

ART *is* Alive!

The Newsletter of *Alpine Artisans*

Spring 2021 Newsletter

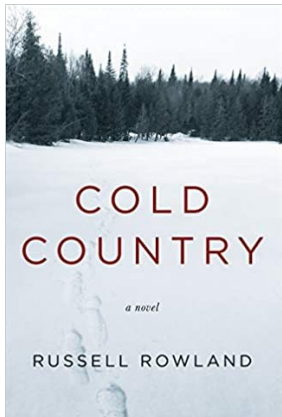


Russell Rowland speaking during a previous Open Book Club at Holland Lake Lodge

Open Book Club Announces Ambitious Schedule

In normal, non-pandemic years, AAI's Open Book Club (OBC) brings people together on a Saturday evening nearly once a month. There, we enjoy rubbing shoulders with an accomplished author, we listen to them read their work, and if we're lucky, we kick off the evening with one of our own Seeley Swan High School students reading their poetry. OBC founder Sara Wilcox stated "It's been a long year

without these gatherings, we miss the inspiration and connection we have with friends, community and our treasured Montana authors”.



That is about to change. We invite you to join us in three scheduled Open Book Club events by ZOOM. We're bringing back two of our favorite authors with their new work, **Russell Rowland** and **Gwen Florio**, and featuring Little Shell Tribal advocate **Chris LaTray** in his OBC debut.

Russell kicked off our Spring season reading from *Cold Country* on Saturday March 6 at 7 pm. Gwen Florio introduces her new mystery series, *Best Laid Plans*, on Saturday, March 20 at 7 pm. And Chris LaTray brings us his amusing poetry from his collection of life in Montana titled *One-Sentence Journal: Short Poems and Essays from the World At Large* on April 10 at 7 pm.

You need to register for each free event in advance at our website, <https://www.alpineartisans.org/open-book-club>.

We're all anticipating being able to gather together by the end of the summer, and we are getting ready to celebrate that and more.

In September, 2020, the Open Book Club, won the prestigious **Montana Center** for the Book Prize, awarded by Humanities Montana. To acknowledge this prize and to gather local residents to celebrate the end of the pandemic, we are launching “**Seeley Celebrates**”. Each “Seeley Celebrate” event will feature an outstanding Western author and will be held in a large venue, such as the West Wing of the Seeley Lake Community Foundation, Camp Paxson, or the Homestead Cabin (on Double Arrow) to accommodate social distancing. With these headliners, we anticipate a large, festive crowd and an emphasis on once again gathering together to listen, learn and engage with these entertaining and informative authors. These events are made possible due to recent funding from the Seeley Lake Community Foundation coupled with our Book Prize award stipend. Open Book Club events are free, and everyone is always welcome. More information on these events will be announced in the future.

Carla and Gene Schade Win AAI Art Benefactor Award

Each year, AAI awards our Art Benefactor Award to someone whose work has benefited the work of Alpine Artisans in the community. This year's award was given to Carla and Gene Schade during the January 24 Annual Meeting. AAI Vice President Jean Dickey presented the award with these comments: “Gene and Carla's efforts have helped to shape our organizations and our projects to benefit our Valleys from Condon to Potomac,” she said.

“With wonderful spirit and enthusiasm they have logged countless hours, hosting visiting performers for 2 Valley Stage in their homes; spearheading and contributing to all kinds of fundraisers; chairing Wine & Chocolate; building floats for and marching in Fourth of July parades; participating in talent shows; installing banners and sandwich boards advertising AAI events; bartending events and promoting the arts throughout local communities.”

The Award includes a \$200 certificate which can be spent to purchase artwork created by an AAI member or artwork in any of the three Seeley Lake stores owned by AAI members: the Grizzly Claw Trading Co., Gallery 83 or The Stubborn Moose.



AAI President Carol Evans stated "It's such a pleasure working with Carla and Gene. You always know they will step up to every challenge and you can always rely on top notch work!"

The Shades moved to Seeley Lake in 2000, but Gene's career took them overseas until they could live here permanently in 2009. Their organizational skills were quickly recognized! Carla and Gene both served in leadership positions in AAI. Carla served as president in 2011 and 2012 and Gene was president in 2016 and 2017. Beginning in 2018, Gene served as treasurer for almost three years from 2018-2021 and was vice president in 2014. Carla chaired AAI's Wine and Chocolate fundraiser in 2012.

Congratulations Gene and Carla and thanks for all of your hard work!

Senior Scholarships Available

Applications due April 18!

Youth Grants available for art lessons, summer art camps.

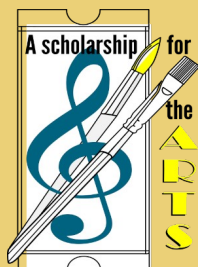


We're beginning to see the light at the end of the 'Corona virus pandemic tunnel', and Alpine Artisans (AAI) encourages parents and high school students to consider the grants and scholarships we offer. Does your K-12 student want to attend lessons or a summer camp in music, drama or any of the arts? Are you a graduating senior who is interested in majoring or minoring in any aspect of the arts? AAI would like to help you!

Since 1995, AAI has awarded over 24 senior scholarships for a total of over \$15,500 and 69 Youth Grants for a total of \$12,685. For more information and the application forms, go to our website at www.alpineartisans.org/scholarships/.



Youth Arts Grants: All K-12 students attending schools or home-schooled are eligible. Grants can be for art, drama, dance or music workshops, camps or lessons up to \$300. Our website above offers local experts who provide lessons in the area! Applications are accepted throughout the school year.



Senior Scholarships: High school seniors graduating from Seeley-Swan High School and Lincoln High School and graduating home-schooled students residing in the Blackfoot or Seeley-Swan Valleys, or former graduates now attending an institution of higher education are eligible for a \$500-\$1000 scholarship to contribute to their studies majoring or minoring in one of the arts at an institution of higher education. Applications are due April 18.

Questions? Contact Martha Swanson, mandj@blackfoot.net, 406-793-5706 or Pete Feigley, absarokaec@gmail.com, 406-224-2098.

Introducing New AAI Board Members

AAI members elected four new Board Members at our January annual meeting: **Michael Cropper, Kris Gullikson, Jenny Kauffman** and **Janet Morgenstern**. In this issue, we introduce Kris Gullikson and Jenny Kauffman.



Kris Gullikson grew up in Colorado and after attending the Colorado Institute of Art in Denver in the early 1980s, moved to Montana. Over the years, she has dabbled in multi-media from photography and quilting to acrylics and watercolor. She is now devoting her personal time to creative ventures that are close to her heart: watercolor (landscapes) along with teaching painting classes at her studio and all over the valley. Her Uncorked and Creative Painting Classes has lead her into acrylic media.

Visit Gallery 83 in Seeley Lake and you will see many of her class paintings and her watercolors. Kris' work is shown in Washington, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. Kris is also doing art framing as a sideline for her students and her own works. Kris has taught art classes over the years at SLE and loves the interaction with the kids.

Kris's inspiration comes from the country we live in and the inescapable need to express herself through painting. She states, "I sometimes feel like my life's experiences and pathways have led me to this point for a reason. So, at this time I'm simply trying to "listen". I always travel with my watercolor set, ready to capture a mood, lighting and expression at a moment's notice."

Kris has been a member of AAI for 13 years and previously on the board for four years. She teaches on-site classes for groups, private lessons for adults and kids. Watch for her scheduled classes by "liking" her FB page to see what she's up to next! Her Facebook is at Uncorked and Creative Painting Classes, Website at: uncorkedandcreative.com



Jenny Kauffman moved to Condon, MT from Pennsylvania in 2010. Along with Jenny came her husband, Leon, son Jalen, and daughter Jayla. She had visited Leon's grandparents in the Swan Valley for years and after a visit when his grandparents were no longer living in the Swan Valley, they decided to make a permanent move to Montana and make it home.

Since moving to Montana Jenny's kids have taken advantage of the programs offered by the Alpine Artisans. Jayla is a 3-time recipient of the AAI youth grant award and both children have enjoyed both the community performances and school informances that are sponsored by 2 Valleys Stage. It is great to have an avenue to introduce rural students to a variety of musical styles and artisan performances.

In addition to volunteering to be on the Alpine Artisan's board, Jenny is an active member of the Swan Valley Emergency Services, where she serves as both an EMT and current Treasurer. She is also working on a long term project with the Upper Swan Valley Historical Society to digitize their current collection and maintain a database of future acquisitions.



UNCORKED AND CREATIVE CLASS

Tamarack's Resort, March 19, 6 pm, \$40PP

Register Today

Come celebrate the arrival of SPRING with an Uncorked Class! Step-by-step lesson for the beginner through advanced painters taught by Kris Gullikson. All supplies provided. \$40 pp. Composition will be something to reflect spring in Montana.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2022 MACLEAN FESTIVAL

AAI's biennial literary event, the In The Footsteps of Norman Maclean Festival, was pushed back a year due to the pandemic, and is now scheduled for June 24-26, 2022. Keynoters Timothy Egan and Terry Tempest Williams lead a remarkable line-up of presenters. Watch our website, www.macleannotsteps.com for updates.

In the Footsteps of Norman Maclean Festival Presents

PUBLIC LAND & SACRED GROUND

Western Writers Bear Witness



Photos by John Metzger

AAI ANNUAL MEETING



Photo Credit: Jeff Harrits

Thanks to those members who joined us for our AAI Annual Meeting on ZOOM. Traditionally, one of our favorite parts of the annual meeting has been sharing artwork. Adapting to ZOOM in 2021, we shared what we have been reading or watching during the pandemic. Member recommendations were fascinating, and we are sharing it below:

Jenny Rohrer: Just finished a novel: **Deacon King Kong**, by James McBride. A step back into Brooklyn in the mid-60's when the mafia just began to flood the projects with heroin. A sympathetic look at the strength of the black community, written eloquently.

Jeff and Cathy Harrits: We're watching the **National Geographic Genius Series**, in particular the sections on **Einstein** and **Picasso** which are available at the library.

Gene Schade: Reading **Douglas Fir, the Story of the West's Most Remarkable Tree**, by Carl Fiedler and Stephen Arno.

Carla Schade: Enjoying culinary classes on Facebook through the Missoula Public Library.
@ Culinary Confidence - Missoula Public Library

Sara Wilcox: Reading **English Pastoral: An Inheritance** by James Rebanks, a former sheep farmer in England.

Jean Dickey: Watching **In and Of Itself** on Hulu, produced by Stephen Colbert & his wife, Also a book by Joseph Galloway and Marvin Wolfe, who wrote **We Were Soldiers Once**, now have a sequel called **They Were Soldiers** – a recounting of their stories during their time in Vietnam.

Carol Evans: Watching the Ken Burns documentary on Jazz featuring phenomenal footage from the 1920' s and 30's.

Michael Cropper: Reading Patrick O'Brian's **The Thirteen Gun Salute**, the 13th book in an historical series set during the Napoleonic Wars and The War of 1812. Escapism of the best quality.

Tom Beers: Now on book five of the Patrick O'Brian series. Also **Wolf Hall**, by Hillary Mantel. And **Change, How to make big things happen**” by Damon Centola. which is how you are able to hopefully influence folks with different ideas of what's important in life.

Rachel Feigley: Watching **The Elephant Queen**, filmed in Kenya – a documentary about a year in the life of an elephant in Kenya who leads her herd across the African landscape. Also **A Woman of No Importance** about a American woman who was one of the original espionage agents in WWII.

Pete Feigley: Reading **Who We Are and How We Got Here**, Ancient DNA and the New Science of the Human Past, by David Reich about human evolution over the past 100,000 years. Also **The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life** by David Quammen that looks at the tree of life and how interwoven things are – transfer of genetic material between disparate organisms .

Dona Aitkin: Watching [curiositystream.com](https://www.curiositystream.com), a subscription channel (only \$20/year) featuring documentaries in a variety of subject areas - science, technology, nature, history. We enjoyed David Attenborough's documentary Light on Earth about all the creatures that light up, for example, and many others, such as one on the history of Wales.

Jenny Kaufman: Reading **Lost and Found in Missing Lake** by Tanya Fyfe.

Sharon Lamar: Reading **Mapping the Bones**, by Jane Yolen, about the Holocaust.

Sally Thomason, Reading **Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?** by Frans de Waal. about why animals and humans behave the way we do.

Janet Morgenstern: Reading **The Oceans at the End of the Lane** by Neil Gaiman about an unnamed man who returns to his hometown for a funeral and remembers events that began forty years earlier. And watching BBC's Ghosts.

Betty Vanderwielen: Reading **Life As We Knew It** by Susan Beth Pfeffer. It's a dystopian four-book series about a near end of the world event and how people react for their survival.

Scott Thompson: Just taught a bunch of salesmen Dale Carnegie's **How to Win Friends and Influence People**.

Kris Gullikson: Reading **Fervent, a Woman's Battle Plan for Serious, Specific and Strategic Prayer** by Priscilla Shirer.

Nancy Rittel: Watching **Ozark** on Netflix.

Patti Chamberlin: Enjoying **Watchman** on Netflix, and Kevin Costner's **Yellowstone**.

Bette Orr: Reading **The Promised Land**, by Obama. My junk reading is the **Bridgerton** novels. The books are much wittier than the show.

Katy Bell: A documentary on Netflix, **My Octopus Teacher**. Doing a lot of breath work using **Health, Healing, and Beyond: Yoga and the Living Tradition of T. Krishnamacharya**, an amazing book on breath and the power of breath in coping with trauma.

Georgina Staggs: COVID has helped her acquire a taste for old movies on Turner Classics. Just watched three different versions of King Kong.

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