

EDITORIAL – We are diminished

On April 16, Christina Ruth Smith-Owings died quietly in Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, at the age of 57, of injuries from an April 9 automobile accident on Highway 1 near Salt Point State Park.



When she and her husband, J. Randall “Randy” – who is still recuperating at home, retired to The Sea Ranch, Christina became active in Gualala Arts with a special emphasis on children and education as result of her years teaching art to all ages in rural Illinois.

She will be missed as a member of the Board, and Chairwoman of Arts in the Schools. She was a friend, artist, set designer, Chairwoman of the Exhibition Committee, policy member, culinary member, gardener, Lion, and volunteer extraordinaire’.

Comments overheard in these weeks:

“Chris has planted many seeds in our community and especially here at Gualala Arts. We will carry on her work, passions, and let her spirit guide us as she soars into the transition we all will take at some point.”

“Chris and I have worked together on many projects here at Gualala Arts and she is already missed on several fronts (especially our friendship). We will look for Chris's strength to carry on.”

“Other hands may take up the work Chris began, but we will miss that way she had of being utterly still and serious and then getting a twinkle in her eye or little grin that let you know you had just shared a very special moment with her.”

A memorial service for Chris is planned for this summer when Randy can participate.

Charitable contributions may be made to Gualala Arts and Gualala Lions Club. In memoriam, please consider blood and organ donations, extending life to others, as Chris so marvelously graced the world with hers.

Jane Reichhold

Art Center Theater’s Closet Runneth Over

Art Center Theater is proud to have collected and created a nice inventory of costumes, fabrics, props and furniture – most of which have been rebuilt and/or reused many times. Maintaining this cadre of goodies saves us the money, time, and trouble of acquiring all new effects for every production. Even so, we continue to add to our treasures with each show... such as: that special desk for Scrooge’s office, the theater seats for “Scrambled Shakespeare,” the red dress that must be part of Annie’s wardrobe. You get the idea! However, our fine riches now pose a problem. We are quite literally “busting at the seams.” Our small storage closet “over-floweth.” We have stashed our treasures under the stairs, back stage and in the dressing rooms. Still, there is not enough room! We must appeal to those members in the community that love theater and would like to be an “old fashioned theatrical patron” in the true and practical sense – We desperately need someone to provide us with storage space. If you can help, please call Kathy Hitt at 884-3744 or Lynne Atkins at 884-3838.

Taking a Poll

It has been the custom that lectures and evening events at Gualala Arts Center begin at 7:30 p.m. The idea was that by using the same hour, attendees would not be confused and would just know when the event was scheduled without having to look it up. Now this practice has been put into question by a number of persons who wish for events to begin at seven o’clock. You will notice that the Edward’s lecture about their African trip on Monday, June 12, will begin at 7:00 p.m. If you have strong opinions about either of these times, please take a minute to call the office at 884-1138 to let Spencer know your preference. Thanks so much! May the best time win.

Web Report

The Gualala Arts website was visited 9,078 times in April, 2006. That’s an average of 302 visitors per day.

Goodwill Spies Needed

If you visit other art museums, shows, or festivals, while on your summer vacation, and see artwork or ideas that you think we might make good use of, please bring home any catalogues, brochures, artists’ business cards or newsletters. Drop these off in the office so the whole staff may benefit from your experiences. Thanks so much.

Special Thanks!

Elaine Jacob and Barbara Pratt have collaborated to design the new masthead for *Sketches*. Many thanks to each for sharing their talents and ideas.

Deadline for information for *Sketches* on events
in July is
Wednesday May 31.

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