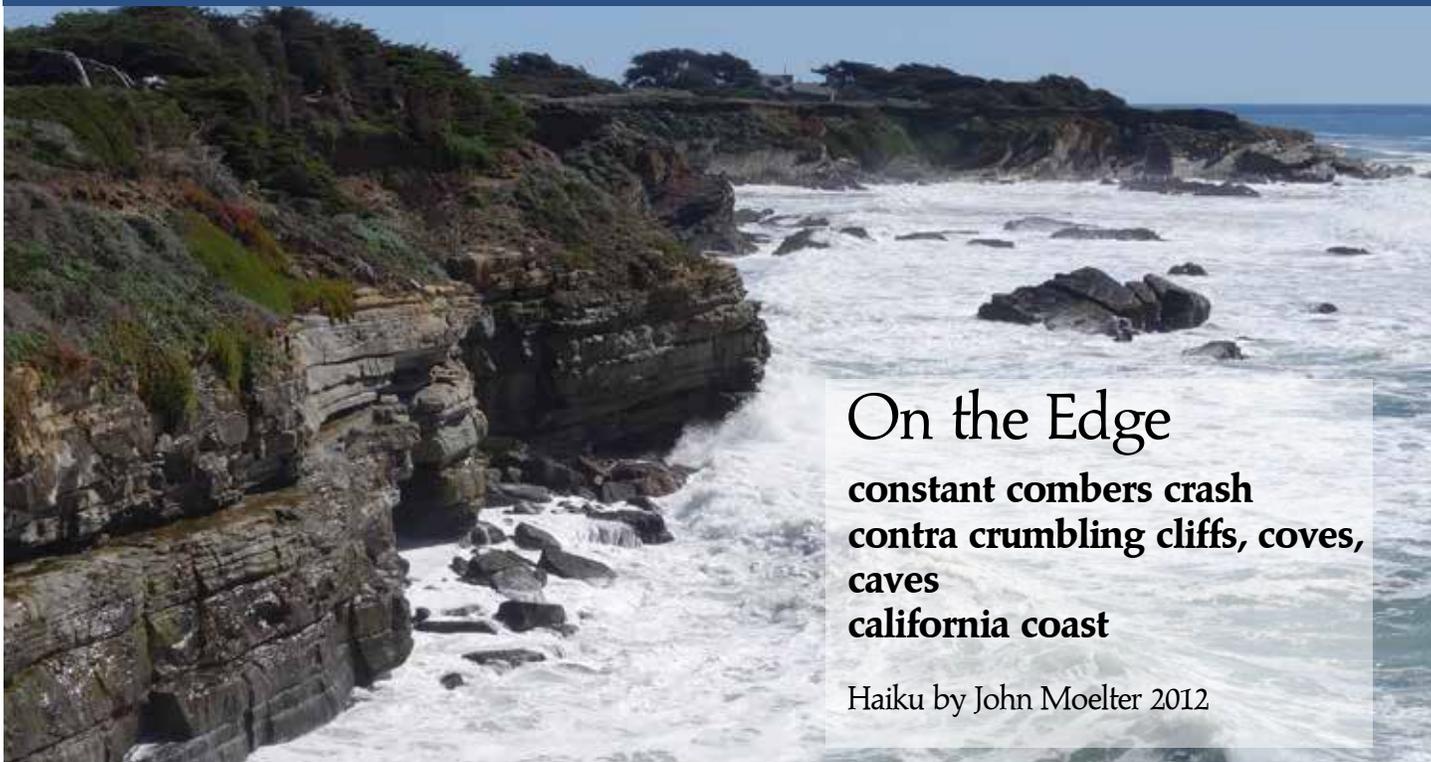


A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



On the Edge

**constant combers crash
contra crumbling cliffs, coves,
caves
california coast**

Haiku by John Moelter 2012

Spring...a time of transition and new beginnings...the cold blast of winter diminishes, the sun shifts in the sky - our days are longer and brighter and the sheep are birthing their baby lambs.

Spring continues to be a time of transition for Gualala Arts. This could not have been more evident with the passing of good friend, volunteer, family man and artist John Moelter. John was volunteering right up until a couple of weeks before he made the transition we will all eventually make.

We have conversations every day with people we run across. One never knows how we impact each other until you stop...and really think about it. I am a firm believer that every conversation we have, every hug, every email, every thought and every embrace makes a lasting impact. I believe we carry with us our memories and interactions with those around us and we live on in those people we touch.

As my cousin Terry mentioned to me before her transition at the age of 24 "I will always be with you as long as you think about me." Those words have lingered with me since I was a teenager...but what is more present is her life-loving, family caring, artistic nature and playful spirit that I "carry on" with me to this day.

It has been a tough start of the year for me personally with so many people close to me making that transition. Christian, Billy, Charlie, Nancy, Bea, Frank and John just to name a few...you all have names coming to mind while you're reading this.

I challenge us all to focus on the wonderful lives they lived and "carry on" their positive impact they have had on all of us. A good friend shared with me this quote that has helped me, "Smile because it happened" often attributed to the Good Dr. Seuss.

Rhododendrons blooming, new growth on the redwoods, bulbs breaking through the soil, whales migrating north, seal pups at the rookery and all the birds and animals are "carrying on" their annual spring traditions...

so shall we...together...with a smile...

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