoAnne Worley, Lily Tomlin, Phill Lewis, Florence Henderson, Stefanie Powers and Kevin Sorbo talk about how important it is for children to be exposed to the arts.

People in Palo Alto seem to agree. For many years, we've had an excellent art center where adults and children take classes and

■ SCHOOL MATTERS



PREEVA TRAMIEL

world-class exhibits are staged. The opening of the Youth Art and Cultural Kaleidoscope Exhibition takes place Wednesday, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The exhibition, open through May 31, features art made by Peninsula students in grades K-5. City officials will present awards at the opening, and families are invited to attend.

On Saturday, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., at the Palo Alto Art Center auditorium, children's book author Carmen Lomas Garza will demonstrate how art is used to teach math, language arts and critical thinking. Garza is the author of numerous children's books. The event is free and open to the public, but targeted at adults. For more information, visit the

Palo Alto Art Center Foundation's Web page at www.paacf.org.

"We wanted to have an event that helped the school districts and the educators in our local community know how art is used to teach other subjects," said Kate Rone, coordinator of the Cultural Kaleidoscope Exhibition.

Adolescent Counseling Service's Spring Sounds benefit takes place that evening, too.

"This party is going to lift peoples' spirits," said development director Aarika Riddle. "The decor is really bright and cheery. The Menlo-Atherton Jazz Combo is playing in the early part of the evening, and they are followed by the Wildcats, who are really fun." More information is available on the Web at <http://www.acs-teens.org/springsounds.php>.

Earlier on Saturday, the Klutz School Benefit — formerly "give-it-all-away day" — is taking place in the parking lot of the Palo Alto Klutz offices at 450 Lambert Ave., from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Customer service manager Laurie Bryan said there will be craft tables, velvet art, face painting, and entertainment; Klutz products also will be available for purchase. The company will send a check matching 100 percent of whatever you spend to the

public K-12 school of your choosing.

"We sent a check to Illinois one year," Bryan said. The flier can be downloaded at <http://www.klutz.com/about/events.php>.

On Sunday, the Capitol Steps will sing at Gunn High School's Spangenberg Auditorium at 4 and 7 p.m. These Washington insiders sing about politics and current events, and they have new material all the time. The group's new show is called "Obama Mia," and tickets are \$45 and \$35 at Ticketweb. Ticket sales will benefit the Gunn Robotics Team.