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# RAPID RIVER

Arts & Culture Magazine

July 2008 Vol. 11 No. 11



Comic Greg Brown  
talks about being funny

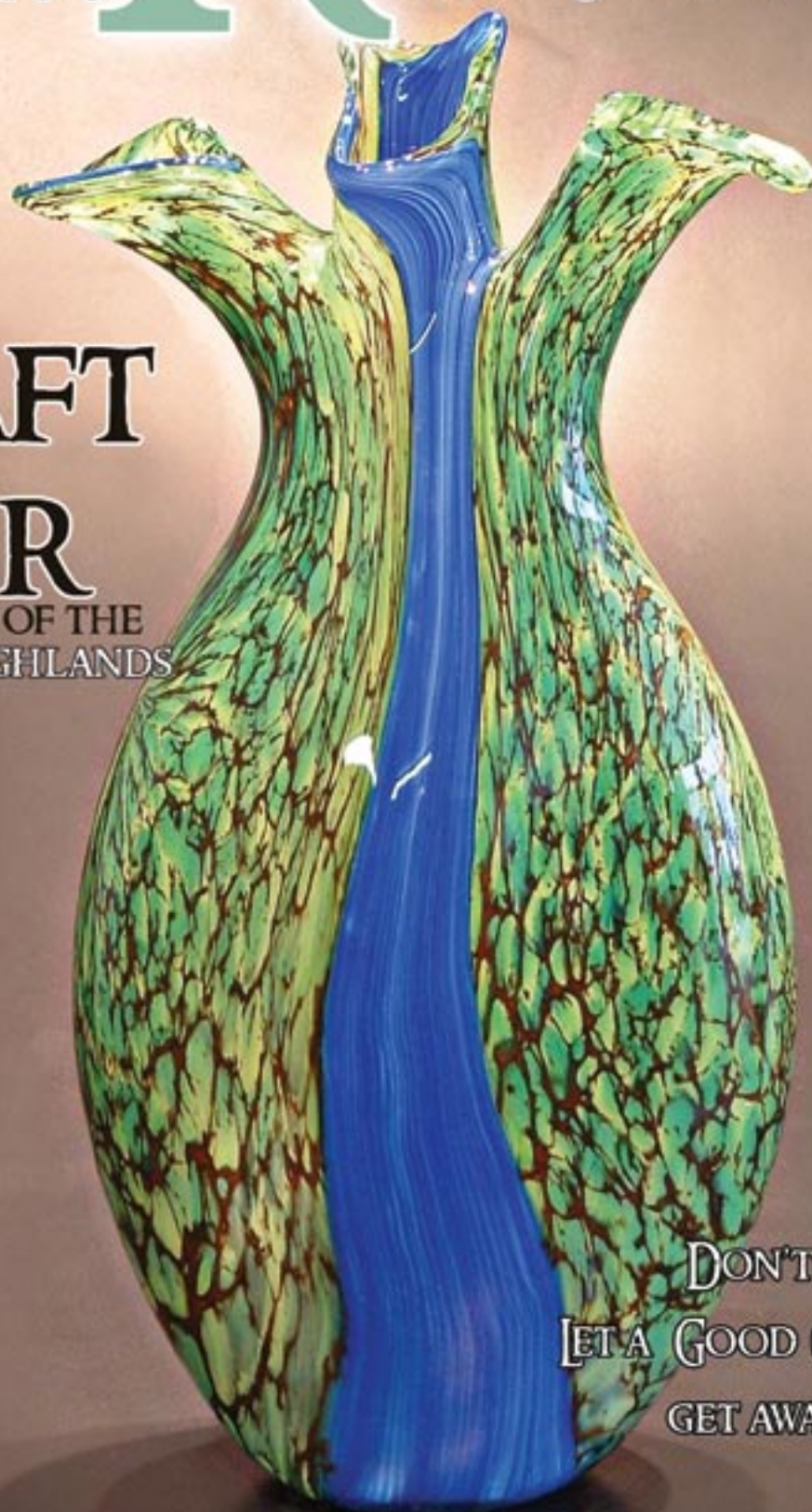


Ken Pitts talks about the  
art of modern framing



Claire Reeder keeps  
local artists creative  
and busy

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# ART TALK

## Cheryl Keefer Exhibits at Black Mountain Center for the Arts

BY RITA VERMILLION

An award-winning *plein air* painter, Cheryl Keefer will be the featured artist in the Black Mountain Center for the Arts Upper Gallery during the month of July.

Keefer grew up in Alabama, where she spent her childhood pouring over art history books, and drawing family members and farm scenes. At age 13 she was introduced to paint and canvas. She completed degrees in art education, painting, and art history at Jacksonville State University and the University of Alabama, Birmingham, along with post-graduate work at Virginia Commonwealth University.

As a professional she continued her studies with Clayton Beck, Pat Weaver, John De La Vega, Roger Dale Brown, and Camille Przewodek.

Schooled in both oil and watercolor, Keefer used her skills as an art educator in public schools and college for 25 years. Now a resident of western NC, she belongs to many arts organizations, and teaches classes and workshops from

watercolor portraiture to oil *plein air*.

Keefer states, "I like my paintings to be about paint, as well as subject. Using a variety of methods and approaches in different painting situations enables me to create interesting patterns and paint surfaces. As I work with my subject laid out before me, I feel an emotional connection with the subject. This intimacy is what I wish to convey to the viewer."

### If you go

*Black Mountain and Beyond*, will be on display from July 3-26 with an opening reception on Thursday, July 3 at 7 p.m. The Center is open M-F from 10-5 and Saturday from 1-4, but will be closed July 4-5. For more information call (828) 669-0930 or visit [blackmountainarts.org](http://blackmountainarts.org).

Black Mountain Center for the Arts, 225 W. State Street in the old City Hall.

## BMCA's UpBeat! Concert features Brown & Swain and Friends

The UpBeat! Musical Heritage 4<sup>TH</sup> Friday Concert Series brings long-time duo Bert Brown and Robert Swain to the stage on July 25 at 7:30 pm. They will perform a variety of musical styles from rock & roll to traditional mountain music.

Brown, the grandson of legendary Buncombe County Sheriff Lawrence Brown, is perhaps best known for his original songs and musical direction of *Way Back When*, a stage production of the Black Mountain Center for the Arts. Brown's knowledge of local lore and history, combined with his musical talent, enabled him to tell the story of the Swannanoa Valley by balancing spurious facts with verified legend, tempered with a healthy dose of humor, set to singable tunes and lyrics.

Swain is admired and emulated by several local musical acts that cover his edgy tunes. His poetic style has been called provocative, yet prayerful, and has been described as "like being slapped with a cashmere glove."

Onstage at BMCA their dobro, guitar, and tight vocal harmonies will be enhanced by Greg Price on bass, "Bobby J" Jaramillo on mandolins, and "Bobby A" Adams on percussion. The combo deliv-



Jeff Warner

ers a good blend of originals and covers from artists from Django to Genesis.

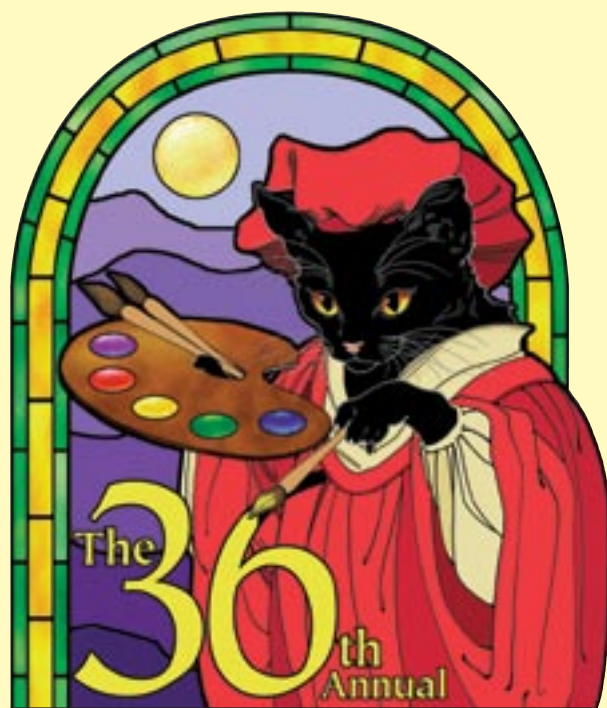
The UpBeat! Musical Heritage Friday Concert Series is also sponsored by Acoustic Corner, NC MAMA, and the Swannanoa Valley History Museum.

### If you go

At the Black Mountain Center for the Arts, 225 W. State Street.

Cost is a \$10 donation at the door. No advanced sales or reserved seats. For information call (828) 669-0930.





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(all shows at the Diana Wortham Theatre unless noted)

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# Message from the Publisher



Dennis Ray, publisher, and son  
Harrison Graham Ray

## "Kiss Me Kate" Comes to HART

Dear readers,

I have three favorite musicals I've enjoyed both on film and on stage. The first is *Hair*. The second is *Les Misérables* (which I even drove to New York to see) and the third one is *Kiss Me Kate*. I was extremely pleased when I heard HART (Haywood Arts Regional Theatre) would be doing "Kiss Me Kate." It features music and lyrics by Cole Porter and is structured as a play within a play, where the interior play is a musical version of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*.

I loved the 1953 film version directed by George Sidney (*The Three Musketeers*, 1948) and starring Howard Keel, Kathryn

Grayson, Ann Miller. I had the privilege of seeing this play in Scottsdale in the late '80's. Knowing HART's reputation for quality and their ability to find great talent, I know this play will be a great success.

A little history: *Kiss Me, Kate* was a comeback and a personal triumph for Cole Porter. After several successful musicals in the 1930s, notably *Anything Goes*, *Du Barry Was a Lady*, and *Panama Hattie*, he experienced an equestrian accident in 1937 that left him in constant pain. Following the accident, he continued to write songs and musicals but with limited success, and some thought he was past his prime. *Kiss Me, Kate* was a response to Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* and other integrated musicals, and it proved to be his biggest hit — the only one of his shows to run for more than 1,000 performances on Broadway. It won the first Tony Award presented for Best Musical, in 1949.

For dates and times please visit HART's website, [www.harttheater.com](http://www.harttheater.com), or check out their ad on page six. Please don't think that I'm saying any of this because they happen to advertise with us. This part of the publication is 100% mine — I choose what to say and how to say it. This month I'm letting you know that *Kiss Me Kate* is worth the drive, the money and the time. You will not be disappointed.

*Have a great month — we'll see you in August!*

DENNIS RAY, PUBLISHER RAPID RIVER MAGAZINE

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## Inside

### 5 Cover Story

Southern Highlands Craft Fair... 5

### 7 Art

John MacKay ..... 7  
True Blue Art Supply .... 9  
Groewood Gallery ..... 9  
Woolworth Walk .... 9  
Odyssey .... 10  
Frugal Framer ..... 13  
Henderson Gallery Guild .... 13  
BlackBird Frame & Art ... 21  
Haywood Arts Council .... 39

### 14 Columns

Byron Belzak ..... 14  
Roxane Clement ..... 14  
Peter Loewer ..... 15  
James Cassara ..... 16  
MariJo Moore ..... 19  
James Cassara ..... 16

### 17 Music & Stage

Swannanoa Chamber Music ... 17  
Asheville Bravo Concerts ..... 22  
Laugh Your Asheville Off ..... 27  
Comedy at 35below ..... 32  
I Hate Hamlet ..... 33  
Porter Center for the  
Performing Arts. .... 35

### 18 Books

H. Byron Ballard ..... 18

### 23 Movie Reviews

### 28 Wine

### 29 Beer

### 30 Local Flavor

### 31 Artful Living

### 36 What to Do Guide™

Best in Show ..... 37  
Callie and Cats ..... 37  
Corqi Tales ..... 37

## INFO

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Cover designed by Dennis Ray  
Vase by Michael Hatch



## COVER STORY

## The 61st Annual CRAFT FAIR OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

For four days each July and October, the Civic Center in Asheville comes alive with fine traditional and contemporary crafts. The Fairs, a local tradition since 1948, showcase the work of members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild and feature craft demonstrations, regional music and entertainment.

Over 200 craftspeople fill the two levels of the Civic Center selling their works of clay, fiber, glass, leather, man-made materials, metal, mixed media, natural materials, paper, wood and jewelry. As members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild, the exhibiting artists have passed a rigorous jury process to become a part of the organization. Membership is open to artists who live in the mountain counties of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, the Carolinas, Tennessee, and the Virginias.

While locals and visitors can find crafts at numerous galleries, the Fairs are unique in that they offer people the opportunity to connect with the artists by purchasing directly from them. The community this fosters is important to craftspeople and patrons alike. In an age of mass production and imports, the connection to fine American craft and

the individual maker is more relevant than ever. The Fairs help the Southern Highland Craft Guild fulfill its mission to bring together the crafts and craftspeople of the Southern Highlands for the benefit of shared resources, education, marketing and conservation.

Lee Davis, a potter, has been a member of the Guild since 1976. He loves the camaraderie among craftspeople during the Craft Fair and seeing what other Guild members have been creating and designing since their last meeting. He is always amazed at the great talent and vision among his peers and enjoys seeing the work of new members who are redefining aesthetics for art and craft.

Davis said the fairs are a joyful time to see regular customers who appreciate what craftspeople do.

"When you have made something that has become a part of the story of their life, it is profound when you think about it." Davis believes that the Guild as an organization has fostered an important sense of heritage and tradition. This history is what many visitors want to be a part of so they come back year after year.

Jude Stuecker, a fiber artist, can remember visiting the Craft Fairs before she became a member of the Guild in 2004. She always aspired to become an artist member; now she enjoys the sense of community and fellowship at the Craft Fairs. She feels that the patrons of the Fair enjoy sharing in the arts community.



Woodcarving by David Moore

Last year she worked with a couple who waited all year to purchase something special. They wanted to buy a quilt for a specific spot in their home and they knew they would find what they wanted at the Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands. She is thankful they found it in her booth. Stuecker feels that many others view the Fairs as a destination to find one of a kind heirlooms to enjoy now and into the future.

Karen Newgard has been a member of the Guild since 1996. She finds that visitors to the Craft Fair appreciate the Guild as well as the individual artists. She said her customers love to share stories about all the years they have been coming to the Civic Center for the Craft Fairs. It is a trip they look forward to, often turning it into a weekend enjoying Asheville. Newgard also loves the reunion among members and the chance to catch up with collectors as well as fellow artists.

In addition to fine crafts, local musicians play live on the arena stage during



Vase by Michael Hatch

BY APRIL NANCE

the fairs. Craft educators share their knowledge with adults and children through demonstrations and hands-on projects as well. Historically, eleven thousand people visit the Fair over the course of four days. Their patronage is an investment in the regional economy and the future of Appalachian crafts.

The Craft Fair takes place in beautiful downtown Asheville, nestled within the Blue Ridge Mountains. Long known as an arts and crafts destination, Asheville offers architectural charm, eclectic restaurants, shops and colorful locals. Named a top ten destination in the world, people come to Asheville seeking inspiration. It is upon this backdrop that members of the Guild and connoisseurs alike converge twice annually. Craft demonstrations are always a highlight at

'Craft Fair' continued on pg. 10



Table by David Finck.

...ou vas tu?

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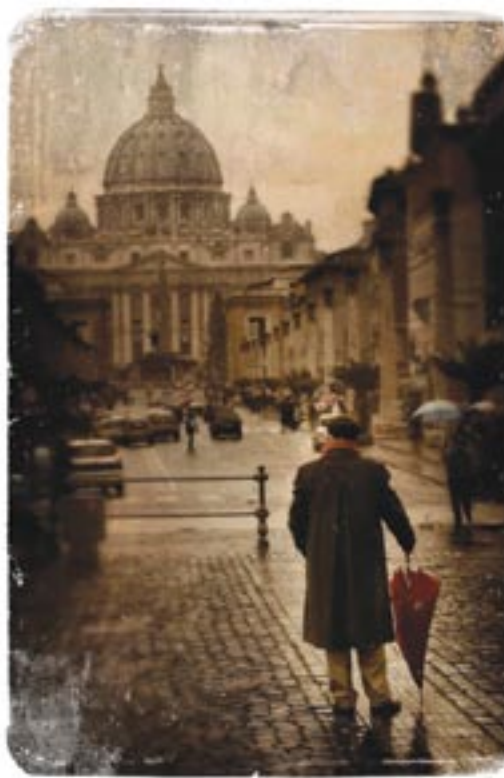
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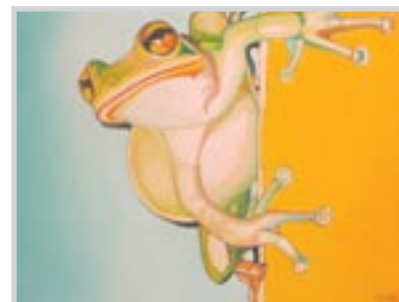


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for more information.



# FINE ART

## The Masterful Work of John Mac Kah

John Mac Kah was born in St. Petersburg, Florida. There he was raised by family-members that practiced photography, printmaking, or visual arts of some form. His grandfather, who worked for The St. Petersburg Times' print department, taught John photo-engraving.

At the age of eight, Kah developed a serious interest in drawing wildlife, particularly, and in high school, studied with S. Rosvear Burton, a professional muralist. While attending Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Florida, Kah pursued private study with the sculptor Leslie T. Posey. After graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, he opened and taught classes from the Artists Studio in Sarasota.

In 1984, he began teaching and painting at various Southeastern art institutions. Kah moved to Western North Carolina in 1994. He currently lives with his wife in North Carolina. They have two adult daughters.

Landscapes and wildlife are Kah's primary subject matter, though he also has an interest in sculpture, still life, trompe l'oeil painting effects, and even

the rendering of prehistoric flora and fauna. He works mostly in oils, but occasionally explores gouache, watercolor, and acrylics. His painting has been described as twentieth century naturalism.

### Artist Statement

For me, painting is ultimately about the natural world. In painting the natural world, I am interested in arresting a moment's perception and I have tried to build a vocabulary to explain the intricacies of what I perceive. I cannot reproduce it, but hope-

fully, I can simplify it into forms that can be read by the viewer. The inspired moment occurs in a microsecond of understanding, but in that fraction of time, I can see a finished painting that represents my understanding. The

exacting hours at the easel are about keeping that moment in time pure. Technique is nothing more than building a usable vocabulary. Being knowledgeable in the correct applications of materials and using them in a craftsman-like fashion extends my proficiency in keeping the inspired vision alive.



Cold Mtn., October

pressures from development and destruction of species and habitat.

These influences include the Barbizon School, Hudson River School, Dusseldorf School of German Naturalism, and espe-

cially the premier Russian landscape artist Ivan I. Shishkin, Charles R. Knight, George Inness, and the ideas of William Morris.

### If you go

"Figurative Allusions" through July 27.

An exhibition featuring figurative themes in diverse styles by eleven 16 Patton gallery artists: Margaret Dyer, Signe Grushovenko, Dean Gurnack, Jane Jaskevich, Karin Jurick, John Mac Kah, Steve Lance, Lori-Gene, Richard Oversmith, Stuart Roper, and Suzy Schultz.

16 Patton Fine Art Gallery, 16 Patton Avenue, downtown Asheville, NC (828) 236-2889, [www.16patton.com](http://www.16patton.com)



A View From Grant Mtn., Lake Lure, NC

## True Blue Art Supply – Asheville's Hot Spot for Fine Arts Supplies

True Blue Art Supply in downtown Asheville is truly an artists' world. The employees are all artists and the store is their gallery.

And though owner/manager Claire Reeder is not a trained artist, she is just as passionate about art as the artists who work in her store.

After a professional life in advertising management, she found her true calling as an entrepreneur in the art world, turning around two flagging art supply stores – one in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, the other, True Blue Art Supply.

She also runs ArtPaper.com, a subsidiary business to True Blue, which offers papers for drawing, painting, book arts and printmaking.

Reeder met the former owners of True Blue at an art supply trade show four years ago. The pair, both artists, told her that they had seen the need for a fine art store in Asheville, but were struggling as business owners. So Reeder, along with partner Jim Shura, bought it.

"I immediately made some changes," Reeder said. "I offered a broader selection of products and brought prices down to cater to students and the average person."

True Blue Art Supply sells both low- and high-end fine art supplies, mainly for painting, drawing and printmaking, and each line has "good, better and best options," to suit every budget.

"Many people have the misconception that the bigger art supply stores or mail-order companies are cheaper, but it's not true," she said. "And all of our staff is required to be knowledgeable about art."

Customers can try out products, like paint brushes, in the store and get answers from people who use the products themselves. The store also carries specialized

products that aren't offered elsewhere locally, such as dammar crystals to make oil paint by hand, she added.

The store is surrounded by art galleries in downtown Asheville and across the street from Earth Guild, a handcraft

supply store. It works out well, she said, because if one of her customers needs something she doesn't have, she'll send them over there.

True Blue also donates art supplies to local public schools that need them.

And she often gets special requests, like the one from local artist Ben Betsalel, a customer "even before his career took off," she said.

"He went to Africa on a two-month painting expedition and asked me to stock him for that," she said. "I packed and shipped his supplies there - it was a marvel of technical engineering."

Trends in fine art supplies, according to Reeder: less toxic materials, greener products and a growing comic book phenomenon. A new product she's excited about: fast-drying, water-soluble oil paint.

She said she's constantly adding new products and plans to expand the kids' section with more projects parents can do with their kids.

She also will sponsor artist trading card workshops, in which artists create miniature-sized pieces of art to trade and



BY PAM J. HECHT

collect; monthly product demonstrations; and an event to produce artwork for the Art-o-mat project, in which retired cigarette vending

machines are converted to vend miniature works of art.

"It's a tough business, but I'm happy to be here," Reeder said. "No one gets to be a millionaire in arts supplies, but there's nothing else I'd rather do."

### True Blue Art Supply Store

30 Haywood Street,  
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Monday - Saturday,  
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[www.artpaper.com](http://www.artpaper.com)



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# FINE ART

## Photography by Parker Pfister at Grovewood Gallery

Currently showing at Grovewood Gallery is the work of Asheville photographer, Parker J. Pfister. Featured works are from Parker's Italy series and New Orleans series. His images have been described as fine art, photo-journalistic fashion, and avant-garde.

However they are described, one thing is certain; they have soul.

He is one of only a few photographers in the world that have been selected by Canon Inc. to represent their Explorers of Light program as well as their Print Masters program.

Parker Pfister's imagery has been awarded many times over, both nationally and internationally. His images and interviews have graced the pages of *Modern Bride*, *Today's Bride*, *Rangefinder*, *Studio*



*Photography and Design*, *Photo District News*, and many other international magazines and photographic books. His personal imagery has also gained the attention of art collectors around the globe.

### If you go

*Parker's work will be on display in Grovewood's Spotlight Gallery through October 2008. You can view more of his work at [www.grovewood.com](http://www.grovewood.com).*

*Grovewood Gallery is located next to The Grove Park Inn in Asheville. Call (828) 253-7651 for more information.*

## "Artsy Salvage" in the Front Window Gallery at Woolworth Walk

Woolworth Walk is currently featuring the work of local artist, Rob O'Sheeran. Bold, vibrant colors

and recurring designs are the foundations of his paintings, which are most often created on found objects.

Vintage glass windows are primarily used as canvas, the glass illuminates the richness of chosen hues and the motion of passing brush strokes. Rob paints a wide range of subjects from abstract imaginary patterns and people, to landscapes, and occasionally simple everyday objects.



An opening reception will be held on July 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to meet the artist and see his present work.

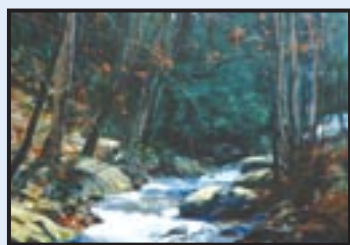
**"Stack 'em High"**  
by Rob O'Sheeran

### If you go

*Works by Rob O'Sheeran on display from July 11 to August 5, 2008.*

*Opening Reception: Sunday, July 13, from 2 to 4 p.m.*

*Woolworth Walk, 25 Haywood St., in Asheville. Phone (828) 254-9234, or visit [www.woolworthwalk.com](http://www.woolworthwalk.com)*



**"Highland Cascade Series"**  
by William Jameson

### William Jameson at Gallery Minerva

Impressionist landscape painter William Jameson is featured at Gallery Minerva for the month of July. Jameson's new paintings portray our North Carolina forests and rivers.

Gallery Minerva, 12 Church Street, Downtown Asheville, off of Patton Avenue. (828) 255-8850  
[www.galleryminerva.com](http://www.galleryminerva.com)



MG FINE ART AND FRAMING  
PRESENTS



"Monsters" by Said Osa

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# FINE ART

## Discover Odyssey

BY ROSELYNN KATZ

A big chunk of Asheville's dynamic art scene lies right behind the doors of Odyssey Center for the Ceramic Arts.

It's a former Nabisco warehouse once used for the storage of crackers on Clingman Avenue in the heart of the old River District where one-time factories and industrial sites are now devoted to the creative spirit.

Odyssey is a hub for potters and sculptors or anyone wishing to make shapes from clay. In a giant space of 15,000 feet (think of a super-sized supermarket and then some), professional artists offer classes to students of all ages and all levels of skill.

Summer is an especially busy time at Odyssey with hands on workshops in making sets of dishware, glazing techniques, creating imaginative figures from clay and using shapes from nature for inspiration.

No less than one hundred and eighty children will be engaged at Odyssey's summer camps this season where they will make wind chimes and mobiles as well as planes, trains and automobiles in a

space that has been freshly renovated just for them.

The facility also offers seven electric kilns, two gas kilns and two kilns for raku, a Japanese technique used in ceramic creation. There's more than enough onsite in terms of various kinds of clay, equipment and tools to benefit all ceramists, be they rank beginners or lifetime veterans of the art.

In fact, Odyssey's co-owner and manager, Brian McCarthy, points out that home studios are often lonely places, by contrast, and quite expensive. Compare this with Odyssey where "an extraordinary sense of community has developed," McCarthy adds. "Some of our students have been taking classes for ten years." In so doing many artists are able to connect with and learn from each other. "There's something about working with clay that naturally brings people together," McCarthy explains. "It's an experience that touches the soul."

Artists can also choose to rent space in Odyssey, whether they take classes or not. Many areas in the building have been par-

tioned, insuring privacy and the chance to work independently within a close at hand community of like-minded people.

Odyssey's residency program gives young people the chance to perform various tasks within its walls, while experiencing the day to day life and economics of an artist at work.

A former potter himself, McCarthy and his wife, Gail, have twenty-eight years of experience in providing clay to artists and to schools. They started back in 1980 with Highwater Clay on Thompson St., and going stronger than ever today at 600 Riverside Dr. In 1980 it had a dough mixer with a 250 pound capacity for mixing clay. Today its machinery provides a ton at a time to meet the constantly growing demand.

All clay is subject to rigorous quality control to insure that one particular batch is the same as another batch of the same type. Many types are available, including that from which porcelain is made.

"With clay we're recreating geology," McCarthy muses. "Every one of our pots has a little stardust in it."

The River District has undergone a metamorphosis because of Odyssey as well as the many other bustling art colonies in the area. Once lined with abandoned factories and a dwindling railroad,

the River Arts District has become Asheville's "Left Bank", akin to that in Paris, a place which attracts visitors and artists alike. With its brightly painted doorways, repaved streets and new growth of trees, it is now a success story, illustrating how

a city can vibrantly reinvent itself to meet the needs of changing times.

Explore Odyssey and learn about

firing clay, using the potters wheel, or watch the creation of perfectly proportioned miniatures from clay. Make a day of it and eat out, River District style. The Clingman Café offers such treats as organic coffee and Muffaletta sandwiches; Twelve Bones boasts killer ribs, pulled pork, and chicken.

**"There's something about working with clay that naturally brings people together — it's an experience that touches the soul."**

~ BRIAN MCCARTHY,  
ODYSSEY'S CO-OWNER AND MANAGER

### Odyssey's Main Store

600 Riverside Drive, in  
Asheville's River Arts District next  
to Clingman Café.

For more info call (828) 285-0210  
or visit [www.highwaterclays.com](http://www.highwaterclays.com)

### Studios

238 Clingman Ave., in Asheville  
(828) 252-2044

### 'Craft Fair' continued from pg. 5

the Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands. Watching and interacting with highly skilled craftspeople as they create is entertaining and educational. In addition to scheduled demonstrations, many exhibitors choose to share their process by working in their booth. Throughout the show, visitors will have the opportunity to observe works by over 200 members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild and to learn about their inspiration and methods.

For years, Guild members Mary Frances Davidson and Bea Hensley greeted visitors at the entrance to the civic center while respectively demonstrating natural dyeing and blacksmithing. Now, seasoned favorites Dede Styles and Alwin

Wagener have taken this important role. These two traditional craft demonstrations offer visitors their first glimpse of the heritage and craftsmanship that have made the Craft Fairs famous.

This year's special July Fair demonstrations include: fabric painting and collage by Diane Getty, tapestry weaving by Tommye Scanlin, woodcarving by David Moore, heritage toy making by Leniavell Trivette, and chair bottoming by Lindy Mack Cannon.

Diane Getty is a fiber artist from in

Baltimore, MD and her specialty is fabric collage. Her many steps include: dyeing fabric, painting on fabric, sewing and adding embellishments. For the Fair, Diane

'Craft Fair' continued on next page

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# FINE ART

'Craft Fair' continued from pg. 10

will show a sampling of her processes.

Tommye Scanlin is a tapestry artist from Dahlonega, GA. For her demonstration she will share how a tapestry comes to life from inspiration, to sketch, design, and then weaving.

David Moore is a new member of the Guild from Russellville, TN. He will demonstrate the creation of his unique bark house carvings.

Leniavell Trivette of Zionville, NC, will be making sock monkeys at the Craft Fair. She has been a Heritage Craft Affiliate member of the Guild since 2004. Her demonstrations are always a favorite at Guild events, especially Heritage Weekend held this year at the Folk Art Center September 20-21.



Fabric collage by Diane Getty.

Lindy Mack Cannon of Montreat, NC, is an expert craftsperson known for his chair bottoming skills. He will demonstrate on Thursday, July 17 on the arena stage.

## Southern Highlands Craft Fair Entertainment

### Friday, July 18

11 a.m. – Buddy, Carol and Jamie Asheville musicians specializing in old-time collaborate in their first appearance at the Guild Fair.

1 p.m. – Good Ole Mountain Dudes For their first Guild Fair performance, local professional musicians pick up their instruments to enjoy playing in a casual setting and to support Guild members.

3 p.m. – Sherri Lynn and Mountain Friends. High energy American swing-grass. This is a strong team that combines fine musicianship and pure joy, giving audiences a highly entertaining show.

4 p.m. – The Forget Me Nots This trio of young female fiddlers play mountain music with a Celtic flavor.

### Saturday, July 19

11am – The Evening Post Up and coming local musicians play old-time mountain music.

12:30 p.m. – Split Rail Split Rail provides a great continuity of sound that can only be achieved from years of playing together. Strong vocal harmony is their trademark.

2 p.m. – Cary Fridley and Down South Cary Fridley's strong, clear voice and song repertoire express respect for old-time singers long gone. She collects songs from old records and Appalachian field recordings, making them her own.

4 p.m. – The Fabulous Guildenaires The Fabulous Guildenaires play that old-time mountain music the way they

learned it from North Carolina legends like Tommy Jarrell, Art Wooten and Red Wilson.

### Sunday, July 20

11 a.m. – Brooke and George Appalachian Traditional Duo.

Noon – The New Southern Ramblers The New Southern Ramblers will be making their first appearance at the Guild Fair. Led by Phil Jamison, the band's strong beliefs in preserving the mountain music art form come through in their performance.

2 p.m. – Turnpike Trio Local musicians and members of Buncombe Turnpike who have been featured on CMT perform the region's finest bluegrass.

3:30 p.m. – Hot Duck Soup Kazoos, slide whistles, banjos, guitars, ukes, an antique cornet, washtub bass, and the Cacophonium! Hot Duck Soup plays old tunes like you've never heard 'em played. You'll sing! You'll dance! You'll laugh until you cry!

### If you go

The 61st Annual Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands at the Asheville Civic Center, 87 Haywood Street in downtown Asheville, NC.

July 17-20 & October 16-19, 2008.  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday - Saturday;  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

Admission: Adults \$6, children under 12 free. Group discounts are available.  
Additional Information: [www.craft-guild.org](http://www.craft-guild.org) or (828) 298-7928.

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Beads and Beyond — Since 1984 beadsters of all ages come to Beads and Beyond on Wall St. You can create a bracelet for a friend or maybe a necklace or new earrings. Owner Barry Olen has searched the markets of the world for unique beads, jewelry-making supplies and treasures from the earth.



# FINE ART

## Frugal Framer and Framer's Chop Service Cater to Local Artists

**K**en Pitts is humble about his early success in the picture framing business, attributing it to two things: luck and timing.

A furniture manufacturer by trade, he attended a picture framing convention in 1972 and found that the industry appealed to his interest in art, color and design. Three years later, he opened his first frame shop in Asheville.

"There was a growing market for home décor at the time and I didn't need much capital to start," he said. "I didn't make a lot of money at first, but I had found a good business to be in and I was lucky."

Pitts now owns two Frugal Framer stores – one in Arden, the other just north of downtown – and a wholesale business called Framer's Chop Service. All three are thriving and he hasn't looked back since.

His stores donate framing to organizations such as the Western North Carolina Aids Project and provide materials to local schools. Pitts shares his knowledge about making a profit in the art world by speaking with art students at University of North Carolina-Asheville and artists at the Asheville Art Museum.

He describes Frugal Framer as a place to "get lots of advice and help" – at a reasonable price lower than that of the big chain stores. His retail stores serve many well-known artists and businesses, as well as individual customers who'd like their artwork professionally framed.



**Ken Pitts,**  
owner of Frugal Framer

BY PAM J. HECHT

While the Frugal Framer is quiet and peaceful, with local artwork adorning the walls and attentive staff eager to assist, the Framer's Chop Service is something very different.

Journey into the back of Frugal Framer's North Asheville store, via a loading dock around the corner, and you are bombarded with sound. A rhythmic, pulsing sound, like a

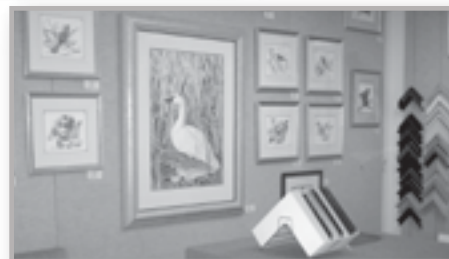
thousand nails being pounded into a wall at the same time.

This is the Framer's Chop Service – a special place because it's the only one in town. What you're hearing is the air compressor, which runs all of the air-powered machines, and you never know when the noise will suddenly begin.

Framer's Chop Service is where professional artists go for large quantities of framing supplies at a deep discount. People who walk into the shop know how to build their own frames and are regular customers. Many are students in AB Tech's framing class.

This self-serve framer's paradise is a well-kept secret among artists in the know, and for many, it is a vital resource. Pitts opened Framer's Chop Service in 1982, after seeing the need for artists to "be their own framers."

"Galleries began requiring artists to provide framed work ready to go into a customer's house," he said. "They had been losing sales because of the poor framing."



Chop Service customers order many pieces at once, in time for an upcoming art show or other special need. An order can include twenty glass sheets or mats – or hundreds of either. The word "chop" refers to each of the four pieces of wood needed to build a frame – most pay a few dollars more for a frame that's already "joined" into one piece.

Framer's Chop Service offers all of the raw materials needed to build frames but the staff is clear about one thing: they aren't there to spoon feed.

When it comes to choosing framing materials, you've got to know what you want, said employee Brian Mashburn, and staff members aren't there to discuss framing. To do that, Frugal Framer is the place to go.

### Frugal Framer

2 Locations

#### North Asheville

95 North Cherry Street  
(828) 258-2435

#### Arden

2145 Hendersonville Road  
(828) 687-8533

Both locations open Mon-Sat,  
9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

#### Framer's Chop Service

Located behind Frugal Framer  
in North Asheville  
(828) 254-9104

Mon-Fri. 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.,  
Sat. 9-1 p.m.

## Summer Classes at Cloth Fiber Workshop

### *Dyeing with Dirt, Printing with Nature*

Using local red clay dirt, plants, and other materials from nature, you'll explore a variety of techniques to alter and enhance your surface designs. Learn how to achieve lovely shades of orange to rust to yellow and brown. Explore printing with leaves, pine cones and more.

Saturday & Sunday, July 19 & 20

Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Instructor: Meg Manderson

Fee: \$155 + materials

### *Inspired by Nature: Art Quilts*



Learn to abstract ideas and allow what you see and feel to inspire your design. Working with fusible web on fabric, learn basic fusing

techniques, free-hand cutting and improvisational assemblage. Free-motion machine embroidery and other surface design techniques will be demonstrated and discussed.

Saturday, July 26, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Instructor: Norma Bradley

Fee: \$85 + materials

### *Fancify that Apron*

Aprons are back! Come sew a pattern of your choice, and then embellish the heck out of it! Learn to use all or some of the following: appliqué; making and using your own bias tape; incorporating raw edges; trimming with rickrack; embroidery; image transfer; creating scallop hemlines, panel inserts, and more!

Saturday, August 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Instructor: Nathalie Mornu

Fee: \$85 + materials

## If you go

*Cloth Fiber Workshop, 51 Thompson St., Suite D, in Asheville. Barbara Zaretsky, Director. (828) 505-2958.*

*barbara@clothfiberworkshop.com,  
www.clothfiberworkshop.com*

## New Guild Launches with Tour of Henderson County

**I**n a unified effort to celebrate the founding of The Gallery Guild of Henderson County, the charter members have planned a gallery tour.

On Saturday, July 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the newly formed Guild will celebrate with this inaugural tour featuring special exhibitions in each of the 15 galleries belonging to the Guild. To help visitors locate each gallery, a newly published Gallery Guide to Henderson County will be available in the Visitor's Center on Main Street and in galleries

### Follow the Red Balloon!

wherever you see the red balloons.

Each gallery will host a different exhibition and light refreshments will be served along the route. The new gallery guide will also indicate the style and purpose of each gallery. Galleries on the route are on and off Main Street, continuing down the Greenville Highway and on to Flat Rock.

Mark your calendar for July 5 and experience the wonderful array of art as you follow the Gallery Guide of Henderson County.

### Founding members of The Gallery Guild of Henderson County:

The Arts Council of Henderson County, Studio B, Hand in Hand Gallery, McCarter Gallery, Mona!, Mountain Song Gallery, Narnia Studios, Oliver's Southern Folk Art Gallery, Red Step Artworks, The Conn-Artist Studios & Art Gallery, The Funky Bungalow Mosaic Co., The Portrait Source, WICKWIRE fine art/folk art, William Gordon Gallery.

More information and links to the galleries can be found at [www.galleryguild.com](http://www.galleryguild.com).



# THE ARTFUL HOME

## New "Green" Voice/Data Communications System

**D**ual Access: A new, patent-pending, affordable, "green" telephone and data communications system has been installed in Deltec's new model home and Southern Living magazine's new Idea House, both located in the Asheville area.

"I expect that we'll start quoting the Dual Access system in all of our residential applications," said Bill Arledge, president of TSA Choice, the largest low-voltage subcontractor in Western North Carolina, known for its residential and commercial telephone, computer, cable television, security, and smart home installations.

There's good reason why. It's a rare product line that is green, offers higher quality, and costs less to install. This new product, known as Dual Access™, offers reliable telephone service along with broadband 10/100 Internet service or one gigabyte Internet service, which is ideal for high-tech residences and home-based businesses.

Each Dual Access wall-mounted jack allows hard-wired telephone and Internet

service at the high speed of 10/100 – or with the flip of a switch inside the wall plate, one gigabyte Internet service is possible. Additional ports allow for expansion.

A Deltec home was the first installation east of the Mississippi to utilize a Dual Access voice and data system.

"This product was a perfect fit for our new model home," said Steve Linton, green building coordinator of Deltec Homes. "From a green standpoint, it used less wiring, less raw materials, less labor, and it cost less to install."

A second installation of this new voice and data system is featured in the new Southern Living magazine Idea House, located in the Blue Ridge Mountains' development of Whisper Mountain.

"We have approved the Dual Access system for an innovation credit for HealthyBuilt homes," said is Maggie Leslie, program director of the Western North Carolina (WNC) Green Building Council, a 501(c)3 educational nonprofit group that encourages builders and consumers to build green.

The public is invited to examine both



BY BYRON BELZAK

**The Dual Access™ wall plate offers a telephone port, an ethernet port and blank ports for additional high-tech upgrades, such as home**

**automation. Photo by Chris Revis**

homes with Dual Access and many other "green" building features.

"I really think that Dual Access is going to be one of those products that

I'll be quoting on every job," said Cindy Hipps, vice president of Home Source in Asheville, North Carolina, and builder of the first Deltec home installed with Dual Access. "All the way around Dual Access is a good deal, and the end result is the consumer is the winner."

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**For detailed product specifications and visitor hours about installed Dual Access systems in the Asheville area, visit [www.dualaccess.com](http://www.dualaccess.com), [www.deltechomes.com](http://www.deltechomes.com), and [www.whispermountainnc.com](http://www.whispermountainnc.com).**

## Cloth Fiber Workshop

BY ROXANE CLEMENT

**C**loth Fiber Workshop was founded in 2007 by fiber artist Barbara Zaretsky. It is a textile arts learning center and retail store that offers classes, workshops and materials for fiber artists of all experience levels. The goal of Cloth is to join with customers, students, instructors, employees and vendors in improving their world, even if it is "by one elegant block printed pillow (or yard of organic cotton) at a time."

The fabrics that Barbara sells are organic and sustainable cotton and hemp, as well as peace silk, a fabric produced in India using non-violent methods. In conventional silk production, the silk worms are boiled alive in their cocoons; however, peace silk producers wait to harvest the cocoons when they are empty. Even the dyes sold and used at Cloth are natural plant dye extracts.

Located in Biltmore Station, just north of Biltmore Village the space is also available to rent for individuals or groups. It is furnished with the equipment necessary for a variety of textile work, including work tables, sewing machines, a steamer and large sinks. She plans to add a dye kitchen this summer.

On week days the studio serves as the production space for BZDesign where Barbara creates her line of home furnishings and wearables. BZDesign began in Chicago over 20 years ago, and has continued in Asheville since Barbara moved here in 2001.

Barbara brings a strong art background to her work, having studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and Northern Illinois University. She worked as



**Fiber artist Barbara Zaretsky paints a stamp she will use to decorate a beautiful a table runner.**

a graphic artist in Chicago, and began using her graphic arts knowledge to create computer generated textile designs for a home furnishing company.

When she decided to leave Chicago, she took the time to travel around the country, and finally decided to settle in Asheville. She was familiar with the area from camping and hiking here, and soon landed a job at Lark Books designing book covers. With her strong background in fiber arts, she was accepted as a member of the Southern High-

lands Craft Guild, and she continued her education taking dyeing classes at Penland School of Crafts.

Local decorators are beginning to take notice of her furnishings, and one of her wall hangings will be on display at the HandMade House at the Ramble, a project created in partnership with Hand-Made in America, a non-profit coalition of Western North Carolina artists and Biltmore Farms.

Cloth is offering two workshops during the month of July (see page 13). These are open to anyone who wants to come and bring whatever project they're working on.

### Cloth Fiber Workshop

51 Thompson Street, Suite D,  
Biltmore Station  
(828) 505-2958

Retail hours: Tuesday – Saturday  
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

[www.clothfiberworkshop.com](http://www.clothfiberworkshop.com)

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## THOREAU'S GARDEN

## Passion Flowers: Beautiful and Unique

BY PETER LOEWER

In the early 1600s an exotic flower was discovered in Mexico by an Augustine friar named Emmanuelle Villegas, who took plants along when he returned to Italy from the wilds of the new America.

The good friar presented a drawing of his unusual flower to the Roman theologian Giacomo Bosio and Bosio was so impressed by the image that he immediately wrote about it in a treatise on the *Cross of Calvary*. He called the blossom so marvelous and distinctly unusual that his journals cited it as "The most extraordinary representation of the Cross Triumphant ever discovered in field or forest. The flower contains within itself not only the Savior's Cross but also the symbols of His Passion."

Because the elaborate floral parts suggested — in symbolic terms — the Passion of Christ and because the flower was found blooming with bravado in the middle of heathen territory, the blossom became a *cause célèbre*.

Spanish colonists in Mexico and South America called it "the Flower of the Five Wounds," and believed it to be a divinely created sign to convert those very pagans to Christianity. Of course the natives already used the plant in their own folk medicine, attaching a somewhat different meaning to the plant's common name.

The original drawing was quickly interpreted by some Bolognese Dominicans into an engraving that again traded symbolism for scientific accuracy. Bosio described the flower as having:

"External petals of white in Peru, but those flowers which are found in New Spain have white petals suffused with pink. The filaments which surmount them resemble a fringe spattered with blood, thus seeming to represent the flail with which Christ was scourged. The column at which He was scourged rises from the centre of the flower, the three nails with which He was nailed to the Cross are above it, and the column is surrounded by the Crown of Thorns."

"At the flower's exact centre, emanating from the base of the column, there is a yellow zone bearing five blood-colored marks symbolic of the Five Wounds inflicted on Our Lord. The color of the column, the nails, and the crown is light green. Surrounding these elements is a kind of violet-colored nimbus composed of 72 filaments that correspond — according to tradition — to the number of spines in the Crown of Thorns. The

plant's numerous and attractive leaves are shaped like a lance-head, and remind us of the Lance of Longinus which pierced the Savior's side. Their undersurface is marked with flecks of white which symbolize Judas' thirty pieces of silver."

In scientific Latin the genus *Passiflora* means passion flower and the plant described by Bosio was *Passiflora caerulea*, with the species actually referring to the deep blue of the Mediterranean sky at mid-day. It's original home was Brazil and upon fertilization, fruits appear that are the size and shape of a

small egg, bright orange in color when ripe. It detests frost so can only survive in our gardens when grown in pots and protected during the winter.

The living roots arrived in Europe sometime in the early 1620s and in 1699 it was reported that the Duchess of Beaufort grew it in her collection. The Duchess was a famous horticulturist and even

today her ghost is reported to drift about the fishponds and the little footbridge in the estate gardens.

A cultivar known as 'Constance Elliott' with fragrant flowers first appeared in a garden located in Exeter, Devon. In 1884 it was awarded a First Class Certificate by the Royal Horticultural Society. Still in cultivation this plant will survive outside in milder areas of England—if provided with the protection of a west-facing wall but is probably at risk with the slightest danger of frost.

Today there are over 450 species of passion flowers known mostly at home in tropical or semi-tropical regions of the world. Many have edible fruit.

Here in Western North Carolina we're lucky to be home for our own native passion flower, known as the Maypop or Apricot Vine, more properly as *Passiflora incarnata*. It's a climbing or trailing vine with soft, hairy stems sometimes reaching a length of twenty-five feet. Six-inch leaves are palmately lobed into three sections and the whitish blossoms are about three inches wide while the



"Carpenter Bee Pollinating a Passion Flower", colored pencil and ink on paper, by Peter Loewer

corona is lavender. The fruit is greenish-yellow, edible, and makes a very good jelly. Found throughout the Southeast, even up to southern Pennsylvania, the species name means flesh-colored and refers to some of the floral parts. Maypop is the official state wildflower of Tennessee.

According to *Eastern/Central Medicinal Plants* by Steven Foster and James A. Duke 1990: Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston), the American Indians

poulticed the roots for treating boils and cuts and investigations on other properties continue. But the basic warnings apply: Potentially harmful in large amounts.

The flowers are generally pollinated by large bees like the carpenter bee (*Xylocopa virginica*) or the bumble bee (*Bombus fervidus*), and you thought the carpenter bee was only there to drive you nuts when it drills those perfectly found holes in the siding or eaves of your house.

Propagation is easy either from seed or from cuttings. Sow seed early in spring or soft cuttings from this season's growth can be taken in June or July and rooted in moist sand but be patient as the action is sometimes slow. Plants prefer a light, well-drained soil and are generally easy to grow, needing partial to full sun with the soil kept evenly moist. They benefit from adding plenty of compost when planting out. Look to woodland edges where vines can clamber up small trees and shrubs.

The more tropical varieties make great container plants and easily overwinter indoors in a warm spot or a cool greenhouse. An amazing number of brilliantly beautiful tropical species are available from Logee's Greenhouses in an astounding collection of plants found at their website, [www.logees.com](http://www.logees.com)

**Peter Loewer is a well-known writer and botanical artist who has written and illustrated over twenty-five books on natural history over the past thirty years.**

**Hand-colored prints and vitreographic prints by Peter Loewer will be on display throughout July and August at BlackBird Frame & Art. The public is invited to enjoy coffee and snacks during a casual reception on Saturday morning, July 12 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at BlackBird's new location, 159 South Lexington Ave. Call (828) 252-4144 or visit [blackbirdframe.com](http://blackbirdframe.com) for more information.**



Peter Loewer examines some Lenten roses.

## Flutter Over to the Western North Carolina Nature Center

BY SARAH ORAM

Returning for its 5th season, the Beauty of Butterflies exhibit invites visitors to feed a butterfly, meet a moth, find caterpillars and cocoons and experience hundreds of fancy flyers face to face.

This wildly interactive walk-through display, sponsored by the Asheville Regional Airport, gives visitors

face-to-face encounters with 20 species of native butterflies and moths. Bring your camera, stay as long as you like.

Beauty of Butterflies allows guests to get a first-hand look at pollination, learn about the amazing life cycles of these insects, and find out how to provide important habitat for pollinators. This year's exhibit will include more individual butterflies than ever before.



Ultimate Ice Cream, 1070 Tunnel Road, has created a special flavor, Pollinator's Picnic, to celebrate the arrival of the butterflies. It will be lemon ice cream with blackberry swirl to underscore the importance of pollinators in growing healthy fruit.

## If you go

**5th Annual Beauty of Butterflies Exhibit, through Monday, September 1, 2008 at the WNC Nature Center, 75 Gashes Creek Road, in East Asheville. The exhibit is open everyday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Open late on July 9, 26, 23 and 30 from 1 to 8 p.m.**

**Admission: \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 3 and older. \$2 discount for adults residing in Asheville. For more information on this exhibit, please contact Eli Strull, Education Specialist, at (828) 298-5600 ext. 306, or visit [www.wildwnc.org](http://www.wildwnc.org).**



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## SPINNING DISCS:

## July CD Reviews by James Cassara

We're back again with a wide range of eclectic and often under the radar releases. Given one star or five rest assured anything reviewed on these pages is well worth seeking out, particularly if you wisely support your local independent music store!

### T Bone Burnett

#### Tooth of Crime Nonesuch Records

While best known as a musicologist and producer, T Bone Burnett has maintained a steady if low key recording career. Propelled to the forefront by his associations with Robert Plant, Alison Krauss, John Mellencamp, and (of course) the "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?" soundtrack Burnett is in fact the essence of the independent artist. He just happens to be one to have struck gold.

His latest offering, the mordantly titled *Tooth of Crime*, demonstrates the darker side of his music. Cast aside are the cherubic pop underpinnings of his past few discs, replaced with a relentlessly noir course that evokes a soundscape were Roy Orbison collides with Robert Mitchum. Its centerpiece is "Kill Zone", co-written by Orbison just weeks before his 1988 death, a solid mid tempo rocker that hints at the peculiar nature of these songs.

The inspiration for *Tooth of Crime* dates back more than thirty-five years: Burnett originally conceived them for a production of Sam Shepard's 1972 play of the same name. The play-reflections of a washed up rock star-used only bits of the Burnett material. The rest were shelved until now. Given its somewhat convoluted history, it should come as no surprise that *Tooth of Crime*, for all its lofty goals, is a bit of a glorious mess.

While on the surface it sounds great, bristling with bluesy guitars, clanking percussion and Burnett's brand name phantasmagorical production, the songs frequently collapse under their own ambitions, swerving in unexpected detours from which they never return. And while Burnett has never been known for poetic lyricism such dopey lines as "I can stir you like a Bloody Mary" sound as forced as the dime novels they intend to evoke.

Obviously Burnett is too talented to make a truly bad record but coming from someone with such impeccable credentials and taste *Tooth of Crime* is as unfocused an album as you'll likely hear. The irony is that it literally screams for a strong willed and capable producer: Per-



haps that same fellow who put together the triumphant "Oh Brother?" ★★

### Aimee Mann

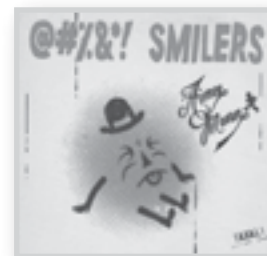
#### @#%&\*! Smilers Superego Sounds

After the narrative cycles of *Lost in Space* and *The Forgotten Arm*, Aimee Mann makes a welcome return to the simple pleasures of straightforward song writing, an album that plays less to her desire for exploration and more towards her uncanny skills as a writer of four minute pop delights.

@#%&\*! *Smilers* employs a back to basics approach that replaces careful craftsmanship with defiant jolt, resulting in a collection that finds the former 'Til Tuesday songstress in fine form. While the arrangements and instrumental pairings (heavy on percussion and keyboard with only a hint of guitar) are hardly revelatory the songs have an immediacy that's been lacking in her records since the days of *Bachelor # 2* and *Magnolia*.

One of Mann's greatest strengths has always been her seductive skills, the inherent ability to write a song that slowly drags you in, however willingly. This one grabs you from the start, with engaging hooks and a sonic luster that doesn't demand so much as deserve your attention.

At its core it's just a "mere" collection of songs, but that's its charm. Just as his last few albums have shown how Mann's husband-songwriter Michael Penn has learned a bit from his wife's sense of the grandiose, @#%&\*! *Smilers* seems to suggest his knack for direct and to the point has rubbed off on her. Now if only the two would join musical forces; that'd really be something to hear! ★★★1/2



### Tomcat Courtney Downsville Blues Blue Witch Records

The simple law of averages would dictate that for every musician who hits the big time there are dozens who, despite having equal if not greater talent, are destined to spend their lives racking up endless miles playing clubs and road-houses. The career of Tomcat Courtney



would seem to support that notion.

The 79 year old Courtney has long been a fixture on the traditional blues scene, playing in clubs in and around San Diego area, but has only recently begun to gain some well deserved national attention. In terms of style Courtney is as traditional as traditional gets, playing electric blues as if the term were just being invented. He clearly owes a lot to early 1950s' Muddy Waters, and while his

thick baritone doesn't have quite the bite as did Muddy it's still a voice all its own.

His songs wisely keep within familiar themes; love gone bad, unfaithful women /stubborn minded men, and the wreckage left behind by the foolish things we do. Like most great bluesmen he reserves some scorn for himself while expressing more than a spot of regret. When Courtney stretches out a bit the results are just as good. The title song bemoans the loss of innocence in his Texas hometown while "Disaster Blues" gives the government's handling of the Katrina fiasco a well deserved piece of his mind.

The arrangements are both comfortable and timeless while the back up band is as tight as it needs to be. There's certainly nothing here that breaks new ground but in an era in which so many of our seminal blues artists are dying off it's great to see one, who has so long labored in obscurity, finally get his due. ★★★

### Gene Clark

#### Silverado 1975: Live and Unreleased Collector's Choice Music

If Roger McGuinn was the Byrd's focal point, David Crosby the wild eyed idealist, and Chris Hillman the resident jack of all trades, then Gene Clark was their hear and soul.

For his relatively short tenure with the band his characteristic minor-key melodies and opaque vocal style gave the band a much needed counter to the polished studio sheen of their hit singles. When Clark left the band he seemed the most likely to go onto to stardom; that it never came his way is one of the puzzles of the day. He did however make some fine music, among the best of the post Byrds records.

'CD's' continued on next page



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Swannanoa Chamber Music Festival

BY KAY WALDROP

The Swannanoa Chamber Music Festival will soon mark its 14th season in Waynesville under the sponsorship of the Haywood County Arts Council. The series of five concerts showcases world-class musicians who perform varied and entertaining music.

The Degas String Quartet will return as the Quartet in Residence. Quartet members are Emily Popham, violin; Timothy Peters, violin; Simon Ertz, viola; and Philip von Maltzahn, cello. Since its inception in 1999, the Degas has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Library of Congress, Atlanta's Spivey Hall, and the Aspen Music Festival. Currently, they are the recipient of a residency grant from Chamber Music of America for their North Carolina project, which combines residencies at Appalachian State, UNC Wilmington, and UNC Pembroke.

The series will take place at the Haywood Arts Regional Theatre (HART) at 7:30 pm on the following Sundays: July 6, 13, and 20. The traditional receptions in the lobby after the concerts give audience members the opportunity to meet and speak with the musicians. Those desiring more background about the rep-

ertoire of upcoming concerts may attend the free, informal lecture-demonstrations on the following Thursdays: July 3, 10, and 17 at 7:30 pm in room 20 of the Music Building (adjoining Kittredge Theatre) at Warren Wilson College.

In addition to the Degas, Festival Director Frank Ell, clarinet, has assembled an outstanding group of returning musicians including Inessa Zaretsky, piano; Cynthia Wilson, oboe; William Hoyt, French horn; and John Kehayas, bassoon. Newcomer George Pope, flute, replaces long-time flutist Tyra Gilb.

This season, the Festival welcomes two guest musicians who will perform in the fourth concert. Richard Illman will play the trumpet and piccolo trumpet. Jazz composer and pianist Paul Nitsch, this year's composer in residence, will present the world premiere of a work



The Degas String Quartet, featuring Emily Popham, Timothy Peters, Simon Ertz, and Philip von Maltzahn.

by Newman. Program IV will be the Festival's first-ever mixed classical and jazz concert.

Works by Mozart, Beethoven, Dvorák, Fauré, Poulenc, Bartók, Dussek, Hindemith, Brahms, Telemann, Debussy, Nielsen, and Schubert are scheduled in the programs offered this season.

Besides the Haywood Arts Regional Theatre in Waynesville, concerts will be held at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa and at Blue Ridge Community College in Flat Rock.

### Program III, July 6

Notturmo Concertante, Dussek; Kleine Kammermusik, Hindemith; Piano Quartet No. 3, Brahms.

### Program IV, July 13

Konzert in D Minor, Telemann; World Premiere, Newman; Quartet in G Minor, Debussy.

### Program V, July 20

Serenata in Vano, Nielsen; Octet in F Major, Schubert.

## If you go

Haywood County Arts Council's Performing Arts Series presents the Swannanoa Chamber Music Festival

Sundays, July 6 – July 20 at 7:30 p.m.  
Performing Arts Center/Haywood Arts Regional Theatre, 250 Pigeon Street, Waynesville, NC. Box office opens at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$19 per person and are also available at the Haywood County Arts Council. Students admitted FREE.

For further details, call (828) 452-0593, visit [www.haywoodarts.org](http://www.haywoodarts.org), or stop by 86 North Main Street in Waynesville.

### 'CD's' continued



His solo discs, though long out of print and difficult to find, are well worth the quest. Following a semi-successful stint

with Doug Dillard, along with a smattering of solo recordings and other aborted band efforts, Clark formed the Silverados. The trio, which included Duke Bardwell on bass and Roger White on guitar, began playing a series of small venues and clubs.

Such outings were tailor made for Clark's new approach to sound: he stripped things down to the bare essentials and began making music akin to the dark Appalachian ballads he grew up listening to. This live set from 1975 shows how well the approach worked. A wonderful version of "Long Black Veil" is stunning in its simple complexity while beautifully haunting takes on such early Byrds classics as "Here Without

You" and "Set You Free This Time" nearly eclipse the originals.

Sharing the limelight with so many gifted musicians Clark became the forgotten Byrd. This disc, which hopefully marks a re-examination of his life and music, should go a long way towards changing that. ★★

### Chip Taylor

#### New Songs of Freedom Megaforce Records

Chip Taylor is best known as having penned such enduring classics as the primitive garage punk anthem "Wild Thing" and the corporeal "Angel of the Morning" but those two songs, while ensuring him a level of financial security, are only a small fraction of his vast musical resume.

Over the past decade Taylor, who had taken a lengthy hiatus from the music industry, has had a rebirth of sorts, tutoring such up and comers as fiddler Carrie Rodriguez while assuming the role as elder statesmen. *New Songs of Freedom*, which includes tracks from upcoming projects and a smattering of songs from



his past few albums (none of which are currently in print), serves as an excellent introduction to the artist.

The strongest material comes from his 2001 masterwork *Black and Blue America* — which might well be one of the most under appreciated Americana releases of the decade — while the new tunes demonstrate his gift for socially conscious songs that are void of preachy histrionics.

"Former American Soldier" is an excellent example; it tells the story of Laotian soldiers who fought bravely alongside our troops only to be unceremoniously ignored by our government. While "Dance With Jesus" reinforces Taylor's commitment to music that goes beyond simple entertainment.

While it's a stretch to call this a new Chip Taylor album, it functions well as a holding place for future endeavors. There's an internal cohesion here that promises even better things to follow. Approaching his seventh decade, Chip Taylor might just now be hitting his stride. ★★1/2

Downtown After Five presents

## Plato de Mambo with the Waybacks



The Waybacks, photo by Jay Blakesberg

On July 18, beginning at 5 p.m., Plato de Mambo, a local Latin ensemble, will take the stage, followed by The Waybacks, a four-piece ensemble of acoustic and electric instruments which draws inspiration from Memphis soul, honky-tonk, Parisian swing, classical music, vintage blue pop, and more.

Free concerts on North Lexington Avenue at the I-240 overpass.





## Bookstore Happenings

**Friday, July 4, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Downtown Waynesville celebrates "Art After Dark" with shops and studios open for the evening on Main and surrounding streets.

**Friday, July 11, 7 p.m.**

Osondu welcomes back Rose Senehi to introduce her newly published mystery, *In the Shadows of Chimney Rock*.

**Saturday, July 12, 1 p.m.**

Michael Skinner, Executive Director of the Balsam Mountain Trust, will visit with his glove-trained bald eagle, Spirit Augustus.

**Saturday, July 12, 7 p.m.**

Lorraine Conard will be at the Osondu Café to entertain with another night of "Mountain Music."

**Friday, July 18, 7 p.m.**

Local author Martin Dyckman reads from and signs his newest investigative work, *A Most Disorderly Court: Scandal and Reform in the Florida Judiciary*.

**Saturday, July 19, 3 p.m.**

Renowned author Charles Price reads from and signs his newest work of historical fiction, *Nor the Battle to the Strong*.

**Saturday, July 19, 7 p.m.**

Chris Minick and Friends will be back in the Osondu Café for an evening of "Mountain Music."

**Saturday, July 26, 7 p.m.**

Scott Osondu will discuss iced teas and botanical blends. We'll offer a 25% discount on featured teas and 10% off all other teas sold during the seminar. Join us to learn more about our Rishi Tea collection and how you can best enjoy it in the warm weeks to come.

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## BOOKS

### *Kicking Back with Kids*

Whether we are urban home-steaders or frantic parents of six, summer is a busy time. We try to cram a year's worth of parties, traveling and cooking into a brief hot interlude.

I suspect we are still indoctrinated by our years in school — we somehow think we're "off" in the summer, even though most of us are employed in full-time jobs that don't take an extended break in June, July and part of August. Those of us with children have the added challenge of what to do with the little darlings.

Since we're deluding ourselves into thinking of summer as a time out of time, I want to suggest that you give yourself and your children a gift this summer — the gift of tackling a big read-aloud project with your kids. Summer can be the perfect time to read a book with your kids — a real book with lots of pages and words and big ideas.

When my daughter was still in single digits, we undertook Tolkien's **"Lord of the Rings"** and it was an amazing experience. (She did balk at going back to do **"The Hobbit"** — tired of Middle Earth, she was ready for something with some girls in it.)

So, instead of plugging your kid into her iPod, or a Disney dvd series, I suggest you take on a big, fat classic and enjoy it with your family. Best to choose a favorite from your childhood, something that is appropriate for the age of your child. Here are some of my faves — I hope they spark some remembrances of your own.

**"The Wind in the Willows"** by Graham Greene. Return to the edge of the forest and river with Ratty, Mole and the dangerously delightful Toad ("semper buffo!")

**"Jane Eyre"** by Charlotte Bronte.

Do you remember crazy Mrs. Rochester or do you still get choked up with Jane's years in the harsh school? Remind your children that the world is not as it has been.

**"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer"**

by Mark Twain (no relation to Shania). You'll never be able to con your kids into painting the fence again but, face it, were your kids ever going to paint the fence?

Enid Bagnold's **"National Velvet."** I hadn't thought of this book in years until my friend Donna mentioned that she had an aunt named Velvet Brown and I immediately recalled the Pie and the Grand National, and remembered Velvet's very English family in Sussex. Two very strong women characters, Velvet and her mother, make this a good choice for your wild grrrrls.

**"The Secret Garden"** by Frances Hodgson. Burnett has a cranky girl, a whiny sick boy, magic, a garden and a happy ending. It's a wonderful summer-time world to inhabit with your young dreamer.

Yes, I was and am horse-crazy, so here are two more horse books. Actually, any of the Chincoteague books by Marguerite Henry are light and fun but my favorite is the true-ish story of the



BY H. BYRON BALLARD

Godolphin Arabian in **"King of the Wind."**

Do you have the guts to read Anna Sewell's tear-jerker **"Black Beauty"**? If you

have horse-crazies in your life, do them a favor and start them out right with these beautifully-written horse stories. There's also Walter Farley's excellent **"Black Stallion"** series.

Okay, enough about horses. How about some pirates? Or are they more rightly called "buccaneers"? RL Stevenson's **"Treasure Island"** has been filmed a lot — my favorite may be the Muppets version — but nothing compares to the novel. And it's fun to read! You can act out all the voices and even read it with an eye patch on, if you want.

These books are part of our cultural mythology and yet our children mostly know them through the satire of the Simpsons or the magic of film adaptations. All these are available in paperback editions or at your library.

Give your kids a taste of why great literature is considered great — the richness of the language, the depth of characters and a world-view that is oddly fresh even though most of these books are set in a place or time far from our own.

**H. Byron Ballard is a bookseller, bookreader and occasional writer. She suggests that we all reduce our carbon footprint by staying home and reading a good book.**

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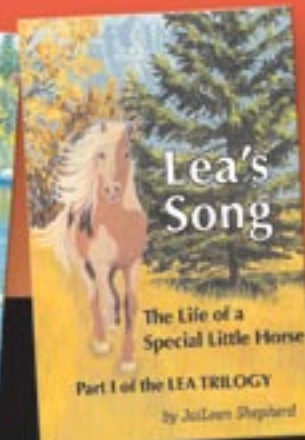
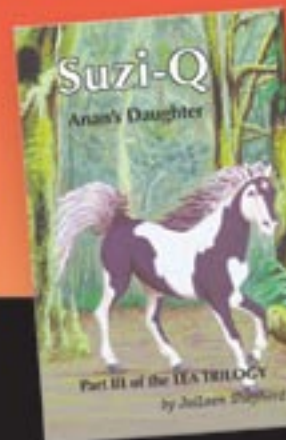
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## Paula Gunn Allen: a Great Woman of Words

They are speaking – who is listening?  
Truth is piercing – who is bleeding?  
Honor is rising – who is lifting?  
Great Women of Words  
I sing for you.  
I sing a song of woven lightning.  
I sing a song of storm.

I wrote the above poem “Women of Words” in 1997 for various American Indian women writers, including Paula Gunn Allen, who passed to spirit in May of 2008.

Known as the founder of American Indian literary studies, Gunn Allen was a formidable woman in the world of literature and will be missed in many arenas. She was the gracious recipient of various awards including the Hubbell Medal for Lifetime Achievement (2000) and Native Writer’s Circle Lifetime Achievement Award (2001).

Gunn Allen authored many books in various genres, including *Pocahontas: Medicine Woman*, *Spy*, *Entrepreneur*; *The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Traditions*; and *Grandmother of the Light: A Medicine Woman’s Source Book*.

From these I gleaned the following confirmations: Menstrual taboos are about power, not sin or filth, in some American Indian tribes; “that women who are at the peak of their fecundity are believed to possess power” that totally throws male power out of kilter. Therefore any “male-owned or –dominated ritual or sacred object” cannot perform its usual task and that is why women are kept from them during their cycles.

Europeans, when first observing the Cherokees, believed them to have a “petticoat government” due to the importance of women’s opinions and status in tribal decisions, and thus set out to change this. “Stories connect us to the universe of medicine — of paranormal or sacred power.” And to my delight and substantiation, certain women of medicine can make “brooms dance.”

**poetry**  
**A sacred fury...  
an uncommon madness...**



**a scattering of birds...**

BY MARIJO MOORE

Gunn Allen was always generous when asked to contribute to anthologies I was editing, such as *Genocide of the Mind* (“God, what a title!” she wrote in her email), *Eating Fire, Tasting Blood*, and the latest, *Birthing From Scorched Hearts: Women Respond to War*, which Fulcrum Publishing will release in December, 2008.

She contributed a new poem “Apache Warrior–Apache Troop,” introduced with the following: “Watching TV coverage of the invasion of Iraq, March 2003, and I am thinking how strange they use our (Native) names for their wars yet don’t notice that more American Indians than any other group, demographically speaking, serve and have served in the armed forces.”

She was always drawing attention to things like this; making others look beyond names, phrases and of course, words.

She loved my little book of poetry “Confessions of a Madwoman.” Of mixed ancestry (Laguna-Sioux-Lebanese-Scottish), Gunn Allen understood and underwent similar attacks from jealous Indians that I have had to endure while writing and promoting American Indian literature. An inspiration for many years, I will miss her wonderful sense of humor and her delightful encouragement. But great woman of words that she was, her writings will no doubt endure forever.

“Women of Words” from the book  
“Spirit Voices of Bones”  
© Marijo Moore 1997

**Marijo Moore is the author of a dozen books including three books of poetry: Spirit Voices of Bones, Confessions of a Madwoman (now available on CD), and the forthcoming Poets Inhale The Darkness Artists Breathe. She resides in the mountains of western NC. www.marijomoore.com**

*Rapid River Arts & Culture is currently accepting poems only from those who have published a book of poetry. Please send two of the poems from the book to info@rapidrivermagazine.com. If chosen, Marijo Moore will contact you for possible review in her poetry column.*

## Kopis'taya, a Gathering of Spirits

Because we live in the browning season  
the heavy air blocking our breath,  
and in this time when living  
is only survival, we doubt the voices  
that come shadowed on the air,  
that weave within our brains  
certain thoughts, a motion that is soft,  
imperceptible, a twilight rain,  
soft feather’s fall, a small body dropping  
into its next, rustling, murmuring, settling  
in for the night.

Because we live in the hardedged season  
where plastic brittle and gleaming shine,  
and in this space that is cornered and angled,  
we do not notice wet, moist, the significant  
drops falling in perfect spheres that are  
certain measures of our minds;  
almost invisible, those tears,  
soft as dew, fragile, that cling to leaves,  
petals, roots, gentle and sure,  
every morning.

We are the women of the daylight, of clocks  
and steel foundries, of drugstores  
and streetlights, of superhighways  
that slice our days in two. Wrapped around  
in plastic and steel we ride our lives;

behind dark glasses we hide our eyes;  
our thoughts, shaded, seem obscure.  
Smoke fills our minds, whiskey husks our songs,  
polyester cuts our bodies from our breath,  
our feet from the welcoming stones of earth.  
Our dreams are pale memories of themselves  
and nagging doubt is the false measure  
of our days.

Even so, the spirit voices are singing,  
their thoughts are dancing in the dirty air.  
Their feet touch the cement, the asphalt  
delighting, still they weave dreams upon our  
shadowed skulls, if we could listen.  
If we could hear.

Let’s go then. Let’s find them.  
Let’s listen for the water, the careful  
gleaming drops that glisten on the leaves,  
the flowers. Let’s ride  
the midnight, the early dawn.  
Feel the wind striding though our hair.  
Let’s dance the dance of feathers,  
the dance of birds.

From the book “Life is a Fatal Disease:  
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**JULY 2008**

**Thursday, July 3 at 7 p.m.**

**ERIC WEINER READING**

Long-time NPR correspondent Eric  
Wiener reads from his book, *The  
Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search  
for the Happiest Places in the World.*

**Friday, July 4 at 7 p.m.**

**CHARLES PRICE READING**

Local favorite Price, author of *Freedom's  
Altar*, reads from his latest installment,  
*Nor the Battle to the Strong.*

**Saturday, July 5 at 4 p.m.**

**MARY ALICE MONROE SIGNING**

The New York Times bestselling author  
of *The Book Club* and *Swimming Lessons*  
will be signing her latest, *Time is a River.*

**Wednesday, July 9 at 7 p.m.**

**JEANNIE RALSTON READING**

Ralston reads from her latest book *The  
Unlikely Lavender Queen: A Memoir of  
Unexpected Blossoming.*

**Thursday, July 10 at 7 p.m.**

**CHARLES BAXTER**

Minnesota author and Warren Wilson  
College MFA professor Charles Baxter  
reads from his new novel, *The Soul Thief.*

**Sunday, July 13 at 3 p.m.**

**LEWIS SHINER READING**

Shiner will read from his new novel,  
*Black & White.*

**Monday, July 14 at 7 p.m.**

**WILL LEVERETTE READING**

Warren Wilson teacher and local  
whitewater enthusiast Leverette's ode to  
WNC paddling, *A History of Whitewater  
Paddling in Western North Carolina:  
Water Wise.*

**Thursday, July 31 at 7 p.m.**

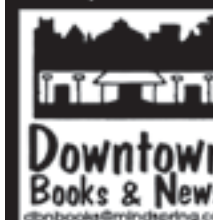
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## BOOKS

## Nor the Battle to the Strong

Everyone knows about George Washington crossing the Delaware, but what do you know about the American Revolution in the South?

Charles F. Price's new novel *Nor the Battle to the Strong* reveals the untold story of the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. After four years of meticulous research and writing, he brings to life former Quaker General Nathaniel Greene and lowly private James Johnson (Price's own ancestor). Through these dual main characters he explores the Revolution from the top-down and bottom-up perspectives, giving a holistic portrayal of events leading up to the battle of Eutaw Springs.

Weighing in at 464 pages (illustrated by line drawings done by the author



Charles F. Price

himself), it is a novel to sink your teeth into. But there is more than volume to chew on. Prompted to examine the Revolution and ideals this country was founded on after 9-11, Price pushes his readers to contemplate what makes great leaders and what our roles are as citizens in this country. It is a fitting release in this election year.

The book debuts on July 4 with a 7 p.m. signing at Malaprop's Bookstore, 55 Haywood St. in Asheville.

## UNC-A Professor Publishes Book Examining Religion in the South

Rodger M. Payne, UNC Asheville associate professor of religious studies, recently completed work on a new book entitled "*Southern Crossroads: Perspectives on Religion and Culture*." The University Press of Kentucky released the 390-page book on May 23.

The scholarly text, co-edited by Payne and UNC Wilmington professor Walter H. Conser Jr., explores the close relationship between religion and culture of the American South. The editors bring together experts from a multitude of academic fields to dissect the intricacies of Southern religion. Topics range from the effect Elvis Presley had on spirituality in Southern music to the role food plays in



Christian-Jewish relations.

Other topics in the book address cultural identity from both a historical and modern perspective. The authors examine matters such as the growing power of women in Southern churches and the religious overtones of lynching, with its themes of blood sacrifice and atonement.

Payne is a North Carolina native who returned to the state after 16 years at Louisiana State University, where he served as chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. He completed a doctorate in American religion from the University of Virginia after obtaining degrees from UNC Charlotte and Harvard Divinity School.

### Made in the USA

The buzz for Billie Letts' new novel *Made in the USA* is growing:

Associated Press: "...She still writes about America's lower-class with a clarity few other contemporary American authors can muster."

New York Post: "Letts keeps the

drama at a high pitch, without ever lapsing into sensationalism..."

Publishers Weekly: "...Frank lyricism... will stick with the reader long after the last page is turned."

Letts will be reading from and signing copies of *Made in the USA* on Friday, July 18, Rock Point Books in Chattanooga, TN, at 7 p.m.

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# NOTEWORTHY

## Botanical Illustrations by Peter Loewer, Fabric Screens by Chris Slusher

Both to be Featured at Blackbird Frame & Art

Peter Loewer, local author and illustrator of over thirty books on gardening, native plants and wildflowers, will show his latest original works, hand-colored prints and vitreographic prints throughout July and August at BlackBird Frame & Art.

Original drawings from Loewer's recent book, *Loves Me, Loves Me Not - The Hidden Language of Flowers*, will be featured along with his newest works. Nationally known for his writings and illustrations, Loewer's comments, advice and wit are enjoyed locally in published columns and on Public Radio station WCQS, where he is known as *The Wild Gardener*, after his popular and acclaimed book by that title.

Christopher Slusher combines his love of fabrics and textiles with his manual upholstery skills to create one-of-a-kind folding screens. Slusher has an extensive background in historic architecture and decorative furnishings, having worked for state historic preservation offices in Kentucky and Virginia, as well as Colonial Williamsburg and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Each work reflects his meticulous attention to detail in both



"Carpenter Bee Pollinating a Passion Flower", colored pencil and ink on paper, by Peter Loewer

BY JOHN HORROCKS

design and craftsmanship, from the selection of fabrics, hardware and decorative elements to the handmade quality of the finished product. Although new creative works, including a special Tibetan-themed meditation screen, will be on display at

BlackBird, Slusher also custom-designs screens based personal aesthetic preferences or special decorative needs.

The public is invited to enjoy coffee and snacks, meet both artists and enjoy their remarkable work in a casual reception on Saturday morning, July 12 from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at BlackBird's new location just south of downtown at 159 South Lexington Ave. Call (828) 252-4144 or visit blackbirdframe.com for more information.

## "Jessie's Mountain" by Kerry Madden with Special Performances by Tomi Lunsford

Viking Children's Books, Penguin Books for Middle Readers presents *Gentle's Holler*, *Louisiana's Song*, and *Jessie's Mountain* - novels from *The Maggie Valley Trilogy* set in the Great Smoky Mountains that will spark the imaginations of young storytellers everywhere.

"I don't like it when folks need to 'discuss' something with me, because it usually has to do with my faults, and ways to improve my sorely lacking character."

Kerry Madden's books tell the story of a young girl from the mountains, coming to terms with life in a large family and her desire to create her own adventures beyond the holler. Set in 1962-1964 Appalachia, Livy Two Weems finds her stories through her guitar, and young readers everywhere will find they, too, have a voice and stories to discover.

**Maggie Valley Trilogy Book Tour**

July 10: Spellbound Books at 7:00 in

Asheville, NC with Nashville singer/songwriter Tomi Lunsford

July 11: Joey's Pancake House at 10:30 am in Maggie Valley, NC (Come eat pancakes and hear stories!) Tomi Lunsford will be performing Livy Two's Songs!

July 11: Malaprops from 1-3 in Asheville, NC with Tomi Lunsford.

July 11: City Lights in Sylva, NC at 6:00 p.m. Tomi Lunsford performs too!

July 12: Ghost Town in the Sky & Stomping Ground in Maggie Valley

- 1:00-1:30 Reading & Singing
- 1:30-2:00 Book & CD signing
- 2:30-3:00 Reading & Singing
- 3:00-3:30 Book & CD signing

July 19: Franklin Folk Festival, Franklin, NC. From 2-4 p.m.

For more information visit  
[www.kerrymadden.com](http://www.kerrymadden.com)



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## STAGE PREVIEW

## ASHEVILLE BRAVO CONCERTS

*Bravo believes the arts are essential to a healthy community.*

Asheville Bravo Concerts has been bringing the world's finest entertainment to Western North Carolina for 77 years.

As a non-profit organization consistently presenting international acclaimed performers of classical music, opera, and ballet, the longevity of Asheville Bravo concerts continues to heighten the arts experience for all.

The history of this organization began at the height of the Great Depression in 1932. Asheville joined what was already a growing "organized audience" movement across the country. The movement's idea, beautiful in design, was to bring patrons of the community together in celebration of musical arts during a time of economic strife. And it was fun.

Tom Bolton, Board President, remembers Asheville Bravo Concerts, (formerly known as the Asheville Community Concert Association before the 1990's), as an entertainment hot spot. General admission ticket holders brought their dinners in paper bags and clamored into their seats for a world-class show. It was a slice of community then as it is now.

Eight decades later, as we enter into an economic downturn, the performing arts will again manage to forge ahead in tough times. When the curtain falls, everyone is invited to take a break from worries on the affairs of the state. Asheville Bravo Concerts is accessible to all members of the community. This organization's goal is to branch out

past socioeconomic lines and cultural barriers, to create within the community a cultural exchange with one another and the world of classical performance.

Bravo believes the arts are essential to a healthy community. In Asheville, as in the

rest of the US, audiences for classical music are steadily declining. The danger is that the traditional arts will continue to lose audiences, until only residents in a few major markets will be able to experience live performances.

Bravo seeks to reverse this trend locally. They have restructured the ticket pricing by offering students half-price seats, and reserved seating starts at \$20. Bravo has expanded the scope of pro-



Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra

BY PAULA HUTCHENS BOLADO

presented in the public schools, and education programs for the general public. Bravo has a small curriculum, for teachers and leaders in surrounding schools and communities to be used before and after attending the concerts.

In addition to MEPP,



Denyce Graves



The Five Browns



The National Acrobats of China

Bravo is offering a new program called Music Fuel: A Cultural Community Gas Outreach Program. This program, in addition to MEPP, will help bring the students to the performances.

As Asheville Bravo Concerts audience expands, the organization stays true to its historical genesis by continuing to bring the world's finest performances to the community.

## If you go

*Asheville Bravo Concerts, 2008-09 season. Thomas Wolfe Auditorium.*

*The Five Browns, Saturday, October 25, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.*

*Denyce Graves, Mezzo-Soprano, Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.*

*Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra, Saturday, January 31, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.*

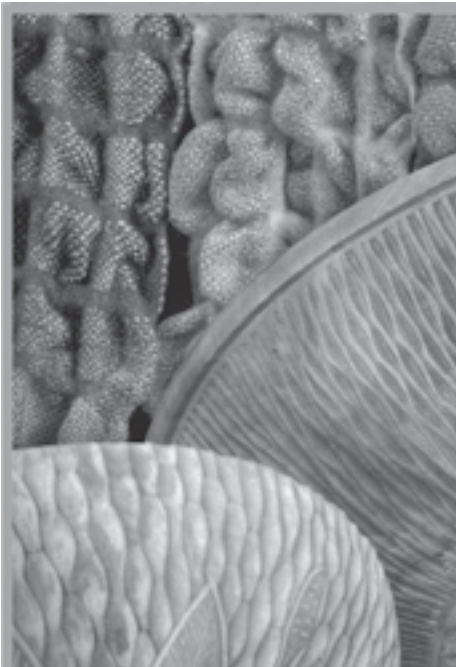
*Russian National Ballet - Cinderella, Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.*

*The National Acrobats of China, Friday, April 3, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.*

*For more information call (828) 225-5887, or visit [www.ashevillebravoconcerts.org](http://www.ashevillebravoconcerts.org).*



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- ★★★★★-Fantastic
- ★★★★-Pretty darn good
- ★★★-Has some good points
- ★★-The previews lied
- ★-Only if you must
- ☹-Forget entirely

### Reel Take Reviewers:

**Chip Kaufmann is a film historian who also shares his love of classical music as a program host on WCQS-FM radio.**

**Michelle Keenan is a long time student of film, a believer in the magic of movies and a fundraiser for public radio.**

### Kung Fu Panda ★★★★★

**Short Take:** Dreamwork's Animation best work in sometime makes for ideal family fare.

**REEL TAKE:** I approached *Kung Fu Panda* with a great degree of wariness. After all I'm not Jack Black's biggest fan, I haven't liked Dreamworks Animation's last few efforts (*Sinbad*, *Shrek 3*, *Over The Hedge*), and aside from *Indiana Jones*, no Summer movie has been the subject of more advance hype complete with toys, cereal tie-ins, and even a plug from Burger King. Therefore I am pleased to say that I not only liked the film, I actually enjoyed it (you can like a film without enjoying it and vice versa).

The reasons for this are simple and threefold. 1) The animation is engaging. It has the look of hand drawn for the characters and the stylized Chinese background



**Jack Black has a big ol' time in *Kung Fu Panda*.**

creates a wonderful storybook atmosphere. 2) The characters are interesting and varied although the Furious Five (the Kung Fu warriors) surprisingly don't have that much to do. 3) The voices are a perfect match for the characters even the minor ones.

The vocal talent is impressive. In addition to Jack Black, there is Dustin Hoffmann, Angelina Jolie, Lucy Liu, Jackie Chan, and Ian McShane. However the movie belongs to Jack Black and he has the lion's share of the lines (even though he's a Panda). Dustin Hoffmann as his mentor (a Red Panda) and Ian McShane as the villain (a Snow Leopard) get the bulk of the remaining quality lines while Jolie (Tigress), Liu (Viper), Chan (Monkey) and the others don't have that much to say. In fact, while watching and listening to *Kung Fu Panda*, I was strongly reminded of Walt Disney's *The Jungle Book* except that it was in a Chinese setting.

While the story is yet another variation on the misfit makes good in the end saga, the screenplay by Jonathan Aibel and Glenn Berger and the direction by John Osborne and Mark Osborne make for a fine retelling. Add to that the vocal performances of Black, McShane and Hoffmann, some off the cuff humor, a few astonishing visuals (the villain's escape from his maximum security prison is particularly memorable) and you have a real winner that is ideal for the entire family.

Judging from the first weekend's box office results (\$60 million), Paramount has a financial winner on its hands as well. Along with *Cloverfield*, *Iron Man*, and especially *Indiana Jones*,

**For the latest reviews, theater info and movie show times, visit [www.rapidrivermagazine.com](http://www.rapidrivermagazine.com)**

they are having a banner year and will be the studio to beat in this year's box office sweepstakes. That, for better or worse, is what really counts in the movie business.

*Rated PG for sequences of martial arts action.*

**Review by Chip Kaufmann**

### Priceless



**Short Take:** A sort of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century French Riviera.

### REEL TAKE:

Pierre Salvadori's *Priceless* (*Hors de Prix*) is a breath of fresh air for the beleaguered romantic comedy genre. This little Belgium film sparkles even more than its glamorous backdrop of the French Riviera and Monte Carlo.

*Amelie's* Audrey Tautou and *The Valet's* Gad Elmaleh star as Irene and Jean. Jean is a hard working employee at one of the ritzy hotels on the French Riviera. Irene is a materialistic, gold digging, little gigolette to wealthy old men. When Irene mistakes Jean for one of the hotel's uber-rich guests, she thinks she's hit the jackpot (after all Jean is young). He is in fact her bar man, but he unwittingly goes along with her charade thinking it's just for a night.

As one can surmise, going along with the charade leads to all kinds of mayhem and mishap until he eventually finds himself in the same business as Irene. The difference between the two is that Jean is not particularly materialistic and moreover, he is a man in love – with Irene. Of course, the more he plays his new role as boy toy to a middle age widow, the more conflicted Irene becomes until she realizes love is more important than security and Chanel.

*Priceless* offers a definite tip of the hat to the Blake Edwards' 1961 classic *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. Irene is a modern day Holly Golightly and Jean is the lovelorn Paul "Fred" Varjak, who's ready to give up the designer duds in a heartbeat for the object of his affection. Tautou's Irene is colder and meaner than Hepburn's Golightly. So much so, that it takes a while for the audience to warm to her. But by the time she's doling out labor union-like advice on how to get more

out of his benefactor, we're thoroughly enjoying the twosome and the whole beautiful ride.

For a not so pricey fresh-faced romp on the French Riviera treat yourself, or get someone else to treat you, to a ticket to *Priceless*.

*Rated PG-13 for sexual content including nudity.*

**Review by Michelle Keenan**

### Sex and the City

**Short Take:** The Manolo-wearing, cosmo-drinking, sexy, now forty-something foursome is back for its big-screen epilogue to the hugely popular HBO series.

**REEL TAKE:** *Sex and the City* the movie may not go down as one of the great cinematic features of all time, but for millions of women the world over it will go down as one of the great movie-going experiences of all time. Why? In a word - friendship.

When was the last time there was such to-do about going to the movies? I'm not talking about Burger King and Happy Meal marketing hype, I'm talking about an honest to goodness buzz of anticipation. Women planned their outings, dressed up, and flocked to the theatres



**Kristin Davis, Sarah Jessica Parker, Cynthia Nixon and Kim Cattrall reprise their roles for *Sex and the City, The Movie*.**

opening weekend en masse. They made it an event, complete with cosmos and a giddy post mortem of the movie. I myself was part of a baker's dozen at a jammed packed Sunday matinee. Whether seen together or apart however, *Sex and the City* affirmed, reaffirmed, and strengthened friendships because it resonates with the core of the female experience.

The film picks up three or four years after the series left off and opens with a recap of our core characters narrated by Sarah Jessica Parker's now alter ego and *Sex and the City's* central figure Carrie Bradshaw. This is helpful for those who

**'Movies' continued on pg 24**



# FILM REVIEWS

'Movies' continued from pg 23

are not familiar to the show and serves as a fun entre into this cinematic chapter for those of us who followed the girls through their ups, downs and many escapades.

Carrie and 'Mr. Big,' (*Law and Order's* Chris Noth) who only 'really' got together in the last episode of the series, finally get engaged. Hard-headed lawyer lady Miranda (Cynthia Nixon) is at a crossroads in her marriage. Hopeless romantic and reproductively challenged Charlotte (Kristin Davis) is enjoying Park Avenue-style, wedded bliss and adoptive motherhood, and the sexually insatiable Samantha (Kim Cattrall) is feeling the pinch of five years of monogamy. While this chapter revolves primarily around Carrie's engagement and the 'Big' event, it never forgets to play to its strength, that throughout all the trials and tribulations of life, true friends are the one constant.

Many critics saw the SATC estrogen fest as an opportunity to let their snarkiest, vitriolic, misogynistic daggers flail. To dismiss it as a really bad, fluffy chick-flick is wrong. The beauty and success of *Sex and the City* the HBO series was that it was smart and entertaining. It was saucy, well-written, fashionably decadent and emotionally relevant for its viewers. The movie runs a little long and it may be a little more entertaining than well-crafted, but it's still got that za-za-zu.

*Rated R for strong sexual content, graphic nudity and language.*

Review by Michelle Keenan

## Theatre Directory

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**Beaucatcher Cinemas (Asheville)**  
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**Flat Rock Theatre (Flat Rock)**  
Movieline (828) 697-2463  
www.flatrockcinema.com

**Four Seasons (Hendersonville)**  
Movieline (828) 693-8989

**Smoky Mountain Cinema (Waynesville)**  
Movieline (828) 452-9091

## The Happening 1/2

**Short Take:** All signs from my sixth sense say nothing's happening.

**REEL TAKE:** Unlike many critics who think M. Night Shyamalan is a one-hit wonder, I like his work. Despite recent efforts, there's no discrediting Shyamalan's ability to startle, to build suspense and to prey upon our assumptions; he knows how to draw his audience into his web, and he knows how to deliver a punch line.



Ashley Sanchez, John Leguizamo and Mark Wahlberg wonder what's happening.

Unfortunately for Shyamalan, and even *more so* for us, *The Happening* doesn't deliver suspense or punch. *The Happening* simply doesn't happen. Perhaps that's the point?!

The story starts promisingly enough – something in the air, be it from trees, plants, terrorists or weather, strikes the northeast, rendering people zombie-like and violently suicidal. All kinds of speculative hypotheses are made and a chaotic evacuation ensues.

Mark Wahlberg plays Elliott Moore a likeable high school science teacher who flees the city with his [possibly] unfaithful wife Alma (Zooey Dechanel), his friend and fellow teacher Julian (John Leguizamo), and Julian's little girl Jess (Ashlyn Sanchez). They – and everybody else – are fleeing to wherever what's happening isn't happening. They don't really know where that is, but it's believed to be someplace rural [in Shyamalan's trademark state of Pennsylvania].

While Shyamalan does create a *Twilight Zone*-like mood of paranoia and uncertainty he fails to play to his other strengths. We are not particularly drawn to or moved by the characters. There's very little life or levity to the film let alone suspense or thrills. Still, Shyamalan builds the story to an anticlimactic moment on the old farm of one very strange Mrs. Jones (Betty Buckley). Then it's over ... or is it ...

Was the happening a precursor to an apocalyptic event because of the diminishing bee population? Was it the plants?

Is the planet rejecting humanity??? Dammit Shyamalan, I want to know.

Much has been made in recent weeks about *The Happening* being Shyamalan's first 'R' rated film. In my humble opinion, he squandered the rating on a few gory special effects rather affecting an even greater impact or fright factor on his audience. As a writer and director Shyamalan's work was far more thrilling and compelling in the PG-13 category.

If the punch line is nothing happens, well then dang it all - he did get me again.

*Rated R for violent and disturbing images.*

Review by Michelle Keenan

## The Incredible Hulk 1/2

**Short Take:** Well done version of the story but it loses steam at the end.

**REEL TAKE:** Log on to Rotten Tomatoes, the movie review website, and look up Ang Lee's 2003 film version *Hulk* and you'll be amazed at how vitriolic the comments are. Fans hated it for being too cerebral with not enough action. This new version, which restores the title to *The Incredible Hulk*, has been highly anticipated and while it is less cerebral and does have more action, it also has many similarities to the older film.



The Incredible Hulk returns again.

Those of you who have read the comic books or remember the old TV series know the story of scientist Bruce Banner who is turned into the titular monster after a laboratory experiment goes awry. Emotional upheaval/anger is what triggers his transformation into the mean, green fightin' machine so Banner tries to keep himself under control while searching for a cure. He is pursued by General "Thunderbolt" Ross who wants him for military purposes and who happens to be the father of his scientist girlfriend, Elizabeth ('Betty').

Ang Lee's version concentrated on the relationships between father/son and father/daughter and how misguided zeal and emotional damage wreaks havoc with the characters' lives. This time around Banner has no father and a Russian mercenary has been added

to the cast of characters along with a fellow scientist also looking for a cure.

Most of the performances are surprisingly good. Edward Norton (who also co-authored the screenplay) is a much more believable and engaging Banner than Eric Bana was, but Liv Tyler is no Jennifer Connelly. William Hurt replaces Sam Elliot in the role of General Ross and creates a colder, less sympathetic character. The big addition to the cast is Tim Roth as the soldier of fortune who eventually morphs into The Abomination. He underplays the part with great skill.

The climactic battle between the mutants in NYC is action packed but it reminded me of any number of Godzilla films with guys in suits duking it out until one wins. This time around the suits are replaced with CGI but it's essentially the same thing. It just cost a hundred times more.

The built in audience for *The Incredible Hulk* will ensure that the film will do well. Just *how* well it does remains to be seen. I liked this version but I enjoyed the 2003 film more. Be on the lookout for original TV Hulk Lou Ferrigno as a security guard, a TV clip of the original Banner, Bill Bixby, and the shameless self-promotion of the final scene.

*Rated PG-13 for intense action violence, frightening sci-fi images and brief suggestive content.*

Review by Chip Kaufmann.

## The Visitor 1/2

**Short Take:** An independent film with heart and soul and no trendy quirkiness.

**REEL TAKE:** *The Visitor* is a textbook example of what an independent film should be. First it has a wonderful script by Thomas McCarthy (*The Station Agent*) who also directed. Next it has a wonderful central performance from Richard Jenkins with able support from Hiam Abbass, Haaz Sleiman and Danai Gurira. Finally it was made on a relatively small budget which gives the film some rough edges and that's a good thing.

The storyline is simple. Walter Vale (Jenkins) is a Connecticut college professor who has been going through the motions for years. Forced to go to a conference in New York City to read a paper that he didn't write, Walter checks into his old apartment and discovers two illegal immigrants (Sleiman, Danai) living there. Mild mannered and repressed, he allows them to stay and slowly, with their help, he starts to

'Movies' continued on pg. 26



## FILM REVIEWS

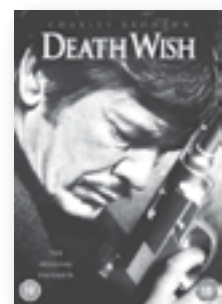
## Ken Russell and Michael Winner: The Filmmaker and The Director

BY CHIP KAUFMANN

The ten year period between the end of the Production Code in 1968 and the emergence of *Star Wars* as an unparalleled cultural phenomenon in 1977, was a period of great change for the mainstream Hollywood studios. It was the decade of the *auteur*, the director who became the focal point of a movie (a film by... or a ...film) not the stars who were in it.

In England during this same time, two larger than life personalities emerged with two very different views on how to make movies. Together they would make 20 films during this time period (imagine Scorsese or Coppola doing that) and virtually all were made on time and under or right at budget. More importantly from a studio P.O.V., their films made money until right at the very end, when the success of *Star Wars* changed everything.

The two people I'm referring to are Michael Winner (b.1935) and Ken Russell (b.1927). Both men are still living though only Russell is still active in the film business. Michael Winner is now a well-known London food critic (*Winner's Dinners*). His Oscar Wilde like wit is the highlight of his reviews.



During their heyday in the 1970s both were controversial for their choice of subject material, (Russell's *The Devils* (1971) to Russell's *Women in Love* (1969) and Winner's *Death Wish* (1974)

for example) and for what they did with it, but as long as the films made money the studios gave them a free hand. As a result both men developed cult followings.

While they share certain similarities, their approach to moviemaking couldn't be more different. Ken Russell was the *auteur*, a filmmaker who created one of the most distinctive visual styles ever seen with the use of music in some of the most original ways imaginable (primarily classical with The Who's *Tommy* (1975) being a notable exception). He had a stock company of actors who appeared in many of his films, which added a strangely familiar quality to them.

Michael Winner on the other hand seemed like a throwback to the studio directors of the past. He took whatever material was at hand and then did whatever he could with it. The one big difference was that Winner chose the material himself rather than had it assigned to him. He made movies in almost every genre, Westerns, crime dramas, horror films and period pieces. Many of Hollywood's biggest stars of the 1950s and 60s appeared in his films and that added to their appeal to moviegoers. One film, the comedy *Won Ton Ton, The Dog Who Saved Hollywood* (1976), has cameos for dozens of Tinseltown old timers. It was Ken Russell who said of Winner that he was more interested in being a director than being a filmmaker. He said this without malice.

Of the two, Russell is the more critically regarded yet he has been ill served on DVD with many of his titles either unavailable or shown with the improper aspect ratio, (no widescreen) which takes away from their overall

effect. Thanks to the success of *Death Wish* and its sequels, Winner has more titles available but even his filmography is far from complete. Some, like his 1978 remake of *The Big Sleep* with Robert Mitchum as Phillip Marlowe, also appear in fullscreen editions.

It should be pointed out that Ken Russell is no stranger to Asheville as he was the Asheville Film Festival honoree in 2005. Most of his films were screened at that time and met with an enthusiastic reception especially the showing of *Tommy* at the Diana Wortham theatre. Other Russell titles currently on DVD are *Women In Love* (1969), *Mahler* (1974), and most of his films from the 1980s. These include *Crimes Of Passion* (1984), *Gothic* (1986), and *Lair Of The White Worm* (1988).

Michael Winner titles available on DVD include *Lawman* (1971) and *Scorpio* (1973) with Burt Lancaster, *The Nightcomers* (1972) with Marlon Brando, two other Charles Bronson films *Chato's Land* (1972) and *The Mechanic* (1973), and the bizarre and entertaining horror film *The Sentinel* (1977) that features an all star cast.

It's interesting to note that in 1977, the year *Star Wars* came out, both men made films that lost money (*Valentino*, *The Sentinel*). Therein marks a downward turning point in their careers as

mainstream, financed filmmakers. Both continued to make films in the 1980s but it became harder and harder as mainstream filmmaking, and what constituted it, had changed forever.

I saw what seemed like every mainstream movie during the 1970's. That included every one of Russell's and Winner's films during that time and I loved them all. They came to symbolize the two sides of moviemaking that every person who would be a film critic needs to embrace — art and popular entertainment. Winner and Russell often did them both at the same time, and I can watch their films over and over again. To me, there are few directors for which the same can be said.

Thanks to mail order video services like Netflix and Blockbuster it's possible for you to see most of these films without having to purchase them. They may thrill or appall, but they never bore. That phrase was once applied to Ken Russell's films, but it can be applied to Michael Winner's films as well. Their films are just as engaging now as they were then, perhaps even more so, which says something about the state of moviemaking today. Check them out and see for yourself.



Section co-editor Chip Kaufmann is a film historian who also shares his love of classical music on public radio station WCQS-FM.

## TEEN REVIEW

## You Don't Mess With the Zohan

When you think of Adam Sandler, you probably think of some popular movies he's been in, such as *Click* and *50 First Dates*, movies known for Sandler's unique yet somehow charming comedic style, combined with very sweet plots. If this is what you've come to expect from a Sandler film, you may be sadly disappointed when you see *You Don't Mess With the Zohan*.

The movie is about an Israeli fighter, Zohan (*Adam Sandler*), who hates his job. Granted, he's good at it, but he wants to move on and do what his heart truly desires—become a hairstylist who



Sierra Bicking is an *arte aficionado* extraordinaire.

## by Sierra Bicking

makes everyone silky-smooth. Upon moving to America to pursue his dream, Zohan encounters many challenges, and prejudices that he must help others overcome, as well as ultimately face his arch nemesis

the Phantom (*John Turturro*), an evil Pakistani fighter. Will the Zohan live on?

From the previews, I expected *You Don't Mess with the Zohan* to be an endearing character and the story to be fairly silly, and indeed some of these el-

ements are included. Overall, however, the movie is appalling. Not only is there crude, tasteless sexual humor around every corner (such as Sandler humping doors and having intercourse with elderly ladies, etc.), but the plot is lame as well. It's hard to wade through all the graphic "grossness" in order to really figure out what is really going in the movie, and the bad accents don't help.

Adding insult to injury, there is also some mild animal cruelty shown



Adam Sandler in *Don't Mess With the Zohan*.

in the film (with no disclaimer stating that animals weren't harmed in making the movie) which is meant to be funny, but is rather unpleasant to watch—so animal lovers, you may not want to support

this film. Even if you are a die-hard Sandler fan, you might not want to mess with the Zohan and wait to see his next film, instead.

*Rated PG-13 for crude and sexual content throughout, language and nudity.*



# FILM REVIEWS

'Movies' continued from pg 24



Richard Jenkins and Hiam Abbass find an unlikely romance in *The Visitor*.

come out of his shell and discover life once more. Then the U.S. Government intervenes.

While it is basically a story of human beings from different backgrounds coming together and discovering what each has to offer, *The Visitor* is also a stinging criticism of the our country's illegal immigration policy post 9/11, especially The Patriot Act. One immigrant is arrested because he looks like a terrorist prototype (he's from Syria) and that sets up the second half of the film.

Walter attempts to get him released from detention and along the way he meets the Syrian's mother (Abbass). Out of this situation an unlikely romance blossoms. It is this relationship that gives the film its heart and soul and turns it from a really good film into a nearly great one.

The only fault I could find with *The Visitor* is that after being so deliberate and subtle for 90% of the film, there is a scene near the end that is heavy handed and it hammers home what we already know. It's as if writer-director McCarthy didn't trust us to get the message but it's a very minor flaw indeed.

*The Visitor* won't be in town for very long so make sure to look for it on DVD. Since star Richard Jenkins was in HBO's *Six Feet Under*, it just might show up in your big box retail store or nearby chain video emporium. If not, there's always local outlets like Rosebud Video or Orbit DVD or the source everybody seems to be turning to, Netflix.

Wherever you find it, *The Visitor* is well worth it and shows that a small-budget, well acted character study with something to say, is still possible without the obligatory quirkiness that mars so many independent films of late.

**Rated PG-13 for brief strong language.**

**Review by Chip Kaufmann**

## Questions/Comments?

You can email Chip or Michelle at [reeltakes@hotmail.com](mailto:reeltakes@hotmail.com)

Chip Kaufmann's Pick:  
*"The Manitou"*

## DVD Picks of the Month

Michelle Keenan's Pick:  
*"Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself"*

### The Manitou

The drive-in movie experience in your own home.

Now that summer is here in full force, there's nothing like coming indoors from the hot sun, getting yourself something cold to drink, and then sitting back and watching something that won't tax you but will entertain you. No, I'm not talking about sporting events, I'm talking about movies. Movies that are so bad, they're good – drive-in fare of yore. One of the best in this category is the 1978 supernatural "classic" *The Manitou*.

The post-*Exorcist* 70s produced a number of quirky, old-fashioned horror films with big name stars whose careers were winding down but who were happy to still be working, and who brought a touch of class to the proceedings. *Psychic Killer* with Jim Hutton, *Tourist Trap* with Chuck Connors, and *Shock Waves* with John Carradine immediately come to mind and are highly recommended as well. Then there's *The Manitou* with Tony Curtis (Jamie Lee's dad for you younger readers).

This story of an ancient spirit trying to return to Earth has something for everyone. Black magic, Native American lore, cool 1970s fashions and furnishings, possession, a séance, demonic birth, and a *Star Trek* like finale. It's a summing up of the themes of 1970s horror films with a few well-placed shocks and one truly memorable sequence.

Curtis takes the Bob Hope approach (complete with quips) to his role as a fake mystic suddenly confronted with real supernatural forces. Susan Strasberg is a suitably vulnerable heroine and Syrian born Michael Ansara is quite believ-



able as an Indian medicine man (no Native Americans back in 1978) brought in to fight the evil. Stella Stevens along with veteran stars Burgess Meredith and Ann Southern add fun to the proceedings and director William Girdler (*Abby*, *Day Of The Animals*) doesn't give you time to think long enough on how posterous it all is.

Thanks to the manufacturer Anchor Bay, *The Manitou* has made it to DVD in a beautiful widescreen transfer so you won't miss a thing. It may be trash, but it's great trash, and I'd rather be watching *The Manitou* than any number of present day horror films. Its well crafted approach to the material (no matter how ridiculous), rather than explicit scenes of suffering victims make it a guilty pleasure worth pursuing. Will it scare you? Hardly. Will it entertain you? Absolutely. And that's what summer movies are all about.

### Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself But he's dying to live.

*Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself* is odd little film. I didn't even really like it, but like a train wreck, I couldn't quite take my eyes from it. Why then would I make it my pick of the month? Movies have the power to inspire, inform, and entertain, and sometimes they can simply push the envelope. *Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself* really pushed mine, and it's been a long time I've had that experience. In this particular instance I found that pushing me outside of my comfort zone was a good thing.

In *Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself* we meet Wilbur (Jamie Sives) and Harbour (Adrian Rawlings), two thirty-something

brothers. Harbour runs the Glasgow bookshop they've inherited and is forever trying to take care of his suicidal brother Wilbur, who tries to kill himself more times than Brittany Spears has fender benders. When a young woman named Alice (Shirley Henderson) and her daughter Mary (Lisa McKinlay) enter the shop, they enter the brother's lives forever.



Jamie Sives stars in the odd but heartfelt *Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself*.

Each character carries brings their own sadness and burdens to the story (as if a suicidal family member isn't enough). So much so that I thought I'd never seen a sorrier, stranger lot. But just when you think it's miserable, there's an unexpected laugh. In fact Wilbur's attempts on his life go from disarmingly disturbing to laugh-out-loud funny. Eventually Wilbur realizes he's dying to live, but meanwhile someone else who's always lived is really dying. Ah life.

*Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself* is Scottish film made a Danish crew. It's a small, unpretentious, unpredictable little movie. I didn't like it in the amiable sense, but it did stay with me a while. It made me think. It made me uncomfortable, and in the end it was the most interesting video night this past month.

## Blue Ridge Rollergirls Continue Their 2008 Season

The all-female flat track roller derby league from Asheville, NC hosts Reedy River Rollergirls from Greenville, SC and Charlotte Rollergirls from Charlotte, NC in a double header competition July 12 at Asheville Civic Center.

Two of the teams that make up the Blue Ridge Rollergirls will be participating in the event. The Wham Bam Thank You Ma'ams will take on the Reedy River Rollergirls; then the Candy Apple Razorblades will skate against The Charlotte Rollergirls.

The women's flat track roller derby league was formed in Asheville in 2006 and has been actively competing against other leagues in the area since the summer of 2007.

This next event marks the third home appearance of the 2008 season and will be themed "Double Trouble."

The Blue Ridge Rollergirls will continue their season with another home bout on August 9, 2008 against the rollergirls from Memphis, TN. The theme will be "Viva Ashevegas."

### About the Blue Ridge Rollergirls

The Blue Ridge Rollergirls is a women's flat track roller derby league. The league is a skater and sponsor supported endeavor that runs itself by its motto: "For the skaters, by the skaters."

## If you go

*Double-header competition, July 12 at the Asheville Civic Center. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. with the first competition beginning at 5:00 p.m.*



# NOTEWORTHY



Greg Brown

## How did Laugh Your Asheville Off begin?

Inspired during one of my many drives home from Char-

lotte comedy clubs, I wanted to bring stand up comedy to a town that supports the arts in all forms but lacked an avenue for the art of stand up comedy.

## If you had a chance to spend 30 minutes with anyone alive today who would it be and what would you talk about?

Comedian, Steven Wright. I love his abstract writing approach and he started performing stand-up comedy before the big stand-up comedy boom.

## What got you into comedy?

I've waited tables for a long time and after a few thousand times of patrons telling me I am funny and should be a stand-up comedian, I heeded their advice. I drove to Charlotte eight weeks in a row and got on stage and dove into comedy. I love to laugh and I love to make people laugh. It was during one of the drives home when I thought of the laugh your Asheville off comedy festival.

## How do you come up with original material?

I watch people, I listen well to stories that people tell me, I draw on observations. Like, the other day I was grocery shopping and I saw that Vicks menthol rub is making tissues, and I thought that it must work great for blowing your nose but really bad as toilet paper. I build my set around observations that everyone can relate to.

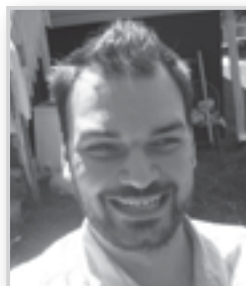
## What are your favorite cosmic styles or genres?

Cosmic or comic? That's funny, I think my favorite cosmic style is dancing on moonbeams. But my favorite comic style is intelligent observational humor.

## I imagine that organizing something like Laugh Your Asheville off probably wasn't easy. How were you able to get such talented comedians to all come to Asheville at one time?

When I started the stand-up comedy festival last year, I didn't know any better! I was only on stage a few times and had no event experience. When I told people I was going to put ten stand-up comedians on stage at the Diana Wortham they told me the idea was asinine. It was driven by passion. I wanted to create an event that

comedians could look forward to — good food, great accommodations, and after parties, an opportunity for comedians in the industry to gather in a beautiful city... By treating the comedians well, it makes the recruitment for each show easier because they're out there talking about it.



Then I met Charlie Gerencer after the festival last year, he co-produced Last Comic Standing, and now lives in Hendersonville. He's been a critical part of getting the festival dialed in.

## Are you currently looking for new talent?

We always look for new talent. We attend a lot of shows and I am usually up late on the internet surfing stand-up comedy clips.

## How would you advise someone wanting to break into stand up comedy to get started?

Think funny. Write down observations. Go to open mics and get on stage. I think someone learns more in 5 minutes on stage than reading a dozen stand-up comedy books. The only way to learn is to perform.

## Will you be doing stand up there?

Yes every night I'll be doing a few minutes of material, I like doing a lot of Asheville specific jokes.

## Can you tell us about your July event? Who is going to be there? What are the dates and times and where do we get tickets?

This summer, the Laugh Your Asheville Off Comedy Festival returns to downtown Asheville July 17, 18 & 19 expanding last year's two nights of stand-up into a three-day festival. This year's festival is proudly presenting NBC's Last Comic Standing winner Alonzo Bodden, over a dozen touring comedians, a workshop for aspiring comedians, a comedy magic show for kids and three different nights of performances making it the largest stand-up comedy festival in the southeast.

The Festival kicks off on Thursday July 17 with LYLAS, Asheville's first all

female sketch comedy troupe. LYLAS will open the stage for an evening of stand up comedy featuring many of the funniest comedians on the east coast. The headlining act is DC's very own refreshingly hysterical Mike Storck.

Friday, July 18, festival anchor

Alonzo Bodden will perform 2 shows at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Alonzo Bodden was launched into comedy stardom after winning the smash hit reality-television series *Last*

*Comic Standing* on NBC.

Saturday, July 19, The Laugh Your Asheville Off Team welcomes back last year's festival favorite Johnny Millwater to perform a child friendly comedy & magic

show (11 a.m.) as well as a stand-up comedy workshop (2 p.m.) at 35 Below in the Asheville Community Theater.

The Festival continues into the evening with a final comic blowout party performance at the Diana Wortham Theatre at 8 p.m., featuring Johnny Millwater along with a stage full of the funniest comedians on the East coast.

## If you go

All shows at the Diana Wortham unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, July 17, 8 p.m. LYLAS and many comedians featuring Mike Storck, \$12.

Friday, July 18, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., five comedians featuring Alonzo Bodden, \$22.

Saturday, July 19:

11 a.m. Comedy for Kids (35 below), \$7.

2 p.m. Johnny Millwater stand-up comedy workshop (35 below), \$15.

8 p.m. Blowout show, many comedians featuring Johnny Millwater, \$15.

Get a three-day festival pass for the Diana Wortham Shows for \$35 (saving \$14). Buy tickets at the Diana Wortham Box Office (828) 257-4530.

## Art After Dark Scavenger Hunt

Thursday, July 3, 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.

The Haywood County Arts Council announces its first ever Art After Dark Scavenger Hunt. This event

will give people of all ages the chance to experience the amazing art and unique stores

of downtown Waynesville. Come alone or as a team; everyone is welcome! All you need is a digital or cell phone camera and your wits to compete for the cash prize.

Advance registration runs through Wednesday, July 2 with the Scavenger Hunt beginning at 6 p.m. on July 3. Winners will be announced at 9 p.m. You must be present to win. Participation fees: \$5 per individual player; \$4 per team member (up to 5 members per team).

For more information please call the Haywood County Arts Council at (828) 452-0593, or drop by their office — 86 North Main Street in Waynesville — Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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# RESTAURANTS & WINE

## Mid-Life Crush

BY MICHAEL PARKER

### Calaboose Cellars Exhibits a Smooth Winemaking Style

Eric Carlson knew his 50<sup>TH</sup> birthday was a big deal. To make it so, he opened one of the smallest commercial wineries in America, in a little old building on his property.

He could have bought himself a Corvette, he admits, but his passion for wine and a germinal friendship with an experienced North Carolina winemaker led him instead down a nobler road.

Eric and his wife Judy operate Calaboose Cellars in the Cherokee County town of Andrews, 13 miles north of Murphy. The 300 square foot stone building was built in the 1930's and became the town's very first jail, the first *calaboose* in Andrews. The bars are still on the windows.

Inside, three small fermentation tanks hold a combined total of 930 gallons. (If you have toured the Winery at Biltmore, the Calaboose tanks look like mere models of the Biltmore tanks.) Glass containers hold another 360 gallons (there are no barrels) until the various wines are ready for the bottle. Among them are "Rockyard Red," a Tuscan-style blend of Sangiovese, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon, and "Watchtower White," a dry Viognier with a touch of Gewürztraminer.

Outside, Eric and Judy grow several grape varieties in a small, experimental vineyard. They also reap from another local vineyard (beside the runway of the Andrews-Murphy Airport) planted with Catawba grapes.

"We are just beginning to learn which grapes grow better in the Andrews Valley, and we definitely want to see more vineyards in the immediate area. We are as North Carolina-centric

as we can possibly be in our production, and are working to be Cherokee County-centric."

There is local support in reaching this goal. This past spring, 500 vines were planted in Andrews by four growers with Calaboose Cellars in mind.

As a winemaker, Eric credits his motivation and confidence to Dr. Dan Strickland of New River Winery in Ashe County. Strickland knew Eric as more than just a wine lover and saw his potential. "Dan said to me, 'You ought to start a winery,' and so I did. Dan is my mentor."

There is a small amount of room in the jailhouse for tasting, but half a mile away, on Main Street, you can taste and purchase Calaboose Cellars wines at the Phat Trout Wine Garden, which is part of the Cole House Restaurant. (There is a tasting fee, which is credited toward a minimum wine purchase.)

Across the street is the historic Cozad-Cover House Bed and Breakfast. Yes, they're all in cahoots down there in Andrews, and they have your pleasant visit all figured out. With several other "neighborhood wineries" in the region, it is a worthwhile visit.

For 2008, Calaboose Cellars aims to make 400 cases. There will be about 10 different wines. Among these is an unusual honey dessert wine reminiscent of the honey wines of Eastern Africa and India. Their best seller is a \$12 strawberry-rhubarb wine.

When it is ready, expect a near-sellout performance for the vintage, as Calaboose customers sprang 100 cases from the little jail in their very first three to four months of business. Sales increase with each passing month.

Back in January at the Wine Garden, a special reception attracted over 100 people — all locals — and the Carlsons sold thirty cases. Eric and Judy were thrilled. "The local support is personal, and very encouraging."

### RECOMMENDED

#### Calaboose Catawba: (\$12)

This semi-sweet white wine is made from the native North American Catawba grape, and is a 100% Cherokee County product. The native grape flavor is allowed to show through a skilled balance with the sweetness of the wine.

#### Rockyard Red: (\$18)

This Tuscan-style blend of Sangiovese, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon is very smooth — a delightful drink on its own or with lighter dinner food.

Like other WNC towns, Andrews is really exciting in the summer. The Phat Trout Wine Garden will feature local entertainment on its Gazebo Stage every Friday and Saturday evening from 6-10, with service beginning at 5. This unusual side-building to the Cole House Restaurant is indoor-outdoor and open for the just-thirsty as well as the hungry.

#### Calaboose Cellars

Andrews, NC • Cherokee County

The tasting room at the jailhouse is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(828) 321-2006

www.calabooscellars.com

#### Cole House Restaurant

Phat Trout Wine Garden  
1219 Main Street, Andrews, NC

(828) 321-0874

Closed Mondays and Tuesdays

#### Cozad-Cover House Bed and Breakfast

(828) 321-1017

www.coverhousebandb.com

### July Events at The Weinhaus

Reservations are required for these events unless otherwise noted. Call the Weinhaus at (828) 254-6453.

#### Thursday, July 17th

The Grovewood Café will team up with the Weinhaus to present a five course meal accompanied by wines to compliment the fine food prepared by chef Larry Waldrop.

Time is 7 p.m. The cost is \$65 all inclusive. Call the Weinhaus at (828) 254-6453 for reservations.

#### Saturday, July 19th

The Weinhaus will have a free wine tasting from 2-4 p.m. featuring the wines of Uruguay.

#### The Weinhaus

86 Patton Ave., in Asheville  
(828) 254-6453

## TASTING EVENTS!

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# JOE'S BREW NOTES

## Home Brewing: Make the Best Beer You'll Ever Taste

Many people ask if I home brew beer. My quick response is "in a city with 6 award-winning breweries why would I brew my own beer?" Recently, I shared this viewpoint with a few passionate home brewers and their response was, "in a city with so many award-winning restaurants why would you want to cook your own food?" OK, I get it.

Home brewing is a combination of art and science. It is fun and the beer tastes better (just like home cooking). In addition, the beer costs less than craft beers (under \$4/sixpack), and you can make the style you want, when you want it. You can also create your own styles, if you choose, and provide samples of your successes to friends and family.

Home brewers typically start in one of three ways — buy a kit, receive a kit, or have a friend who's already brewing invite them to help. Asheville has two great places for information and supplies: Asheville Brewer's Supply on the North side, and Hops and Vines on the West side. Both offer brewing kits, equipment (brewing, bottling, cleaning, etc.), ingredients (hops, grains, yeast, etc.), proven recipes, and suggestions. Also, Hops and Vines offers hands-on training classes throughout the year.

I visited the two brew supply stores and learned the majority of new brewers start as *extract brewers*. They purchase an equipment kit (a one time purchase) and a kit with all the ingredients to make one 5-gallon batch of beer. Ingredient kits contain malt extract (sugars and enzymes already extracted from malt), pelleted hops, and yeast.

Since I know a home-brewing team, Lee Combs, Doug Howell, and Bill Gardner, I asked to tour their "brewery" (a kitchenette with a lounge area used for brewers' conferences and relaxation) and learn their brewing process. They have been *extract brewers* for 4 years.

During the tour and quick tutorial, I learned these basic steps to the brewing process. Bring 2 gallons of water to near boil, add malt extract, bring to a full boil and add bittering and aroma hops per the recipe, pour contents into fermenter (a container) that has 3 gallons of water, cool, add liquid yeast, seal with a fermentation lock (allows vapor out but does not allow vapor in), then store in a stable temperature environment.

After 5 -7 days, siphon the beer into a bottling bucket that contains corn (priming) sugar solution, bottle, cap then store for 2 to 4 weeks; open and enjoy with



Beer lover Joe Zinich.

BY JOE ZINICH

friends and family. Normally they brew every other week to ensure a continuous supply of beer.

While many home brewers happily remain *extract brewers*, content to produce consistently superb tasting beers with fine champagne-like carbonation,

others want additional flexibility. These brewers choose to brew with all grains, no extract. This approach, although difficult, is how world-class beers are produced and with these techniques home brewers can reproduce almost any beer they taste.

Most home brewers want their next beer to be better. Although there are many ways to improve, one of the best ways is to enter a competition where experienced judges give detailed analysis on the strengths and weaknesses of the beer and/or to join MALT, Mountain Ale and Lager Tasters, Asheville, NC ([www.malt-nc.com](http://www.malt-nc.com)). This club meets monthly, encourages members to bring brews to sample, share recipes and techniques, and enter competitions (local, regional and national). Recently MALT-member Aaron Schenk won the prestigious Highland Cup award and his cream-style ale will be brewed by Highland Brewing Company (under Aaron's supervision) at their facility in Asheville. It will be distributed and sold commercially, so look for it later this summer.

Home brewing is fun, simple, creative, and inexpensive; to top it off, you can make better beer than you can buy. Should you home brew? Well, gather a friend or two and discuss the possibility over a few bottles of a tasty craft brew and, just in case, save the bottles.

### Beer of the Month

Saison Du Alex from Hops and Vines. Saison Du Alex is a Belgian style farm house ale which has a spicy flavor with notes of hops, fruit and citrus, light in body, and pale orange in color. This beer is a summer time treat, a thirst quenching delight that cannot be purchased but must be made. Ask Alex at Hops and Vines for the recipe.

For five years, Joe Zinich has been taking a self-guided, high-intensity tour of Asheville's beer world. Contact him at: [jinich@bellsouth.net](mailto:jinich@bellsouth.net)



Bill Gardner adds extract to start the brewing process.



Doug Howell caps beer bottle with antique capper.



Lee Combs transfers fresh beer to bottles.

### Asheville Brewers Supply

712-B Merrimon Avenue  
Asheville, NC 28804  
phone/fax (828) 285-0515  
[www.ashevillebrewers.com](http://www.ashevillebrewers.com)

### Hops & Vines

797 Haywood Rd,  
Asheville, NC 28806  
(828) 252-5275  
[www.hopsandvines.net](http://www.hopsandvines.net)

## Earth Fare-South Asheville Opens Earth Grill

Earth Fare-South Asheville takes the Market & Cafe to the next level in all natural and organic foods with the addition of the "Earth Grill." The Grill features fresh local ingredients everyday, including: Hickory Nut Gap Pork & Beef, Sunburst Farms Trout, Springer Mountain Chicken, Fletcher Valley Naturals Bakery and local organic, hand-cut sweet potato fries, all cooked to order.

The menu has upscale burgers, grilled chicken, fish (Trout & Scottish Salmon), pulled pork sandwiches and hot dogs. Vegetarian choices include made from scratch veggie burgers and vegan Earth Dogs. A kid's menu offers grilled cheese, chicken fingers and mini burgers.

"South Asheville needed a place that catered to customers who enjoy this type of food but don't want synthetic hormones, antibiotics, refined sugar, and nitrites," said Debby Chatterton, Assistant Food Service Manager. "Because of the quality ingredients, the Earth Grill offers a healthier alternative and a superior tasting experience to fast food."

The Grill is open Monday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Beer and wine are available in the cafe and patio areas.

Earth Fare Market and Café was founded in Asheville, North Carolina in 1975 and has grown into a premier chain of natural and organic markets located in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee. All Earth Fare stores provide customers with real food that tastes better — fresh, locally grown organic produce, artisan products such as raw milk cheeses and specialty wines, scratch-baked breads and pastries, as well as antibiotic and hormone-free meats and poultry, and sustainably harvested seafood.

**Wednesday, July 2 from 4 to 6 p.m.**  
**Beat the Heat Ice Cream Social for WNC Nature Center**

\$1 scoops of ice cream, photo opportunities with educational animals from the Nature Center. All proceeds go to the WNC Nature Center. Four chances to win a picnic for four!

Earth Fare-South Asheville  
1856 Hendersonville Road  
Asheville • (828) 210-0100  
[www.earthfare.com](http://www.earthfare.com)

For more information on these events contact Janice Husk, (828) 210-0100



# LOCAL FLAVOR

## Buddha Bagels Brings New York Style to Asheville

When I was a kid growing up in New York my father used to say "A good bagel can make anything better."

You may not know this, but a New York Bagel is actually a "type" of bagel. It contains salt and malt and is of course boiled in water. Another type of bagel, for those who really want to be in the know, is the Montreal bagel, it's more chewy, and is baked in honey-water.

Buddha Bagels, a new deli on the always-changing Merrimon Avenue, opened this June where New York Bagels and Deli had been for years. Buddha Bagels offers the best bagels I have probably ever had, and that's saying a lot.

Buddha Bagels is the creation of Mystic Journey's owner Aaron Hunt. Hunt purchased the former New York Bagels and Deli in May of 2008 but decided to change the name and remodel the deli to make it his own.

It's hard when a restaurant changes owners. Customers usually are not up

for change (if they were they wouldn't be customers) and the rest of the population doesn't get as excited as they do when a new restaurant opens. The

best thing to do, as Hunt did, is change the name, remodel and make what had already been a great product, even better.

"My personal philosophy about running a business," Hunt says, "is to supply a need for the community. If that need is met you'll be successful."

With a little more than a month on his resume as owner of Buddha Bagels,

Hunt is meeting the needs of the community. Let's be honest, there are a lot of places to have breakfast or lunch within 10 minutes of downtown, but few are worth talking about, let alone



Aaron Hunt, owner of Buddha Bagels.



BY TERI WHITMAN

cally roasted coffee and have many cold drinks to choose from (something many lunch places seem to forget). Also all sandwiches are served with chips and a pickle.

The food at Buddha Bagels is excellent and the service is fast and pleasant. The next time my father visits from New York, we're going out for bagels. They can make anything better. Even memories.

**SCRATCHPAD:** Catering is also available — Deli platters and bagels for groups of 10 or more require a 48 hour reservation.



### Buddha Bagels

333 Merrimon Ave., Asheville, NC  
(828) 254-2345

Prices: Breakfast \$3; Lunch \$4-\$7

## An Asheville Favorite:

"HOW SWEET COFFEE TASTES!  
LOVELIER THAN A THOUSAND KISSES,  
SWEETER THAN MUSCATEL WINE!"

~ JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH  
(COFFEE CANTATA)

When Asheville Coffee Roasters roasted their first batch of beans Bill Clinton was still in office and the St. Louis Rams were still in LA and seemingly a hundred years from ever winning a Superbowl.

Now, after all these years of roasting coffee for other businesses, owners Greg Bounds and Andi O'Gorman of the Asheville Coffee Roasters have opened an actual coffee house and deli to serve what can only be described as a "bold, rich and an incredi-

## Asheville Coffee Roasters

ble" coffee cup experience. Of course the food and desserts too are worthy of cross-town (even cross-county) driving.

They also serve refreshing cold drinks like Mocha Milkshakes made with real espresso beans and vanilla ice-cream. Bounds describes this cus-



Andi O'Gorman

tomor favorite as being "Made with love." They also serve sodas and a good assortment of chilled drinks.

Lunch is served daily and offers a wide variety of sandwiches priced between \$5 and \$7 (which is a bargain for the quality and freshness of ingredients). Their biggest seller is known simply as "Frenchy" — turkey with brie, fresh spinach drizzled with a raspberry vinaigrette on locally baked bread for \$6.95

O'Gorman also makes their tiramisu (an Italian dessert made with savoiardi, commonly known as lady fingers, that are dipped in coffee and coated with mascarpone cream) with freshly roasted espresso beans.



Greg Bounds

BY TERI WHITMAN

**Seating:** Comfortable couches, a couple tables and chairs and even offer outside seating when the weather isn't too hot.

**Lunch:** \$4.95-\$6.95

**Fresh Daily Roasted**

**Coffee:** \$12.95 lb. Shipping available. 25 different types of beans with 10 available flavors.

**NOTEPAD:** Coffee is more than a muse at this café — it's a distinctive design element. Back packs, book bags, coffee bean carriers, eco-friendly dog beds are all made from recycled burlap bags.

### Asheville Coffee Roasters

85 Weaverville Hwy., Asheville

(828) 253-JAVA (253-5282)

www.ashevillecoffeeroasters.com

"AH, THAT IS A PERFUME IN WHICH I  
DELIGHT; WHEN THEY ROAST COFFEE NEAR  
MY HOUSE, I HASTEN TO OPEN THE DOOR  
TO TAKE IN ALL THE AROMA."

~ JEAN JACQUES ROUSSEAU



## ARTFUL LIVING

# On Being Nobody

BY BILL WALZ

In Zen, there is a concept utterly foreign to the American mind. This concept is an ideal, a goal of Zen practice, and it is, paradoxical for an ambition, to be “nobody”.

In Japanese, this concept is communicated with the word, “mushin”, or, in Chinese, “Mu”, which translates as “no-mind”. No-mind means to be without ego, to stand in the world as a phenomenon no more important than a bird or a flower, yet equally, no less important than the galaxies themselves.

The way of the no-mind person is the way of living as “nobody”. Not a nobody, for this implies you ought to be somebody special, but are not. To be nobody is a conscious and positive stance in the world, not a lack or failure of stance. It is about living as a being of and within Nature, not outside it. It is in understanding that to live from ego, as if the structures of ego are who you are, is the “fall from grace”, the “original sin”, the loss of your true harmonious self.

To be nobody is to live from the natural and spontaneous source of your own being, using your intelligence and faculties to be skillfully in rather than above or attempting to control life.

With no-mind,  
blossoms invite the butterfly;

With no-mind,  
the butterfly visits the blossoms.

When the flower blooms,  
the butterfly comes;

When the butterfly comes,  
the flower blooms.

I do not “know” others,  
Others do not “know” me.

Not-knowing each other  
we naturally follow the Way.

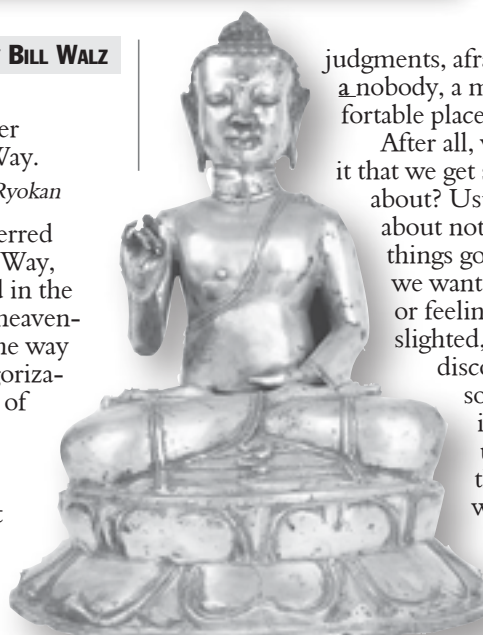
~ 18<sup>TH</sup> century Japanese poet, Ryokan

The “Way” that is being referred to is the ancient Chinese Taoist Way, the Way that Lao Tzu, described in the Tao Te Ching as the “origin of heaven-and-earth, it is nameless”. It is the way beyond intellectualization, categorization and judgment. It is the way of Nature, not of the egoic human mind. The “not-knowing” that Ryokan is referring to, is not having preconceived ideas about others and about life, rather, allowing each encounter to be fresh, completely and naturally what it is.

Without a preconceived identity and without preconceived ideas about life, self and others, I am, in this sense, nobody experiencing with no-mind. Anxiety, anger, depression, arrogance, selfishness make no sense to a person who is nobody. The joy of living in Creation, harmonious within and without, is the natural abode of nobody.

In the modern world, where we are over-burdened with the weight of our own insecure identity, with the need to be significant, to be “somebody”, to contemplate the meaning of nobody can be a valuable reference point.

It reminds us that we have fallen into a terrible hubris, into an arrogance that places us quite outside and at opposition with Nature, and what Buddhists would call our own original nature. We have become quite caught in our egoic self-centeredness, our ambitions, opinions and



judgments, afraid of being  
a nobody, a most uncomfortable place to live.

After all, what is  
it that we get so upset  
about? Usually it is  
about not having  
things go the way  
we want them to,  
or feeling injured,  
slighted, insulted or  
discounted in  
some way. Being  
upset is usually about  
the egoic self  
wanting more  
control and  
importance  
than it  
has. This

can be true over

real injury, certainly, or, as is often the case, in just not being sufficiently noticed or getting our way the way we want it.

The modern spiritual teacher, Eckhart Tolle, describes our emotional distress as the result of being resistant to what is. What a simple and clear teaching. So too then, when we don’t find our identity in ego, we can face many threats and losses, real and imagined, even death, and remain calm and accepting.

It is important to realize; this is not about being passive. Activity and creativity are in our nature and to be active and creative in the expression of life are appropriate and harmonious. In the service of ego, however, action is seldom harmonious. Certainly, there are times to resist cruelty and stupidity, but it does not have to be from a place of fear or violent emotion.

It is just the necessary thing to do. In the parlance of Zen it is then “non-doing”.

Certainly there are times to use effort for the betterment of our person, others and human society. Our choice is whether the effort is ego directed, or from the place of just doing what needs to be done. Non-doing follows our prime instinctual imperative, to become more conscious, more alive, more balanced with others, society and Nature within and around us.

As we assert ourselves, face a challenging task, respond to injury or disappointment, whether it is slight or great, we can let go of our ego, be nobody, and in so doing, become more in harmony with life as it is, and with our own life as it is meant to be. We can engage a moment that could have been one of struggle and suffering for others and ourselves, and instead, turn it into a moment of mastery.

We can be masterfully active and creative just because it is in our nature to be so, noting that to nobody, mastery is no big deal. No big deal, but oh, how splendid. Like the stars in the night sky or the butterfly visiting the blossom, exactly how and where they are supposed to be.



**Bill Walz is a UNCA adjunct faculty, College for Seniors and private-practice teacher of mindfulness, personal growth and consciousness.**

**He holds a weekly meditation class, Mondays, 7 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 227 Edgewood. Info on classes and personal growth and healing instruction or phone consultations at (828) 258-3241, or e-mail at [healing@billwalz.com](mailto:healing@billwalz.com). Visit [www.billwalz.com](http://www.billwalz.com)**

## Taking Control – Inflammation: Part II

BY MAX HAMMONDS, MD

The process of acute inflammation is designed to control and eliminate the invasion of foreign proteins — whether from bacteria, viruses, foreign cells (other biological cells that are not of human origin), or cancer cells. When the inflammatory process works overtime, normal human cells of various types are damaged or destroyed.

To control the inflammatory process and to keep it from working overtime, the process of inflammation has been thoroughly dissected. Multiple components of the process have been identified and isolated. And drugs have been formulated to offset the harm these various components cause when they get out of control. These drugs were intended

to stop acute exacerbations of arthritis or colitis and life-threatening bouts of asthma, anaphylactic shock, and heart attacks. But too often these drugs are marketed and used as a replacement for making sensible lifestyle choices.

Advertisements for these drugs encourage people to live in foolish ways: petting a cat while sitting in a field of blooming flowers because they are taking the latest leukotriene blocker to arrest their asthma OR over eating heavy carbohydrate, fried foods laden with cheese because they are taking the latest antacid to stop their heartburn. These advertisements tell people they can take the latest anti-inflammatory drug and live any life style they choose — that people don’t have to make sensible lifestyle choices.

Unfortunately, the side effects of these drugs are neglected or downplayed with sometimes disastrous results — witness the recent discovery of increased heart attack rates in people with coronary artery disease taking COX-2 anti-arthritis medicines.

The sensible approach to inflammatory disease is to avoid those activities which incite the specific inflammatory response and to promote those lifestyle activities which decrease the overproduction of inflammatory activities of the body.

**For specific body systems this means:**

For the skin — avoid known skin irritants, known allergens and excessive sun.

For the upper and lower bowel — avoid known irritants like caffeine, nicotine,

cholesterol, chocolate, non-digestible sugars and irritating spices and any known specific food allergens.

For the breathing system — avoid nicotine, specific lung irritants like asbestos, coal dust and cotton and wool fibers in high concentrations, and known allergens.

For the blood vessels — avoid trans fats, cholesterol, stimulants, and high concentrations of stress hormones, steroids and sugars.

In general — avoid obesity, alcohol, smoking, lack of sleep and high stress situation as all of these are known to disrupt the immune system and lead to dysfunction of the inflammatory systems.

**‘Inflammation’ continued on pg. 39**



# STAGE PREVIEW

Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Mars Hill, NC

## July at SART

For the first half of July, come out to SART and enjoy *Smoke on the Mountain Homecoming*.

Written by Connie Ray, conceived by Alan Bailey, musical arrangement by Mike Craver, produced by Bill Broughton with Edward Jones in Weaverville, this production continues the saga which began with *Smoke on the Mountain* and *Sanders Family Christmas*. The Reverend Mervin Ogleshorpe and the Sanders family are back with entertaining and touching stories mixed with fabulous Bluegrass Gospel music. Return to SART and laugh, cry and sing with them again. July 2 – 13.

The month concludes with the first professional production of *The Dixie Swim Club*, written by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten and produced by Weaverville Eye Associates. Take 5 women and 1 beach house and follow them for 33 years and you have a

perfect recipe for laughs. This comedy tells the story of a group of Southern women who met on their college swim team who gather for one long week-end a year to recharge their friendship. Free from men, kids and jobs, they meet every August at the same beach cottage on NC's Outer Banks to laugh, catch up and meddle in each other's lives. The play focuses on four of those week-ends spanning a period of over 30 years. July 16 – 27.

## If you go

Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, 44 College Street, Mars Hill, NC

*Smoke on the Mountain Homecoming* July 2 – 6 and July 11 – 13.

*The Dixie Swim Club*, July 16 – 20 and July 25 – 27.

Matinees Thursday and Sunday, 2:30 p.m.; Evenings 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$25; children 12 & under \$10; subscriptions available. Box Office: (828) 689-1239

## July Sizzles with Late Night Comedy at 35below

BY JENNY BUNN

The *Late Night Comedy Series* continues throughout July at 35below, Asheville Community Theatre's black box theatre. Featuring 43 different performances over 10 weeks, the Late Night Comedy Series puts local comedy troupes in the spotlight.

Tickets are \$10 and will be sold in advance through the Asheville Community Theatre Box Office. Remaining tickets will be sold in the 35below lobby. Most shows are geared for an adult audience. Performing in July are The Feral Chihuahuas, Scottch Tomedy, Karen & Mondy, and The OxyMorons, with special events *I Can't Believe It's Not HELL* and *Comedy for Teens*.

The Feral Chihuahuas, an Asheville based sketch troupe, combine live sketch comedy with original short films. The Feral Chihuahuas will perform on Saturday nights July 5, July 12, and August 2 at 8:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Scottch Tomedy is a two-man team made up of two men: Scott Bunn and Tom Chalmers. Scottch Tomedy performs Wednesday, July 9; Thursday, July 10; and Friday, July 11 at 8:00 p.m.

Karen & Mondy is Karen Stobbe & Mondy Carter, a husband and wife team who like doing it onstage. And by "it," we mean improvisation, written skits, and songs. With 54 years of comedy experience between the two of them, Karen

& Mondy will bring you three nights of improviciousness on Wednesday, July 30; Thursday, July 31 and Friday, August 1 at 8:00 p.m.

The OxyMorons, an Asheville based improv troupe, return in July for two shows. Their fast-paced shows are always a sure bet. The OxyMorons perform Thursday, July 17 and Friday, July 18 at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 19 is the next installment of the howlingly funny *I Can't Believe It's Not HELL*. This month's episode features audience poetry. Hosted by Josh Batenhorst, begins at 8:00 p.m.

Asheville Community Theatre's Comedy for Teens class will perform improv comedy on Thursday, July 3. These seven rising stars range in age from 13-15 and have a sharp, smart humor which is perfect for an audience of all ages. This fast moving, funny show is just the thing for families looking for a unique night out together.

## If you go

Tickets for any show during the *Late Night Comedy Series* are \$10. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.ashevilletheatre.org](http://www.ashevilletheatre.org) or by calling (828) 254-1320. Box office hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Reservations are strongly recommended. For more information please call (828) 254-1320.



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# NOTEWORTHY

## "I Hate Hamlet" at Asheville Community Theatre:

### To See, or Not To See?

Just "When?" is the question for Asheville Community Theatre's production of the hilarious comedy *I Hate Hamlet*, by Paul Rudnick, opening on Saturday, July 5 at 8:00 pm and running for three weekends through July 20, 2008.

Performances are held on Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00 pm and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 pm. Asheville Community Theatre is located at 35 E. Walnut St. in downtown Asheville. On Opening Night, a pre-show complementary champagne reception will be held.

*I Hate Hamlet* centers on Andrew Rally, who seems to have it all: celebrity from his starring role in a hit television series; a rich, beautiful girlfriend; the perfect New York apartment; and the chance to play Hamlet in Central Park. But a major glitch in paradise arrives in the form of the egotistical ghost of the great Shakespearean actor John Barrymore, who used to live in Andrew's apartment.

Interestingly, Rudnick was inspired to write this show after moving into the very apartment where Barrymore had lived while performing his legendary Hamlet uptown. The laughs are nonstop as Andrew wrestles with his conscience, Barrymore, his sword, and his potential failure in the role of a lifetime.

*I Hate Hamlet* is directed by Michael Lilly, who most recently staged *Return of an Angel*, a new play about Thomas Wolfe, as part of the 2007 Thomas Wolfe Festival in Asheville. *I Hate Hamlet* stars Cody Magouirk (who played Hamlet in the Montford Park Players' 2006 produc-

tion) as Andrew Rally and Waylon Wood (*Moon Over Buffalo, The Philadelphia Story*) as

John Barrymore. They are joined onstage by RoseLynn Katz, Jeff Corpening, Anna Booraem, and Leslie Clement Bonner. The set is designed by Rob Bowen, with lighting design by Brian Sneed, and costume design by Ida.



### If you go

*"I Hate Hamlet," a comedy by Paul Rudnick, directed by Michael Lilly Asheville Community Theatre, 35 E. Walnut Street, Asheville, NC*

*July 5-20, 2008, with performances Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m.*

*Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$19 for college students and seniors (over 60), and \$12 for children (17 and under). Special discounts for groups of 10 or more.*

*Purchase tickets online at [www.ashevilletheatre.org](http://www.ashevilletheatre.org), by calling the ACT Box Office at (828) 254-1320, or in person at the Box Office at 35 East Walnut Street.*

*Box Office hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, please call (828) 254-1320.*

## Craft Demonstrations at Hand In Hand Gallery



Three craft demonstrations will take place on Saturday, July 5 at Hand in Hand Gallery in Flat Rock with an opportunity for

some hands-on creativity by the public.

Demonstrators include clay and bonsai artist Robert Wallace, clay artist Molly Jones, and wood turner Allen Davis. Demonstrations will take place outside on the decks and front area of the gallery from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

July's craft demonstration piggy-

backs on the gallery's current exhibition titled: "Animals, Animals, Animals!" which runs through August 3, 2008. 40 regional artists creating in various mediums are represented in this extensive show. Artwork displayed in the gallery's new exhibition room ranges from the whimsical to the sublime.

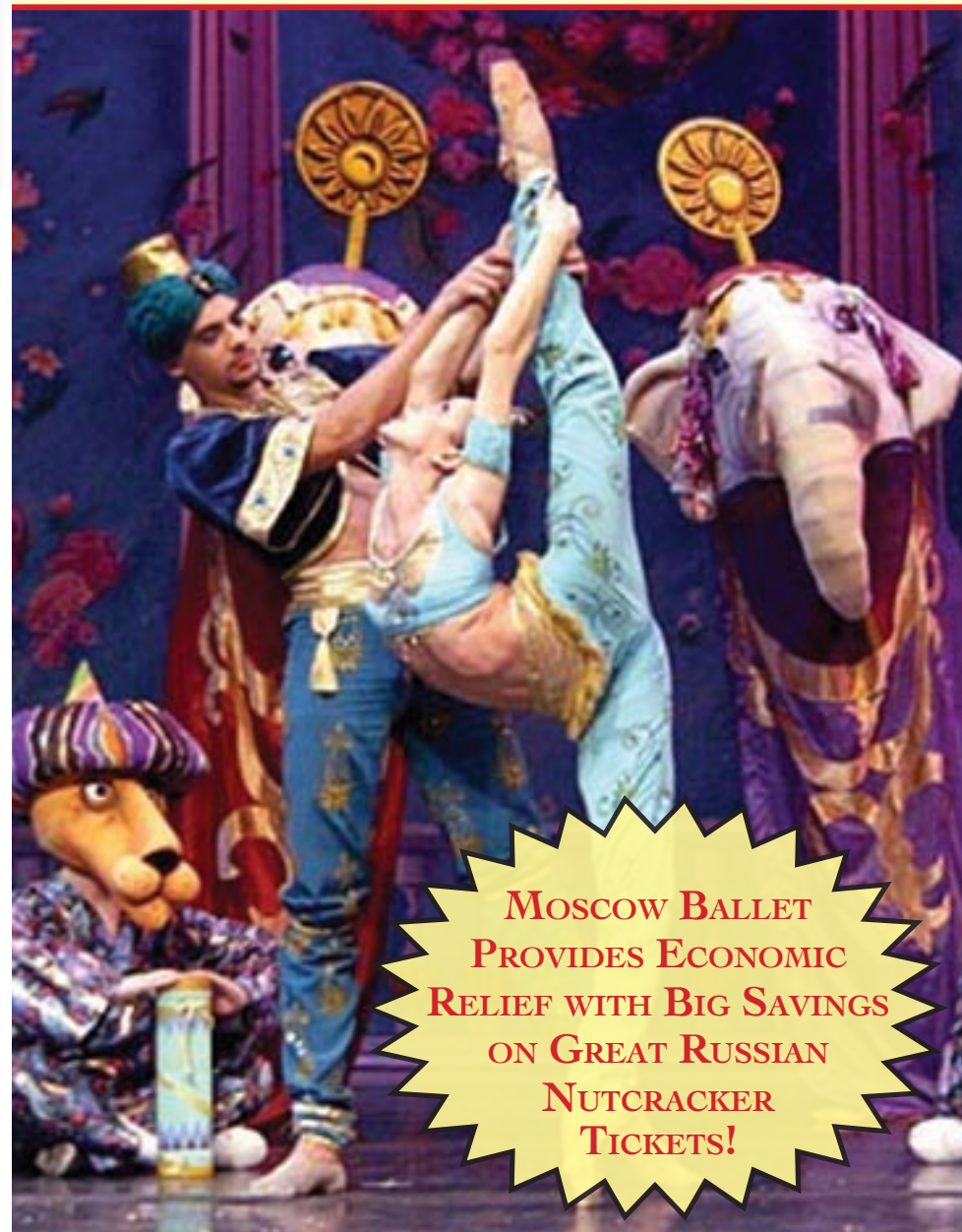
Hand in Hand Gallery is located at 2720 Greenville Highway /NC 225, along Flat Rock's Little Rainbow Row.

For more information call the gallery at (828) 697-7719 or visit [www.handinhandgallery.com](http://www.handinhandgallery.com). Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

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## MUSIC

### Summer Music in Flat Rock

BY DAVID VOORHEES

Dana and Susan Robinson will perform at a free evening music event in Flat Rock on Saturday, July 5 beginning at 6 p.m.

This family oriented event will be held on Little Rainbow Row's back deck and paved area (behind the colorful shops, corner of Greenville Hwy. and West Blue Ridge Rd.). The music series is presented by the Flat Rock Merchants Association with series sponsorship help from Carolina First Bank, WTZQ and Bold Life! Magazine. Summer Music in Flat Rock is held on the first Saturday evening of the month through October featuring regionally recognized musicians.

Dana and Susan Robinson sing dust-on-the-boots vignettes of rural America. Their stories reflect a deep affection for the landscape and sense of place within



Dana and Susan Robinson

it. Dana and Susan are consummate multi-instrumentalists (guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin) integrating styles from the Appalachian, Celtic and African traditions to create a fresh and contemporary sound that is uniquely their own. Their CD's including the newly released *Round My Door* will be available at the concert.

This is a casual, family oriented, bring-your-lawn-chair outdoor event, weather permitting. Flat Rock Village Bakery and Hubba Hubba Wood-fired Smokehouse will be open offering take out pizza and BBQ dinners and beverages. Off street parking will be designated with limited handicap accessibility. For further information, call Hand in Hand Gallery at (828) 697-7719 or visit [www.flatrockonline.com](http://www.flatrockonline.com)

### 26th Annual Concerts on the Quad Summer Music Series

Music lovers of all ages will enjoy free concerts under the stars as UNC Asheville's

26th annual Concerts on the Quad summer music series wraps up with two great programs in July. Concerts get under way at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 7, and Monday, July 14, on UNC Asheville's Quad.

Concerts on the Quad is fun for the entire family. The public is invited to bring picnics, blankets and lawn chairs. Sorry, no pets allowed. With nearly 2,000 people attending each concert, lawn-chair seating will be separate from blanket seating in order to preserve sight lines; please look for signage when arriving on the Quad. Check the Café a la Quad tent for snacks and beverages from 6 to 8 p.m.

**The final two concerts in the 2008 season include:**

**July 7 – Bandana Klezmer with Jibblin'**



The Buckerettes

the Froeline – A night of high-energy dance music in the Eastern European and gypsy-blues style.

**July 14 – The Buckerettes** – A three-piece cowgirl band featuring country, bluegrass, old time and rock n' roll.

For more information about the series, call UNC Asheville's Cultural and Special Events Office at (828) 251-6991 or click on [www.unca.edu/summerquad](http://www.unca.edu/summerquad).

### If you go

*In case of rain, the concerts will be held in Lipinsky Auditorium. A limited menu will be served on rainy evenings. Concert location decisions are made at 5 p.m. the day of the show.*

*Patrons may call (828) 232-5000 line 3 after 5:15 p.m. each Monday to hear a recorded announcement about the location of that evening's performance.*



# STAGE PREVIEW

## Porter Center for Performing Arts Announces 10th Season

The 10th Anniversary Season will be highlighted by the return of the Moscow Chamber Orchestra with guest pianist and 2001 Van Cliburn winner Olga Kern, celtic music superstar Natalie MacMaster, and the "Orchestra of Voices" Chanticleer.

Other featured artists include the rock-opera band East Village Opera Company, saxophonist Bill Evans and his bluegrass inspired band Soulgrass, and three-time Grammy nominee jazz vocalist Luciana Souza presenting The New Bossa Nova.

"The 10th Anniversary Season will be the most expansive series to date with 19 performances by outstanding national and international artists spanning the genres of classical, jazz, world, and bluegrass music," said Christopher Heacox, Managing Director of the Porter Center for Performing Arts at Brevard College.



Olga Kern

### Porter Center for Performing Arts 2008-2009 Series

Tuesday, July 22, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.  
The Lascivious Biddies

Tuesday, August 5, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.  
The McDades

Friday, September 19, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.  
Moscow Chamber Orchestra with Olga Kern, piano

Sunday, October 5, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.  
Carlos Perez, guitar

Saturday, October 11, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.  
East Village Opera Company



East Village Opera Company

Saturday, October 25, 2008  
at 7:30 p.m. – Chiara Civello

Saturday, November 1, 2008  
at 7:30 p.m. – Raul Midon

Sunday, November 9, 2008  
at 3:00 p.m. Jeremy Denk,  
piano

Thursday, November 13,  
2008 at 7:30 p.m.  
Bill Evans Soulgrass

Sunday, November 16, 2008  
at 3:00 p.m. – Asheville  
Symphony Orchestra



Natalie MacMaster

BY CHRISTOPHER J. HEACOX

Tuesday, March 17, 2009  
at 7:30 p.m. – Cello Octet:  
Conjunto Iberico

Thursday, March 26, 2009  
at 7:30 p.m. – Chanticleer

Sunday, March 29, 2009 at  
3:00 p.m. – Trio Mediaeval

Friday, April 17, 2009 at  
7:30 p.m. – Luciana Souza:  
The New Bossa Nova

Sunday, April 26, 2009 at  
3:00 p.m. – Intersection Trio

**19 performances by  
outstanding national and  
international artists.**

Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.  
Cameron Carpenter, organ

Sunday, February 22, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.  
Robert Parkins, organ

Saturday, February 28, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.  
Eroica Trio

Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.  
Natalie MacMaster

### If you go

Porter Center for Performing Arts at Brevard College, One Brevard College Drive, Brevard, NC

Tickets are on sale now and are available by contacting the Porter Center Box Office at (828) 884-8330 or by email at [box-office@brevard.edu](mailto:box-office@brevard.edu). Tickets available for sale online at [www.theportercenter.org](http://www.theportercenter.org).

For more information and a complete listing of all concert events at the Porter Center for Performing Arts visit [www.theportercenter.org](http://www.theportercenter.org).

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# WHAT TO DO GUIDE™

## How to place an event/classified listing with Rapid River Art Magazine

Any “free” event open to the public can be listed at no charge up to 30 words. For all other events there is a **\$9.95** charge up to 30 words and **10 cents** for each additional word.

**160 word limit** per event.

Sponsored listings (shown in boxes) can be purchased for **\$12 per column inch**.

Deadline is the 19th of each month. Payment must be made prior to printing.

Email Beth Gossett at: [ads@rapidrivermagazine.com](mailto:ads@rapidrivermagazine.com) or mail to: 85 N. Main St, Canton, NC 28716. Or Call: (828) 646-0071 to place ad over the phone.

### – DISCLAIMER –

Due to the overwhelming number of local event submissions we get for our “What to Do Guide” each month, we can no longer accept entries that do not specifically follow our publication’s format. Non-paid event listings must be 30 words or less and both paid and non-paid listings must provide information in the following format: date, time, brief description of what your event is and any contact information. Any entries not following this format will not be considered for publication.

## WANTED:

### Advertising Sales Representatives

The Rapid River needs experienced sales personnel.

### INTERESTED?

Call (828) 646-0071, or e-mail [info@rapidrivermagazine.com](mailto:info@rapidrivermagazine.com)

**Wednesday, July 9**

### Hiroshima-Nagasaki Poster Exhibit

UNC Asheville and the Center for Diversity Education will host the national traveling exhibit “Hiroshima-Nagasaki: Images and Stories from Eyewitness Accounts” July 9 through August 8.

An opening reception and talk by Hiroshima blast survivor Miyoko Watanabe will be held at 7 p.m. Special guests will include Japanese delegates from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public. However, due to the graphic nature of the images in this educational exhibit, events are not recommended for children.

UNC Asheville’s Karpen Hall Lobby is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information contact the Center for Diversity Education at (828) 232-5024, [dmiles@unca.edu](mailto:dmiles@unca.edu). or visit [www.diversityed.org](http://www.diversityed.org).

**Saturday, July 19**

### Folkmoot 5K Race and Kids Fun Run

The race will begin at 8 a.m. at Folkmoot USA in Waynesville, NC. Register Now!

Trophies will be given to the top three male and female finishers. The first five male and female finishers in the age 19 and under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, and 80 and above groups will also receive awards.

The cost is \$15 before race day or \$18 on race day. Every registered runner will receive a race t-shirt.

For a registration form please call Jamye Cooper at (828) 452-2997 or Scot Worley at (828) 456-2030 or email [recaquatics@townofwaynesville.org](mailto:recaquatics@townofwaynesville.org). Sponsored by The Waynesville Parks and Recreation Department and Folkmoot USA.

**Saturday, July 19**

### Cooking with Liliane and Didier

Bastille Day extravaganza, “Keeping Cool in Summer Heat.” Delicious bounty of early summer desserts! French style desserts with healthy ingredients! Cool-

## Summer Tracks Concert Series Returns to Roger’s Park in Tryon

Admission is free, though a voluntary donation at the gate is encouraged. The generous sponsorships provided by local businesses help to make these shows possible. There will be sandwich wraps, hot dogs, homemade ice cream, water and soft drinks for sale. As in past summers, the series of concerts offer a mix of musical styles. Concerts run from 7-10 p.m.

### Performance Schedule

July 11 – Gigi Dover and the Big Love (rock, Americana); Bob Sinclair (new standards)

July 18 – Russ Wilson & The Nouveau Passe Orchestra (10 piece big band, standards); Dixie Rhythm Aces (standards, jazz)

August 8 – Jackson Crossing (rock & blues); The Watts (rock, blues)

August 22 – The Firecracker Jazz Band (jazz, big band); The Stereofidelics (jazz, swing, blues)

September 5 – Reagan Boggs (country, Americana); Lone Derangers (Americana, folk)

Summer Tracks is produced by the Town of Tryon in affiliation with Peter Eisenbrown of Blockparty Productions. The popular and well attended series attracts people from all over the region. Last year, the concerts drew an estimated 2,000 people to downtown Tryon.

For more information about Summer Tracks and the performers, contact Polk County Travel and Tourism at 1-800-440-7848 or (828) 894-2324 and visit [www.firstpeaknc.com](http://www.firstpeaknc.com).

ing! Tasty! Yummy! Discover the joy of colorful fruit tarts, puddings and sorbets.

In summer it is particularly important to “keep cool” and beware of summer overexertion. In cooking, this means that one needs to avoid foods that contribute to high cholesterol and hypertension, while increasing gentle cool foods and cooking styles that nourish the heart and enable us to fully enjoy the beauty and energy of summer.

Class from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Kwan Yin Medicine, 34 E. Chestnut, in Asheville. Phone (828) 258-1413. Fee: \$40. Register early for a \$5 discount.

**Through July 26**

### In the Room Where Women Come and Go

The Ohio State University Alumni Club of Western North Carolina proudly presents Paintings of the Human Condition, the distinctive oils of Malcolm S. Baroway, on display at Studio B.

## Black Mountain Center for the Arts

**July 14 – 18**

Summer Arts Camp – a day camp for rising 1st-3rd graders, from 9 a.m. to noon.

**July 21 – 25**

Summer Theater Conservatory – a day camp for rising 4th through 8th graders, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Friday, July 25**

UPBEAT! Musical Heritage 4th Friday Concert, Brown & Swain and Friends, Acoustic Music, 7:30 p.m. \$10 donation at the door.

**July 28 – August 1**

Visual Arts Camp – a day camp for rising K-2, from 9 a.m. to noon.

**Black Mountain Center for the Arts**  
225 W. State Street  
Black Mountain, NC.

**(828) 669-0930**

[www.BlackMountainArts.org](http://www.BlackMountainArts.org)

## Faces of Asheville Portrait Documentary Project – Closing of the Silent Auction

**Sunday, July 6, from 5 to 9 p.m.**

Over 60 portraits by Jen G. Bowen displaying a wide variety of well-known, recognizable, and interesting Ashevilleians. The exhibit is hung in an eclectic scrap-book style display at Rosetta's Kitchen, 111 Broadway Ave. in downtown Asheville.

The closing benefit will include delicious hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants, drinks, community enrichment, and high-quality entertainment from some of Asheville's esteemed and talented performers. All of the entertainment is provided by participants in the Faces of Asheville Portrait Documentary Project, including singer-songwriters Jazz Salm and Jason Ross Martin, as well as the poetry-rhythms of Roberto Hess. The evening will come to a close with the completion of the silent auction and a session with the lovable local trio The Buckerettes. A sliding-scale donation of \$5-10 is requested at the door for adults, children under 15 attend for free — no one will be turned away.

For more information please contact the volunteer coordinator Spyce at (401) 419-2850, [spyce618@gmail.com](mailto:spyce618@gmail.com). You may also visit [www.FacesofAsheville.com](http://www.FacesofAsheville.com), and [www.arts2people.com](http://www.arts2people.com)

Studio B, 1020 Merrimon Ave., in The Shoppes at Beaver Lake near the North Asheville Library.

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10:00

a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information, call Patti Bell, (828) 225-5200, 1-800-794-9053, or visit [www.galleryatstudiob.com](http://www.galleryatstudiob.com)

# JULY EVENTS ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ CLASSIFIEDS



# WHAT TO DO GUIDE™

## Carolina Foothills Artisan Center

**Summer Art Classes taught by Amber Bishop**

**July 7-11, from 1 to 3 p.m.**

### Art Boot Camp for 3rd-5th graders

\$60 includes all materials. Please give child's t-shirt size when registering for class! This 5-day camp will provide students with a broad knowledge of many basic processes through the use of games and interactive discussion. Students will make and take home a tie-dyed t-shirt on the last day of class.

**July 2, 9, 16 and 23**  
**Painting for Teens ages 11-14**

From 5 to 7 p.m.  
\$75 includes all materials. Classes will offer a brief introduction to acrylic painting, mixing colors, and painting in 3-D. Students will learn through one-on-one training and group discussions.

**July 1, 8, 15, and 22.**  
**Senior Painting**

10 a.m. to 12 noon.  
\$75 includes all materials. Offered to adults over the age of 50. No art experience is required and first timers are encouraged to join! The focus will be on natural subject matter and plant life.

### Children's Acting Classes

Taught by Rebecca McBride. For children 8-12 years old. \$50 plus \$10 for materials. Three sessions, with each session lasting 3 days.

Session #1: July 14, 16 & 18  
Session #2: July 21, 23, & 25  
Session #3: July 28, 30 & August 1

## Carolina Foothills Artisan Center

124 West Cherokee Street  
Chesnee, SC 29323

(864) 461-3050  
www.cfac.us

## North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement Offers Art Workshops

The North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement will host a series of workshops July-September for beginning to intermediate artists of all ages to hone their skills or learn more about their craft. Courses will include stone carving, beading, watercolor painting and art collecting.

**Saturday & Sunday, July 26-27**

German-born stone carver Lothar Jobczyk will teach **"Stone Carving for Beginners,"** from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Participants will learn how to identify the types of stone used in art carving, how to choose materials and how to design stone sculptures on paper. On the second day, students will transfer designs from paper to stone, carving and polishing to create a finished piece. The cost of the workshop is \$150.

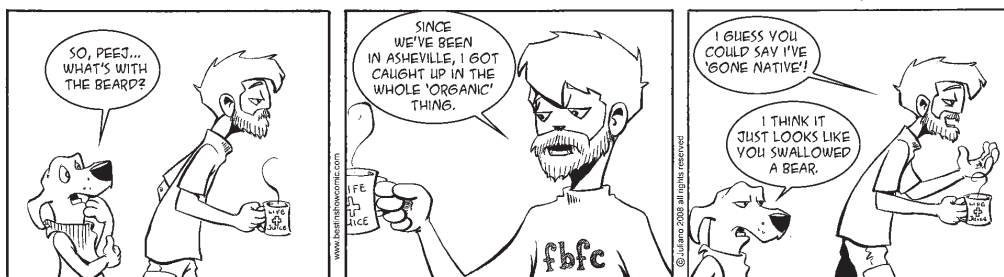
**Saturday, August 9**

Long-time beader Elaine Zinn will teach **"Seed Beaders! Add Sparkles and Spirals,"** from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Participants will review basic beading techniques, learn how to make a basic spiral rope chain, how to add thread and how to attach the necklace clasp. Experience stringing beads and the ability to follow beading diagrams is required. The cost of the workshop is \$65 plus \$30 for materials.

All workshops will take place at UNC Asheville's Reuter Center. Early registration is encouraged. For more information or to register, call the North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement at (828) 251-6140.

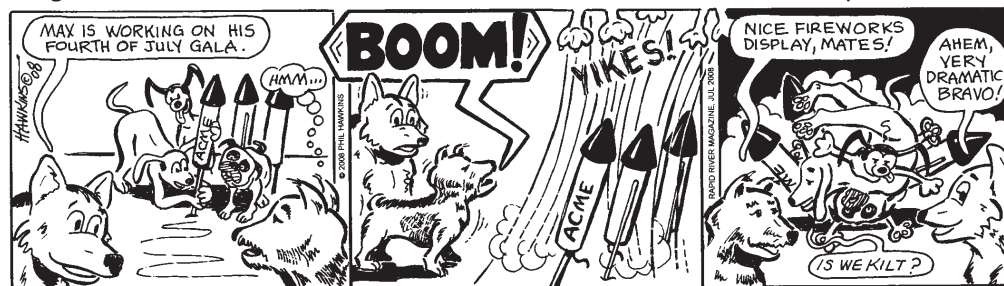
### Best in Show

by Phil Juliano



### Corgi Tales

by Phil Hawkins



### Callie & Cats

by Amy Downs



## The Back Room of the Flat Rock Wine Shoppe

**Friday, July 4 – Cookout**

Kickoff your fourth of July celebration this year with a cookout at the Flat Rock Wine Shoppe and Back Room.

From 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. we will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs with all the fixings. Enjoy these with some potato salad, chili, and chips, as well as libations from the Back Room.

### Russ Wilson and the Dead Elvis Ragtime Band

**Russ Wilson** has been playing professionally for 21 years. He started his musical journey in 1987 in Boone, NC while attending A.S.U. and playing with all the local jazz musicians, dixieland bands, big bands, etc.



In late 2003 Wilson formed the Nouveau-passe Orchestra, which has released three CD's. In addition, he has his own "music for hire" business called The Wilson Music Company and his own record label, *WonderTone Records*.

Members of the **Dead Elvis Ragtime Band** include Hank Bones on guitar, steel guitar and luad, and Joe Edel on bass. This will be a mixture of rags, jazz, western swing, country and novelty tunes. Starting at 9:00 p.m.

**Saturday, July 19, 9:00 p.m.**

### The Cheeksters

The Cheeksters formed soon after Mark Casson and Shannon Hines met by chance on a train in London in the summer of 1989. Their debut album "Stranger Things Have Happened" was recorded in Knoxville in 1992, followed by "Hey, What's Your Style" in 1994.

A year later, the Cheeksters relocated to Nashville where they hooked up with musician and producer Brent Little, who shared Casson's passion for the Britpop of his homeland and quickly recording "Skating on the Cusp" in his analogue studio.

The Back Room is located behind the Flat Rock Wine Shop, in the Singleton Centre in Flat Rock, just down the road from the Flat Rock Playhouse.

(828) 697-6828  
www.flatrockwineshop.com

# CLASSES ~ LECTURES ~ ARTS & CRAFTS ~ READINGS



# ASHEVILLE SHOPS

## Attention Grandparents! Have You Heard of "Rip Squeak"?

This adorable storybook collection and art is a must have for children between 2 and 7. These photos give you a glimpse into the world of Rip Squeak – the characters, the exciting stories and delightful paintings depicting the Rip Squeak Characters. And don't forget the special CD.

Stop by FASTFRAME on Hendersonville Road and experience Rip Squeak for yourself. Maggie and Bob and their three adorable Dachshunds are ready to give you a warm, friendly welcome.



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## Porter and Prince

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This was owner Debra Prince Slosman's plan in the first place. After a nine and a half year career working for someone else in the retail business, she found herself traveling three weeks out of four with the fourth week consisting of preparation for the weeks to come. "It was incredibly stressful," she recalls. "I developed ulcers and lost an unhealthy amount of weight. Physically, I needed to stay in one place. Then I met the love of my life and for that relationship to survive, I knew I had to make some changes."

She did. The personal result is a 13 year marriage with two children, a son, Bennett and a daughter, Carson, all firmly grounded in Asheville.

She also put her retail experience to work. After scrupulously researching the Asheville market to learn what there was a real need for, there is now a Porter and Prince on 2 Hendersonville Road in the Biltmore section of town.

By all accounts, it has proved a success. Starting at a mere 800 square feet twelve years ago, it has more than quadrupled in size. A popular destination with the tourist trade, it also serves Ashevilleans who are setting up new homes or maintaining and refurbishing old ones.

The name Porter and Prince was also chosen with care. Prince is the owner's maiden name and Porter comes from the fact that husband Jeff Slosman accompanied her on initial buying trips during which he acted in the capacity of a "porter" by fetching and carrying. Besides Debra Prince Slosman, there are three full time staffers whose business it is to know everything they can about customers' needs. Tracey Winn is a certified decorator who is also studying elements of architecture at AB Tech. Sarah Hackney has an extensive background in apparel, while Bettina Hall, experienced in human resources, deals with vendor relations and



Debra Prince Slosman,  
owner of Porter and  
Prince



BY ROSELYNN KATZ

computer systems.

Porter and Prince has gone on to be voted as one of the top 100 best stores in Cottage Living magazine. It has also been featured in Southern Living, Southern Accents and Lucky magazine.

You might think, as I first did, that Porter and Prince is a very pricey place. Not so. Prices start at ninety cents for a bar of specialized soap and continue modestly at under thirty dollars for a handsome selection of hand woven cotton rugs. Prices

do go higher, of course, but the point is that customers have a range of choices, depending on their budgets.

A wide range of bedding is available, some of it made from sought after Egyptian cotton and increasingly in demand bamboo. Not only are bamboo sheets and pillowcases irresistibly smooth to the touch, their sustainability makes them environmentally sound and good for your health. "Bamboo matures in three short months," explains Debra Prince Slosman. "And because it's a wood product it naturally repels bacteria."

Also check out towels, bath accessories, a fetching array of gifts such as soaps accompanied by a soap dish, all wrapped together in a pretty package, as well as candles, baby clothes and linens. Grandparents can spoil little girls with tutus, fairy wands and headbands.

I walked out with a beaded bag of lavender aroma beads, divine for sniffing or for tucking into closets; a fragrant reminder of what Porter and Prince has in store.

### Porter and Prince

2 Hendersonville Rd  
Asheville, NC 28803

(828) 236-2337



# NOTE WORTHY

## Original Art Flows at Haywood Arts Council's Waterworks Show

The Haywood County Arts Council's Gallery 86 presents a cool and refreshing show entitled "Waterworks," featuring members of the Blue Ridge Watermedia Society (BRWS).

The juried show features the best of the BRWS and includes works in watercolor, pen & ink, oil, mixed media, and collage. Participating artists include Jeanne Colburn, Pamela Haddock, Jo Ridge Kelley, Steve Lampl, Dodi Lovett, Lil Parks, Judith Rentner, Pam Riley, Margaret Roberts, Rebekah Russell, Joyce Schlappkohl, Rosemary Sexton, Pearl Tait, Carolyn Taylor, Ann Vasilik, Shirley White, and Lynne Wortmann.

The Blue Ridge Watermedia Society began in the summer of 1993, when six



"Mountain Tranquility" by Jo Ridge Kelley

BY KAY WALDROP

Haywood County residents who were painting together decided the county would benefit from an organization that would foster the appreciation and enjoyment of Watermedia painting. The group wanted to encourage area artists at every skill level in their pursuit of better art.

After studying the makeup of such groups across the United States, they founded the Blue Ridge Watermedia Society and served as its first executive board. From an attendance of 17 at the first meeting in October of 1993, BRWS has grown steadily with a current membership of 107.

The Society is comprised of artists who work with a variety of media, not just watercolor. BRWS strives to inform and educate its members, as well as the general public, through exhibitions, lectures, workshops by nationally known artists, demonstrations, a newsletter, and a lending library.

### If you go

"Waterworks" will be on display through Saturday, July 5, 2008 at Haywood County Arts Council's Gallery 86 located at 86 North Main Street, Waynesville, NC.



"Boats on Yangtze" by Ann Vasilik

### 'Inflammation' continued from pg. 31

Yes, there are some irritants in the environment that get some people in trouble — MSG, peanuts or walnuts, aspartame, etc. But these are not the primary culprits in the general increase of inflammatory diseases. The primary cause of inflammatory disease is poor lifestyle choices AND the abuse of anti-inflammatory drugs to allow the pursuit of these poor choices.

In other words, decrease stress, maintain ideal weight, eat a well-balanced diet high in good nutrients (which are anti-inflammatory by nature) and low in bad choices, stop smoking and exercise. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

### Gallows-Tree

I trudged with him through twilight leaves to the hiding place where no one sees and we did things to shame magpies.

I married him — fool — two minute's pleasure but ten year's pain.

I study our boy now; he is downy chin and all-legs. I wonder. Is he taking naïveté for a walk?

© 2008 Melisa Pressley

Melisa Pressley resides in western NC. This is the first publication of this poem.

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