

EDITORIAL

The Gualala Arts mission statement goal “to promote public interest and participation in the arts since 1961” harkens back to the origins of the annual Art in the Redwoods festival, but “art” now encompasses much more than putting paint on a canvas. The just concluded production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* illustrates how one event can enrich the lives of the fourteen performers, the extensive production crew, and the audiences that enjoyed coming to one of the six performances.

Recent years have seen a number of students develop creative interests that have even lead to careers. Bryn Harris, who performed in 2000, has started a professional career in the Performing Arts. She has graduated from both Santa Rosa Junior College and the Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts in Santa Maria. Working as a graduate guest artist, she played Nancy Sykes in the PCPA production of “Oliver” and did summer work at Solvang’s outdoor theater.

Teenager Keelyn O’Brien performed in her first play as a robot at the age of four when she attended the Gualala Arts Summer program. When she was 10 she was cast in *Scrooge* and had her first taste of professional direction. Now she is a junior at Point Arena High and has a growing list of credits with roles in *Scrambled Shakespeare*, *The Secret Garden*, and *Pom Pom Zombies*, and won the first Mendonoma Idol contest. Her interest and participation in the theater started and has been nurtured over the last decade by talented Gualala Arts coaches and opportunities.

For example, Lynne Atkins and Kathy Hitt cooked up the idea that has become Gualala Art’s own acting company, Art Center Theater. Their ambitious dream is a great story of the power of volunteerism married to artistic talents. It also shows how latent talents and lifelong interests can enrich a community. Like ripples in a pond the efforts of a few can create unimagined consequences and someone reading this article may throw the next pebble into that pond.

Frank Healy

Volunteers Needed For Art In The Redwoods

While plans are progressing nicely for the festival there are still a few openings for volunteers.

Ben Klagenberg, at 785-3530, needs help with the food booths. If you have any experience in retail or food-handling, please consider helping out with this important fundraiser.

Phil Atkins, at 884-3838, needs more help with directing traffic to and around the parking lot. If you enjoy blowing a whistle and pointing your fingers like a professional London cop, indulge your fantasies as you help friends and neighbors to find the best place to park.

Scott Chieffo, at 884-1138, could use some help with artist vendor booth sitting. The vendor artists appreciate a little time off during the two days, and Scott arranges for a crew of substitutes.

Maria Linker, at 785-3763, needs some help with the kids’ arts and crafts stand. You, too, can help kids find their creative centers or just have fun.

Library Gets New Leadership

After five years of managing the library's development and growth, Susan Sandoval has decided to step down as lead person. She will continue to be a part of the work group and contribute her time to the maintenance of the collection.

Sharon Nickodem has agreed to take the lead position. Sharon has experience as a librarian and has the excellent computer skills needed to continue the development of the catalogue system recently put on line. Everyone is delighted that she is willing to assume this responsibility.

Sharon intends to continue scheduling the library work time for Friday afternoons from 1 – 3 p.m. Anyone interested in volunteering help is invited to attend. A huge thank you to Susan Sandoval for the grand job she has done so willingly in the library.

Arts Center Closed

Through Friday, August 10, to Friday, August 17, at 4:30 p.m., the Gualala Arts Center will be closed to all classes, meetings, and visitors in preparation for Art in the Redwoods. The building will be open only on Sunday, August 12 for the intake of artworks and for the Top Hat Dinner on Thursday night. This is a very busy time for our staff, so please take care of any business you can before or after these dates.

Thank You Volunteers Party

On Sunday, August 26, at 6 p.m. a barbeque will be held in the picnic area to honor and thank all the volunteers who made Art in the Redwoods possible. Everyone who is a volunteer in any capacity at Gualala Arts is invited to come join in sharing food and drink, laughs and good fun.

At this event it will be revealed who has been chosen volunteer of the year and which volunteer team, and team leader, gets the award for outstanding achievement. Past winners of the Volunteer of the Year Award have been Ben Klagenberg, Jim Grenwelge, and Art Dreyer.

Sketches Newsletter of Gualala Arts Center

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Deadline for information in *Sketches*
on events in **September** is
Tuesday, July 31.