



Art news

December 2010

Our Mission:

Provide Madera County residents and visitors access to art and culture through diverse programs and services.

- *Promote art education by enriching school curricula and other community activities.*
- *Stimulate and support local arts groups and individual artists within the county.*
- *Serve all generations and multi-cultural groups.*
- *Develop public and private financial support for the arts.*
- *Play a role in the economic development of the area through promotion of the arts.*
- *Encourage the promotion of a wide variety of public art and initiate fund-raising activities to sponsor art in public places.*



**Visit us on the web at
www.maderaarts.org**

559-661-7005

Trees for Charity

Sponsored by Madera Sunrise Rotary

The 25th Annual Trees for Charity was held Saturday, Dec. 4th in Madera. This event is a true community event. Rotary's Trees for Charity provides organizations, large and small, a unique fundraising opportunity. More than twenty local and national nonprofit organizations benefitted from the hard work of the Madera Sunrise Rotary organization. Trees and wreaths were decorated and auctioned with proceeds benefitting the charity of choice of each individual organization.

The MCAC tree was artfully designed and decorated by MCAC Board Member, Tina Unti. This tree was declared by many to be the favorite of the evening! A consortium bid, including a generous donation from Evelyn Ducoff, went toward the purchase of the Arts Council's tree. Evelyn requested the tree be donated to the Heartland Opportunity Center for their enjoyment throughout the season. MCAC raised \$8775.00 from this year's tree.



*L-R: Abigail Anderson-Shine, Tina Unti, Dianne and David Rich, and Tina Holmquist
Photo courtesy of Madera Tribune*

Trees for Charity has generated over \$1,500,000 locally over the last 25 years. Those funds have gone directly to the various designated charities.

The supporters of MCAC came out in force to support this worthy community event and to support MCAC. Great food, friends and dancing filled the evening!

Poetry Out Loud, 2011 Competition

Madera County high school students are among hundreds across the state working hard to interpret, memorize and recite classical poetry. Poetry Out Loud engages high school students in the presentation of poetry through memorization and performance. Students need to know one poem for the Classroom Competition, two poems for the School and County Competitions and three poems for the State and National Competitions.

Poetry Out Loud competitions are planned at eight high schools this year during February. It is an event sponsored by the California Arts Council in partnership with the local Madera County Arts Council and California Poets in the Schools.

We are proud to announce that participating high schools continue to increase! This year's schools include: Yosemite, Madera South High, Madera High, Chowchilla, Liberty, Evergreen, Chawanakee Academy, and Glacier.

The County competition, taking place at Yosemite High School, is on February 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. Three judges have been selected: Sarah Camtstrom, Teacher; Dan Williams, Poet; Julie Elstner, Newsletter Editor. You are invited to attend this event and to support the contenders.

The first, second, and third place County winner will receive a monetary award. The first place winner advances to the statewide competition in Sacramento, a 2-day March event hosted by the California Arts Council. The competition will be held in the Senate Chambers where the first place Madera County winner will compete against 25 other counties for a chance to represent California at the National Finals in Washington DC in April. The winner of the national competition receives a \$20,000 scholarship.

We appreciate the sponsorship of Sierra Telephone and Oakhurst Sierra Rotary;

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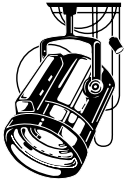
Arts Council



American Recovery &
Reinvestment Act

Club YES (Youth Education and Enrichment at School)

ARTIST PROFILE - Adam Mena



"My high school art teacher was my motivator," Adam said, as he talked about what got him into art in the first place. "My first art class was as a freshman in high school, and I was hooked."

Adam received his BA in Applied Design, with an emphasis in furniture and woodwork, from San Diego State in 2009 after attending Fresno City College. Concerned that he would not be able to find a job in the art field after graduation, he initially majored in business. "But my heart wasn't in it, as my grades testified," he confessed. After changing his degree to art, his enthusiasm took over and the 'rest is history.'

Wanting to earn a living in the art field, Adam jumped into the YES program and now teaches elementary grade students three dimensional design, four days a week. He explains the basic steps to create: the elements of form, line, shape, color – what an artist goes through to make a formed piece, a sculpture, a piece of furniture, generically anything three dimensional. He also teaches and encourages the use of art vocabulary – his desire is for the student to feel comfortable with the terminology in describing their work. Organic versus geometric form, for example, and primary or contrasting colors. "The more they learn

now, the easier it will be for the students to become more creative in their design choices," Mena explains.

So far, mediums include sculpture clay, paper marché, collage, tissue paper mosaics, and the future could find his students working with fibers, wood, or metal.

Adam's goal is to assist the kids with their creative side, using it to solve problems, and to think outside the box using the abstract aspects of art. In other words, to encourage their own style. In addition to teaching art fundamentals, he also suggests ways of using art as a paying career. And there is no better example than himself.

Using his expertise in woodwork, Adam has created a new line of skateboards. He plans to have an art show this summer to premiere the company along with promoting the local artist from the central valley.

*Welcome to the YES Club, Adam Mena.
We're proud to have you on the team!*



SHERRIL ROYSE, Education Program Manager

Sherril Royse needs no introduction to many, but with the Arts Council expanding its membership, a refresher on this cornerstone position is valuable.

The **Club YES** program, run by the County Office of Education, is under Sherril's jurisdiction where she recruits new artists and musicians, and coordinates the YES after school teaching activities with all the participating County schools.

Another program, Presenting Arts to Children in Elementary Schools, also requires her to line up workshops for three participating elementary schools, workshops that are compliant with the California Visual and Performing Arts Standards.

With humor and compassion, Sherril works with the artists to help create and organize their lesson plans and workshops, as

needed. She teaches as well, plus, as part of her position, she is required to occasionally sit in on a class taught by one of her recruits. When needed, she helps with the Circle Gallery.

Sherril is an artist in her own right, a renaissance oil painter, and has been involved in the Arts Council off and on for over 15 years in various capacities.

POL - continued from p.1

other businesses and service organizations are encouraged to support this important event.

General information and packets can be obtained from the California Arts Center website www.cac.ca.gov and www.poetryoutloud.org

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Letter of Appreciation

I was cleaning out a storage cupboard at the Arts Council when I stumbled upon some thank you plaques that hadn't been picked up at one of our Gala awards ceremonies a couple of years ago. These engraved mementoes signify actions by arts council supporters that were much more significant than the objects would imply. For about two years after the last great state budget crisis (2004 – 2006) some members of this community paid the rent for the gallery until the California Arts Council could reinstate our grants programs in 2007. Many of these people have called me during the past month and asked if we are going to ask them to support us again in this way. What an amazing group of people these are who dipped into their pockets in response to drastic budget cuts once and are ready to do it again. I want to thank you all who participated in "Rent Club" for responding with resounding support for the arts programs and services that we provide. We got back on our feet and moved into the beautiful gallery that we have now thanks to your commitment.

Now that we've received a similar cut again we need to find other sources of revenue. Consequently, the Art Council, board of directors has been working very hard to develop new membership campaign in response to this problem. By expanding our regular membership we become less dependent on outside funds, and more self-sufficient.

We want to assure that each child has an opportunity to learn creatively so that they prepare for the work world with confidence and problem solving skills. We still have a very solid art education department in place providing professional artists to the YES after-school program county wide. We offer a sequential integrated arts curriculum to the children in this community. In an effort to save our programs the Board of Directors is taking several steps to get through the year. This will be difficult but they are taking every possible step to assure that the 28 year-old arts agency is here for the future. They are reducing staff hours and office hours to four days a week. The Circle Gallery will no

longer be open on Mondays. However our artists will still be out working in the schools.

Some of the most gratifying parts of my job as an administrator are the thank you notes from students who received art classes or art scholarships from the MCAC. I have also been so impressed by the support from this community for the arts council. I have met some of the nicest people who are committed to the importance of the arts in education. I also enjoy getting to know the wonderful professional artists who busily troop through the office on their way to teach at various schools chatting with one another about art supplies and projects that really worked. We couldn't function without our small band of dedicated volunteers who work at the MCAC office doing mailings, inputting memberships, scrapbooking and answering phones. These folks are fabulous and irreplaceable worker bees who make life so much easier for us all. And then there are the wonderful, generous supporters who have even changed their wills to make provisions for the MCAC. Believe me this community intends to keep the arts around.

I really just can't thank you all enough for your hard work, the dedication or your resources, and for being my friend and helping me find my way around this community and save the arts council for others to enjoy. We just completed my favorite program of the year, the "Celebrate Agriculture with the Arts" exhibition that came down on November 15th. It is my last act as the director of the Madera County Arts Council and it was a fabulous show. I just want to thank the artists who participated and let you know how great the show was this year. I hope you all realize how interesting and fulfilling it has been working with so many talented artists through out the years.

The position of Executive Director for the Madera County Arts Council has been temporarily eliminated due to the current budget constraints. The MCAC Board of Directors plan to reinstate this position when funds allow.

MCAC

Receives

Creating Public Value (CPV) Grant

The California Arts Council announced that 76 California arts organizations in 23 counties submitted the strongest proposals to enrich their local communities through the arts. The CPV program, by supporting small arts organizations in rural and underserved communities, promotes the positive impact of the arts in the lives of all Californians.

We're happy to report that a grant of \$9,900 was allocated to MCAC to map Madera County's artistic and cultural assets and to develop a brochure promoting all art galleries, historic sites, museums, and theaters for distribution to the Chambers and all hotels in the county. The projected completion date is in January 2011.

This project supports the Mission Statement of the MCAC (see p. 1) and will bring these funds directly into our County promoting the arts, bringing additional dollars into our County, and supporting local businesses. An excellent tourism tool to generate business throughout the county! "



Call for Artists

Painting Workshop With Dale Laitinen

Don't miss a remarkable workshop with Dale Laitinen on February 25, 26 and 27th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Watercolor and Landscape. Cost is \$150 and will be held at the Madera County Farm Bureau building in Madera. RSVP to Rose Wheeler at 559-675-0340.

Laitinen received his BA in Art from San Jose State, and is a past juror of many national and regional exhibitions. The last 35 of his 40 years as an artist have been in watercolor. One of the signatures of a Laitinen painting is the long view with the natural forms of the topography being foremost with interaction between structures and the natural landscape.

Artists' Work Requested

Kim Haley of the Positive Living Center is looking for artists to display their art in the Mind Book Shop in Oakhurst. Please call Kim at 559-760-6165 (cell) or 559-683-4780 (res) with questions or to set up an appointment.



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SIERRA ART TRAILS 2011 *Call for Artists* ... begins February 1st 2011!

Now in its 9th year, Sierra Art Trails has earned a reputation for excellence. The Sierra Art Trails Open Studio Tour encompasses more than a dozen communities in Madera and Mariposa counties, and is highly anticipated by repeat visitors and art collectors. Participating artists benefit from extensive advertising promoting the event, are featured in the tour catalog, and are included in a month-long Preview Exhibit leading up to the event. Support the arts and your community by making it a place people look forward to visiting. Please join us for this special event! Submission Deadline - April 15, 2011. Applications will be mailed to

artists on our mailing list beginning February 1st, and will also be available at Stellar Gallery and Williams Gallery West in Oakhurst. Visit <http://www.sierraarttrails.org/> for more information.

Sierra Art Trails Needs You! SAT is always seeking volunteers to work on a variety of tasks including event planning, catalog development and distribution, marketing and advertising, graphic design, docents, student mentors, and fundraising. Volunteers make it happen! If you are interested in helping please let us know.

For advertising, sponsorship, or volunteer information call (559) 658-8844, or email admin@sierraarttrails.org

Yosemite International Jazz Festival

Circle **October 28-30** in your 2011 calendar for the first annual Yosemite International Jazz Festival, a collaborative effort between the Eastern Madera County Chamber Foundation, the Oakhurst Area Chamber, and the Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau. This event becomes a major funding mechanism for the New Visitor's Center to be built in Oakhurst and will house the Yosemite Sierra Visitor's Bureau, the Oakhurst Area Chamber, a Visitor complex, small conference and event spaces, meeting rooms, and a retail gift shop.

You are invited to become a Founding Patron for a contribution of \$1000+ for which you will receive VIP packages to the inaugural Yosemite International Jazz

Festival in the 1800-seat Half Dome Theatre at Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino in Coarsegold. You will also be recognized on a beautiful life size plaque that will spend the next several years touring Madera County and will then make its permanent home in the lobby of the new Center when it opens in 2020.

Additional venues to the Festival have already been added, including the Golden Chain Theatre and Sierra Sky Ranch. It is the goal that this Festival becomes a county wide event, with multiple venues showcasing the heart of American music – jazz.

For questions, contact the Oakhurst Area Chamber of Commerce at 559-683-7766 or go to events@oakhurstchamber.com

Carved Bear Capital of the World

It's official! Oakhurst is being trademarked as "The Carved Bear Capitol of the World." Although it is also known as The Gateway to Yosemite, or the region with the highest per capita of artists in the United States, or the end of the Golden Chain Highway, the Chamber and the community felt the need to establish itself as more than a gateway, a highway, or a statistic.

Many businesses started purchasing carved bears years ago, many of them carved by local artists. The fever kept going and now carved bears, in all shapes and sizes, can be found inside and out throughout Oakhurst. Beginning in 2011, children will have a passport game they can play to find carved bears and win prizes

The Holiday Art Affair - An Enjoyable Success!

"Of the four years we have put on the Holiday Art Affair, this year has been the most successful," said Abigail Anderson-Shine, coordinator and head honcho for this event.

Under the awnings at the MCAC office and beyond, 28 booths and 36 artists and fine crafters displayed an array of wares that included: * jewelry * paintings in various mediums of acrylic, oil and pastels * photographs * treasure boxes * handmade designer purses * turned wood objects * goat milk soap * embellished home fabric items * Moyo drums * art dolls * garden art windows * hand painted clothing * table top Santas * plus book author, Monica Montelongo and her mother and illustrator Rosemary, had children's books available. And let's not forget the six tents that were set up in the parking lot.

Entertainment abounded throughout the 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. event. Attendees delighted to a dance routine by four-and five-year-olds from Michelle's School of Dance of Madera; a Martial Arts demonstration; Carol Pettrucci and the Madera High School choir sang carols as did the Madera South High School under the direction of Choir Director, Roger



Monica Montelongo, during the Holiday Art Affair, signing copies of her first children's book "The Adventures of Roxy and Mozart".

Harabedian. Blackberry Blossom, a Dad and two daughters folk ensemble, sang and played two sets during the day.

It is estimated that 650 people were on hand to do some holiday shopping and at the same time be entertained by some of Madera County's talent.

If you missed the Holiday Art Affair this year, be assured it will be back in 2011!

YES Happens!

In this time when arts programs are being eliminated from our schools due to budget cuts, our involvement in Club YES is more vital than ever, and MCAC is on track to maintain an arts presence in the County elementary schools that subscribe to the YES program.

Club YES (Youth Education and Enrichment at School) includes after school arts programs at all Madera K-8 schools, all Chowchilla Elementary K-8 schools, Raymond Knowles, and at North Fork in Chawanakee Joint School District.

Beginning at the release of school to 6 p.m. every school day, YES provides an educational enrichment program that students are expected to attend daily. In addition to other YES programs, like fostering healthy behaviors and doing physical activity, YES through MCAC provides instructors to teach different aspects of the arts.



Leah Seneng, YES Educator, instructing a student during the YES program

A paid opportunity for artists, one does not have to have a teaching credential, but the teacher does need to be an artist, artisan, poet, writer – anything having to do with the arts -- to join our YES staff of instructors.

If interested, please call Sherril Roysse at MCAC: 559-661-7005.

Let's continue to keep creativity alive during our students' elementary education.

Around the State

INNERSPARK - California State Summer School for the Arts

Sign up your student now for Innerspark, an in-house residential art program for 8th to 12th grade students, that will be held July 9 to August 5, 2011. The \$1,559 fee for California residents (out of state is higher) includes room, board, meals and instruction. The disciplines from which to choose are: * Film * Creative Writing * Visual Arts * Music * Dance * Animation, and * Theater. Additional supply costs may apply depending on the discipline selected.

The deadline for Applications is February 28, 2011. Financial aid is available based on demonstrated need.

For additional information and for application forms, visit their website at www.cσσα.ca.gov. An experience of a lifetime awaits your student.

Applications for California Poet Laureate Now Open

The official nomination and application process for the role of California Poet Laureate is now open. Go to the California Arts Council website for information and application forms. The submission deadline is February 1, 2011. Note that poets may nominate themselves or be nominated by others.

So Much to Do!

Poets in the Pines

Poets in the Pines meets twice monthly in Oakhurst for open mic and for creative inspiration from each other or from "assignments." Anyone is welcome to attend. Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each month, 6:00 p.m., at the Willow Bridge Book Store and every 4th Sunday at noon at the Mind Shop Bookstore located in the Positive Living Center. Join "Poets in the Pines" on Facebook for updates.



Madera Wine Trail's 2011 Wine & Chocolate Weekend

The weekend of February 12-13 is the Wine & Chocolate Weekend, hosted by the family wineries of the Madera Wine Trail. Don't miss this delectable event featuring newly released vintages, chocolate creations, special food pairings, plus local art and live music. Cost is \$25 the day of the event or \$20 in advance. Call 800-613-0709 for more information or go to www.maderawinetrail.com

Calendar...

Seasonal Offerings

- December 15 Making Artists' Holiday Cards, artist TBA, Timberline Art Gallery
December 18 Fresno Grand Opera Chorus: *Christmas on Van Ness*

Vision Academy

- December 17 Three Church Cantata, "Thrill of Hope" at Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church
December 19 Community Christmas Concert at United Methodist Church
December 20 Ladies of the Lake, Chamber Singers, at Yosemite Lake Park (YLP)
January 13 Coarsegold Rivergold Concert. Contact Christal Biasell 683-4842 for details
March 5 Yosemite High School's Music Department is performing "Nite on the Town" Call Randy Hyatt for details 683-4667 X242
March 19 Vision Academy "Grand Night for the Arts", 6-9pm at the Oakhurst Community Center.

This is the major fundraiser and all money is funneled into the Scholarship program. For \$20 you get music and entertainment from past winners and present contenders.

To stay in touch with the activities of the Vision Academy, go to their web site at www.visionacademy.org

Board meetings are the third Tuesday of every month at 5:45 at the Positive Living Center. Everyone with an interest is invited to attend.

Timberline Gallery Workshops

- February 5 Photography with Zygmund Zee, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
March 5 Fiber workshop with Jacqueline Kurtz, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Call 683-3345 to make your reservations.

Please take a tour of their website at www.timberlineartgallery.com

INCREASING MEMBERSHIP & BENEFITS

With budget constraints, we are experiencing a need to increase membership. Adding new members is one way and you are encouraged to ask your friends to become part of the group. Increasing your membership level is another. Are you at the 'Individual Membership' or 'Family' level? Consider increasing to Patron (\$150) or the Business level (\$150 to \$499).

This increase comes with benefits! Patrons will now receive a complimentary ticket to the Gala, a seasonal thank you gift in January, a 10% discount on purchases in the Circle Gallery, and personal invitations to openings. Business members receive the Patron benefits plus a web link on the MCAC website.

If you increase your membership to Benefactor, in addition to all the benefits listed above, you receive two Tickets to the Gala. Donations are tax deductible, as allowed by law.

Support those who support the Arts!



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deserves great art.

NOTE:
New MCAC
Office and Gallery Hours:
Tuesday through Friday
9 AM - 5 PM

See
Special Holiday Shopping Hours
on photo insert page



American Recovery &
Reinvestment Act

Photos from the Holiday Art Affair



Circle Gallery

1653 North Schnoor, Suite 113, Madera
559-661-7005

Holiday Hours
Saturday, Dec. 11 & 18
9 AM - 5 PM
Friday, Dec. 24
9 AM - Noon

*Remember your
10% Discount
at Circle Gallery for
MCAC Patrons,
Business Members
and Benefactors.*



Brian Bolstad with his daughters, Audrey (l) and Isabella (r) shopped and visited the Gallery



Michelle's School of Dance charmed the guests



Madera South High School Choir performed



Griselda Tello with her handmade art dolls



Ken Maggard displaying his lathe turned wood



Dianne Beauregard, Jewelry Artist, with her fused dichroic glass designs



Mary Thomsen with her hand made goat milk soap

THANKS TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS FOR THIS QUARTER

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Mr. Jim Glynn

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Arthur & Tracey
Montelongo
Mary Motola
Jean Kato
Jerol & Bonnie Holiday
Don & Carolyn Hartling
Edward Grootendorst
Joan Constable
Lori & James Brashear
Michele Pecina
John & Ellen Bryan
Lidia Ellington
Dick & Marge Wheeler
Nancy & Tony Palazzo
Robert & Barbara Bitter
Jon & Tina Holmquist
Dean & Nancy
Blankinship
Tom & Ruth Edginton
Ken & Donna Rodrigues
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Bragg
Dianne & Donald
Beauregard

Thank you for your continuing support.

Photos from the San Francisco Museum Bus Trip



The group ready to enter the museum.



Tina Unti and
Dianne Rich



Anna and
Bill Wattenbarger



Barbara and Ross Thornton