

## A 50/50 UPDATE FROM THE BOARD

Our newly formed Maintenance Committee is investigating how to address all systemic issues with Gualala Arts' physical plant which threaten to limit its viability or otherwise pose long term financial liabilities. Efforts have focused on identifying and addressing leaks, both from rain and surface water, addressing mold and dry rot problems inside and outside the facility, eliminating dangerous trees, repairing gutters, improving under-floor ventilation etc.

The "Tuesday Boys," along with outside vendors, have played a major role in this effort which will be continuing for the next year or two as funds are made available and volunteer skills permit.

In addition to compliance with the Americans with

Disabilities Act (which our new elevator helped address), applying for most grants requires a nonprofit to supply audited financial statements. This issue was addressed by a newly formed Audit Committee who located, hired and supervised the work of a professional auditor who has now signed off on Gualala Arts' 2010 statements and will perform another audit on the 2011 numbers. The lead role on the Audit Committee was played by Marty Linker, former Gualala Arts Board member.

Thanks to the large number of supporters who contributed in one or more ways to these successful efforts, 2011 has already been a significant year of accomplishment for Gualala Arts, with more to come this year and in 2012.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

### A Thankful Season

As 2011 draws to a close, my wife, Harmony, and I welcome in the New Year by making a "gratitude list." This season we will have 2012 items on our list. Articulating the things for which we can be grateful generates awareness as well as positive feelings and thoughts. Here are a few items on my list.

I am grateful for the artists who have the courage to create and share their art with our community. It is stunning the number of people and the amount of energy it takes to execute over 100 events per year here. I am grateful for each and every one of you and the roles you play.

I am thankful to our dedicated staff who make sense out of all of this wonderful magic (and sometimes chaos). Gualala Arts is one of the most dynamic, high paced, varied, exciting, creative, rewarding, inspiring, demanding and challenging environments that I have ever encountered.

I am very grateful for Barbara Pratt's years of service. Her creativity, artistic vision, commitment to bringing our communities together through the arts, passion

for photography, desire to learn new technology and her enthusiasm will be sorely missed as the publicity coordinator.

I am thankful for every dollar raised. Your dollars keep programs happening, doors open, staff paid and volunteers supplied with the materials and tools needed to keep the ship afloat.

I am thankful for all the volunteers who helped create our new elevator (on time and under budget) and who are addressing the much needed deferred maintenance. I am also thankful for our local professionals and contractors willing to work with our volunteers when we need to bring in professional assistance.

But most of all, I am thankful for my health, Harmony, the board of directors and all of you, my support network that enables me to serve Gualala Arts and our community to the best of my ability to carry out our mission to promote public interest and participation in the arts. I am honored to help enrich our community.

THANK YOU!



David 'Sus' Susalla  
Executive Director  
Gualala Arts, Inc.