

JANE HIRSHFIELD HEADLINES NATIONAL POETRY MONTH FESTIVITIES

Saturday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Internationally acclaimed poet Jane Hirshfield, whose most recent book, *After: Poems*, has just been published by HarperCollins, will be the featured guest at this year's National Poetry Month celebration. Hirshfield is the author of six collections of poems, two volumes of translations, and a book of essays, *Nine Gates: Entering the Mind of Poetry*, considered by many to be one of the most eloquent and insightful explorations of the poet's art. She is also the editor of the groundbreaking anthology *Women in Praise of the Sacred: 43 Centuries of Spiritual Poetry by Women*.

Winner of many honors and awards including fellowships from the Academy of American Poets, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim and Rockefeller Foundations, and the Bay Area Book Reviewers Award, Hirshfield's work has been praised by such literary luminaries as Nobel laureates Czeslaw Milosz and Wislawa Szymborska, Robert Bly, Denise Levertov, W.S. Merwin, Gary Snyder, and Michael Ondaatje. Her previous book of poems, *Given Sugar, Given Salt*, was a finalist for the 2001 National Book Critics Circle Award.

Born in New York City in 1953, Hirshfield graduated with highest honors from Princeton in 1973, and at the age of 21 entered a Zen Buddhist monastery where she spent the next three years. "Zen training was basically my substitute for graduate school," she told an interviewer. "It taught me how to pay attention." For more than 20 years now, traveling from her home in Marin County, she has lectured, taught, and read her poems all over the U.S. and Europe while resisting the security of an academic career in favor of working full-time as a poet. Over the last decade she has emerged as one of the most distinctive and admired voices of her generation.

Hirshfield's poems are characterized by a combination of clarity, subtlety, and humility in language of the most delicate and graceful lyricism. Her subject matter is often the ordinary routine of domestic life, but infused with a sensitivity to detail and an imagination that opens into a realm of great spiritual and emotional depth. She catches in her images, music, and exploratory thought the ineffable pleasures and grief of everyday experience. "I am hungry for a certain combination of authority and mystery," she has said, "for the seemingly simple phrase that rings, like a bell, for a long time within the self."

Over a thousand years
Since Komachi wrote
"The heart's blossoms fade unseen" –
yet even now,
the spring rains carry their scent.
Jane Hirshfield

This event is made possible by the co-sponsorship of Friends of Coast Community Library, The Sea Ranch Foundation, Poets & Writers Inc. and the James Irvine Foundation, with additional contributions from many generous individuals in our coastal communities. Donation at the door are on a sliding scale from \$5 - \$25.

SEVENTH ANNUAL GUALALA ARTS YOUNG ARTISTS SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED

"Applications are now available for Gualala Arts Annual Young Artists Scholarship." Shirley and Chester Case, Co-Chairs of the Gualala Arts Awards Committee announced. "Eligibility requirements and application instructions are detailed in a program announcement available at Point Arena High School, South Coast High School, and Pacific Coast Charter High School, as well as Mendocino High School for seniors residing in Gualala Arts region, Ft. Ross to Elk, and at Gualala Arts Center office for home schooled graduates and others." Forms are also available online at www.GualalaArts.org under "Downloads".

All applicants must have their forms submitted by April 7. Appointments for interviews will be set up during that next week. When all the applicants have been interviewed, the committee will meet to make their decisions by April 29th.

Case reports that in the past six years, twenty-one Young Artist Scholarships have been awarded in amounts from \$500 to \$2000 for a total of \$22,500. Eleven awards have been made to graduating seniors from Point Arena High School; South Coast High School graduates received two; one went to Pacific Coast Community High School, eligible seniors from Mendocino High School were given three; and local home schooled graduates received four.

Easy Ways to Donate to Gualala Arts

•Vivian Gideon is the new owner of Art Sea Gallery and Framing in the Seacliff Center. As an introduction to the new business she is offering a 30% discount on all framing for North Coast Artists Guild and Gualala Arts members for show artwork. The artist can request that 5% of that discount be given to either of their organizations.

•By using GoodSearch, money generated by your web searches will be donated to your favorite cause. All you do is:

1. Go to www.goodsearch.com
2. Type Gualala Arts into the "I support" box and click on "verify"
3. Bookmark the GoodSearch site and use it.

Since GoodSearch shares its advertising revenue with charities and schools, every time you search the web with GoodSearch, you'll be earning an estimated penny per search for Gualala Arts.

Second Annual "Another Side of Verse"

Friday, April 21, at 7:30

Showcasing the talent of high school students, but open to anyone, "Another Side of Verse" adds music and dialogue to the regular poetry slam. Without the usual poetry slam rules, except that the material must be suitable for family audiences, this event encourages experimentation. Musical instruments, a CD/tape player and props are available for the poets. After the featured poets' performances will be an Open Mic for attendees.

Contact Leo Barton, the brains of this event, with any special needs at 882-3566. Tickets, \$7 general admission, \$5 youth 7 to 17, will be available at the door.

