

» **Top Stories**

Attractions
Entertainment
Food And Wine
Local
Special Events

» **Entertainment**

Curtain Time
Desert Nightlife
Entertainer Spotlight
Live Theater
Movie Review
Theater
Valley Rhythms
Walk Of Stars
Calendar

» **Local**

Reader Talkback
Community Links

» **Food & Wine**

Dining Review
Night Life
Restaurant Guide
Wine Review

» **Attractions**

Attraction Feature
Golf

» **Shopping**» **Casinos**

Casino Listings
Casino Map

» **Golf**

Course Listings
Desert Golf
Weather

» **Art**

Art News
Galleries

» **Special Events**

Food And Wine

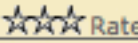
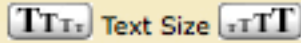

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Attractions
Entertainment
Food And Wine
Local
Special Events

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Photographer to present show

Local artist/photographer Jay Hooker will present "Flight, A Journey of Trans-formation" at Club W, 36-737 Cathedral Canyon Dr., Cathedral City, from 2 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19. Twenty percent of the art proceeds will benefit the AIDS Assistance Program (AAP.) Jay's art piece "Equality" will also be raffled, with all proceeds going to AAP.

Appetizers, paired with wine tasting, will be provided.

"Flight" represents Jay's transformation from a frightened child fleeing the terror of the Sandinistas in his homeland of Nicaragua, the challenges of living in a new country, fighting the injustices of Iraq in Desert Storm, to realizing his dream of becoming a naturalized citizen this past December.

Jay's art pieces include the fantasy world of "Slick Willie," a 73-year-old man's man, who owns and operates 15 pool halls throughout Texas and Oklahoma. "Hope" is of two young men sitting on a burned out and bullet ridden 1964 Ford Mustang as it rusts and disintegrates in the desert. And, "Equality" is two men stripped of their clothes, and rights, as they stand facing The United States Constitution, and portraits of Martin Luther King, Native American Indians and the Jewish Symbol: Seal of David.

In a recent interview, Jay commented, "Some photographers take pictures - I tell stories." He especially enjoys letting his creative juices explode when he combines his graphic skills with his photography in creating a multi-media art piece. Many of his pieces in this gallery showing represent this type of work.

Jay's artwork will be available for viewing and purchase for one month following the opening at Club W. Note cards, calendars and his book "Flight" will also be available for purchase.

Jay lives with his husband, Ed, in Cathedral City.

Rivera to perform at Coachella event

Grammy award winner Lupillo Rivera has been confirmed to headline "El Grito de Independencia" on Sept. 19 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Bagdouma Park in Coachella. This is a free community event being organized by the Coachella Chamber of Commerce.

The event will also feature El Vale del Sur, Los Autenticos, other local musical groups and performers. There will be food vendors, kids carnival games, classic car show and Miss 16th of September contest.

The Chamber is currently accepting food vendor applications and seeking sponsors. Contact The Coachella Chamber of Commerce for more information at (760) 398-8089.

Marco Mendez to present concert

Keyboard artist Marco Mendez, who was born in Puerto Rico three days after his family escaped Cuba, will present his contemporary organ stylings concert at 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17, at Piano Warehouse, 72-680 Dinah Shore Dr., Rancho Mirage.

The public is invited and tickets are \$10 at the door.

Marco has performed throughout North America, South America, Europe and the Caribbean and has played at Radio City Music Hall and at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Four years ago, he moved his family from Seattle to permanent residence in Palm Desert.



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