Greetings!

Range after range of mountains
Year after year after year
I am still in love.

It's Spring in the Sierra Nevada and National Poetry Month is upon us, so what better way to begin our newsletter than with a poem from our own Gary Snyder.

This month we offer several key Save the Dates, among them an important public workshop for arts, business and hospitality sector leaders in May; and a California Arts Council public meeting in June - to be held here in Nevada County.

Closer to home, find information on the 2018 Sierra Poetry Festival, and the (mostly) free poetry pop-ups leading up to it. Among them a special benefit reading by Gary Snyder and Will Staple on Friday this week - not to be missed.

Enjoy Artists of Nevada County's focus on the inspired Ryan McVay of Ellu Gallery in Grass Valley. Read about our planning for the next edition of the Nevada County Visual Artist & Gallery Guide and join us for a conversation on this at Truckee Arts Alliance's next meeting. Enjoy links to eight special highlighted events taking place in Grass Valley, Nevada City and Truckee during April, as well as our Editor's Choice.

On Saturday this week it's Nevada County's 3rd Annual STEAM Expo at the Fairgrounds. We'll be showing student artwork from this year's Wild & Scenic Film Festival's art exhibition and videos from the current statewide competition - the Student Voices Campaign. Two artists in residence from our Artists in Schools Program will be providing free, fun, art-making workshops for students, parents and teachers.

Finally, don't forget that Image Nation, our seminal exhibition of photography by veterans, is still showing at the Rood Center in Nevada City. It's beautiful and we hope you will make time to enjoy it.

Until soon, and in friendship.
National Poetry Month

During April Nevada County Arts Council celebrates National Poetry Month in the following ways:

Pop-up Poetry

Friday April 6 at 7pm - Gary Snyder and Will Staple | A benefit reading for San Juan Ridge Community Library and Sierra Poetry Festival - for information and tickets click here

Saturday April 7 at 4pm - Women's Writing Salon presents Four Women Poets - Maxima Kahn, Ingrid Keriotis, Karen Terrey and Julie Valin - at the Open Book.

Friday April 13 at 5pm - Poetry for All with Molly Fisk, Indrid Keriotis, Judy Crowe, Judie Rae, Kirsten Casey at Madeline Helping Library.

Saturday April 13 at 12-4pm - DIY Poetry Zine Workshop at Osborn Woods Gallery in Nevada City, presented by Juliette Morris Williams and Judy Crowe.

Saturday April 21 at 9.30-11.15am - Poetry 'N Motion Workshop at the Center of Movement Studios in Grass Valley.

Sunday April 22 at 12-2pm - Youth Poetry at BriarPatch Food Coop live broadcast by KVMR Radio. A community youth poetry reading with middle and high school students.

Friday April 27 at 6pm - Robin Coste Lewis & Friends at Nevada City Winery with KVMR Radio.

Saturday April 28 all day - 2018 Sierra Poetry Festival - readings, open mics, workshops, discussion, youth voices and activism to celebrate the many ways that poetry can act as an agent for change. Keynote address by national Los Angeles Poet Laureate Robin Coste Lewis, author of Voyage of the Sable Venus, winner of National Book Award for Poetry. Three other California poet laureates, and an array of local, national and international poets and performers will join Coste Lewis. Poetry Place, our literary vendor fair, will be open throughout the day, along with BriarPatch Festival café.

We thank our generous founding sponsors:

BriarPatch Food Coop and Coldwell Banker Grass Roots Realty - Commercial Division, Glib Communications & Design, Dignity Health, the Entrekin Foundation, Caseywood, KVMR Radio, Yuba Lit and so many more...
TRUCKEE ARTS ALLIANCE

Join Truckee Arts Alliance's December meeting on Thursday, April 12 at 5pm at Atelier in downtown Truckee.

On the Agenda for April 12 is a conversation with Sierra FoodWineArt’s Publisher and Editor, Shannon and Jeff Pelline. We’ll be discussing the next edition of our Nevada County Visual Artist & Gallery Guide. We invite your input - please join us!

For more information about the Guide, click here, or send us an email inquiry.

Nevada County Arts Council invites the community to save two important dates:

Monday May 21
Join us for a free all-day workshop led by Beth McMillan, Executive Director of Artown Reno. This workshop is part of phase one of creating a community arts plan, in which we explore our cultural identity and workshop key areas for focus for our state designated California Cultural Districts. We encourage our artists, arts leaders and members of our business and hospitality sectors. More information to follow!

Thursday June 7
We are delighted to announce that California Arts Council has selected Nevada County as a location for its June meeting. California Arts Council meets approximately five times each year. All meetings are open to the public and are held in various locations around California to encourage broad and diverse attendance.

Stay tuned for times and locations!
"As of this month, I am excited to be back into my oil paints working on a new surreal series and turning on my torch to blow some glass. I prefer rubbing paint around for two-dimensional art and melting some glass for three-dimensional sculptures and it was in my late teens and early twenties that these became the two mediums I excelled the most at. I feel it is important to utilize various mediums and my goal is to have them all within reach and available at any time inspiration takes hold. From the moment I could grab a pencil, I fell in love with capturing my imagination in any way I could.

"My process stays the same when I shift between mediums, focusing my internal dialogue into an imaginative expression that is usually some form of hyper-reality to steer my wandering crazy ship from boredom into clearer deep waters. I guess more clearly stated I try to live a life that is defined by art, like a lifestyle of movement with every gesture aware of its creative effect on the overall now.

"I am most proud of the way my artistic life has inspired the people around me more than any particular piece. I do hope the story of our time painted into a ten-piece series that took more than a decade to create has its moment to help mankind's understanding of the delicate turmoil of our era.

"If there is one thing to say about our art community it is; "The sheer magnitude of talent in so many mediums really blow's my lid."

"It is so incredibly challenging to pinpoint who I admire because of the amazing skill in our county but one for sure is my wife Lisa McVay who teaches Congolese dance as well as organizes workshops, brings guest teachers from all over the world and inspires so many age groups with her inclusive nature and style. The second would be all the visionary artists that are tucked up in..."
to the woods finding inspiration here. They are amazing as well and one I have been keeping my eye on is Miles Toland who really integrates the sacred with urban including a modern twist.

"Right now I am working on turning Ellu Gallery into a group consciousness that brings awareness and opportunity to the member artists within the Gallery as well as Nevada County as a whole. The more we shine the light on each other the more we all shine..."

Contact Ryan via email here, or check out his website here.

Ryan can be found - by appointment - at Ellu Gallery most days.

Ellu Gallery
342 Idaho Maryland Road
Grass Valley
CA 95945
Ph: (530) 802 5353

Editor's Choice: Truckee Tahoe Community Chorus 'Viva Verdi' Spring Concert

When: Saturday, April 21 at 7pm & Sunday, April 22 at 2pm

Where: The Resort at Squaw Creek

The Truckee Tahoe Community Chorus is pleased to announce its annual spring concert series to be held April 21st and 22nd at the Resort at Squaw Creek in Olympic Valley.

This two concert series, 'Viva Verdi!', shares a wide variety of music selections, from jazz, a touch of Broadway, a touch of gospel, and a humor.

The forty-five voice chorus, under the direction of Susan K. Horst, will be joined by the Diablo Valley College Philharmonic Orchestra performing opera choruses and arias by Italian composer, Giuseppe Verdi.

Also performing will be members of the Truckee Tahoe Youth Chorus.

Tickets are priced at $20 for adults and $5 for children under age 18 and are available at Cabona's, The Office Boss, Truckee-Donner Rec and Park District office. They can be purchased online, as below.

Information

Click here for Truckee Tahoe Community Chorus
Click here to buy tickets
It takes an army of soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines to put an exhibition together. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make Image Nation worth celebrating.

Michael Llewellyn

Image Nation - last chance!

This month will see the closing of an exquisite exhibition of photography. Eight veterans, led by national award-winning photographer, Michael Llewellyn, were given unparalleled tuition in the history of photography, the art of choosing subject matter and taking photographs, and how to mount an exhibition. Help us celebrate these Nevada County veterans and their teacher at the Rood Center in Nevada City while you can.

Where: Rood Center Government Building (in the lobby), 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, CA 95959

When: During regular opening hours - 8-5pm

More information about Image Nation can be found here and here.

Upcoming Arts Events in Nevada County

- click on picture for more information -
You can find a full listing of Nevada County’s arts events here.