

# ART *is* Alive!

The Newsletter of *Alpine Artisans*

alpineartisans.org



SCHOLARSHIP ICE CREAM BOWLS WERE MADE BY THIS SEELEY-SWAN HS ART CLASS

PHOTO BY SEELEY SWAN PATHFINDER

## Message from the AAI President

Our year in a nutshell.... Normal has a different meaning for us now. After two years of confined activities, we were glad to open and get our normal going once again.

Our programs started up and we were able to meet IN PERSON which was a welcome change of pace. 2VS performances were held in our schools and our performers did what they needed to do to feel safe. Traveling was still a nightmare, but we muddled through to bring the Seeley-Swan and Blackfoot Valleys the entertainment they deserve!

This was a Maclean Festival year, so it was full speed ahead for the planning committee from day one. With Jenny in the lead, the committee plowed through plans, the changing of plans and venues... and all was not for naught. As it unfolded, over 1,400 people came, people saw, people listened to the speakers and then it was all over- only to be planned again for 2024! The new theme will be Rediscovering Our Place in Nature: The Power of the Story. It was a job well done-



CERAMIC ARTIST CARRIE DARRAH DEMONSTRATES HER POTTERY WHEEL AT THE LOON & FISH FESTIVAL. PHOTO BY JENNY ROHRER

many kudos to the hard-working folks that pulled that together!

The Loon and Fish Festival in August this year was our best one yet. It was well attended, beautifully arranged and highly acclaimed by all who made it to the West Wing. Music filled

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# Music in the Schools

By Janet Morgenstern,  
SLE and SSHS Music Teacher

The larch needles are falling, snow has arrived and school is in full swing. It's officially fall! While the routine may feel familiar, we have a lot of exciting new things coming this semester!

## At the Elementary

Drama and musical theater is an integral part of any music program, and it also happens to be a favorite part of education for me personally! This year I will be producing 4 music programs, of which 3 are mini-musicals. I'm doing this for many reasons. The soft skills that kids learn at a young age transfer seamlessly to band and choir performances when they are older. Things like speaking confidently, being aware of where you are on the stage, and committing to your character can all be learned at a very young age. It is far easier to teach confidence on stage at a young age than trying to introduce it in high school.

Parents often appreciate that their child is on stage for longer than a few minutes. Each musical takes between 30 to 50 minutes, which is a great deal more stage time than students would get if they each sang a



SEELEY-SWAN HS BAND AT FALL CONCERT. PHOTO BY SEELEY-SWAN PATHFINDER

few songs on a holiday program. There are a few

downsides. Some families may be disappointed that grades 3-5 won't be performing during the holidays. I can certainly understand that. I have the musicals spread throughout the year to make sure I can commit the time needed to make them successful. If all of the musicals fell during the holidays, it would mean leading 5 major performances in December, and that is not conducive to a healthy work-life balance!

This year the preschool and the Kindergarten will be doing a program with the poem

"A Visit from St. Nicholas," featuring AAI's own Michael Cropper. Grades 1 and 2 will be performing "Elfis and the Sleigh Riders," a delightful musical about the North Pole's own rock 'n roll star as he seeks to put together a band! In early November, Grades 3 and 4 combined to perform, "We Honor You," for Veterans Day, which honored our local vets. Veterans had a front row seat! Grade 5 and the 6-8 choir will be performing "Dig It!" in the spring, a musical about ancient cultures such as the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. This musical hasn't been scheduled yet, but will fall sometime in March. Our grade 6-8 choir and band will be performing at each concert at the high school, and our 5th grade band will join them in our December concert! Volunteers are always welcome to help with programs, or to help with the many tasks that have to occur behind the scenes for the music department. Contact the office at the elementary or the high school if you are interested in volunteering!

Our upcoming performance schedule for both schools is below! *Please join us if you are able!*

**Dec. 1st, 9 am, Holiday program at SLE for grades TK-K**

**December 8, 6:30 pm, Holiday program at SLE in the cafeteria for Grades 1-2**

**December 13, 6:30 pm, Holiday concert at SSHS for band students G5-12 and choir students grade 6-12.**

# Seeley-Swan High School

Our high school participation numbers have remained steady, and we have gained a lot of younger singers and players! Our high school groups performed their first concert on October 25th. Each group sang or played a piece that explores a minor key since the performance is just before one of my favorite holidays, Halloween! At our December concert, I've put together a theme called, "Traditions." It's full of meaningful songs to different faiths and generations. Two of my favorite carols of all time are planned, which are "The Coventry Carol," and "The Wexford Carol."

We have a lot of successes to celebrate. We have a choir student that made it to All-State festival in Bozeman on Oct. 20th. We are meeting or exceeding the repertoire that students in a school our size should be performing. We have many students willing and able to sing the National Anthem, and they have really stepped up and shown a lot of school spirit!

We face a lot of challenges when it comes to pep band. We only have 12 students in band, and many or most of them are on the teams we are trying to play for. Pep band is an activity, not a required academic subject, and there are often only 3 or 4 members available to play.

We would love to have community members join us for pep band so we can have enough instruments to play! Please email me at [jmorgenstern@mcpsmt.org](mailto:jmorgenstern@mcpsmt.org) if you are willing and interested!

JERRY SWANSON  
OF SWANWOODS,  
AT RIGHT.  
DIANE WHITEHEAD,  
BELOW, AT BRAND  
BAR MUSEUM.

PHOTOS BY BETTY  
VANDERWIELEN



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the spaces and folks milled around and even danced - some while eating a huckleberry ice cream cone provided by the Scholarship table in the back room. The SSHS art class of six young men put their noses to the grindstone and worked with Carrie Darrah and myself to crank out 70 handmade bowls to raise funds for the Student Scholarship fund. With the 30 saved from last year, the total was 100 bowls to fill and sell! Student volunteers served the ice cream and gave out smiles to go along with it. Between the raffle and the ice cream sale, we raised over \$3,500 for the Scholarship & Youth Grant Program.

Tour of the Arts was a great

success also. It shows that folks are ready to get out and see what is new and exciting! The tour featured over 25 artists at 11 sites from the Swan Valley to Lincoln. The artists gleaned over \$14,000 in revenue for their hard-earned efforts.

Three new directors will be added to our AAI Board this January to help shape AAI's future. Will you be one of the three? We need dedicated individuals that can spend some volunteer time to help our organization stay on track with our mission, keep up to date with data tracking and communication- and to join us in making this job THE BEST volunteer job you've ever had!

All my best to you  
Kris Gullikson, AAI President



MONTANA SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARKS AT DOUBLE ARROW LODGE.

FUBUKI DAIKO DRUMMING WORKSHOP AT SWAN VALLEY SCHOOL

PHOTOS BY BETTY VANDERWIELEN

## Big Crowds Kick Off 2 Valleys Stage New Season

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks kicked off the 21st season of 2 Valleys Stage with a performance of King Lear to over 250 people on the lawn at the Double Arrow Lodge. We followed that with the early October residency and concert of Winnipeg's Japanese Taiko drumming group, Fubuki Daiko. Fubuki Daiko thrilled a large audience of 120 at Seeley-Swan High School and offered workshops on drumming at SSSHS, Seeley Elementary and Swan Valley School. With instructions from the band, volunteers wrapped car tires in duct tape, creating additional 'drums' for the student band workshops on Monday and Tuesday following the concert. Check out the short video of the band at Swan Valley School



at [www.alpineartisans.org](http://www.alpineartisans.org)! On October 30, Dennis Stroughmatt and L'Esprit Creole, a dynamic Creole band from southern Illinois, dazzled a standing-room only crowd at the Swan Valley Community Hall, followed by two days of student workshops in our three valley schools plus Potomac School.

Our next concert will be a change of pace – featuring Valencia

Baryton, a string trio from Spain and the US on Sunday, January 8 at 3 pm at Citizens Alliance Bank in Seeley Lake. Their music will feature the ancient instrument, the baryton, commonly used throughout Europe in the 18th century. Their selections of modern works with the baryton will fill the lobby of the Citizens Alliance Bank, followed by a reception hosted by the bank. Tickets are available at the door.

# Senior Scholarship & Youth Grant Winners

The AAI Scholarship and Youth Grant program has been busy this year, awarding one \$1,000 Senior Scholarship and three \$300 youth grants to local students. Chase Haines, a SSHS graduate, received the Senior Scholarship to attend MSU to pursue a degree in technology with an emphasis on graphic design. He hopes to be able to incorporate his artistic skill and creative thinking into a future occupation that supports solutions and makes a difference.

Angel Bruton, currently a SSHS junior, was awarded a \$300 Youth Arts Grant to assist with her tuition to attend Flathead Lake Music Camp's week-long summer camp. This camp allows students to attend both the high school band and choir camp for no extra fee during their week long stay. Angel's future goal is to be music teacher. And two youth grants were awarded to grade school students Audrey and Nora Stevenson of Ovando for Childbloom Guitar lessons.

Thanks to member donations and income from the Loon and Fish Festival raffle & Ice Cream Bowl fundraiser, funding is available for additional AAI Youth Grants throughout this school year. All K-12 students living in the Blackfoot or Seeley-Swan Valleys, whether you're attending school or being home-schooled, are eligible to apply for Youth Art 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). Download the application information at our website, along with an up-to-date reference list of possible instructors, workshops and camps that might support your interest. (<https://www.alpineartisans.org/youth-scholarships>)



CHRIS HAINES, SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP WINNER. BY SEELEY-SWAN PATHFINDER

## AAI CALENDAR:

### December 11

AAI Volunteer Appreciation Holiday Party - 1 pm at the Williams' Wilderness Bar, between MM 36& 37, Hwy 83 N., Condon (just north of Barber Creek Road).

### January 5, 2023

3 pm - 2 Valleys Stage presents Valencia Baryton, Lobby of Citizen's Alliance Bank

### January 22

AAI Annual Meeting, 1 pm, Seeley Lake Community Hall

### February 25

2 pm - Open Book Club presents Montana Poet Laureate Mark Gibbons  
Seeley Lake Community Foundation Building

### March 5

3 pm - 2 Valleys Stage presents Seffarine, Seeley-Swan High School

### April 5

3 pm - 2 Valleys Stage presents Men of Worth, Swan Valley Community Hall



KEYNOTER TIMOTHY EGAN ABOVE.  
RICK BASS & PANEL AT RIGHT.

PHOTOS BY CHENOA DWYER HARRISON



## AAI's Norman Maclean Festival a Huge Success!

Alpine Artisans' 4th biennial In the Footsteps of Norman Maclean Festival was held June 25-26 at The Wilma in Missoula. Featuring the theme Public Land & Sacred Ground: Western Writers Bear Witness, the event drew over 1,200 people over two very successful days. Keynote speakers were authors Timothy Egan (*The Big Burn*) and Terry Tempest Williams (*Erosion*). Williams stated "The Festival yesterday was brilliant, evocative and provocative, at once. To dare to bridge the gap between "public lands" and "sacred ground" in spirited discussion is brave and necessary and transformative. I honor you." Author Nate Schweber shared



CROW ARTIST KEVIN RED STAR AT DANA GALLERY RECEPTION



"the theme "Public Land & Sacred Ground" was excellent. It was wonderful to hear so many Native voices. It made for extremely illuminating and thoughtful conversations."

Crow Artist Kevin Red Star created the signature image for the festival titled: "Sacred Ground: Crown Butte" and the Red Star Art Poster is still available for sale on the festival website, [macleanfootsteps.com](http://macleanfootsteps.com). The full festival is also available for viewing on-line at [www.mcat.org](http://www.mcat.org). Click on Watch, Channel 189, and search for Norman Maclean Festival.



TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS AND DOUG PEACOCK.



BY ANNE DAHL

## ARTIST PROFILE

# Sharon Lamar

By Jenny Kauffman

Teaching is what brought Sharon Lamar to the area in the mid 1970s. She and her husband wanted to come west and she was given an offer to teach in Missoula. While there, they made a trip up to the Swan Valley and fell in love with it.

Sharon started painting with a group of teacher friends in Bigfork when they took a class together in 2006. After taking classes together for many years, they have been meeting together to paint once a week ever since. She started her book writing by making a book for her husband, Steve, about their young daughter. That book was self-published. After that, she had been painting a lot of flowers and decided to put them into book form. That book was published by Mountain Press and they helped her distribute it. Her 3rd book was about Western butterflies also published and promoted by Mountain Press. Sharon's latest book, *Wild at Heart*, was published in 2020 and printed by Sweetgrass books.

Sharon completed her 10th family tree painting for the Upper Swan Valley Historical Society this summer. She has also been doing a lot of bird paintings lately. Sharon had a sampling of her art displayed at the Swan Valley library last summer. Sharon thinks the best thing that Alpine Artisans does for the artists is the Tour of the Arts. She really appreciates the interaction with people that travel to the area just for the Tour.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES with Alpine Artisans

By Tom Browder

Alpine Artisans is the premier arts organization in the Seeley-Swan and Blackfoot Valleys. Our mission is to promote and preserve the arts, and we do this through a variety of creative and innovative programs in our valleys. We bring music performances to our neighbors and our schools, support the visual arts with the Loon and Fish Festival and Tour of the Arts, and promote literary endeavors with our Open Book club and biennial Maclean Festival.

All of this wonderful work would not be possible without committed volunteers. If you are passionate about the arts, want to meet some wonderful people from our area, and have a desire to deepen your connection with your community, come join us! We can use your talents in many ways, from working on specific events to helping with ongoing projects like communications, planning and fundraising. To learn more about these opportunities, email [alpineartisans1@gmail.com](mailto:alpineartisans1@gmail.com).