

GET OUT THE MAP

Whenever we go to a party, meeting, or other gathering where we meet new people, the conversation invariably comes around to what everyone does for a living. When we tell people we're in the travel business, we can bet that one of two questions will follow.



Mike and Darlene Jordan Special to The Chronicle-News

Do you get to travel a lot for free? Answer: No.

What's your favorite place to go? This one's a little tougher, since it's subjective and since it depends on what we want to do.

The problem is that there are so many places to go, we rarely go back to a destination—even if we loved it the first time. In fact, we can probably count on one hand the number of U.S. and international cities we've been to twice, unless we had to go there to get somewhere else.

So...favorites? Well, San Francisco is one. We've been a couple of times and would go back...if there weren't so many places to go. Certainly, if there's a meeting or a gathering of some kind in San Francisco, the fact that it's there would influence whether we go or not.

What's our favorite?

We went to San Francisco for Christmas, once, taking the Amtrak train from Denver. The train was 8 or 10 hours late arriving in Denver due to cold weather in Chicago, so we arrived at our Fisherman's Wharf area hotel in the middle of the night. It was still one of the best domestic trips we've taken. We spent Christmas Day riding bicycles across the Golden Gate Bridge, eating Indian food downtown, cruising on the Bay. It was great.

People who read this column regularly know that we go to Las Vegas every once in awhile. It's not the place it used to be, but it's fairly close (a day's drive), and we almost always have a great time while we're there. Here's a tip...for a very nice Vegas experience, consider the Golden Nugget Hotel downtown. It's been refurbished, has a great pool, some pretty excellent restaurants, and the price is very affordable.

Due to the nature of our business, we're in Florida a couple of times a year. Last year, we spent a little more time than usual in Fort Lauderdale and really enjoyed it - much more than Miami. We stayed at two Hiltons - one on the beach and one near the port. Both were lovely hotels with interesting surroundings and excellent places to explore.

Internationally, we're both itching to go back to London. We spent almost two weeks in England/Scotland a few years ago and found London to be especially

beautiful, interesting, friendly, and historically fascinating, but we didn't have enough time to see everything the city has to offer. We'll be surprised if we're not back in jolly old England within the next year or two.

On our China trip this year, we just didn't have enough time in Shanghai. It's another fascinating city with a lot of history of its own, but since our plane was seven hours late arriving, we didn't have any time on our own to snoop.

One place we will have plenty of time to snoop around is coming up in October of 2011. That's when we'll be leading a group on a transatlantic cruise back to the U.S. from Rome. Neither of us has been to Rome, so we're planning at least a three-day visit there before boarding Royal Caribbean's Mariner of the Seas for the journey home. Along the way we'll visit Palma de Majorca, Spain (for the 2nd time), Cartagena, Spain, Funchal, Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands, along with a stop in Nassau, Bahamas, before arriving in Galveston, Texas.

Bucket list cities? Singapore, Paris (Darlene's been, Mike hasn't), Cairo/Alexandria, Jerusalem, Mumbai, Venice.

Now that we think about it, that list is getting longer by the minute. Time to get out the map!

Mike and Darlene Jordan are registered agents of Cruises Inc., and are based here in Southern Colorado. You can contact them at 800-267-7613 or by e-mail at cruisesinc@gojade.org.

THE FINE PRINT

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Masonic Lodge
AF&AM Trinidad Masonic Lodge #28 meets 7:30 p.m. 2nd & 4th Tues @132 E. Main St. Call 719-846-2861 for more information.

PUBLIC SERVICE Extension Office
The CSU Extension office in LA County will be closed Wed-Fri (Sept 29-Oct 1).

Long Ear Riders
Neighs & Brays free tack swap & sale Sat (Oct 2) @ LAC Fairgrounds in the 4H Pavilion. No charge for a space. Call 719-680-1669 for time & details.

Soup Kitchen
Seeking any & all donations (except clothing) for Indoor Flea Market to be held Sat, Oct 2 @ the Soup Kitchen, 308 W. Church St. For more information call Sandy Espinoza @ 719-680-1117.

Volleyball Tournament
Advocates Against Domestic Assault hosts fundraising event

Oct 9-10 @ the Hoehne School. Registration is \$150 & must be in by Oct 6. Call Karrie or Stephanie @ 719-846-6665 for more information.

Al-Anon Family
Group meets @ 6 p.m. every Friday in the Presbyterian Church basement, 801 San Pedro. For info call: Sharone 719-846-9999. No fee charged to participate & all are welcome.

Trinidad AA
Meetings Sun-Thurs. Call 719-671-6066 or 719-546-1173 for details.

SPECIAL EVENTS Celtic Art Show
Spanish Peaks Art Council hosting art show now to Sat, Oct 9 @ the SPACe Gallery, 132 Rys St, LaVeta. For more information call 719-742-3074 or to see art samples email SpanishPeaksArts.org. Gallery hours are Tues-Sat 10-3 & Sun 12-3.

Mitchell Museum
Plein Air Painters of America exhibition of fine art through the end of the month @The A.R. Mitchell Museum, 150 E. Main St, Trinidad. Call (719) 846-4224 for more information. Museum Hours: Tue-Sat 10-4, Sun 12-4, \$3/Regular Admission, Members / FREE, Sundays / FREE.



Photos by Tim Keller

Tibetan monks performed an opening ceremony before beginning their intricate, four-day sand painting at The Mandala Center near Des Moines, NM.



On the third afternoon, four monks laid colored sands into place as the painting approached 80 percent completion. It was finished the next day.

Mandala Center hosts Tibetan monks for Peace Day

Continued from page 2
groups, lectures, video presentations, and classes.

Mandala Center director Lori Coon taught a workshop in Art as Meditation Sunday morning, after which a Peace Pole was dedicated at the center. That was followed by a concert by singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Hal Walker, who traveled from his home in Kent, Ohio, for the event.

Monday was Nature Day, with a nature walk up Sierra Grande mountain led by Bruce Robinson of Sugarite Canyon State Park, who also taught an afternoon workshop on the area's medicinal and edible plants. Patricia Walsh came from Sugarite Park to lead a night sky program.

Tuesday morning opened early with a dance meditation around the Peace Pole, followed by a lecture on Ernest Thompson Seton's contributions to the conservation movement. Lynn Cartmell of Capulin Volcano National Monument shared stories of Seton, who spent several months in the area around Des Moines in the 1890s.

The highlight of the event, every day, was watching the progress on the monks' sand painting. Each grain of sand was set in place by hand, four monks working at a time, 8-10 hours each day for four days.

Termed "the architecture of enlightenment," the Washington Post called an earlier sand painting, "A universal expression of the human subconscious...it transports you."

The greatest transportation was in simply watching the monks create it. People sat for hours just watching. The monks create mandala sand paintings "as tools for reconsecrating the earth and healing its inhabitants." Under the heading of The Mystical Arts of Tibet, they created similar sand paintings in New York and Washington after the Sept. 11 tragedies.

When completed, the four-foot circle contained countless millions of brightly colored sands painstakingly laid in intricate and meaningful designs. Then, at the end of a closing ceremony, the sands were gradually swirled and brushed until the designs were gone, symbolizing the inevitable impermanence of life itself.

Each person present was given a small plastic pouch containing sands that had been swept up, an offering toward personal health and healing. Around that circle were many tears - some for the themes of peace and healing, but some simply for seeing all the beauty of the sand mandala, created over four days and swept away over four minutes.

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Mon-Thurs: 6:45 p.m.
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Takers
Mon-Thurs 7 p.m.
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Machete
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SCCOG SENIOR SERVICES MENU
Please make Reservations/Cancellations one day in advance -Trinidad 719-846-4515/ Walsenburg 719-738-2205
MONDAY: Lasagna, Garden Salad w/ Olives & Mushrooms, Dressing, Garlic Toast, Fresh Apple & Beverage
TUESDAY: Cheeseburger on Whole Wheat w/ Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle & Onion, French Fries, Ranch Style Beans, Orange Juice & Other Beverages
WEDNESDAY: Baked Chicken, Parsley Potatoes, Mixed Veggies, Whole Wheat Bread, Pineapple & Mandarin Orange Slices & Beverage
THURSDAY: Broccoli Cheese Soup, Egg Salad Sandwich on Whole Wheat Crackers & Tropical Fruit
FRIDAY:

TSNH
Family & friends are always encouraged to join the residents (\$3.50/plate). No reservations required.
SUNDAY: Roast Turkey w/Gravy, Whipped Sweet Potatoes, Mixed Veggies, Angel Food Cake, Bread & Beverage
MONDAY: Baked Pork Ribs, German Potato Salad, Broccoli, Peaches, Bread & Beverage
TUESDAY: Breaded Country Fried Beef Steak, SW Rice w/Peas, Cauliflower w/Cheese, Cheese Cake, Bread & Beverage
WEDNESDAY: Breaded Pork Chopette w/ Stuffing, Glazed Baby Carrots, Spice Cake w/Icing, Bread & Beverage
THURSDAY: Tuna Noodle Casserole, Italian Green Beans, Chocolate Mousse, Dinner Roll & Beverage
FRIDAY: Fried Chicken, Au Gratin Potatoes, Broccoli Parmesan, Tapioca Pudding, Bread

& Beverage
SATURDAY: Hamburger on Bun, Potato Salad, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion & Pickle, Chocolate Pudding & Beverage

TRINIDAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MENU
MONDAY: Chicken Patty Melt, French Fries, Chilled Fruit & Milk
TUESDAY: Elboroni & Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Fruit Cocktail Cup, Hot Roll & Milk
WEDNESDAY: Ham & Cheese Sandwich w/ Garnish, Coleslaw, Fresh Fruit Choice & Milk
THURSDAY: Manager's Choice
FRIDAY: NO SCHOOL

TRINIDAD MIDDLE SCHOOL MENU
MONDAY: Baked Chicken & Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Veggies, Lemon Pudding Cup, Hot Roll & Milk
TUESDAY: Chili con Came w/ Beans, Cheese Stix, Crackers, Applesauce Cup & Milk
WEDNESDAY: Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Coleslaw, Pineapple Chunks, Chips & Milk
THURSDAY: Spaghetti & Meat Balls, Italian Veggies, Banana Pudding w/ Fruit, Hot Roll & Milk
FRIDAY: NO SCHOOL

TRINIDAD HIGH SCHOOL MENU
MONDAY: Baked Chicken & Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Veggies, Sliced Peaches, Hot Roll & Milk
TUESDAY: Chili con Came w/ Beans, Cheese Stix & Crackers, Applesauce Cup & Milk
WEDNESDAY: Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Coleslaw, Pineapple Chunks, Baked Chips & Milk
THURSDAY: Spaghetti w/ Meat Balls, Italian Blend Veggies, Salad, Banana Pudding, Breadstix & Milk
FRIDAY: NO SCHOOL

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