

EDITORIAL

These gray mornings with no sunrise bring the age-old instinct to hunker down, to withdraw into the comfort of the favorite chair by the woodstove. As in the laws of physics, there is also an opposite and equal desire to reach out and to gather our friends and family around us as the darkness grows.

It is not an accident that the dreariest months share the flashiest holidays. Or maybe we make these holidays gay with lights, color, food, and music to compensate for the feelings of sadness that winter brings.

This feeling of wanting to reach out to others is usually labeled sharing. Sharing is certainly a part of what makes holidays so special.

Appeals for money abound at this time, and it is a worthy action to share the material wealth that the year has given. Sometimes it is easy to forget how necessary giving is to have life. Think about the fact that when each of us is born, we come into this world naked and hungry. Everything we have today has been given to us.

From the abundance of the earth and the love of parents or caretakers, each child of this planet, at any age, is given, without charge or reward, everything that he or she has. Look around you and be amazed at how we are cared for!

There is also the concept and the joy of giving oneself. This can be as grand as volunteering on a regular basis or as simple of asking a lonely friend to go with you to the Festival of Trees, take a shopping trip to the Dolphin, or to see the play, "The Secret Garden" in December. By sharing your time and companionship, you enrich not only the one you help, but also the other people giving of their time and talents to make these events possible.

Holidays are made to be shared. With music events, shopping opportunities, good food, smiling faces, delight in the old and in the new, now is the time for letting down our fences of busyness. Let the sun shine from within as pleasure certainly becomes you!

Sketches Newsletter of Gualala Arts Center

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Sketches is printed on 100% recycled paper out of concern for the planet. Taking care of trees is a part of our job.

Maintaining the Building and Grounds

The Gualala Arts Center is now over ten years old and, like our own homes, has to be maintained as well as repaired. Much of the maintenance and repair of our arts center is being done by a volunteer group known as the Building Committee. The group meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Some of our recent tasks have been to fix the foundation in the entrance of the foyer. This job could have cost the Arts Center from \$5,000 to \$7,000 but it was done by members of the building committee, for almost no cost – just our labor and a small amount of materials. The Karel Metcalf Garden Terrace was another cost-effective project that was undertaken by the Building Committee. The terrace cost could have been as much as \$150,000 but was finished for much less than that.

A building and grounds fund for maintenance and enhancement of the building and grounds needs to be funded so that we can continue to maintain our beautiful arts center.

You can help this cause by giving a donation which is tax deductible. Some of the major projects we are planning in the near future are: an elevator, storage, a second terrace, and another workshop / classroom. With your cooperation these important projects can be completed so that our arts center can continue to serve all the people in our coastal community.

Please donate to the arts center for our building fund. We are also looking for more volunteers on the Building Committee so please join us. Everyone is welcome.

Thank You!

- To everyone who so generously donated their art, and household furnishings to the Recycled Art and Second Hand Sale. Thanks also to the many people who arranged, priced, and helped the items to find new owners at the sale.
- To all of those who bought raffle tickets for the Shopper's Extravaganza Christmas Tree and mailed them in already. You can still get e tickets at the Dolphin or at the office.
- Zach Pine for donating his \$100 prize from the Redwood Coast Land Conservancy.
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Wish List

- For a spokesperson to represent Gualala Arts at local events. Be a cheerleader!
- For someone with hosting skills to be in charge of rental events, lectures, and concerts.
- For someone with nimble fingers and good eyes able to do computer database entry work or easy office work.

Deadline for information for *Sketches* on events in **December** is **Tuesday, October 31.**