

Spring 2023

ART *is* Alive!

The Newsletter of *Alpine Artisans*



Swan Valley School students learn Taiko drumming with Fubuki Daiko

2 Valleys Stage Reveals Exciting New Season

Thank you to all who made this 2 Valleys Stage season a big success. We finished the 2022-23 season with a packed audience which thrilled to the Celtic music of Men of Worth at the Swan Valley Community Hall. This successful season brought in large audiences, including 235 attendees for Montana Shakespeare In the Park's King Lear at Double Arrow Lodge, and a full house to celebrate the ancient music with Valencia Baryton in the lobby of Citizens Alliance Bank.

Reflecting our mission, each group of performers presented a concert and a workshop in our four schools. For the Fubuki Daiko in-school workshop, volunteers created additional 'drums' out of used tires and duct tape to mimic Japanese-style Taiko drums, allowing all the students to take a turn learning this unique style of drumming (see photo). In the classroom, Dennis Stroughmatt & L'Esprit Creole combined creole history with an exploration of their unique music, as did Seffarine, sharing their music origins in Morocco and the Middle East.



The Canadian Band "The Matinee" will rock the Swan Valley at a free concert on Sunday, June 25, 3 pm in the backyard of the Hungry Bear.

2 Valleys Stage is managed by the 2 Valleys Stage Coordinating Committee (2VSCO), and together that committee reviews and chooses performing groups that would bring valuable experiences to our student and adult populations. The 2VSCC weighs many factors. The performers must represent excellent professionalism in their work, and be of interest to our community. We consult with the teaching staff at the schools to ensure that our choices can strengthen the skills needed in their band and choir programs, and we work to offer a diversity of musical genres. The lineup for 2023-24 includes three summer programs, plus the regular 2VS season beginning in October. Season tickets will be available at the Loon and Fish Art Show and Festival on July 21-22 and on-line at alpineartisans.org beginning in mid-July. Thanks to the 2VSCC: Jenny Rohrer, Director, Bob Green, Assistant Director, Carol Evans, Cheryl Lewis, Betty Vanderwielen, Samantha Arroyo, Bill Peabody, Janet Morgenstern, Aaron Morgenstern and Jean Dickey. We're looking for more help with 2VS - if you can volunteer, contact Jenny Rohrer, 406-531-3354, jenny@alpineartisans.org

2VS Lineup for next season

2023:

October 29, Seeley-Swan High School
Jarabe Mexicano presents Dia De Los Muertos

December 3, Seeley-Swan High School:
Bare Bait Dance - Duke Ellington's The Nutcracker

2024:

February 3, Swan Valley Comm. Hall:
Champagne Sunday presents "Glam Folk"

March 15, Swan Valley School
Supaman, Absaalooke Hip-Hop Rapper

April 7, Seeley-Swan High School:
Stringfever, British Electric String Quartet

Alpine Artisans Welcomes New Board Members

NOTE: Three new board members were recently elected: Dona Aitken, Barb Raible and Apryll Verboven.

Dona's profile will be in the next newsletter.

Barb Raible

Barb Hill Raible was born and raised in Billings Montana. Both her maternal great grandparents and paternal grandparents homesteaded in the Montana, Elliston and Swan Valley. She has a great love for this beautiful state. She went to school at UM and then MSU where she met her husband of 50 years, Joe.

They decided to try their hand living on the family homestead on Buck Creek in 1972. They had two children who were born in the one room cabin as well as a menagerie of farm animals and a garden. Both Kalin and Matt attended the Swan Valley elementary school and Barb was on the school board.

After working as a seasonal for the FNF, Barb went back to UM and got a degree in Forest Management, her love for the outdoors was apparent by then. That also meant leaving the Swan for more permanent jobs in Oregon. Barb worked as a forester and Ecologist for the BLM until 2010 and the move back home. We build a new log home with running water and bathroom. I was a board member on the USVHS for 2 terms and also on the Swan Valley Ecosystem board during its merger to become SVC.

I love to garden and be outside. I appreciate all the arts, recently becoming a weaver.





Apryll Verboven

Hello Alpine Artisans, I am excited to join the board and contribute what I can to this organization! I Live in Condon with my husband Joost and our 2.5 year old daughter Camas. Mothering has been a transformative and hugely creative process for me, and I'm just a couple of years in! I feel very fortunate to have found a job and place to call home some 20ish miles down the road from my Mom, one of Alpine Artisans' own long time artists, Littlebird.

The Swan Valley has always been home for me!! My childhood was carefree with lots of time roaming out of doors, exploring the river and its many inhabitants. I attended elementary school at both Swan Valley Elementary and Salmon Prairie Schools through 8th grade. High School found me at Bigfork High before switching to correspondence until graduating in 2002. After graduation I joined AmeriCorps and briefly lived "back east" in Maryland and New York. Besides the wonderful people I met, seeing a show on Broadway was a wonderful experience. After coming home I spent the rest of my 20's working seasonally, mostly serving and bartending in Condon, Bigfork, Kalispell and Missoula taking my off seasons to travel both abroad and around the States.

I knit a lot while traveling and sold the hats at markets, shops and Alpine Artisans' Tour of the Arts for a few years, I called that venture Wicked Woolies and may revive it someday. Joost and I met serendipitously while he was (momentarily lost) on a bicycle tour right here in the Swan Valley, we celebrated our 13th wedding anniversary last year! I still enjoy making things and spending time outside no matter the season!! I can always find something small and wondrous to admire, and bring that little joy with me throughout the day.



INTERESTED IN THE ARTS?

**HOW ABOUT A SCHOLARSHIP
FOR ART, DRAMA, DANCE,
CREATIVE WRITING OR MUSIC?**

WE WANT TO HELP! CALL US!



alpineartisan.org/youth-
scholarships#youthGrants

Martha Swanson (406)793-5706
Laura Johnson (425)327-9259

AAI Youth Grants and Senior Scholarships Available!

Does your K-12 student want to attend a summer camp in music, drama or any part of the arts? Are you a graduating senior who is interested in majoring or minoring in any aspect of the arts? AAI is interested in helping you! Since 1995, AAI has awarded over 26 senior scholarships for a total of over \$17,500 and 75 Youth Grants for a total of \$15,085. We are eager to be a part of your child's summer camp or a graduating senior's future!

Alpine Artisans Scholarship Committee is eager to receive your application. For more information and the easy-to-use application forms, go to our website at <https://www.alpineartisans.org/arants-scholarships>.

Youth Arts Grants: All K-12 students attending schools or home-schooled are eligible. Grants can be for lessons, camps or workshops in music, theater arts, fine arts, graphic arts, drama, dance, creative writing, film making and photography up to \$300. Our website above offers local experts who provide lessons in the area! Applications are accepted all 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 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. These applications are due May 12, 2023.

Questions? Contact

Laura Johnson, lsjalehto@comcast.net, 425-327-9259 or
Martha Swanson, mandi@blackfoot.net, 406-793-5706

ARTIST PROFILE



Swan woods

Swanwoods is a 35-year old business run by Martha and Jerry Swanson on Woodworth Road in Ovando. Their craft is the handmade production of bowls and vases from various carefully chosen woods. This article is based on an interview conducted by AAI Treasurer, Michelle Breen. Michelle stated, "I got to know Jerry and Martha Swanson of Swanwoods when I volunteer at their studio during Tour of the Arts, and felt it's important to share their story. Not only is each bowl a beautiful, functional piece of art, but wood is a natural, renewable and biodegradable material. And I, like Martha, hope my bowl has a place at our family table for generations."

Jerry and Martha Swanson originally lived in Vermont in the 70's, where Jerry was a professor at University of Vermont. Martha was inspired by working in wood, as her father and grandfather were both wood-workers, making cabinets and furniture. They were inspired by the wooden toys created by Vermont's Montgomery School House and began to create wooden toys themselves. Soon, Jerry was invited to be a visiting scholar at the University of Montana, and they eventually moved to Ovando. Once in Montana, they wanted to find a business where Jerry could quit teaching and they could work together. They also wanted to transition from wooden toys to something that would not only be beautiful but utilitarian. Wooden bowls was their choice.

"Each bowl is fairly time-consuming, taking about 2 weeks start to finish to create a bowl. This process includes the cutting of the rings of wood, which brings out the personality of the wood, then glueing, sanding and finishing", stated Jerry Swanson. Martha added, " My favorite part of the process is when I place the rings of various woods to create the bowl. It's a puzzle. As I work, / meditate on how this bowl will become part of a family tradition."

The Swansons work with a variety of woods, so I asked them if they were a tree, what would they be? Jerry's first choice was Cherry, and then Walnut, which he likes because it's sturdy enough to build a family totem pole. Martha thinks trees are magical beings whether a palm tree or a larch. They both enjoy the participating in AAL's Tour of the Arts and love the sense of community that Alpine Artisans provided. Swanwoods can be reached at www.swanwoods.com or 406- 793-5706.

Upcoming Events

- April 1 - Parent Teacher Club Yard Sale - Seeley Elementary
- April 29 - Author Max Lostukoff at Open Book Club - Seeley Lake
- May 13 - Author Jamie Ford at Open Book Club - Seeley Lake
- May 30 - Spring Concert & Art Show - Seeley-Swan High School
- June - Change Your Pace Campaign all month long
- June 25 - The Matinee Rock N'RollThank You Concert - Condon
- July 18 - International Choral Festival Performances - Seeley Lake

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