

# ART is Alive!

The Newsletter of *Alpine Artisans*

September 2023

alpineartisans.org

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

If I were to stop for just a minute just to remember all that AAI has accomplished this year alone, I might have to write a book! You all deserve a big pat on the back for all your volunteerism and community spirit!

Let's reminisce about the fun time we've all had at the 2 Valleys Stage performances. Dennis Stroughmatt and L'Esprit Creole to the rousing concert from *Matinee* at Hungry Bear when we were on pins and needles waiting to see if the Canadians got to cross our border to perform! Then Shakespeare in the Parks- a record crowd! All of it is such an exciting venture and your Board of Directors wants to do MORE!



In September, we brought in 4 artists from the Bitterroot and they taught 4 different multimedia demonstrations- and it lasted 2 1/2 days! The Nature of Art Workshops were held at the Seeley Lake Community Hall and at Big Larch Campground on Seeley Lake. Here's a few comments from participants;

*"Wow, what a great time, nurturing, gratification for all I learned ;) Yes! to more next year! I'd*

*The new AAI Highway 83 banner hanging proudly for visitors to Loon and Fish weekend!*



*like to take the Sunday courses that I could not make. The group was warm and welcoming." and another quote; Bev Evans, a retired music teacher at SLE, "I loved my class on Nature Journaling. The instructor was totally awesome. I learned so much very quickly in a straightforward and easy way. I wish we had more time with her but maybe another day. Thanks so much for all the work you do for the artists of our community and especially for the children. I have always felt that our children have been so very lucky to have Alpine Artisans to provide them with experiences that they otherwise would not have.*

Cont'd. on page 3



## AAI'S SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

has been busy promoting our student art scholarships and grants! Our powerhouse representative, Laura Johnson, has

come up with a way for the kids to connect easily with the application forms needed to apply. This system has been proven to work as they received 6 applications in the last 4 months. A new record.





# 2023 LOON AND FISH FESTIVAL REVISITED



Fly tying demo by Kit Mullen



Our kid volunteers having a great time hamming it up.



CREDIT: LOGO DESIGN BY CHEYENNE GIFFORD, SSHS STUDENT

Cheyenne Gifford's winning poster design



Kids art activities and the stained glass lamp donated by Georgina Staggs raised \$900 for art scholarships.

## 2023 Loon & Fish Festival ART SHOW & SALE



Raised by Wolves performing on the east lawn of the SLCF

Jeanne, the proud new owner of "Gus" by artist Sue Antonich of Helena.





**President's Note: Continued from Pg 1**

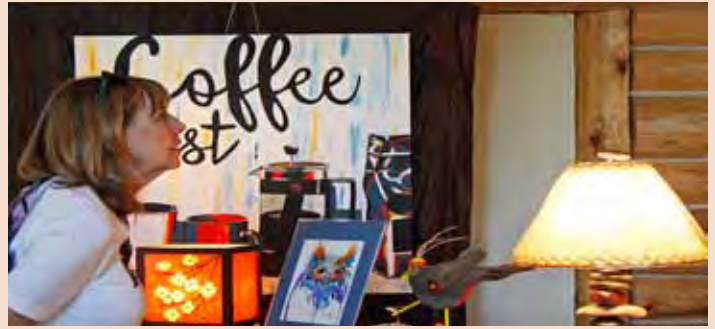
For me everything seemed quite easy as far as signing up and taking the class. Thank you again for everything! It would be a fun group to get together. Thanks again for all your work and dedication”.

Jean Pocha of Helmville has already started a Nature Journaling group in Seeley Lake and the first date to meet is October 21 at 10 am at the Barn.

And so you see, our “season” is just about to begin... and not just the new line up for 2 Valleys Stage! The Open Book Club has some exciting new writers to share with us and entertain us throughout the winter. That’s one of the highlights coming up you can look forward to AAI providing for our community!

We all wish summer could go on JUST a little longer to (finish the gardening season, fish that spot on the river you didn’t get to, ride that horse one more time, paint en plein air again, on and on), but we’ll get that chance next year, God willing.

I wish you all the joys of the seasons ahead and we hope to see you at all of the performances ahead. Kris Gullikson, AAI President



Shoppers came in droves to Loon & Fish this year!



Lft: L&F Shopping and Rt. "I found just the right bowl Mommie!" Photos by Betty Vanderwielen

## IN MEMORY OF BOB KORN, Co-Founder of Alpine Artisans



Bob Korn, renowned ceramic artist and co-founder of Alpine Artisans, passed away in November 2022 at the age of 92. Korn

contributed to people in our valleys in so many ways. He was a potter skilled in the c, producing marvelous works of art while at the same time producing very serviceable mugs and bowls. Annually, for over a dozen years, he created a 100+ bowls for the Loon and Fish Festival Soup Bowl Lunch, raising over \$33,000 that benefited the Seeley Lake Food Bank, He was also a capable illustrator, winning the Loon and Fish Logo design contest more than once.

Bob grew up in the Bitterroot and served in the Marines. Following that, he worked in the early 1950's in Yellowstone, where he met his wife Ruth, who passed away in 2011 at the age of 79. He was one

of the first workers allowed back into the park after the Hebgen Lake Earthquake. Once married, he and Ruth moved often while they were both teaching, even returning to Minnesota, where Ruth grew up. Bob began potting in 1973 after Ruth persuaded him to enter an art show in Duluth, where he sold everything he had!



After retiring from teaching, he became a full-time potter, mainly selling at various Renaissance Fairs and other craft shows. Bob and Ruth moved to the Swan Valley permanently in 1984, where Ruth continued teaching and Bob potting. Bob said this about his life in the Swan: Having the ultimate privilege of living in Paradise, loving and being loved, doing what one loves to do, giving pleasure to others by having done it and making a satisfactory living at the same time is, perhaps, more than one can rightfully hope for in this lifetime.

By dear friend, Sue Cushman

## July 4th Parade Float Wins 1st Place



When the Parade Commander says we need a 4th of July float for the Seeley Lake Parade... we listen! At the last second before the registration closed, the Parade Committee came up with a plan and carried off a most impressive and “artistic” parade float for the 2023 Fourth of July Parade in Seeley Lake. Tom Browder, the inspiration and enthusiasm behind this year's theme, gave convincing testimony at the June board meeting but at that point, we were all well into our busy summer activities. That being said, it didn't stop Carol Evans from digging out the ol' red, white and blue supplies and stepping up to put together a winning float. Kris Gullik-

son, artist, painted the 4x8 “Mountains and Lakes” themed board, the centerpiece of the float. The board was generously donated by Pyramid Lumber.

To top it off, Jayne Lux came up with kids that volunteered to wear the costumes made by past resident and AAI Member, Patricia Boute. They are rather small, as was she, but the energy of the “models” far outweighed any reservations they had.

We thank all who had a hand in this great display of patriotism and community spirit! This includes: Jean Dickey, Carol Evans, Jayne Lux, Tom Browder and Kris Gullikson (and her sister, Karin!)  
by Kris Gullikson

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2VS EVENT SET UP

2 Valley's Stage has 5 performances this season. Each one takes a certain amount of preparation and moving sound equipment in and out of the venues chosen for each set plus the school informances.

To facilitate the process, Jenny Rohrer has created a “call sheet” for each show. If you see some free time around these dates to assist in doing the job at hand, it takes 60 minutes before the show and 30 minutes after. Plus time the day of the performance in the school .

### Here is the schedule and set up needs:

October 29-31, 2023: Jarabe Mexicano  
December 3-5, 2023: Bare Bait Dance  
January 2-5, 2024: Champagne Sunday  
March 14-15, 2024: Supaman  
April 7-9, 2024: Stringfever

**If you please, let Jenny know if you find yourself willing and able to assist on any of these days. (406) 531-3354**



# The Next 2 Valleys Stage Season is About to Commence!



Diversity, musical excellence, celebration, suicide prevention and yes, hip hop! – that is a fair description of the 2023-24 2 Valleys Stage season. The performers themselves originate in the United Kingdom, San Diego, Tacoma, WA, Missoula and the Crow Reservation. This is a season you do not want to miss!

Each year, the 2 Valleys Stage lineup is shaped by the excellent talent showcased at the Montana Performing Arts Consortium in January, by input from our 2VS Coordinating Committee, and feedback and interest from the four school administrators and staff. The season begins with an exciting five-person band from San Diego, Jarabe Mexicano. “Jarabe” means “Concoction”, and their educational outreach program, “Día de los Muertos: A Celebration of Life”, aims to create a deeper and more inclusive sense of family and community. They will be in Seeley Lake for Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) the end of October.

2 Valleys Stage has a commitment to present a variety of the performing arts, and we have booked Missoula’s dance troupe, Bare Bait Dance Co. to perform “Duke Ellington’s Nutcracker” in early December. They are

followed by an energetic musical duo from Tacoma, WA who perform as “Champagne Sunday” with a positive, life-affirming message of love and compassion.

We learned that the COVID years have hit our students hard, which led us to book the Absaalooke (Crow) hip hop performer Christian Takes Gun Parrish, performing as Supaman. He will bring his message of resiliency, love, laughter and inclusion to both students and adults in our valleys. Among many honors, Supaman was voted MTV’s best Artist of the Week. His one-of-kind presentation combines Native culture, comedy and urban hip hop, exuding compassion that allows him to connect with everyone.

The season concludes with Stringfever, a string quartet composed of three brothers and a cousin from London England. This internationally acclaimed quartet has performed over 1,000 shows in 33 countries, from private performances for the British Royal family to a packed audience at Madison Square Gardens! Stringfever’s selections range from inspiring classics to popular music; every performance engaging audiences with humor and energy.

*Season tickets are still available on-line at [alpineartists.org](http://alpineartists.org) or at the door of the concert.*

Alpine Artisans  2 Valleys Stage presents

# JARABE MEXICANO

join them to celebrate  
**Dia de los Muertos**  
A Celebration of Life



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023**

**3:00 PM ~ SEELEY SWAN HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**  
tickets available at the door ~ more info: [www.alpineartisans.org](http://www.alpineartisans.org)

  
We are funded in part by coal severance taxes paid based upon coal mined in Montana and deposited in Montana's Cultural and Aesthetic Projects trust fund.

  
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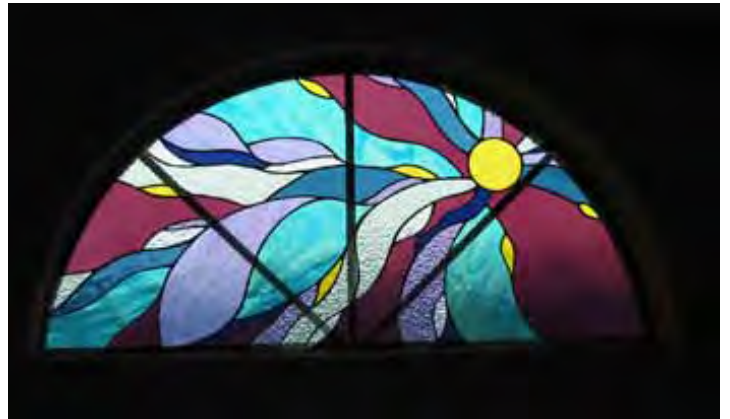
# SPOTLIGHT: Sheri Burden, Stained Glass Artist

Sheri Burden always loved stained glass, and in 1981, she decided to teach herself, using scrap glass from window shops in Kalispell, a glass cutter and a "how to" book. Over a decade later, she finally received some instructional tapes – but by that time, she had learned the hard way!

Sheri's favorite part is choosing which glass for which part of a design. She stated, "If I'm doing an abstract I follow the "flow" or design in a piece of glass to decide where to cut it. Then just add other glass to see what fits best as far as colors and textures. This is all done on a workbench or table, so until it is all cut and all soldered... only then can I actually hold it up to the light to see the final product and that is exciting to see if I planned correctly. So far that has worked out. And after 40+ years, I guess I know the glass and what will work. The end of a project is my least favorite as that is the cleaning part. Each



piece in a design has lead around it, which I clean with steel wool, then use a finishing compound... like car wax in a way.. that needs to be cleaned off, using a toothpick around each seam to get the wax cleaned out. There are a lot of steps in doing stained glass. Drawing a design, choosing



the glass, cutting each piece of glass by hand, then grinding the sharp edges off of each piece. Next is cleaning the glass and pressing copper foil around each piece and crimping it on to prepare for soldering. Soldering takes practice if you are new to it... but it is sort of a mindless task now that I usually do with a movie to listen to. After soldering both sides, and framing if needed... there is the initial cleaning, then using steel wool on the lead, then the final finishing compound to make it all shine. A lot of steps involved that I'm sure most people don't imagine when they see a completed piece of stained glass.

Sheri's work can be seen at the Upper Swan Valley Historical Museum during the October 14-15 Tour of the Arts.

By Apryll Verboven

# SCHOLARSHIPS BRING OUT SMILES AND CONCENTRATION!



Kris Gullikson, Art Instructor with Virginia and Serifina Arroyo. Virginia was awarded a Student Scholarship for the summer with Kris.

Alpine Artisans prides itself on the art exposure we give the children in our valleys. It may be music, dance, creative writing or visual arts. Our student grants target kids interested in progressing with a skill not yet perfected, in any artist field. And to facilitate that, we offer a list of professionals to choose from as a prompt.

This summer that combination brought together Virginia Arroyo and Kris Gullikson. "She wanted to learn to draw more realistically" said Gullikson. Virginia had 6 lessons, 2 being one on one. 3-5 other



Cheyenne Gifford, Senior at SSHS and L&F Logo winner, entertaining the crowds at Loon and Fish with her drawing and painting abilities.

interested students joined us in the interim classes. AAI has chosen to combine as many kids into one class as possible to "spread the wealth". "I can teach 1 or 5 with all the same energy expended, so why not?" Kris said.

"I felt she progressed quite a bit this summer. She went from 1 dementional to 3 dementional fairly quickly. She has a good eye and teaching her to focus on what she was seeing, not what she *thought* she was seeing was key." Virginia's previous experience in drawing helped her progress quickly because she draws in a sketchbook regularly.

Cheyenne and Virginia met at Loon and Fish in July and immediately hit it off as they both like to draw fantasy animals. "I had hoped to bring them together this was perfect." said Gullikson. They spent most of the afternoon together talking "art"! And *that* was what brought a smile that day.

by Kris Gullikson

## 2VS Coordinating Council Members:

Cheryl Lewis, Bob Green, Betty Vanderwielen., Samantha Arroyo, Alyx Pierce, Dan and Kathy Colibri, Bill Peabody, Carol Evans and Jean Dickey  
IC: Jenny Rohrer

## Scholarship Committee Members:

Laura Johnson, Nancy Rittel, Sheila Devins, Alyssa Harris, Trace Stone, Bob Green, Martha Swanson

## 2023 Alpine Artisans BOD Members:

### OFFICERS:

President- Kris Gullikson  
Vice President- Carol Evans  
Treasurer- Michelle Breen  
Secretary- Tom Browder

### OTHER:

Jean Dickey      Dona Aitken      Alyx Pierce  
Apryll Verboven      Barb Raible  
Independent Contractor: Jenny Rohrer