Greetings!

Mid-summer is properly upon us and, as many special performances, parades, openings and exhibits as there are, we also try, in our monthly newsletter, to share strands of creativity that extend beyond distinct events.

So in this month’s newsletter we shine a light on Fourth of July Parades both east and west; we celebrate the fantastic programming of this year’s California WorldFest, as well one of Nevada County’s most iconic summer street festivals and its weekly featuring of artists - Truckee Thursdays, and we highlight Sierra Stages’ new production of Cabaret, and two special features of July’s First Friday Art Walk.

But we also look in on the work of one of only thirteen inaugural Academy of American Poets, Poets Laureate Fellows in the United States, and her work on a new project called California Fire and Water. The impact of Molly Fisk’s singular initiative - though its source can be found right here in Nevada County - will flow forth across Northern California in the most profound way in the year to come.

We announce the coming of a new initiative to help prepare our arts community for emergencies such as fire; the imminent arrival of an exquisite interactive art installation combining traditional Wayang Kulit shadow puppetry with motion reactive projection mapping; and - importantly - the arrival of the National Endowment for the Arts’s The Big Read.

True to form, we offer our valuation for Artists of Nevada County through our featuring of just one artist per month under this banner; and we showcase eight diverse events beyond those mentioned, any one of which deserves space in your calendar.

The two things we mention only in passing in this newsletter is the fact that California Arts Council has - just last week - ranked Nevada County Arts Council as "exemplary" as a State-Local Partner, having reviewed eighteen months of our performance across the county; and our success across the board in our applications for program funding for the year to come. These things deserve a
Celebrating 4th of July - East and West in Nevada County

Begin 4th of July in Truckee in the morning and finish in Grass Valley in the afternoon - here are two parades taking place in the heart of our two California Cultural Districts.

TRUCKEE 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Organized by Truckee Chamber with multiple partners, enjoy the annual Truckee 4th of July Parade in Historic Downtown Truckee with fun for the whole family and community. Free to spectators. This year’s theme is the 150th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad in Truckee.

When and Where - The Parade begins at 10am at the Truckee Tahoe Unified School District Office, 11603 Donner Pass Road (behind the Fire House and Truckee High School Track) and winds along Donner Pass Road to Historical Downtown Truckee, ending at 12.30pm at the corner of Bridge and Church Street. Note the road will be closed to traffic from 9:30 am until after completion of the parade.

Learn more here

GRASS VALLEY-NEVADA CITY 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Organized by the Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce and Nevada City Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Grass Valley Downtown Association and multiple partners.

When and where - 11am in downtown Grass Valley, followed by a traditional family celebration under the pines at the Nevada County Fairgrounds.

Learn more here, or by clicking on the image below.
Editors Choice - California WorldFest on July 11-14

Among high summer's most exciting programmatic moments is when California WorldFest opens up eight different stages at the Nevada County Fairgrounds, inviting us to experience global music in a new way while forging a deeper connection with the wider world around us.

The Center for the Arts presents California WorldFest from July 11-14. It is family-friendly festival and
Click on the image above for more information on California WorldFest

More information on WorldFest can be found here. "Follow" WorldFest here for ongoing announcements.

Buy your WorldFest Tickets

**Truckee Thursdays**

Every week throughout the summer, *Truckee Thursday* street festivals will celebrate our Eastern Nevada County creative assets through a program that highlights and promotes our High Sierra artists.

Developed and coordinated by the **Truckee Arts Alliance** for Truckee's Cultural District, this unique opportunity shines a light upon and gives visibility to the deep and diverse nature of creative activity in our community.

The featured artist program is an excellent example of the strong collaborative partnerships that connect at the heart of **Truckee Cultural District**; it is directly supported by Visit Truckee both with free use of a branding booth as well as extensive online promotion, *Truckee Thursday* through staff support and additional promotion, and the Arts Alliance... All to celebrate Truckee Cultural District's unique artists, makers, performers, exhibits, organizations and deeply rooted entrepreneurial and playful spirit.
Sara Smith, co-Chair of Truckee Arts Alliance, says: "We are very proud of the people who make our creative community what it is, and love offering the opportunity to bring them to wider attention."

Learn more about what makes Truckee Thursdays so special here, including how Historic Downtown Truckee is transformed into an exciting street fair featuring local and regional artisans, food trucks, a beer garden and everyone's favorite, live music each week through late August.

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**California Fire and Water**

In April this year, the Academy of American Poets announced that Molly Fisk, then our **Poet Laureate of Nevada County**, would receive a $75,000 award in recognition of her literary merit and to support the development of a special project called **California Fire and Water**, as proposed by Molly in her application. Molly is now one of only thirteen Poets Laureate nationwide to be honored.

We asked Molly about her new award, made possible by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and how **California Fire and Water** is progressing. Enjoy this short update, from Molly herself:

In case you missed the news in April, just as I was passing the county laurels to Chris Olander, I found out that I'd received a grant from the Academy of American Poets: an **American Poet Laureate Fellowship** to do a big project in California. It has three parts:

1. Sending poet-teachers into schools to help kids write about wildfire, flooding, and other climate change weather-related hardships. (This is state-wide.)
2. Putting together an anthology of the kids' poems with adult poems on the same subject.
3. Organizing 20 readings next April, during National Poetry Month, from the anthology.

Most of the work involved will be taking place in the fall, when school starts, through the end of March, when the anthology needs to be in hand. But I can tell you that so far I have contracted with California Poets in the Schools (a group I taught with for 12 years), and their teachers have signed up for all 35 of the five-session teaching grants I made available. I'll be traveling to their annual conference in San Juan Batista in early August to talk more with everyone about the project and answer questions. We have four poet-teachers from California Poets in the Schools here in Nevada County who will be teaching locally, and one of them is our current Poet Laureate, Chris Olander.

The two questions I'm asked most frequently are: will I be teaching myself? The
answer to that is no, I’m orchestrating the project but not engaged in direct teaching. And: may I send you a poem? Submissions for the anthology from adults will be opening August 1st and closing November 15th. I’ll have more soon about where people can send their submissions and the parameters of the invitation.

In related news, at the end of August the Academy of American Poets is flying all 13 of us Fellows to Washington, D.C. to meet each other, to take part in the National Book Festival, and to meet with people from the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Arts. There are also plans afoot to have us do a reading in Pittsburgh the following week.

Thanks so much to everyone for your support in the county while I was Poet Laureate here, and your on-going cheers for the new project.

Molly Fisk

You can find out more about Molly and her work here. And you can learn more about our Nevada County Poet Laureate Program here. Read the New York Times announcement of the Academy of American Poets Fellowships here.

Nevada County Arts Council to lead Emergency Preparedness Training for Arts Communities

California Arts Council is launching a new initiative which places its State-Local Partners at the heart of emergency preparedness for arts communities across the state. In Nevada County this is a particular priority, since we are the only rural county statewide which is home to two California Cultural Districts, with many arts organizations and artists living and thriving here.

With California Arts Council’s help, Nevada County Arts Council will be learning how to better support the capacity and ability of arts and cultural organizations, artists, and our local communities at-large to respond effectively to disasters and emergencies.

The idea is to build local knowledge and capacity and foster the development of countywide emergency preparedness networks. In offering us this training California Arts Council will be partnering with the National Coalition for Arts’ Preparedness & Emergency Response and Performing Arts Readiness for this special initiative. At a local level, Nevada County Arts Council is initiating a key partnership with Ready Nevada County.

Together, we look forward to throwing a light on
Looking ahead - let's bring Digital Dalang to Nevada County!

Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District has a special Burning Man installation, Digital Dalang, coming to town.

Since the project's premiere at Burning Man last year, Digital Dalang has performed in Thailand, Mexico & Indonesia and has raised over $1,000 for local charities supporting the rainforests and disaster victims.

In 2018, Digital Dalang became the first Indonesian art project to be awarded funding from Burning Man. The interactive art installation combines traditional Wayang Kulit shadow puppetry with motion reactive projection mapping. Digital Dalang was handpicked by the festival's late founder, Larry Harvey, to receive an Honoraria Art Grant and he shortlisted the project as one he was most excited to see.

At last year's Burning Man, Nevada City's Vice Mayor, Reinette Senum, attended the festival. It was while touring the playa art installations at 3am in the morning, that Reinette came across this wonderful installation. She immediately considered the wild idea of bringing this interactive and family friendly art to Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District, and asked the team if they would be willing. She was surprised when without hesitation they said yes. Since last year, Reinette and the mastermind behind the project, Ali Agus, have been communicating, keeping the flame going, and have figured out the logistics to make this a reality.
Come August 2nd, *Digital Dalang* will be coming to Nevada City for the town’s last *First Friday Art Walk* of the year. The shadow puppet theater will be set up at the bottom of Bridge Street, next to KVMR Radio Station. The Bonanza parking lot along Bridge Street will be transformed into a magical outdoor amphitheater for the Art Walk! This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to come witness a beautiful ancient Indonesian art form in the heart of downtown Nevada City. As Reinette says, "Bring the your neighbors, bring your children, and all those that are young at heart! This is not to be missed!"

You can help *Digital Dalang* find its way to Nevada City by contributing to the cause and enjoying the short film accompanying its GoFundMe campaign [here](#).

You can learn more about Digital Dalang [here](#).

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**The Big Read Comes to Grass Valley**

Late last year we wrote a letter of support to accompany an application by the Nevada County Community Library to the National Endowment for the Arts, proposing that its seminal program, *The Big Read*, come to Nevada County. We are thrilled to share with you now that the Library's application was successful.

An initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.

The Nevada County Community Library is one of 78 nonprofit organizations to receive an NEA Big Read grant to host a community reading program between September 2019 and June 2020. The NEA Big Read in Nevada County will take place in April and May of 2020 and will focus on *Station 11 by Emily St. John Mandel*, a story of "about memory, art and survival."

"We are thrilled to be a part of this nationwide initiative in 2020, the fifteenth year of the Nevada County Reads & Writes community read program," states Nevada County Librarian Yolande Wilburn. "Station 11 has many themes that will resonate with our community, including the role of the arts in the community and the power of relationships to sustain us even in difficult times."
The Library will partner with several local organizations, including Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, Nevada County Arts Council and InConcert Sierra, to plan and present the individual programs involved in hosting the NEA Big Read.

"It is inspiring to see both large and small communities across the nation come together around a book," said National Endowment for the Arts Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter. "We always look forward to the unique ways cities, towns, and organizations, like the Nevada County Community Library, explore these stories and encourage community participation in a wide variety of events."

Nevada County's NEA Big Read programming will take place primarily in March and April 2020. Different activities to appeal to a broad range of people are being planned including an author visit by Emily St. John Mandel, musical performances sponsored by InConcert Sierra, a film series, book discussions, and a panel discussion coordinated by us.

For more information about the NEA Big Read visit [here](#).

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**Two Special Events at July's First Friday Art Walk**

July's **First Friday Art Walk** takes place this week in downtown Nevada City and - among the many special events taking place - two among them stand out.

One is **Elements**, a new exhibition at Osborn Woods Gallery at the Miners Foundry and the other is the **Ready Set Go Mixer** hosted by Ready Nevada County.

Click on the images below for more information - and we look forward to seeing you there!
elements

july 5 - 21, 2019

opening friday july 5, from 6-9

OSBORN WOODS GALLERY
AT THE MINERS FOUNDARY

325 SPRING STREET • NEVADA CITY
OSBORNWOODSGALLERY.COM
Sierra Stages presents Cabaret

This summer, Sierra Stages brings the legendary musical Cabaret to Nevada City with an all-local Nevada County production from July 11 through August 3 at the historic Nevada Theatre.

With a book by Joe Masteroff, music by John Kander and lyrics by Fred Ebb, this musical masterpiece marks the
Cabaret is a timeless cautionary morality tale about what can happen when we allow political extremists to demonize minorities and paint a picture of imminent destruction, then promise a return to the normalcy of a time (that never really existed) when things were simpler and less scary."

The Sierra Stages production of "Cabaret" is directed by Scott Gilbert, with choreography by Brian Arsenault and music direction by Ken Getz. Scenic design is by Gabriel Hannaford, lighting design is by Devin Cameron Jewett and Erin Beatie, costume design is by Paulette Sand-Gilbert, and sound design is by Greg Cameron. The local Nevada County cast includes Casey Burke, Micah Cone, Heidi Grass, Jonathan Hansard, Sue LeGate Halford, Louis Flint Ceci, Shannon Harney, Michaela King, Lauren Langley, Laura LeBleu, Emily Rose Perry, Angela Williams, Daniel King, and Cosmo Merryweather.

Since it began 11 years ago, Sierra Stages has presented 37 plays and musicals at various local venues, including the Nevada Theatre, Miners Foundry Cultural Center, The Center for the Arts, and Off Center Stage.

More about Cabaret and Sierra Stages can be found here.

Buy your tickets to Cabaret here.
Artists of Nevada County - Jim Bair

Jim, tell us about your chosen medium - your art form.

My love of nature led me to photography as a way to capture a visual essence of what I saw. I got a single lens reflex camera right out of graduate school and chose 35 mm slides instead of print film for the least distraction from being out shooting. Making artistic prints was rare, and while dark-room processing was the "professional" method, slides were well received in social settings and competitions.

Years later, digital photography extended my creative process essentially turning the computer screen into a pallet that feels like painting. Digital editing enables the momentary camera capture to be transformed into a more enduring artistic expression -- which is my goal. I use Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom to manipulate the light, form, and color in an image and hopefully expand my initial vision into a more appealing work of art. Often, preparation for printing turns the original image into a "permanent" representation of art that I display in shows including galleries, tasting rooms, coffee shops, and other public venues.

At what age did you discover your love for photography, or at what age you understood yourself to have a talent?

While at Stanford in my late twenties, the excitement of capturing light through photography became a respite from the intensity of research. Living in the hotbed of technology innovation, I studied with internationally acclaimed photographers Marian Paterson and Steve Crouch. Venues like the Palo Alto Camera Club and state-wide competition encouraged me to share my photographs more widely.

What is your creative process?

My camera transforms travel into a series of delightful surprises. It may be an Ansel Adams moment screeching my car to a stop and leaping out to capture a storm crashing into desert mountains; or the joy of children playing at a community event; or a brilliant backlit flower that becomes the "canvas" for creative rendition in my computer.

My process is about managing light and rarely is the original image the end result. Study has given me rules for composition and quality but often leaves me in a quandary between creativity and following these rules. In the end, adjusting an image to be more interesting is a matter of "more is less". I think about guiding the viewer's eyes to a center of interest comparable to lighting a path through the image. Lightening and darkening based on that path, usually from the lower left of the image, is a process of elimination.

Enhancing color, intensity, contrast, and other elements is necessary for me. After all, a photo is 2-D visual abstraction of a 3-D experience with all of our senses including time and context. My tendency is to eliminate objects and bring up visual elements like increasing saturation. Perhaps the greatest challenge is to create a vision of an experience when the original
experience is long past. How can a cool, crisp dawn on the edge of a vast, canyon in the wilderness be represented later? A carefully crafted image can excite viewer imagination as in "Dawn Flowing into Bryce Canyon".

Removing part of an image through cropping is another process of discovery. I see images within images that are more enticing than the whole and have to be careful not to crop too small for good image resolution.

I often am thrilled by discovering what I captured at the extremes of my equipment, e.g., the microscopic revelations of a macro lens, or the frozen light patterns of a very fast shutter speed, or the lush flowing of a waterfall using a long exposure as in "Rock Creations".

Ultimately the discoveries may lead to printing, a game-changer in photography: we see only light that's available to be reflected by the print, presenting the ultimate challenge.

photograph you are most proud of.

While exploring Long Beach, CA, scanning boats and water, I looked inland to see a unique architectural contrast. "Bent Glass, the Old in the New" won a first place at the California State Fair and remains an intriguing delight.

What do you love best about our arts community?

The shared excitement of creativity on a community scale. In my travels around the world, I've never encountered such a high level of artistic talent in such a large proportion of the local population. Our towns are frequently turned into galleries as residents and visitors relish the county's creative enterprise.

Who are two Nevada County artists you admire, and share with us why.

There are so many excellent photographers here, some with life-long photographic careers, this is a "who's hot now" question. David Wong brings extraordinary knowledge and service to us with international tours, local classes, and shows by locals. He is a leading force in the ever-growing Nevada County Camera Club.
Mike Shea has become an award-winning professional published in national magazines. His many projects include portrayals of San Francisco and stunning collections of images of the Sierras. He has been featured on the front page of The Union Newspaper portraying his life's photographic journey.

What is your current or next art adventure?

After participation in shows ranging from local to Sacramento, I'm now working on entries for the highly competitive Nevada County District Fair and the SYRCL Wild and Scenic Film Festival. I also envision a show at Viewpoint Gallery in Sacramento and a gallery in Nevada City. Longer term, I am building a photography web site for the Nevada County Arts Council called "Light Share" which will feature the juried entries of local artist photographers. Photography is, after all, sharing and seeing, which both provide a lifetime of exploration.

See Jim Bair's website HERE
Contact Jim HERE

Upcoming Arts Events in Nevada County
- click on picture for more information -

Nevada City Film Festival and the City of Nevada City presents What About Bob on July 27 at Movies under the Pines - an outdoor cinema experience for the entire family at Pioneer Park.

Celebrate 150 years of the Transcontinental Railroad and its impact on the Donner Summit and Truckee Area through a series of inspiring community events.

Neighborhood Center of the Arts invites you to its 3rd Saturday sale of photography, ceramics, sculptures, paintings, rugs, scarves, purses, greeting cards, wind chimes and more.

Nevada County Grown presents its 2nd Annual Farm Trail Weekend when farms, ranches and wineries open their arms to host activities, tours, food, music. Fun for the whole family.

Manic Theatre presents The Patriotic Musical THIS IS THE ARMY, the highest grossing film of 1943, starring George Murphy and Ronald

Art Works Gallery in Grass Valley welcomes you to its Second Saturday Spotlight on July 13 from 12 to 3 pm.

North Columbia Schoolhouse Cultural Center presents its annual Sierra Storytelling Festival on July 19-21… “On stage under a ceiling of tree

Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District presents its Truckee Summer Music in the Park Series, presenting four
Reagan as a father-and-son team who stage a lavish traveling musical revue.

Saturday Spotlight in July for demonstrations, classes and displays. Learn about each artist's creative process and ask them questions.

canopies, crisp sails, and blue skies; a warm and welcoming audience; delicious food and craft beer. Add to that a wide blend of stories and music..."

great bands on Wednesday evenings through July, including Jazz Hip Hop, 80's, Blues and Latin / Swing.

You can find a full listing of Nevada County's arts events [here].

Become a Member

Nevada County Arts Council | info@nevadacountyarts.org | 530.278.5155

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