

ART is Alive!

The Newsletter of *Alpine Artisans*

alpineartisans.org

2 Valleys Stage Holiday Concert Canceled

Every few years, those of us at 2 Valleys Stage find a performing arts group that we recognize as a perfect fit for our community. One of these groups is The Gothard Sisters from Edmonds, Washington. This year, we were thrilled to book this in-demand Celtic trio for a December concert in Seeley Lake. Due to the recent rise in COVID cases, we will have to wait until next year.

The Gothard Sisters are a dynamic musical group of three sisters who play contemporary Celtic music. Through 10 years performing, touring and writing music together, the optimistic style of their music resonates with fans around the world. They were to present their special Celtic Christmas show - a holiday selection of Celtic tunes that incorporate their joyful arrangements of Christmas carols old and new.

"Due to the continuing spike in COVID-19 cases in Missoula County, we chose to err on the



The Gothard Sisters have had to cancel most of their scheduled performances this fall. As a special gift to their audiences, they have filmed their Holiday Concert and are posting it on-line, free, starting Dec. 4 at this link: <https://gothardsisters.com/christmas>

side of caution and decided to cancel this concert," stated Bob Green, AAI President. "It is our hope to bring The Gothard Sisters to Seeley Lake for their holiday concert in 2021.

We want to thank Mission Bible Fellowship for their offer of

a safe venue. 2 Valleys Stage has brought professional musicians to our community and our schools for over 20 years. Once the pandemic is under control, we'll be back in full force serving this community with the finest in musical entertainment and education."

COVID Era Tour of the Arts a Big Success

This year's Tour of the Arts was our 17th TOA, and perhaps the most unusual, featuring hand sanitizer, face masks and COVID tracking. But it all worked out. Some artists had their best year of sales, others had their highest attendance. Visitors came from Billings, the Flathead and the Bitterroot



Valleys. Typically, the Swan Valley features the most artists, but all the Swan Valley sites chose to play it totally safe during the pandemic. By contrast, the Tour had three new sites in Seeley Lake – Gallery 83, The Stubborn Moose and Willow Creek Studio.

Four Lincoln artists, Gwendolyn Hendricks, Tammy Jordan and Sally Bogaert, demonstrated their weaving, jewelry and crafts at a new gallery/general store called The Heritage House. Blackfoot Pathways, Lincoln's international sculpture park, joined the tour for the first time, and their parking lot was full to overflowing.



Scott Thompson at Willow Creek Studio drew a nice crowd for his afternoon chain saw carving demonstration and wood sculpture artist Will Katz demonstrated his skills at the Grizzly Claw. Patti Chamberlin demonstrated pine needle weaving and Kris Gullikson painted at Gallery 83. Paula Smith showed her sublimation techniques and Carrie Darrah her pottery at The Stubborn Moose. Diane Whitehead and Angela Williams held down the Brand Bar Museum, welcoming over 90 visitors.

If you are an artist interested in the Tour in 2021, it is always held the second weekend in October, and you are welcome to participate, either in your studio, or as a guest artist with another studio or location. Contact Jenny at jenny@alpineartisans.org or 406-754-0034.

THE GIVING TREE RETURNS

This holiday season, express your generosity by participating in AAI's GIVING TREE. This annual tradition is our small way to support the arts education in the schools. Swan Valley School, Seeley Lake Elementary and Seeley Swan High School all have immediate needs for funding for art supplies, a situation which is only greater when students can't share supplies due to COVID-19 safety precautions.

You can select a card from any of three GIVING TREES with different dollar levels. Find the GIVING TREES at the Swan Center in Condon, Seeley Lake Elementary School, The Grizzly Claw. We are sharing the community tree at the Mission Mountains Mercantile. In past years, your generosity has raised over \$ 2,100 to benefit the schools.



Open Book Club wins Montana Center for the Book Prize

The roots of AAI's Open Book Club (OBC) go back to 2007 when Dee Baker first hosted a book signing at his Grizzly Claw Trading Co. in Seeley Lake. That drew a small crowd, but interest grew gradually when experienced book seller Sara Wilcox came on board at the Grizzly Claw. Soon after Alpine Artisans joined the partnership to build this successful author reading series. The OBC now can draw from 30 to 90 people! In September, the Open Book Club was named one of 3 winners of the Montana Center for the Book Prize. Sponsored by Humanities Montana, the Montana Center for the Book Prize recognizes programs that support literacy, celebrate literature and give people increased access to books and writers. Humanities Montana Executive Director, Randi Tanglen, came to the

Grizzly Claw to present the OBC team with a plaque and a \$1,000 check. The people who make this happen, pictured above, include Michael Cropper, Martha Swanson, Sara Wilcox, Jeanne Koester, Betty Vanderwielen and Susan and Dee Baker.

Tanglen stated, "The MCB Advisory Committee was impressed with the longevity of the Open Book Club, the steady growth and the caliber of authors who have been featured over the years. Bringing over 100 authors to Seeley Lake over these 13 years is amazing!".

The Open Book Club has drawn authors from across the Northwest, including Elizabeth Rosner, Jamie Ford, Bill Kittredge, Victor Charlo, Gretel Ehrlich, Annick Smith, Peter Stark, Henry Real Bird, and Dee McNamer. Many events begin with a Seeley-Swan High

School student reading their published poetry. Exposure to professional writers is a highlight for these students and a beloved experience for all the audience members who attend. "In my experience, reading for the Open Book Club has been such an amazing opportunity because it gives young writers stage time and experience," stated Kyle Peltier, SSHS graduate. Authors have done residencies in the schools as well, including a full day residency with Henry Real Bird in Seeley Lake Elementary and Seeley Swan High School. The other two Book Prize winners were literary programs in Billings and Belgrade. The Open Book Club is on hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, but we look forward to welcoming authors as soon as we can gather together safely!



ARTOUTWEST

Artoutwest, western, wildlife, original oil paintings by Ovando's Diane Whitehead. Contact Diane at 435-714-0611, dianemwhitehead@gmail, dianewwhitehead.com.



SHERI BURDEN

Sheri Burden has a large variety of nightlights and ornaments for holiday gift giving. And you can order larger window hangings for yourself, or for that special gift, but do it soon if needed for Christmas! Check out her website www.ssglass.net for more ideas. She will also display some larger pictures on Facebook. Give Sheri a call at 754-2426 or email 2sheri@montana.com with your orders or questions.



CABIN FEVER ORIGINALS

Cabin Fever Originals by Angela Williams. One of a kind jewelry created from copper, metal and leather. Check out her designs at Cabinfeveroriginals@etsy.com, her website cabinfeveroriginals.com or call Angie: 406-360-7321.



DISCOVERIES IN WOOD

Dona Aitken's Discoveries in Wood is accepting orders for holiday gifts. See website (discoveriesinwood.com) for the types of products available: kleenex box covers, other boxes, serving trays, serving platters, bowls, lamps, wooden lampshades, and lanterns with marquetry designs, or juniper vases and bowls. Email or call Dona Aitken (dbaitken@blackfoot.net, 793-5836 for prices and placing orders. The earlier the better!



GALLERY 83

Gallery 83 A collection of art by Montana artisans including Patti Chamberlin's baskets, Kris Gullikson's watercolors, Judy Johnson's oils, and Annie Clark's watercolors. 3027 Hwy 83 N., Lazy Pine Mall, Seeley Lake, MT 59868, mtgallery83@gmail.com



SWANWOODS

Swanwoods For over 30 years, Swanwoods has created handcrafted wooden salad bowls and salad sets. Order EARLY for holiday gifts. Visit Martha and Jerry and choose from their inventory. 3644 Woodworth Road, Ovando. 793-5706, www.swanwoods.com.



SWAN VALLEY IMAGES

Swan Valley Images by John Mercer. Fine art photography, large panoramic canvas giclees, wilderness and wildlife. Contact John to purchase images from his website and online galleries or to make an appointment to purchase images in person at his gallery in the Swan. 406-240-6422, www.johnmercer.com.



THE STUBBORN MOOSE

The Stubborn Moose in the Filling Station Mall features hand poured soy candles, Montana designs on mugs & water bottles by Paula Smith. This gift shop also carries handcrafted bowls, platters, mugs and other specialty ceramics from Obsession Pottery's Carrie Darrah.



Leading up to the holidays, the store is offering a series of classes on etching, painting and ornaments Thursdays at 5 pm. Call Carrie for more details or check their Facebook pages.

Contact Carrie at 406-461-0671, Obsessionpottery@gmail.com or Paula at 406-210-3322, paula@thestubbornmoose.com

KRIS GULLICKSON GRAPHIC/FINE ARTIST

NEW! Notecards available through her website, Grizzly Claw or Gallery 83. Box of 6 for \$20, or separately \$5 each. Acrylics and watercolor paintings on display at her Studio by appointment or at Gallery 83. Prices from \$35-\$200. Private classes for small groups. Gift Certificates for classes. Class schedule in online at www.uncorkedandcreative.com or call Kris at 406-241-1209.



Also new! Kris has created At-Home Art Kits available for Shipping. The perfect gift for your creative friend, relative or just for you! Painting YOUR way, At YOUR pace, at YOUR place! All supplies included. Order online at www.uncorkedandcreative.com



WILD IN THE SWAN

Wild in the Swan, Sharon Lamar, Artist, Author, Illustrator. 406-754-2745, Sharon's new childrens' book, Wild At Heart, is available for \$15 from Sharon (754-4527) or at the Grizzly Claw in Seeley Lake or at Fact and Fiction Bookstore in Missoula. lamar@blackfoot.net, www.sharonlamar.com.



DODIE WOOD'S RUSTIC POTS

Dodie Wood's Rustic Pots is open for individual appointments. Dodie's studio is filled with rustic pots for your home or holiday presents. Call Dodie to set up an appintment at 406-754-0333, www.montanadogdays@gmail.com. Masks required with social distancing!



Directions to Rustic Pots: Take Holland Lake Road approximately 3 miles. Turn right just before boat ramp entrance. Drive over the bridge of the Lake outlet and turn right, following the signs to the Owl Creek Packer Camp. Drive pass the entrance to the Packer camp and continue on 1/4 mile to a gate on the right with "Holland Lake Ranch" sign on it. Follow the lane to the big red barn. Park and follow sign to studio.

GRIZZLY CLAW TRADING CO.

Grizzly Claw Trading Co. offers an ever changing display of local artisan jewelry, wood carvings, furniture, photography, stone lamps and antler art from local artists including Swan Valley Copper, Swanwoods, Susan Baker, Littlebird Kinzfogl, Will Katz and Angela Bennett. For the crafter, don't miss their full line of stone, glass and antler strands on their Bead Wall, along with trade beads from around the world. 3187 Hwy 83 N., Seeley Lake. 677-0008, grizzlyclawtrading.com.



LISA GIBSON

Lisa Gibson creates paintings to bring joy to your space. Contact Lisa at lisagibsonart.com, and <https://www.facebook.com/lisagibsonart>, 406-465-8348.

WORKSHOPS TO FUEL YOUR CREATIVITY



Uncorked and Creative Painting Classes- UPDATES

New fall class schedule: 2X per month. Next classes are November 9 & 20, December 7 & 18th. Composition and locations TBD. Class size is limited to 6, first come first served. Call Kris Gullikson at 241-1209 for more info, or go to her website at www.uncorkedandcreative.com to book a class.

NEW: Uncorked is going REGIONAL!

Due to a grant from the Seeley Swan Pathfinder, Kris is taking her AT HOME KITS up a level and reaching out to the western US in



her marketing. Her complete art kits can be shipped anywhere in the US with all supplies included. The

video lessons can be accessed with a code for step by step instructions or follow along at purchase time. Order an AT HOME KIT for you or your kids at www.uncorkedandcreative.com.

Kris also recently received a grant from MT ARTS COUNCIL/ Cares Individual Grant and will be continuing her educational outreach through classes and individual instruction.



Sharon Lamar Publishes Fourth Children's Book

Author and illustrator Sharon Lamar just released her fourth illustrated children's book, *Wild at Heart*, a celebration of one young girl's unforgettable hike into the wilderness. Along the trail, she and her family are in awe of all that nature has to offer. Each experience delights the senses—from meeting a hummingbird, to savoring juicy huckleberries, to fishing a mountain lake, to climbing a mountain peak for the first time. Throughout this original story, the young girl's kinship with nature is palpable. The lovingly rendered watercolor



illustrations give an accurate portrayal of the forest, lakes and mountains of the great Northwest. The publisher is Sweetgrass Books.

Lamar explains the inspiration for her fourth children's book: "One fine August weekend, my husband and I donned our heavy backpacks and herded our young children along the trail to Hemlock Lake in the Mission Mountains Wilderness. Our eight-year-old daughter carried

a small backpack with her doll, books, and rain jacket. Our five-year-old son was too big to carry, and too young to hike very far. We took our time

as we coaxed our children along, stopping to look at every little curiosity along the trail. Luckily, the huckleberries were ripe and plentiful along it. The anticipation of berries ahead was a good incentive to keep our kids moving."

At first glance, the pages within *Wild at Heart* simply tell the story of a family's backpack trip. Upon closer examination, it reveals the timeless tale of the connection between nature

and child. This book belongs in the collection of anyone who is interested in connecting children to nature: including librarians, teachers, parents and grandparents. It's sure to inspire kids to get outside and explore our public lands. You can view a 17-minute interview with Sharon during the 2020 Montana Book Festival at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndw-kFOMQus&t=294s>

NEW ROLLING DEADLINE FOR AAI YOUTH GRANTS

Alpine Artisans is pleased to announce a substantial change to the Youth Grant program application process. We are eliminating the spring application deadline and opening the application period to include the entire school year (fall through spring). Beginning this fall, K-12 students attending schools, or home-schooled, in the Blackfoot and Seeley-Swan Valleys are able to apply for grants up to \$300 to support tuition and expenses for instruction in the arts (art, graphic design, drama, dance, creative writing, film making or music), including workshops, camps, or lessons. This rolling deadline will allow students greater flexibility in finding instruction. Students may receive a Youth Grant up to a maximum of three times. See the AAI webpage for the Youth Grant application forms. The webpage also has an updated resource list of music instructors and art lesson opportunities.



Easton Davis



AAI Premier's New Website

Swan Valley web designer Andrea DiNino worked with AAI members and staff to create a visually arresting and informative new Alpine Artisans website that dramatizes the rich cultural life that we bring to the Seeley-Swan and Blackfoot Valleys.

Find us at www.alpineartisans.org.

Photographer John Mercer donated the website's signature photo of the Mission Mountains. The website describes all of our

programs, including youth grant and scholarship opportunities, art workshops offered by members, and an artists gallery featuring 40 of our artists. The Open Book Club archive details the over 100 authors that have been featured since 2007. The website features upcoming 2VS concerts and school residencies and our occasional special events, concerts and festivals. The website is heavily populated with photographs, many dating back 15 years!

Annual Meeting will be on ZOOM – Sunday, January 24, 1 pm

Members will find the documents important for our Annual Meeting on the website at the Members Only Page, under "What We Are". The Members Only Page requires a username and password, which

will be delivered to members by email in early January. We'll post the proposed 2021 budget, suggested by-law changes and the candidates for the election of our new board on the Members Only Page, all requiring member

votes. It's easy to join us on ZOOM. All members will be sent a notification by email. That email will contain a link that you simply click on to join ZOOM and receive a few additional instructions.