

# Artnews

Spring 2011

### **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 multicultural 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

## Celebrating Agriculture with the Arts at CSU Fresno

The award winning paintings from the 2010 MCAC Celebrate Agriculture with the Arts Exhibit are now on display at CSU Fresno's Madden Library in the Leon S. Peters Ellipse Gallery (2nd Floor). In a joint venture between Dean Charles Boyer of the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology and Dr. Pamela Beecher on behalf of Madera County Arts Council, this exhibit was organized to coincide with the college's centennial celebration. The opening reception held Thursday, March 10th, was attended by Madera County Arts Council members, artists, and board members as well as CSUF faculty and students.

Dr. Boyer indicated in his remarks that the artwork of the exhibition reflected the diversity of the natural resources of the Central Valley and the importance of the related agricultural industries. He stated that he hoped exhibition visitors would reflect on



MCAC members, artists and guests attending the CSUF Opening Reception

the "almost spiritual relationship between us and our food system" and furthermore that he believed it was "important to remind people of where their food comes from" and the interrelationships between the natural resources, agricultural products, and our quality of life. Finally, Dr. Boyer recognized Dr. Beecher for her many contributions to arts and agriculture during her tenure as Executive Director of the Arts Council.

This exhibit can be enjoyed through March 30th during Madden library's normal hours.

## MCAC's Night at the Theater for the MSTC Theatre production of hairs ray Friday, April 1

Madera South Theater Company presents *Hairspray the Musical*. You don't want to miss this amazing performance – featuring the most memorable show tunes in recent Broadway history. In addition to its irresistible be-bopping tunes, *Hairspray* is fun, wacky and witty – and at the same time addresses issues of prejudice and discrimination. The story follows the adventures of "pleasantly plump" teen Tracy Turnblad, as she bravely challenges the notions of 1962 Baltimore in her quest to become a dance sensation on the Corny Collins Show.

The performance runs March 31, April 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 9. MCAC's special night is Friday, April 1.

Location: Madera South High School, 705 West Pecan Ave., Madera. Begin the evening with a Wine and
Appetizer Recention at the Chrysler Icen

Begin the evening with a Wine and Appetizer Reception at the Chrysler Jeep dealership on Madera Ave. from 6 to 7 p.m.

The show starts at 7:30 p.m.

MCAC ticket holders will have VIP seating.
Coffee and cookies will be served in the

choir room adjacent to the theater during intermission.

Tickets are \$25.00. MCAC will receive a portion of the proceeds from this special ticketed event.

For tickets: call MCAC at 661-7005.

Please join us!

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



Club YES (Youth Education and Enrichment at School)

### ARTIST PROFILE - Felicia Medina

On board since 2009, Felicia Mena is high on YES! So high that after teaching in the YES Club program for awhile, she decided get her teaching credential from Fresno Pacific University, which she accomplished in December 2010.

From a young age Felicia always had an interest in art and her passion culminated in December 2007 with a BA in Graphic Design from San Jose State University. In fact, even as a kid, she thought about becoming an art teacher. So when she saw the on-line listing for a YES instructor, she applied and Sherril Royse scooped her up.

Working with grades 1 through 8, Felicia realized that the children didn't have much information about art and decided to create a curriculum on art fundamentals and not arts and crafts. Although it was more of a challenge to explain real art (work of the masters, techniques, media and terminology, for

instance) it has paid off for both teacher and students. Realistically, most kids are not exposed to this level of art and, according to



the kids' awed reaction to *Starry Night* by Vincent Van Gogh, it is a touching memory that will always be tattooed in Mena's mind.

According to Felicia, "the positive effects of enabling a child to express themselves without the pressure of academics fosters creativity. And not just creativity within the art realm, but in all aspects of life. Creative thinking is liberating, and ultimately empowers an individual to think globally."

In her classrooms, her fortunate students are taught drawing, charcoal, colored pencils, the use of color, and the concept of texture in landscapes, still life, and more.

Thanks for being in the YES Club and for sharing your enthusiasm, Felicia!

### March is Youth Art Month

March is Youth Art Month, and a coffee and cookie reception was held on March 10 at the Circle Gallery, celebrating the beginning of the month-long High School Art Exhibit.

YES artist teachers judged entries from students at Madera High, Madera South, Liberty and Minarets High Schools. Best of Show was awarded to Aviel Sawall from Liberty High for *Through the Animals Eyes*. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Awards were given in the categories of Drawing, Painting, 3-Dimensional and Mixed Media.

MCAC invites you to come and be awed by our talented youth as their art will hang in the gallery through April 4. Circle Gallery hours are 10 to 4, Tuesday-Friday.

### Poetry Out Loud, 2011 Erica Grant, 1st Place Winner

On February 3 at Yosemite High School, five high school students competed in the Poetry Out Loud competition. Prepared with two poems apiece, judged on accuracy, memorization, dramatization and degree of difficulty, the students performed before an enthusiastic audience.

First place went to Erica Grant of Yosemite High School who now goes forward to compete in Sacramento. Second place was taken by Kazia Hart, also of Yosemite High School, while third place went to Kara Malissa Grimes of Madera High School. Runners up were Drakkar Bertrand of Chowchilla High School and Amber McFiren of Liberty High School (Madera Ranchos).

For coordinating the event, our thanks go to Sherril Royse and Anne Molin.



### FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MCAC, TINA HOLMQUIST

### "Thank you, Pam"

As the current President of MCAC, I am truly missing the presence of our Executive Director, Dr. Pamela Beecher. In that Pam would write a nice article in this space regarding the dealings of MCAC, I have chosen to say a big THANK YOU to Pam for her nine years of service to MCAC.

Pam took over as Executive Director under difficult times. She was instrumental in obtaining many, many grants that helped promote the arts for all of Madera County. Through grants, we were able to continue to bring art to elementary schools, create a film festival, and bring a multicultural arts festival to Madera. Pam did a wonderful job representing the Arts Council throughout the County.

Because of Pam's dedication to providing art to Madera County, she left us with solid groundwork. Pam enabled us to continue

MCAC Gala for the Arts -

to provide the County with many of the programs that have been in place for several years. The entire Board has stepped up to fill the gap we now have without our Executive Director. Some have stepped up to write grants. Others have taken over making sure programs such as Concerts in the Park and Celebrate Ag with the Arts will continue to exist. We are learning as we go along, and it has not been easy.

We are struggling without Pam's guidance, but we are doing our best. We are learning how much she did, and how easy she made it all seem. As happens in many instances, you do not realize someone's worth until they are not there anymore.

So, here I publicly thank Pam for all she did in promoting the arts for Madera County. She is missed.

### the Arts "Country USA!" - May 14th

Get ready for the annual MCAC Gala for the Arts - "Country USA!" Circle May 14th at 6 p.m. on your calendar for a memorable evening at The Hallowell Ranch in Friant that includes dinner, entertainment, plus a live auction featuring art by Circle Gallery artists. In addition you'll find a silent auction and a raffle. Community Arts Recognition awards will be given to members of the community who have significantly contributed to the arts in Madera County.

As a special treat, during the cocktail reception only, the Hallowell's have extended an invitation to visit their exquisite art collection.

C'mon closet cowboys and cowgirls – get dressed in your casual country western wear and make the grand entrance.

But first, reservations are required, and the ticket cost is \$65. A reserved table for 8

is \$500. Reminder: Patrons and Business Members receive one complimentary ticket and Benefactors each receive two complimentary tickets toward their Gala reservations! To make your reservation, to become a sponsor, or for more information, contact the MCAC Circle Gallery, 1653 N. Schnoor, Suite 113, Madera, or call 559-661-7005, or you can visit the web site at www. maderaarts.org

The Madera County Arts Council is a non-profit art agency supporting regional artists and arts in education programs. All donations are tax deductible.



If so, we have special **Thank You Gifts**: a bottle of wine and "Love Your Heart" mix available at the Circle Gallery. Please come by to pick up your gifts of appreciation. **We'd also like to thank our donors: Valley Pistachio, San Joaquin Wine Company, and Constellation USA.**If you want to boost up your membership, call Nancy Burckert at the

If you want to boost up your membership, call Nancy Burckert at the MCAC office, 661-7005.

### THANK YOU TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS FOR THIS QUARTER

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The screened background photograph of the dogwood beside the flowing river shown here is from the collection of Paul and Lucia Martin.

### Spring Wine Trail Adventure!

On May 14-15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Madera Vintners Association's family wineries are proud to present the Madera Trail's "Spring Wine Trail Adventure". Sample a wide variety of local wines, indulge in food pairings, enjoy live music and local art.

Tickets are at any participating winery both days of the event for \$25 (it purchases your wine glass and is your weekend pass). You can buy your tickets in advance at the following wineries: Birdstone, Chateau Lasgoity, Idle Hour Winery (Oakhurst), Mariposa Wine Collection., Quady Winery, San Joaquin Wine Company, VINO 100 (Fresno).

Visit www.maderawinetrail.com for more information.

### **Quilt Show**

The Sierra Mountain Quilters Association, hosting their annual quilt show on May 14 and 15 at the Yosemite High School cafeteria, features internationally known fiber artist Lura Schwarz Smith. View over 100 unique, beautifully hand-crafted quilts; watch demonstrations; visit the vendor's mall and the quilters' country store. Tickets are \$7. For more information visit www.sierramountainquilters.org

### Learning from the Masters: Painting Class

A new 10-week class beginning March 31 by Jerome Grimmer (morning 9-noon; afternoon 1:00-4:00) at the Elks Club on Hwy 41 and Bass Lake Road in Oakhurst. Tuition is \$300; a 10% discount is available for payment in advance. Space is limited. Call Colleen Coffman at 559-692-2261 to reserve your spot.

### Arts Calendar...

### Golden Chain Theatre

Wild West Women, an historic drama will be held March 25 through April 17 with a special dinner performance on Friday, March 25. Saturdays at 7 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Adults \$12, Seniors \$10, Students (13-18) and Active Military \$8, Children (4-12) \$6.

Zorro's Back in Town, June 12-July 25. Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. A comedy you won't want to miss.

Call 559-683-7112 for reservations; for more information visit www. goldenchaintheatre.org or email them at hctinfo@gmail.com.

### **Coolwater Ranch Concerts**

Put the following dates on your calendars for some great music:

- March 26 Thom Bresh
- June 5 Claude Bourbon
- June 24 Gove Scrivenor

For reservations and more information, contact Robin Ralston at www.coolwaterconcerts.com

### Woodcarvers Rendevous

The National Woodcarvers Rendezvous will be held April 10 through the 16th at the Oakhurst Community Center. Over 100 woodcarvers nationwide (plus spouses and children) are expected for this week-long event culminating on Saturday with an opportunity to purchase items. Registration is \$100 for an individual or \$150 for two at the same address; spouse and children activities are included. The conference is designed for beginners all the way to advanced woodworkers, and includes classes, demonstrations, and seminars on all elements of wood crafts including wood turning, carving, burning, etc.

For more information or for an application, call Jean or Larry Smith at 658-2405 or email your request to woodtat@sti.net

### **Timberline Gallery**

### Art Classes

"Masks" with David Caris will be held on April 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., for \$45. A charge for class materials may also exist. Call 683-3345 or go to www.timberlineartgallery.com to RSVP and to pay for the class in advance.

On May 5, **Julie Mitchell will teach a class on Spirit Figures**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for \$45 (plus appropriate fee for class materials). RSVP to 683-3345.

**Kathleen Mattox will teach a course called "Fix It, Finish It!"** on June 4, from 10 to 4, for \$45 plus a \$10 fee for class materials. RSVP to 683-3345.

**Do you have children?** On July 2nd there will be children's classes (in 3 to 4 sections) for \$25 per child (ages 7-14).

**NOTE:** Bring a sack lunch and drinks to each class since lunch will be on-site. Class fees should be pre-paid by check or cash at Timberline in person, or if paying by credit card payment can be done by phone. Classes may have a materials fee which is payable to the instructor on the day of class.

### Reception

A reception will be held April 9 and 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., for **David Douglas'** "Art of Fossil Discovery" The show dates are April 9 through 17.

### REFLECTING ON MCAC

### An Interview with Evelyn Ducoff, a Founding Member

One of the founders of the Madera County Arts Council was Evelyn Ducoff, now a resident of Madera, but formally of O'Neals Corner. Some of you remember her flashing eyes and her passion for teaching art to children. Now it's time to introduce the rest of you to the sparkling mind of Evelyn.

Born and raised near Omaha, Nebraska, with four brothers and one sister in the pre-World War II era.

The "Petty Girls", a series of female pin-up paintings by George Petty from 1933 to 1956 for *Esquire* magazine, influenced Evelyn when she was young. Through these paintings she became intrigued with the human figure and began drawing and sculpting and discovered a natural talent.

Evelyn moved to South Bend, Indiana where she was able to capitalize on her talent, and was hired as an illustrator for Studebaker – drawing the parts of the first automatic transmission that became part of the Studebaker's owner and shop repair manuals. Her husband, who she met in Chicago on the dance floor, was an engineer – a very bright engineer – and later received a patent for converting liquid fuel to a solid. (Sound familiar NASA fans?) "Did you know that art and engineering are related?" she asked us. "Like math and music."

Eventually she and her husband moved to southern California where she began teaching "difficult" students, those who were at risk for not graduating from high school. Evelyn found that she related to these kids very well. She taught all kinds of subjects, including art. She also found art classes for herself at a local junior college and began her arts education in earnest. Through her ceramics classes, Evelyn honed her talents and at this time she also began making jewelry.

In the 1970s Evelyn and her husband moved to O'Neals Corner in Madera County where she began teaching "difficult" students once again. And once again, she loved it.

Around 1981 then-governor, Jerry Brown, believed that every county in California should have a program to promote the arts and offered funding to create arts councils. Nancy Clute issued a request locally for arts-minded individuals to help initiate an arts council for Madera County, and Evelyn responded. Through the work of Nancy, Evelyn, and several others, and with the assistance of the local Supervisors, the Madera County Arts Council was born in 1982.



Mrs. Ducoff, in coordination with the early Arts Council Board, was instrumental in getting arts into the local school curriculums. She helped establish the Presenting Art to Children in Elementary Schools (PACES), and became known as the "Paper Lady" and the "Clay Lady" to the students. Evelyn taught them how to make paper (from dryer lint, vegetable trimmings, and other interesting household items) and how to create from clay. She displayed and sold her own works through the Circle Gallery.

Evelyn Ducoff has been an important player in promoting the arts in Madera County. She also played a role in establishing Minarets School in O'Neals. Education and art – her passions that have benefited all of us.

Still active, swimming, and enjoying life, this octogenarian would like to see more people interested in the arts. And the best way to do that, Evelyn says, "is through the children. Art education is so relevant." She also imagines the County resolving its 'disconnect' issues between its cities and towns. "Can you imagine the power the art community would have in Madera County if we all worked together for the greater good of art?"

What would Evelyn recommend to get MCAC over the current economic hump? "We need to encourage and educate our youth in the arts for the community's sake. We need to boost membership. We can all participate to keep art alive and well in Madera County."

"Promoting the arts benefits everyone because it teaches creative thinking, an invaluable quality for all areas of life."

### ARTS TAX CHECK-OFF OPPORTUNITY



It's easy to make a tax deduction to the California Arts Council when submitting your state tax returns. Thanks to SB 1076 carried by Sen. Curren Price, there's a NEW funding opportunity for arts in the state. Californians can contribute directly to the California Arts Council's programs when filing your state taxes – and it's tax deductible!

The contribution will be deducted from the refund or added to the tax payment and transferred to the Arts Council Fund for arts programming. It can be claimed as a charitable contribution the next year. It's simple: in the "Contributions" section of your return, specify the amount you want to give to the Arts Council, from \$1 or more. If your tax preparer isn't aware of this opportunity, please pass along this information. Let's take advantage of all opportunities to support the Arts.

For more information, go to http://www. cac.ca.gov/checkoff.php or to the Franchise Tax Board web site at http://www.ftb. ca.gov/individuals/vcfsr/Index.shtml



The Cultural Arts
Map of Madera
County is ready
for distribution.
This project was
funded through
a "Creating Public

Value Grant" from the California Arts Council and is designed to promote the art galleries, historic sites, museums, and theaters of Madera County for both local residents and visitors.

More information about this publication will be available soon on the MCAC website: www.maderaarts.org



### Calls for Art...

### Fine Art Open Show Central Valley at Arts Visalia

Receiving in person only will be held on Saturday, March 26th, 10 to 11:30 a.m.. For a copy of the prospectus, visit http://allianceofcaliforniaartists.com
The Artists' Receiption will be held on April 1st, from 6 to 8 p.m.

### Old West & Rodeo Art Show Western States

Receiving for the 2011 Clovis Art Guild Old West & Rodeo Fine Art Show is Thursday, April 14, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Clovis Veteran's Memorial Building, 808 4th St., Clovis 93612. The prospectus is available at www. gaildaleyfineart.com/clovisartguild.

#### Sierra Art Trails

Submission deadline is April 15, 2011.
Participating artists are featured in
the tour catalog, included in a monthlong Preview Exhibit, and benefit from
an extensive advertising campaign
promoting the event. For submission
guidelines and to download the
application, go to www.sierraarttrails.org

### California Watercolor Association 42nd National Exhibition

Deadline is April 23. The event will be held from 9/8 through 10/9 at the Marin Art and Garden Ceremony. More than \$15,000 in cash and merchandise awards are anticipated. The online entry form and the prospectus can be obtained at www.californiawatercolor.org

### Call for Writers...

### Central California Writers'Conference

The 2011 Central California Writers' Conference, April 30-May 1, will be held at the Sierra Sky Ranch in Oakhurst this year. Please visit www. californiawritersconference.com for more information on guest speakers and content. Hurry – they are accepting only the first 100 registrants.

### **Vision Academy**

### Arts Calendar (continued from page 4)

### Scholarship Fundraisers

April 9 - Grand Night for the Arts, 3:30-6:00 p.m. at The Golden Chain Theatre. Finger foods, no host bar, silent and live auctions, entertainment and more. Tickets \$20.

June 4 (7 p.m.) and June 5 (2:30 p.m.) The Sierra Chamber Singers annual concert, *We Are The World* at the New Community United Methodist Church. Donation \$5. Vision Academy is looking for nominations for "Ordinary Quiet Heroes" to be honored during this concert. Contact Jackie Byers at 683-7071.

#### Classes

- 4/5, 5/6, 6/10, 7/1 "Petanque (pay'-tonk) for Beginners" (first time offered) with Mary Campbell-Mann. RSVP to 683-5056 or call for information.
- 5/7 Photography with Christine Loberg, "Dogwoods in Yosemite." 760-3615 to RSVP and for information.
- 5/21 "Watercolor Landscapes I" with Leislie Dearing at Fresno Flats, 10 to 4. RSVP to 642-2552
- 6/11 Chinese Brush Painting with Joy Harvey "Butterflies & Insects," Fresno Flats, 10 to 4. RSVP to Jackie Byers at 683-7071.
- 6/18 "Watercolor Landscapes II" with Leislie Dearing at Fresno Flats, 10 to 4. RSVP to 642-2552
- 6/25 "Something Lavender: Growing, Using, Eating" Workshop with Sandy Schaefer, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Vintage Chic (next to Purple Cow), Highway 41, Oakhurst. RSVP to Sandy at 760-3849

### Summer Fine Arts Camp

Kids, grades 1 through 6, are introduced to art, music, dance, writing and drama with a presentation every Friday evening. Instruction provided by Jackie Byers and local artists. Three one-weeks sessions from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Oakhurst Elementary School; \$150 per child per session.

6/13-17 Update Earth • 6/20-24 Rock 'n Roll Forever • 6/27-7/1 Adventures of Lewis & Clark

### Additional Area Art Events and Classes -

3/25-27	Kings Vintage Museum Civil War Living History Encampment at Oakhurst		
	Community Park, Adults \$5, Kids \$2, Seniors \$3		
3/25-4/17	Golden Chain Theatre: Wild West Women, Historical Drama		
4/2	"Masks" with David Caris, Timberline Gallery, 12 to 4		
4/29-5/1	Arts & Crafts Fair at Pines Village, Bass Lake		
4/30-5/8	Tri-County Exhibition, Yosemite Western Artists at Stellar Gallery		
5/14	GALA for the Arts, MCAC event at Hallowell Ranch, Friant		
5/21-22	Home & Garden Show, Oakhurst Community Park, 9 to 5 p.m. \$2 Admission		
6/12-7/25	Golden Chain Theatre: Zorro's Back in Town, Comedy		
6/17-19	Arts & Crafts Fair at Pines Village, Bass Lake		
6/25-26	Quilt Show, Heart of California Quilter's Guild, Holy Spouses Hall,		
	St. Joachim Church, Madera, 559-673-3390		

### Madera, "The Heart of Pomegranate Country ™"

The first annual Madera Pomegranate Celebration and Festival is to be held October 29 - November 7, 2011.

Plans are progressing rapidly for pomegranate-themed festival events, potentially including recipe contests, children's activities, health and nutritional education, growers' tours, wine tasting and, of course, art displays and workshops.

More information and updates to follow as they are finalized. Interested individuals and businesses may obtain more specifics at: dbray@maderachamber.com

### Support those who support the Arts!



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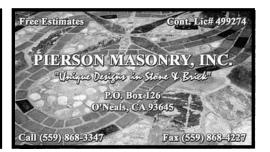


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Do you shop at SaveMart? Please consider picking up a free S.H.A.R.E.S. card from Circle Gallery or from any board member. This is the way it works:

Each time your S.H.A.R.E.S. card is swiped, points are issued (\$1 per point on a qualified purchase) to our account. We'll receive a quarterly check for the amount earned at the rate of up to 3%. There is no limit to how many supporters can enroll, and it will provide another source of funds to MCAC. There is no cash value to the card, so if it is lost it doesn't matter. Just pick up another one from the Circle Gallery.



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Thank you for your support of the arts!



