



WINTER 2014.15

YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL ARTS & CULTURE
IN THE METHOW VALLEY. ART GROWS HERE.

FEATURED ARTIST: DONNA KEYSER

IN THIS ISSUE: PERFORMANCE • EDUCATION •
WORKSHOPS • EXHIBITS & MORE

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30 YEARS



WINTER 2014.15



Amanda Jackson Mott
Executive Director
Methow Arts Alliance

What I've Learned - A Reflection on the Year, In the Words of Maya Angelou

"I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow. I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life. I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life. I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw some things back. I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision. I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

-Maya Angelou, April 4, 1928 – May 28, 2014



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METHOW ARTS ALLIANCE is a non profit organization founded in 1983 that enriches the lives of our community through a variety of diverse art programs.

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MAGAZINE connects audiences with the work of our many resident and visiting artists and the organizations that provide a breadth of arts programming. It is a celebration of the vision, genius and creativity that abound in the Methow Valley and beyond. To receive this publication in the mail, please become a member of one or more of our collaborating Arts Partner organizations. Thank you for supporting a rich and varied arts community.

Published and designed by Methow Arts Alliance
info@methowartsalliance.org
www.methowarts.org
509.997.4004

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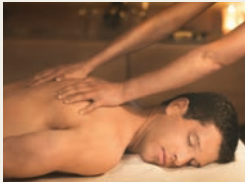
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During large flood events in middle of the previous century, the river banks were stripped bare of vegetation. In an effort to prevent erosion, local citizens placed old cars along the bared banks to provide interim stability. This type of erosion control is known colloquially as “Detroit Riprap.”

Over the years, vegetation has grown up around the cars, and they are no longer needed for their intended purpose. In fact, in many cases, the cars are preventing vegetation reestablishment by blocking plant and tree access to the bank. And while these hulks provide a nostalgic snapshot of the past and are for many in the valley a much loved landmark in the river, their usefulness has ended. Like cages placed around newly planted trees, the cars were only a temporary measure. Cages, if not removed in time, will ultimately hinder the growth of trees. Similarly, the time has come to remove these relics to allow for the full revegetation of the banks, which is the ultimate step in increasing bank stability and restoring natural stream resilience. The project, turning these historic cars over to artists, will “upcycle” the cars into public art pieces that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

CONTACT: Methow Arts Alliance, info@methowartsalliance.org, 509.997.4004. Visit methowarts.org for complete information and application. For more information about the cars and restoration efforts contact Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, 509.996.2787, www.methowsalmon.org

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CALL TO ARTISTS!

DEADLINE: January 9th
SELECTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Jan 19th
INSTALLATION: Summer 2015

CONTACT: Methow Arts Alliance for guidelines and questions. If you are an artist who would like a meeting to discuss your project, please email amanda@methowartsalliance.org to schedule. More information can be found online @ methowarts.org/rip-rap 15

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Methow Arts Alliance and the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) cordially invite applications from *local artists** to submit proposals for site-specific outdoor public artwork for Rip Rap ’15, a public art initiative targeting recently pulled rip rap and river restoration efforts. Original artwork will be placed in public places and along trail systems in the Methow Valley, linking the community to innovative artwork and to river restoration efforts. The project funds three-five site-specific artworks.

*Eligible artists must reside in the upper Columbia region of North Central Washington. We look forward to working with you and viewing your ideas.

THE ARTWORK

Artists will use vintage River Cars and/or Car Parts from cars that are in the process of being removed along the Methow River as the medium for outdoor public artwork. This project is predominantly seeking freestanding pieces for installation along trails and in public places, but the selection panel is open to creating spaces for kinetic sculptures or other installations that may invite visitors to discover off-trail areas. Artistic interpretation and creativity is highly encouraged in this call.

Artwork must be fabricated to endure incremental weather and for long-term outdoor durability and ease of maintenance, including potential vandalism. The artwork must hold up to a year or more of outdoor display, unprotected from direct sunlight, rain, snow, moisture, temperature changes, nesting birds, and the occasional bear. All artwork must be fabricated with public safety in mind. Concepts incorporating hazardous materials will not be considered.

THE CARS

DETROIT RIPRAP IN THE METHOW RIVER



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WINTER ART CALENDAR

EVENTS/CLASSES/EXHIBITS

Classes/artist opportunities **ORANGE**, Exhibits **BLUE**.
More information online at www.methowarts.org

ONGOING CLASSES

Line Dancing

Mondays, 6 pm. Lessons begin at 6:30pm.
\$4. Twisp Grange. 509.429.2064

Story Time

Tuesdays, 1:30pm
For Kids. Twisp Library, 509.997.4681

Story Time

Wednesdays, 1:30pm
For Kids. Winthrop Library, 509.996.2685

Spinners and Weavers

Thursdays, 1pm
Meet, spin/weave. 137 Old Twisp Hwy.
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Improv

Thursdays, 5:30pm
Practice at the Interpretive Center, TwispWorks.
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DECEMBER

Holiday Gift Show

Through Jan 5
Holiday art and gifts. See article.
At Winthrop Gallery, 509.996.3925,
www.winthropgallery.com

Kid's Art Party with Margaret Kingston

Mon, Dec 3, 10-2pm
\$35/first artist, \$30/additional. For
kids. Confluence Gallery, Twisp,
confluencegallery.com

Winter Wonder at The Merc

Dec 5-13, 7pm, Sun, 2pm
Variety of acts by local performers. See article for
days/times. \$15/adults, \$5/children. The Merc
Playhouse. 509.997.PLAY, mercplayhouse.org

In a Land of Snow and Indigo

Through Jan 3
Curator Jennifer Molesworth. Confluence Gallery,
Twisp, 509.997.2787, www.confluencegallery.com

Fire

Through Jan 3
An exhibition of artwork inspired by FIRE. See ar-
ticle. Methow Gallery, TwispWorks, 509.997.0255

Christmas Bazaar

Sat, Dec 6, 9am
32nd Annual. More than 65 vendors. Quality arts,
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ter. Contact: 509.997.2926.

Learn to Knit Lace @ Twisted Knitters

Sat, Dec 6, 1-3pm
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Twisted Knitters at TwispWorks,
susanhamer@mac.com



Grammy-nominated the Duhks appear in Winthrop on Feb 6th. Methowarts.org

Winter Art Exhibit at Sun Mountain Lodge

Opens Dec 10; Opening Reception, Dec 28, 4-6:30
Methow Gallery presents. See article.
donna.keyser@gmail.com, 509.997.0255

Sip N' Shop

Fri, Dec 12, 6-8pm
Wine and holiday shopping in downtown Twisp.
Confluence Gallery, Twisp, 509.997.2787, www.confluencegallery.com

The Kinsey Sicks

Fri, Dec 12, 7pm
Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet. Adult only.
Winthrop Barn. Call for availability. Methow Arts.
org, 509.997.4004

Intimate Performance at the Spartan Art Project

Fri, Dec 12, 7-9pm
Film and music in beautifully refurbished 1951
Spartan Imperial Mansion. See article. By dona-
tion. Spartan Art Project, Twispworks.

Christmas Carol Singalongs with Lauralee Northcott

Saturdays, Dec 13 & 20, 1-2pm
Carol books provided. Bring the kids! At Winthrop
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Cascadia Holiday Pops Concert

Tues & Wed, Dec 16 & 17, 7 pm
Youth and adults perform holiday favorites. See article. Free to \$15. Methow Valley Community Center. cascadiamv@gmail.com

Poetry Out Loud

Wed, Dec 17, 6pm
3rd Annual Competition for High School students. See Article. At The Merc, donations accepted. 509.996.2215

3rd Annual Winterfest

Sat, Dec 27, 4pm-late
Live music, family activities, dancing. By Donation TwispWorks. 509.997.3300, info@twispworks.org.

Methow Gallery Presents: Winter Art Exhibit and Opening Reception at Sun Mountain Lodge
Exhibit Dec 10; Opening Reception, Dec 28, 4-6:30
See article. Sun Mountain Lodge, donna.keyser@gmail.com, Methow Gallery, 509.997.0255

JANUARY

Fire

Through Jan 3
An exhibition of artwork inspired by FIRE. See article. Methow Gallery, TwispWorks, 509.997.0255

In a Land of Snow and Indigo

Through Jan 3
Curator Jennifer Molesworth. Confluence Gallery, Twisp, 509.997.2787, www.confluencegallery.com

Children's Theater Auditions

Fri, Jan 9, 4-6pm; Sat, Jan 10, 10am
Shakespeare's "As You Like It". Ages 8-14. See article. The Merc Playhouse, Twisp. 509.997.PLAY, www.mercplayhouse.org

Rip Rap '15 Public Art Call to Artists

Jan 9, 5pm
Deadline for artist submissions See article for details. Methowarts.org, 509.997.4004, info@methowartsalliance.org

Tracks

Jan 10-Feb 14;
Opening reception, Sat, Jan 10, 4-8pm
Interpretations by over 20 local artists. See article. Confluence Gallery, Twisp, 509.997.2787, www.confluencegallery.com

Horse Crazy Cowgirl Band

Sat, Jan 10, 7pm
Benefit concert for The Merc. \$15. The Merc Playhouse, Twisp. 509.997.PLAY, mercplayhouse.org

Cascadia Small Ensemble Concert

Sun, Jan 25, 3pm
Vocal and instrumental, classical to Jazz. See article. \$10/Adults, Free/18 and under. At the Merc. cascadiamv@gmail.com

FEBRUARY

Methow Arts Presents: The Duhks

Fri, Feb 6, 7pm
Juno Award-winning, Grammy-nominated! Bluegrass, world-beat, urban-pop, country. At the Winthrop Barn. \$18-30. Reserved seats available See article. 509.997.4004, MethowArts.org, info@methowartsalliance.org

Dog & Cat Photo Contest

Deadline: Sat, Feb 17
Exhibit: Feb 11-23;
Reception: Sun, Feb 15, 11-3pm
Amateur photo contest for animal lovers. See article. At Winthrop Gallery, 509.996.3925, www.winthropgallery.com

Valentine's Evening Concert

Sat, Feb 14, 7pm
At the Merc, Methow Valley Music Festival Presents. See Article. methowmusicfestival.org

Snowshoe Softball Tournament

Sat-Sun, Feb 14-15
Teams compete over Presidents Day weekend. Winthrop, WA. 509.996.2125, www.winthrop-washington.com

EARLY MARCH

Winthrop Balloon Roundup

Fri-Sun, Mar 6-8
Hot air balloons take to the winter skies. Winthrop, WA. 509.996.2125, www.winthropwashington.com

CONFLUENCE GALLERY WELCOMES

SALYNA GRACIE



As their new Executive Director Salyna offers the Gallery a wide variety of skills and experience in business management, performing and visual arts, and community service. She brings creativity, as well as experience in the current regional arts arena. Salyna is a long-time resident of the Methow Valley, and contributes extensive knowledge of the needs of the local community to her service as Director. Read more online @ methowarts.org

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[CONFLUENCE GALLERY]

IN A LAND OF SNOW AND INDIGO

Are you familiar with Jan Brett's *Annie and the Wild Animals*? The synopsis: Annie was lonely. Taffy, her golden-haired cat, had disappeared. Life in the woods was empty. There was no one to love and be Annie's friend. Outside, the snow was deep and the winter seemed endless. Annie tried her best to encourage Taffy to return but without success. A moose and a bear and even a wildcat are not as soft and cuddlesome or as friendly as Taffy. Where could Taffy be? Jan Brett's story is told mostly through wonderfully

detailed full-color illustrations. The wonders of the forest and the seasons are an expressive backdrop to the tale of the animals. Story within story forms as the intricate borders subtly foreshadow the main plot of Taffy's final return to her friend Annie.

Now, imagine a winter wonderland: the quiet of snow, shadows stretching across the horizon, cold, crisp air, and magnificent icicle stalactites. Peer from the warmth of your home through the windows or reflect on a day of snowy adventure – artists tell us what they see. They share the emotions that emerge. Through their art, they depict the story they see. They translate their images to a storyline.

Artists were invited to submit up to 5 original pieces in response to the title: *In A Land of Snow and Indigo*. We invite the public to come take a walk through a winter wonderland as told by the artists.

DATES: Through Jan 3. CONTACT: Confluence Gallery, Twisp, 509.997.2787, www.confluencegallery.com

Left top, The Delivery by Emily Rier.

Bottom, Climbers by Ken Smith.

[WINTHROP, WA]

SNOWSHOE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Winthrop Snowshoe Softball tournament is a popular annual winter-time event sponsored by the Winthrop Chamber of Commerce and Three Fingered Jack's Saloon. Now in its third decade, this tournament is held every February on the three-day President's Day weekend.

On President's weekend, up to eight out-of-town and local coed snowshoe softball teams converge on Winthrop's ball field for a weekend of good sport, great fun and an out of the ordinary event - one which is enjoyed by participants and spectators alike.

As the name implies, snowshoe softball is an actual softball tournament played in the snow with the participants strapped into snowshoes. The teams must be comprised of equal numbers of men and women. To enable the participants and the spectators to keep track of the action, all of the balls are florescent yellow.

The softballs are not the only things colorful. Some teams don costumes in addition to their snowshoes, making Winthrop Snowshoe Softball much, much more than just another softball competition. This is downright hilarious and entertaining for all ages!

Imagine the tournament participants leaping for a fly-ball, fielding a grounder, tagging a runner or sliding into home plate in the snow, in costumes and wearing snowshoes!

DATES: February 14-15, 2015. LOCATION: Winthrop, WA. Read more online @ methowarts.org.



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THE DUHKS - FRI, FEB 6TH

GRAMMY nominees and JUNO award winners, seeing The Duhks live is nothing short of a spiritual experience. A syncopated bluesy banjo number seamlessly follows a Brazilian samba; an old-time jaunt nestles comfortably next to a gospel performance. One of the most musically adventurous bands to come from the

“Do not miss their show! Canada’s premier neo-tradsters romp from world-beat to blues, urban-pop to old-timey, with wild-eyed invention, haunting traditionalism, and spine-rattling groove.” (Scott Alarik, The Boston Globe)

played a significant role in the neo-folk revival.

On Beyond the Blue The Duhks are in the best form of their 13 year career. Rejuvenated by a two year hiatus and energized by the return of vocalist Jessee



with a sound that is even more dense and grittier. Taken as a whole, Beyond the Blue represents a group of musicians at the peak of their powers, the music shaped by their collective experience of years on the road and driven by the sheer joy and inspiration that comes from reuniting and rediscovering that magic that drew them together in the first place.

The Duhks will visit six school districts as a part of their time here in the Methow Valley over six days. We thank our sponsors and members for supporting and making available arts education experiences like these for our students.

DATE: Fri, Feb 6, 7pm. LOCATION: The Winthrop Barn. TICKETS: \$18-\$25. Riverside Printing Winthrop, Brownpapertickets.com, Methow Arts in Twisp, and at the door while supplies last. CONTACT: Methow Arts, info@methowartsalliance.org, 509.997.4004, methowarts.org.



roots scene in the past decade, The Duhks return to the stage is definitely a cause for celebration. Their show in Winthrop is the only US performance in this leg of their trip. No band epitomizes the polyethnic strands of modern folk music better than The Duhks. Since forming in Winnipeg in 2001 The Duhks have created a dynamic blend of old-timey, French Canadian and Celtic music punched up with shades of blues, soul and driving Afro Cuban rhythms that leaves festival crowds on their feet. Over the course of four critically-acclaimed albums the band has earned Juno and Grammy awards and nominations and have

Havey and the addition of new members, fiddler Rosie Newton, drummer/percussionist Kevin Garcia, and guitarist/bouzouki player Colin Savoie-Levac, The Duhks founder Leonard Podolak found an amazing pallet of inspiration for the new project. “All of the people who have been in the band over the years, including non-touring founding members Tania Elizabeth and Jordan McConnell (who both appear on the album) have had a hand in shaping our sound and direction. The goal with the new record was to draw on everything we’ve learned over the years and everything we know about where we want to take the music now and create something as fresh, exciting and forward thinking as possible.” Toward that end, the band turned to the rising production team of Mike + Ruthy (Mike Merenda and Ruth Unger of The Mammals), who brought a progressive approach to production that was still firmly rooted in the traditions of folk music.

Musically, the new project has been described as being reminiscent of Grammy-nominated album Migrations, but

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DONNA KEYSER

the power of trees and paint

By Marcy Stamper

Photography by Teri J. Pieper

Donna Keyser has had more interesting and idiosyncratic jobs than most people—creating window displays for department stores, designing museum exhibits, pruning apple trees, building architectural models, painting murals, and creating puppets for a theater troupe. With such a long career in art, it is perhaps ironic that it took an accident on a fishing boat in Alaska to spur her to focus on her own painting.

Just three days into the job, Keyser fell off the boat

and broke her wrist. It required several surgeries for it to heal properly. She had just rented a new apartment in Seattle but, because of her broken wrist, she couldn't move her stuff in. "I was disoriented," she said. "I couldn't do my design work on the computer or do physical labor."

Instead, she covered the walls of the empty apartment with long strips of brown Kraft paper and started drawing with color markers, filling the sheets with images of trees. "I had a list of every emotional experience I ever had with a tree, starting with lying on the ground looking up," she said. She set out to depict each one.

She remembered the shock of finding that a beloved poplar tree had been cut down. Flipping through drawings from the tree series, she stops at an intense close-up of leaves. "That was a memory of being in that tree when I was 5. The leaves are that big because I was small. There were also bugs and a praying mantis."

The project launched many more art projects, but Keyser has never stopped focusing on trees. Most of the tree paintings share similar dimensions, but they all originate from different perspectives. There are angular Ponderosa pines, feathery larch, and voluptuously foliated poplars. Some offer a vertiginous view of the trunk, the branches silhouetted against the sky. Others are about the rippling pattern of bark or the spaces between trees. Some are really about sky, with just a hint of the needles protruding into the clouds. The paintings all have an element of abstraction, an examination of shapes

and of intense and vibrant colors.

While trees remain a constant source of inspiration, Keyser's subjects are wide-ranging. "It's some phenomenal thing that happens in nature. It could even be man-made—it just has to be strong enough for me that I want to start painting it," she said. That can include old houses, barns, and powerlines, or lakes, wheat fields, and expanses of sky. "I like that place where humans and nature interact," she said.

Keyser often uses photography to capture her perception of nature. "Once you start looking, all of a sudden, the world becomes something different," she said. "I like what happens when a camera finds something other than what you see—like taking a long exposure at night."

While taking photos may help her see things in a new way, painting—usually in acrylic on wooden panels—invites another appreciation altogether. "The act of painting something makes it unreal, instead of being a photograph," she said.

"These things can take you somewhere—it's always as if the whole world turns itself inside out," she said. "The sky pulls me outside and starts the process of looking at things—and then it gets really interesting."

The walls of Keyser's studio are lined with vertical paintings, most several times taller than they are wide. The dimensions suit Keyser. "I like them because they're my size," she said. "It's very, very simple. They're friends of mine—long, skinny people," she said.

The format lends itself to trees, but Keyser also likes what it does for her art and the process of creating it. "It forces you to make an interesting composition," she said.

It also allows her to experience the physicality of painting. She paints the top of a canvas standing up, then turns it upside-down or sideways to work on another section. "If I had the ability, I would be making paintings wall-size, or building-size, or parking-lot size," she said.



"I like painting with my whole body."

She also switches the paintbrush from her right to left hand to tap into each side of the brain and engage different muscles. She may set up 11 panels in a row, paint the five on the left with her left hand, the five on her right with her right hand, and then divide the center panel down the middle.

Painting multiple panels also changes the aesthetic impact. "The composition starts to be the whole thing," she said. "They all actually work together—you can change them any way and they say something different."

Keyser's early tree series built on a lifelong attraction to ambitious projects and numbers—big numbers. When she was living in Seattle, she lost many friends to AIDS, and began work on a project that would honor them. She painted ordinary wooden clothespins and inscribed fortunes and a phone number on each one. She turned out 1,000 clothespins, each with a unique message or design. "I gave them to everyone I could think of, and left them in a box on Broadway for people to take," she said.

As she thought deeply about someone she loved and had lost, the clothespins would come to reflect that person's qualities. "It was sort of like a really long poem—a meditation about everything I saw that person do."

The phone number on the clothespins reached an answering machine where Keyser recorded a new poem or message every day. Many of the callers

left messages as part of the anonymous exchange.

She also created 1,000 matchbook collages. "Making 1,000 of something is painful," she conceded. "It was a time when I was obsessed with numbers, too."

The clothespin project was also a response to the anonymity of urban life after her first stint in the Methow Valley, living on McFarland Creek near the town of Methow in the 1980s.

On McFarland Creek, Keyser lived without heat, electricity, or phone. If people wanted to talk to you, they would just stop by, she said, and help weed the garden while they visited. By contrast, going to art school in Seattle immersed her in a world of almost overwhelming abundance, where people scheduled appointments two weeks in advance.

Although the town of Methow was hardly a center of art in the 1980s, Keyser has always been willing to take risks. She rented a space in town and turned it into a studio and gallery.

"I just set up experiments," she said. "I was tired of the drudgery of manual labor and decided I was going to be an artist. Every morning I went to my studio and made really bad art," she said. "I'm not afraid of making things, or of failure or trying something new."

Keyser returned to the Methow about five years ago and continued her eclectic involvement in art. She managed the gallery and gift shop at Confluence Gallery, continued to paint and create her own art, and launched several exhibit spaces and a business doing commercial and sign design.

Today she and a partner curate three galleries: the Methow Gallery at TwispWorks, The Gallery at Sun



Mountain Lodge, and an exhibition space at the Merc Playhouse in Twisp.

They will continue to operate those galleries, but is moving her design and sign business to the Glover Street storefront formerly occupied by the Peligro jewelry studio and gallery.

"That space is beautiful and elegant," she said. "I couldn't stand the thought of it being empty." In addition to having a base for her sign business, she plans to exhibit art and functional and decorative objects for the home.

She is also brainstorming, currently designing a series of tables with an illuminated shelf for growing edible sprouts and micro-greens. "I have a brilliant team of experts here, who work in metal and wood, to collaborate with," she said. "I'm into serving the community of artists, because it's been really rich and fruitful for me."

She also trusts her fundamental approach to art. "It has to have the emotional experience, although not necessarily be highly charged. It just has to be beautiful."

A promotional banner for Blue Star Coffee Roasters. The background is dark blue with many white and yellow starburst patterns. On the left, a white banner with black text reads "CELEBRATE WITH BLUE STAR". To the right of the banner is a green biplane flying towards the right. Further right, the text "HANDCRAFTED COFFEE FOR COFFEE LOVERS" is written in yellow. Below that, the phrase "Always Good!" is written in a white script font. At the bottom right, the "BLUE STAR" logo is displayed in white, with "COFFEE ROASTERS" underneath it, and the website "BLUESTARCOFFEEROASTERS.COM" at the very bottom.

A group of people, including children and adults, are singing in a choir. They are holding songbooks and standing in front of a decorated Christmas tree. A conductor is visible on the right side of the frame.

DATES: Dec 16 and 17, doors open at 6:30pm. TICKETS: Front three rows and balcony for \$15/advance, otherwise admission by donation. LOCATION: The Methow Valley Community Center gymnasium, Twisp. CONTACT: cascadiamv@gmail.com

LOCATION/CONTACT: Confluence Gallery, Twisp, www.confluencegallery.com, 509.997.2787.

DATES: Nov 26-Jan 5. **LOCATION:** The Winthrop Gallery, 237 Riverside in downtown Winthrop. Fall hours are 10am-5pm, Thursday-Monday. **CONTACT:** 509.996.3925, www.winthropgallery.com



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[THE MERC PLAYHOUSE]

WINTER WONDER

Directed by Ki Gottberg. Produced by Sara Jinks

Celebrate the magic of winter with The Merc Playhouse during our holiday show offering: Winter Wonder, opening Wednesday, December 5th. Poems, stories, live music, song and dance, all created and performed by local performers, will usher in the season for which we have all been waiting! Entertainment suited for all ages with a special guest appearance by Mister Snow that is sure to get you into the holiday spirit. There will be nine shows only with one matinee and one special Pay-What-You-Can night, so mark your calendars.

During intermission the Merc asks that you take time to enjoy a hot chocolate or nibble a cookie while you peruse the silent auction items that will be available for bidding.

DATES: Fri, Dec 5-Sat, Dec 13. Evening Shows: Fri, Dec 5, Sat, Dec 6 and Wed, Dec 10-Sat, Dec 13, 7pm. Matinee, Sun, Dec 7 at 2pm and “Pay What You Can Night” Wed, Dec 13, 7pm. TICKETS: \$15/adults, \$5/children at door and online @ mercplayhouse.org. CONTACT/LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse, 101 S Glover St, Twisp, WA. 509.997.PLAY, www.mercplayhouse.org.



METHOW GALLERY

The Gallery at Sun Mountain Lodge - Winter Exhibit and Reception

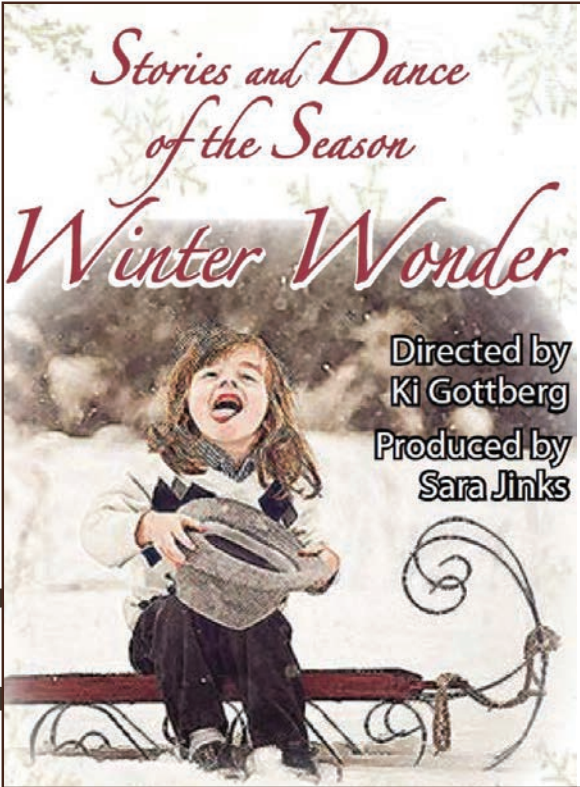
Ahh...winter in the Methow, what a glorious time! Donna Keyser and Laura Karcher, owners of Methow Gallery and curators for The Gallery at Sun Mountain Lodge, invite you to come up to The Lodge and enjoy the work of several Methow Valley artists who capture the beauty and energy of this place.


The Gallery’s seven artists interpret their surroundings in unique and surprising ways. This reception gives people the opportunity to meet the artists and get the inside scoop about their work. Refreshments are on hand for a pre-dinner nibble.

The winter exhibit runs from December 12 through March 9. On December 28th join the gallery for an artists’ reception at 4pm and concert by Terry Hunt starting at 6:30pm. Revel in the great outdoors and then come in and enjoy the cozy company of friends and meet the artists of the winter exhibit. Salyna Gracie, Margaret Kingston, Kathy Meyers, John Adams, Michael Caldwell, Laura Karcher and Suzanne Powers, present their unique views and visions of our western landscape in the lovely surroundings of Sun Mountain Lodge.

DATES: Exhibit, Dec 12-Mar 9. Artist’s reception, Dec 28, 4-6:30m, with concert at 6:30pm. LOCATION: Sun Mountain Lodge, Pasayten Room Foyer, 604 Patterson Lake Rd Winthrop. CONTACT: Methow Gallery, 509.997.0255, donna.keyser@gmail.com.

John Adams, Patterson Mountain Sage






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[TWISPPWORKS]

METHOW MADE HELPS VALLEY RECOVER



This holiday season, Methow Made is teaming up with the Methow Conservancy, the Twisp Chambers of Commerce and the Winthrop Chambers of Commerce to encourage local holiday gift giving. Together with the Conservancy’s Spend A Ben campaign to spend a “Ben” (slang for \$100— but any amount will do!) on the Valley’s local businesses, Methow Made will be organizing a holiday campaign promoting Methow Made farmers, artisans, artists and manufacturers through local food

and drink tastings and holiday gift baskets from November 15 to December 31.

Whether you live here or have found a special place in your heart for the Methow Valley, supporting the Methow Valley’s local businesses creates jobs and opportunities, builds relationships with our neighbors and ultimately creates healthier environments for our children and ourselves. Several studies have shown that for every dollar we spend at an independent, locally owned business, 3 times more money stays in the community. In light of the devastating fires this summer and all the businesses and families that have suffered a loss, now is the time to buy Methow Made and help the Methow Valley’s economy recover.

Read the full article online @ methowarts.org to learn more about Methow Made and find out where you can purchase holiday gift baskets. TwispWorks, 509.997.3300.



[TWISPPWORKS]

HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OFFERS REAL-WORLD CONSTRUCTION



Ten of the most promising Liberty Bell High School (LBHS) students, handpicked by 18-year veteran Career Technology Education teacher Bob Wilson, comprise this year’s Advanced Construction Technology class, the result of a 3-year collaboration between the Methow Valley School District and the nonprofit TwispWorks.

The original collaboration that started with the Design Tech class, where students create as-built drawings and construction models using CAD and design software, has now progressed into a hands-on, project-based class assigned with the challenge of turning design specs into reality. This school year, the first-ever Advanced Construction Tech class, the second addition to the Careers in Construction Academy being developed by the Methow Valley School District, is participating in the full-scale renovation project of TwispWork’s largest and oldest building, the North Warehouse. Student projects include building a large front deck and finish details in the kitchen. Read full article online @ methowarts.org. Contact: TwispWorks, 509.997.3300.

[METHOW ARTS ALLIANCE]

POETRY OUT LOUD

Join Liberty Bell High School students on Wed, Dec 17 for the 3rd annual school contest for Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest. The competition, presented in partnership with the Washington State Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, the Public School Funding Alliance, Winthrop Kiwanis, the Association of Parents and Teachers, the Methow Valley Fund, and Methow Arts, is part of a national program that encourages high school students to learn about poetry through memorization, performance, and competition.

Twelve students from Liberty Bell High School will participate in the Poetry Out Loud school contest at The Merc Playhouse. The winner of this competition will advance to the Eastern Washington Regional Poetry Out Loud contest in Spokane, where contestants for the state championship will be selected. The Washington State champion will advance to the Poetry Out Loud National Finals in Washington, DC, where \$50,000 in awards and school stipends will be distributed.

Featured speakers and participants are classroom winners from grades 9-12 in the Methow Valley School District.

DATE: Wed, Dec 17, 6pm. By donation. LOCATION: Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA.CONTACT: Adam Kaufman, 509.996.2215

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WINTHROP BALLOON ROUNDUP

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Compass Ring by Joanne Marracci

[CONFLUENCE GALLERY]

TRACKS

This exhibit was first titled “Tracks/Predators” and then a much wider look at Tracks emerged.

The ideas of memory tracks, tracks of scars both on the body and on the earth, tracks of detritus left by humans or disasters, bones, feathers, ashes, roadways, fences, old buildings, ancient orchards. The list is almost endless and still includes the tracking that wildlife predators and their prey are involved in for survival.

Tracks can mean many things to many people and this exhibit explores various interpretations through the artistic lens of more than 20 local and regional artists. Viewing their visions will likely bring to mind even more ways that Tracks surround us.

DATES: Opening reception, Jan 10, 4-8pm. Exhibit, January 10-February 14.

LOCATION/CONTACT: Confluence Gallery, Twisp, 509.997.2787, www.confluencegallery.com



HORSE CRAZY COWGIRL BAND

A CONCERT BENEFITTING THE MERC

“When Horse Crazy performs live they absolutely light up the stage!” – Toe Tappin’ Tommy Tucker Academy of Western Artists DJ of the Year

Lauralee Northcott, Jennifer Epps, and Judy Coder take the stage in a benefit concert for The Merc Playhouse. Western Music Association finalists in 2012 for Album of the Year, Song of the Year and Entertainer of the Year, these ladies promise mountains of fun music bound to entertain all ages. Called “Horse Crazy Medicine,” their performance lifts the spirits while delighting the senses. A full dose is required!

DATES: Sat, Jan 10, 7pm. TICKETS: \$15 at the door or online at mercplayhouse.org. CONTACT/LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse, 101 S Glover St, Twisp, WA. 509.997.PLAY, www.mercplayhouse.org

[WINTHROP GALLERY]

DOG & CAT PHOTO CONTEST

Get out your cameras and plan to enter a picture of your favorite pooch or kitty in the 2015 Winthrop Gallery Dog and Cat Photo Contest. This is a contest for amateur and professional photographers alike. To enter, submit one or more photos, framed and ready to hang, to the Winthrop Gallery by Saturday, February 17. There is a \$5 entry fee per photo. Photographers 14 and under may enter one photo for free. All entry fees collected are donated to Okanogan County low-cost spay and neuter organizations. Prizes will be awarded in several categories.

All entries will be on display at the Winthrop Gallery from February 11th through the 23rd. A reception will be held at the gallery on Sunday, February 15 from 11am to 3pm. Refreshments will be served.

DATES: Contest deadline, Sat, Feb 17. Reception, Sun, Feb 15, 11-3pm. Exhibit, Feb 11-23. LOCATION: Winthrop Gallery, 237 Riverside Ave, downtown Winthrop. 10am-5pm, Thursday through Monday. CONTACT: 509.996.3925, www.winthrop-gallery.com.

Sky diving by Teri J. Pieper





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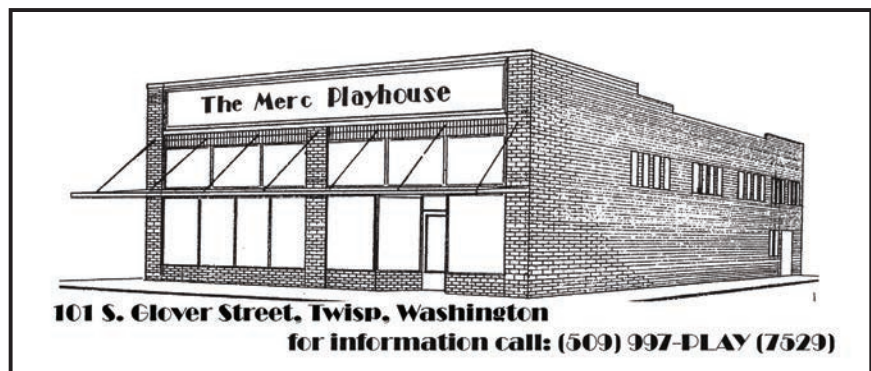
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[THE MERC PLAYHOUSE]

CHILDREN'S THEATER AUDITIONS

Shakespeare's As You Like It

Directed by Rod Molzahn



DATES AND AUDITION INFORMATION

Auditions for The Merc Playhouse's annual Children's Theater production will be held on January 9th, from 4 to 6pm and on January 10th, from 10 to noon. Children ages 8 to 14 are invited to audition for *As You Like It*, Shakespeare's delightful comedy, directed by Rod Molzahn. Children will be asked to sing at auditions but need not prepare an audition song. Rehearsals begin January 17th and performances run March 6th – 15th. There is a \$40 costume fee for each participant which includes a t-shirt; scholarships are available. Audition forms can be found online at mercplayhouse.org and should be completed and submitted to The Merc Playhouse before January 9th. Call The Merc at 509.997.7529 for more information.

ABOUT THE PLAY

As You Like It considers the age old question of whether there is more good in city life or country life. Duke Frederick banishes his older brother, Duke Senior, to the Forest of Arden (Robin Hood's old forest) along with the old Duke's daughter, Rosalind and the young Orlando, son of another enemy. They are followed to the forest by Rosalind's friend, Celia, and Touchstone the clown. Add servants from the court, women disguised as men, shepherds, a country wench and mistaken identity and you have one of Shakespeare's most loved comedies.

The Director, Rod Molzahn, has been bringing Will Shakespeare to life for audiences throughout the United States and Canada since 1986. He performs regularly in theatres, schools, universities, fairs, and festivals. His CD recording of "A Visit with Will" has received Awards of Excellence for Writing and Creative Concept and for Characterization in the performance of Will Shakespeare from The Communicator Awards.

DATES: Auditions: Jan 9, 4-6pm and Jan 10, 10am-noon. Performances: March 6-15. \$40 costume fee which includes a T-shirt. CONTACT/LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse, 101 S Glover St, Twisp, WA. 509.997.PLAY, www.mercplayhouse.org

[METHOW VALLEY CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL]

VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT AT THE MERC

Thanks to everyone's generosity the Methow Valley Music Festival has emerged from fire season ready to present an exciting and romantic evening of music at the Merc Playhouse in Twisp at 7pm on Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14, 2015.

The Valentine's evening concert brings one of Canada's finest violinists, Jasper Wood, to lead piano quartets by Antonin Dvorak and the sensuous romantic Spaniard, Joaquin Turina. Joining Wood will be Tim Christie on viola and our own Kevin Krentz on cello.

And, of course, the program will be rounded out with a little something unexpected. Bring your Valentine to enjoy the passion in the Methow's Merc Playhouse Theater.

DATE: Sat, Feb 14, 7pm. LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse, Twisp. TICKETS: Available now at www.methowmusicfestival.org



INTIMATE PERFORMANCES

Friday, December 12, 7-9pm

Act one will feature a series of Carlton Complex and Rising Eagle fire-inspired films by Peter Vogt. For the second act, violinist Vanessa Moss will play Bach's Chaconne in D Minor, followed by Miss Moss and Brian Coyne playing excerpts of the Ravel Violin and Cello duet. 509.997.1022, mattpotter@holdenvillage.org



A romantic wedding photograph of a couple kissing in a field. The groom is wearing a light-colored suit, and the bride is wearing a white dress and holding a bouquet of purple flowers. They are standing in a field of tall grass with a dense forest in the background. A small, white, dome-shaped structure is visible on the right side of the image.

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[METHOW GALLERY]

FIRE

The Methow Gallery exhibit, Fire, asks artists to reveal their feelings about the subject. Does an image etched on the mind need to become tangible, do words need to be set down or the blob that was a boat become sculpture?

There are as many stories about the firestorms of 2014 as there are people to tell them. Methow Gallery will present some of these ‘stories’ from September 26-January 3. Come in and see what rises from the ashes. And remember...help the recovery effort-buy local!

Contact the curators at methowgallery.com if interested in participating

DATES: Through Jan 3, Thurs-Sat, noon-7pm or by appointment. LOCATION: Methow Gallery at TwispWorks. CONTACT: donna.keyser@gmail.com, 509.997.0255

Paintings by Donna Keyser, left.

PHOENIX FESTIVAL RAISES \$12,984 FOR COMMUNITY FIRE RECOVERY

The Phoenix Festival, a music and arts festival organized to benefit fire and flood recovery efforts in the aftermath of Washington’s largest wildfires, drew over 700 people on Saturday, October 18, 2014.

The festival raised a total of \$12,984, with all admission proceeds and donations going to support Methow Valley Long Term Recovery, a non-profit group formed to help the community recover from this summer’s disasters and prepare for future events.

Presented by TwispWorks in partnership with Methow Arts Alliance and the Confluence Gallery & Art Center, the festival took place at the TwispWorks campus and was a swirl of activity as visitors meandered among art booths, demonstrations and exhibits of printmakers, glassblowers, potters, woodworkers—and even a community bicycle shop.



"I think most of us that live here in the Methow realize that it's a special place and consider ourselves fortunate to be here," said Don Ashford, Methow Arts Alliance President. "This summer's strife [actually] strengthened the bonds between people. It made us more aware of community and our interdependence. The Phoenix Festival was like a great big thankful smile. We set aside a day to enjoy, even celebrate, the fact that we were still here. We know that together, we will make it."

Chief among the day’s activities was the Share Room, an interactive art exhibit that displayed the fire-inspired/ravaged items, art and photographs of over 30 fire victims and artists.

Emcees Don Ashford, Danbert Nobacon and Robert Thran helped direct the festivities from the stages. Live music and performance kept the crowd dancing until the wee hours of the night.

The festival was supported by the presence of Aero Methow Rescue Service, local law enforcement and 70 volunteers.

Stay tuned for next year’s 2nd annual Phoenix Festival. Read full article online @ methowarts.org.

CASCADIA SMALL

ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Cascadia and the Pipestone School of Music are pleased to present a new matinee concert on Sunday, January 25th at 3pm at the Merc Playhouse. The concert offers a variety of music styles ranging from classical to jazz. It includes a number of our valley’s very talented young musicians as well as adult vocal and instrumental groups.

The concert will be sure to please those who enjoyed the Broadway dance review performances at the Merc. Along with the styles of music and players one might expect at a performance of this nature, there will also be some unique and fun surprises.

The Merc Playhouse is a wonderful venue for small music groups. Small ensembles can fill the space with music without any need for amplification. The tiered seating allows for a great view of the performance from any seat in the house.

DATE: Sunday, January 25, 3pm.

TICKETS: Available at the door. \$10/adults, Free/Students 18 and under. Seating is limited to the capacity of the Merc for this one-performance show.

LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. CONTACT: Cascadia, cascdiamv@gmail.com.



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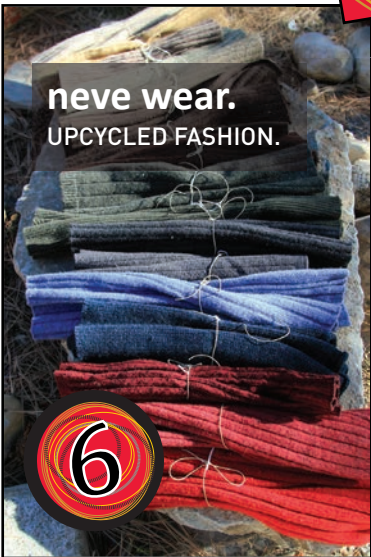
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1. **Door No. 3.** Celebrate the Methow's renewal after wildfire with the Wildness 2015 calendar. \$30. 2. **Culler Studios.** Lightly felted soft wool, Bamboo & silk scarves. 3. **Methow Arts Dollars. Never expires.** For that perfect libation, t-shirt, ticket & basically anything methow arts. 4. **eqpd.** Locally made bags from eqpd are high quality, durable and waterproof. They'll last a lifetime. 5. **Red Umbrella Designs.** Whimsical and hand-drawn designs adorn Baylie Peplow's variety of items suitable for kids of all ages. 6. **Neve Wear.** Handmade accessories (fingerless gloves, legwarmers & scarves!) and skirts crafted out of lamb's wool and cashmere upcycled sweaters. 7. **Emily Post.** Handmade pottery you can use! Visit Methowarts.org for gift locations, prices and more ideas on additional locally-made products.



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