

RAPID RIVER MAGAZINE

May 2010 • Vol. 13 No. 9

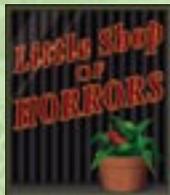
Arts & Culture



Karan Casey, the most soulful singer to emerge in Irish traditional music, performs at Diana Wortham May 14. PAGE 15



Local experts, Rob Campbell (shown), Alex Buerckholtz, and Jason Atallah show us how to conduct a tasting. PAGE 33



Asheville Community Theater's ill-tempered, R&B-singing carnivore takes the stage. PAGE 10



Michelle & Chip's Reel Takes
Movie Reviews PAGE 23

Rediscover Asheville's Masterpieces at the Biltmore House PAGE 5

Walled Gardens at Biltmore House
Image: The Biltmore Company

noteworthy

National Day of Puppetry – May 1

Puppet shows, puppet themed games, and puppet building activities for the entire family!

This is a special opportunity to see several shows by some of Carolina's emerging puppeteers and build a puppet or two of your own in our family friendly make and take. Throughout the day there will be puppet building for young children, puppet themed games, and puppet manipulation for all ages.



**Pam Gabler performs
Wolf Tales**

BY SUSAN VANDEWEGHE

tive improvisation, drawing on his diverse background of fine art, ecology and puppet construction.

Wolf Tales
by Pam Gabler

Pam Gabler performs traditional favorites such as "The Three Little Pigs" and "Little Red Riding Hood" with charming hand puppets.

PERFORMANCES

The Boy Who Had A Turnip For A Nose
by Toybox Theatre

Performed with Czech style marionettes, this show is a collection of bits from faerie tales, childhood recollections, and dreams. It tells the tale of a boy whose nose is a turnip and the colorful characters he meets on his journey for acceptance.



Strings Attached

**Strings Attached
Marionettes**

by Madison J. Cripps

Enjoy this vintage cabaret style marionette show full of tricks and surprises! Meet Sam E. Miner, the street sweeper,

Pinky the Mayor - part man and part hare, and Charlotte the Dancer who sings about her favorite letter. A champion of the people and environment, Madison's unique style weaves together dynamic songs and interac-



The 12th Annual National Day of Puppetry, Saturday, May 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Folk Art Center, Milepost 382 Blue Ridge Parkway, Asheville, NC.

General Admission: \$7 (includes 3 game tickets); Children under three years \$3. No charge for infants. For more information visit www.ashevillepuppetry.org or call the Folk Art Center, (828) 298-7928.

MOOG-INSPIRED VISUAL ART EXHIBIT

At the Orange Peel, May 27

Asheville artists spotlighted in benefit auction and event with works all pertaining to Moog instruments, vintage or new, (synthesizers, theremins, sound design elements, analog circuitry, etc), or were inspired by Dr. Robert Moog and his legacy of electronic music innovation. Exhibited works will be featured in an online auction.

Computers provided by City Mac will be available, allowing attendees to participate in the auction which will close at the end of the evening. The evening will feature local musicians per-

BY MICHELLE MOOG-KOUSSA

forming with a virtuoso synthesist from California, a legendary Moog modular synthesizer from 1967, and a MoogLab interactive exhibit.

All proceeds from the event will go to benefit the projects of the Bob Moog Foundation. The Ebay auction goes live on May 20.

IF YOU GO: For more information about the event or about the BMF, please visit moogfoundation.org or send an email to info@moogfoundation.org.

Over 11 Million Victims of Identity Theft Last Year.

Source: Javelin Strategy & Research. "2010 Identity Fraud Survey Report." February 2010.

Help Protect Yourself Today.

ENROLL TODAY AND GET:
30 DAY RISK-FREE* TRIAL

PROMO CODE: **ID**

CALL NOW: **1-888-252-5862**

*At the end of the 30-day free period your card will be billed automatically (\$10.00 monthly/\$110.00 annually) unless you cancel within the 30-day period. You can cancel anytime without penalty by calling 1-800-LifeLock. Offer is for new LifeLock members only.

LifeLock
#1 In Identity Theft Protection®

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

Violent Crime Shows Steeper Rise

The Washington Post - September 25, 2007
The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program found robberies surged by 7.2% and homicides rose 1.8 percent from 2005 to 2006. Violent crime overall rose 1.9%, homicides increased more than 10% and robbery was up 12.2%.

Get Your Home Security System FREE

THIS SYSTEM
VALUED OVER
\$800
IS YOURS
FREE

- Ⓞ Main Door Protection
- Ⓞ Motion Detectors
- Ⓞ Police, Fire & Medical Keypad with Battery Back-Up
- Ⓞ Alarm Siren
- Ⓞ Lawn Sign and Window Decals

CALL
NOW

(888) 896-1987

30th Celebration!

LEAF

MAY 6th-9th

Fall: October 14th-17th

LAKE EDEN ARTS FESTIVAL

a non-profit organization

connecting cultures & creating
community through music & arts



BAABA MAAL

Come dance, kick back & enjoy this edition of LEAF!

featuring: OZOMATLI • BAABA MAAL • BLIND BOYS of ALABAMA
DONNA THE BUFFALO • STEEP CANYON RANGERS • THE DUHKS
BIG SAM'S FUNKY NATION • BIO RITMO • CHARMAINE NEVILLE
ROBIN & LINDA WILLIAMS & THEIR FINE GROUP • BEN SOLLEE
JABALI AFRICAN ACROBATS of Kenya • SIM REDMOND BAND
NIGHTINGALE • ASHEVILLE HORNS • CHIRGILCHIN of Tuva
KINOBE & SOUL BEAT AFRICA of Uganda • SOL DRIVEN TRAIN
AKIRA SATAKE • RISING APPALACHIA • KELLIN WATSON BAND
POETRY SLAMS • JAMS & WORKSHOPS & many more performers!

MUSIC DANCE HANDCRAFTS POETRY HEALING ARTS
KIDFUN LAKE ADVENTURES CAMPING OUTREACH

online brochure & schedule: **theLEAF.org**

828|68-MUSIC (686-8742)

Special Gifts, and so much more at

Affordable Treasures



Me.Candles

All Natural Soy Candles
for All Occasions

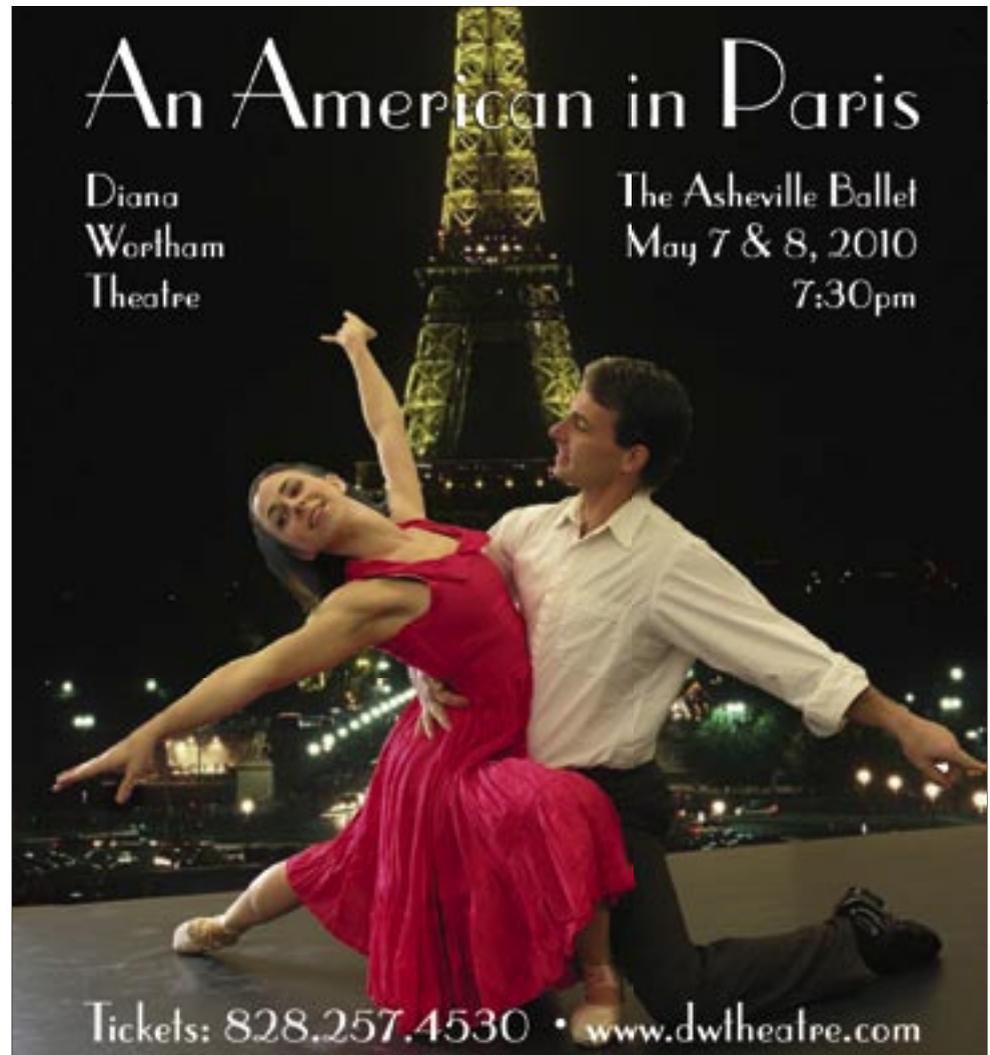
Located inside of the Haywood Park Hotel

1 Battery Park Avenue, Downtown • (828) 505-4530

An American in Paris

Diana
Worham
Theatre

The Asheville Ballet
May 7 & 8, 2010
7:30pm



Tickets: 828.257.4530 • www.dwltheatre.com

we love this place

The Blue Ridge Parkway's 75th Anniversary



Photo: the National Park Service

The Blue Ridge Parkway will be showcased as one of America's most beautiful motorcycling roads with events in North Carolina and Virginia during the motor road's 75th anniversary. For more information visit www.blueridgeparkway75.org.

Asheville Bikefest and Blue Ridge Run takes place **May 13-16** at the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center in Asheville. The event includes scheduled rides along the Parkway, dealer displays, stunt shows, live bluegrass music, and seminars on motorcycle safety. For more information, visit www.ashevillebikefest.com.

Motoring the Blue Ridge Parkway, a year-long exhibition at the Wheels Through Time Museum in Maggie Valley, opens **June 11**. The exhibit showcases Parkway history, construction, and the road's role as the most visited of the national parks. Period Wheels Through Time machines driven and ridden on the Parkway during the past 75 years will be on display. The museum houses a collection of more than 300 vintage motorcycles and other cycling memorabilia. Visit www.wheelsthroughtime.com for more information.



Photo courtesy of Wheels Through Time

Harley Owners Group members will participate in a national HOG touring rally, **Ridin' the Ridge, July 12-16**, riding the Parkway from Roanoke, VA, to Asheville, NC. Welcoming nearly 600 riders during the five-day event, the rally includes a visit to Biltmore Estate. Registration is open through May 7, visit www.members.hog.com.



Popovich Comedy Pet Theater

Western Carolina University's Galaxy of Stars

Fiddling siblings, performing cats, and a master juggler who incorporates 3-D technology into his act are on the bill for the 2010-2011 Galaxy of Stars season at Western Carolina University. The event features world-class theater, music and dance staged in WCU's Fine and Performing Arts Center. Many of the performances are suitable for children 5 years of age and older. Tickets for season subscribers go on sale in June, and individual tickets will be available in August. At \$130 (and \$40 for students and children), subscriptions offer a substantial savings over individual ticket prices and allow patrons to select and keep preferred seats. To purchase tickets, or for more information, contact the FAPAC box office at (828) 227-2479, or visit www.wcu.edu/fapac.

WANTED!

Advertising Sales Representatives

Rapid River Magazine is Seeking Experienced Sales Personnel

Help us promote local arts, organizations, and businesses. Great for retirees needing extra income. Set your own hours – potential earnings are up to you! Some experience necessary. Seniors are encouraged to apply.

INTERESTED? Call (828) 646-0071, or e-mail info@rapidrivermagazine.com

newspapers
logos catalogs
brochures websites

Simone Bouyer's
Ad World
services

info@quickbrightsharp.com
828 689-8543

www.QuickBrightSharp.com

Peter Loewer
Printmaker Graphos=Studio

PO Box 5039 - Asheville, NC 28813
email: spicebush@mtncarea.net

RAPID RIVER MAGAZINE Arts & Culture

RAPID RIVER ARTS & CULTURE MAGAZINE

Established in 1997 • Volume Thirteen, Number Nine

MAY 2010

www.rapidrivermagazine.com

Publisher/Editor: Dennis Ray

Managing Editor: Beth Gossett

Marketing: Dennis Ray

Staff Photographer: Dennis Ray

Layout & Design: Simone Bouyer

Book Editor: Cauley Bennett

Poetry Editor: Ted Olson

Proofreader: Mary Wilson

Accounting: Sharon Cole

Distribution: Dennis Ray

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Amy Ammons, Cauley Bennett,
Dale Bowen, James Cassara, Michael Cole,
Rebecca D'Angelo, LeeAnn Donnelly,
Amy Downs, John Ellis, Beth Gossett,
Steven R. Hageman, Max Hammonds MD,
Phil Hawkins, Jill Ingram, Carl Iobst,
Phil Juliano, Chip Kaufmann,
Michelle Keenan, Peter Loewer,
Kathy Lowdermilk, Heather Maloy,
Kay S. Miller, Michelle Moog-Koussa,
April Nance, Karen Nilsen, Ted Olson,
Michael Parker, Katherine Powell,
Joseph Rathbone, Dennis Ray,
Elizabeth Sims, Clara Sofia, Megan Stone,
Don Talley, William Tiernan,
Susan VandeWeghe, Greg Vineyard,
Bill Walz, Daniel Weiser, Joe Zinich.

INFO

Rapid River Art Magazine is a free monthly publication. Address correspondence to: info@rapidrivermagazine.com or write to:

Rapid River Art Magazine
85 N. Main St.
Canton, NC 28716
Phone: (828) 646-0071
www.rapidrivermagazine.com

All materials contained herein are owned and copyrighted by *Rapid River Art Magazine* and the individual contributors unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily correspond with the opinions of Rapid River Art Magazine or the advertisers found herein.

© Rapid River Magazine,
May 2010 Vol. 13 No. 9

About the Cover:

Walled Gardens at Biltmore House
Image: *The Biltmore Company*

Illustration of Michelle Keenan and Chip Kauffman by Brent Brown, a graphic designer and illustrator. View more of his work at www.brentbrown.com.

2 Noteworthy

National Day of Puppetry 2
Diva*licious 9

5 Fine Art

The Biltmore House 5
Folk Art Center – Fiber Weekend 18
Studio B Custom Framing 18
William King Museum 38

7 Performance

Asheville Symphony Orchestra 7
Hendersonville Chamber Music .. 7
Bua, Irish Music Ensemble 8
The Muses of Terpsicorps 12
Alice in Wonderland 12

10 Stage Preview

ACT – Little Shop of Horrors ... 10
NC Stage – What the Butler Saw . 32

11 Asheville Shops

Affordable Treasures 11
The ARCH Relocates 21

13 Columns

Bill Walz – Artful Living 13
James Cassara – Music 14
Greg Vineyard – Fine Art 17
Peter Loewer – Thoreau's Garden . 19
Joseph Rathbone – Culture 22
Ted Olson – Poetry 27
Book Reviews by Cauley Bennett,
Dale Bowen 28-30
Joe Zinich – Beer 33
Michael Parker – Wine 34
Max Hammonds, MD – Health .. 39

15 Music

Karan Casey 15
Horse Feathers 16
Pianist Anthony Molinaro 31
Laura Reed 31

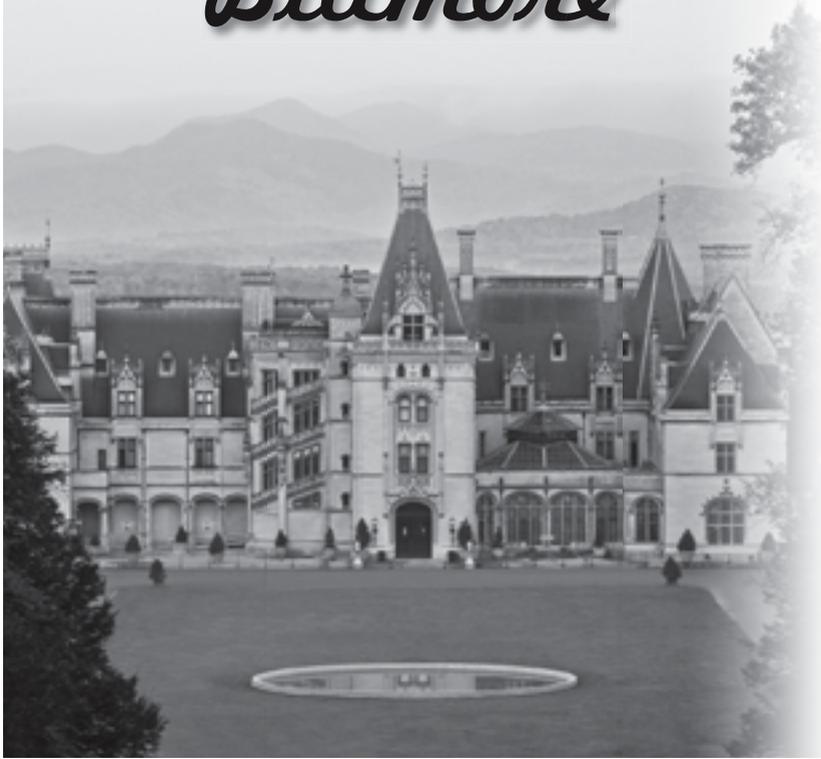
23 Movie Reviews

36 What to Do Guide™

Best in Show by Phil Juliano 37
Callie & Cats by Amy Downs 37
Corgi Tales by Phil Hawkins 37
Dragin by Michael Cole 37

asheville's impressive arts & culture

Biltmore



THOUSANDS OF PRICELESS WORKS UNDER ONE ROOF

If Mom is an art lover, where else in Asheville can she see:

- Renoir paintings
- John Singer Sargent portraits
- A chess set once owned by Napoleon Bonaparte
- 16th century Flemish tapestries
- The "Chariot of Aurora" ceiling painting
- Ming Dynasty (circa 1500s) goldfish bowls

The Biltmore House

Images courtesy of The Biltmore Company



Biltmore House Banquet Hall

For more information, visit
www.biltmore.com

These priceless objects are part of the 50,000-plus pieces that make up George Washington Vanderbilt's art collection inside Biltmore House, in Asheville.

This veritable treasure chest filled with rare and priceless possessions is an art lover's dream destination. Repeat guests often say they notice something different each time they tour through the house. It's no wonder. The details are both huge and minute in the 175,000 square-foot home.

A simple way for the art-loving mother — and visitors of all stripes — to become a repeat guest to Biltmore is to present her with a 12-Month Pass to Biltmore. At \$8.75 per month, the pass allows for unlimited daytime visits to Biltmore House for a year; access to all of the gardens, walking trails and hiking trails (dogs on leashes are also allowed); discounts on tickets for friends and family; and discounts on estate shopping and dining.

Starting May 20, vintage clothing from the Victorian Era will be part of the Biltmore House tour. Beautiful pieces representing the style and type worn by George and Edith Vanderbilt and their friends will be featured in several rooms. Some of the items include a brown walking suit that characterizes author Edith Wharton, author and frequent visitor to Biltmore House; a cream and gold gown for George's niece, Gertrude Vanderbilt, to support the story of her Christmas visit to Biltmore in 1895; and a riding jacket and boots for George's friend Willie Field.

BY LEEANN DONNELLY

Adding to the array of activities available to visitors, Antler Hill Village, Biltmore's newest guest venue, offers a glimpse into the history of the Vanderbilt's love of entertaining and travel. During the village's grand opening on May 20, Biltmore will debut a rare 1913 Stevens-Duryea Model "C-Six" seven-passenger tour car, which belonged to the couple.

"Our guests will be able to look in the passenger seat door, the driver door and be within a foot or two of the car," said Ellen Rickman, director of guest and museum services at Biltmore. Vintage clothing examples will accompany the display to enhance the story of George and Edith's love of car travel. Those pieces will include a woman's duster — the type of jacket Edith would have worn over her clothing to protect it from dust — plus a hat, scarf, boots and leather driving gloves.

For moms who love an outdoor challenge, the Explore Biltmore pass includes everything the 12-Month Pass offers plus full access to the estate's bicycle trails and discounts on selected outdoor experiences such as off-roading through muddy acreage with a skilled Land Rover Experience and Driving School instructor, fly-fishing lessons, Segway tours and sporting-clay shooting lessons. The Explore Biltmore pass is \$125.

What the Butler Saw

by Joe Orton directed by Ron Bashford



Sex. Lies. Sir Winston Churchill's naughty bits.



www.ncstage.org 828.239.0263

NCSC May 12 - 30, 2010
North Carolina
STAGE North Carolina Stage Company
Company



Haywood Arts Regional Theatre

www.harttheatre.com



On The Main Stage in 2010!

SEUSSICAL

Music: Stephen Flaherty • Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
Book by Lynn Ahrens & Stephen Flaherty

Weekends, April 23 - May 9

A fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza from Tony winners Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty ("Ragtime" and "Once On This Island"). They have lovingly brought to life all of our favorite Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton the Elephant, The Cat in the Hat, Gertrude McFuzz, Lazy Mayzie ... and a little boy with one big imagination. This hit show will delight all ages!

Adults \$22, Seniors \$20, Students \$10

Falling in LIKE

By Jerry Sipp

Weekends, June 4 - 13

The star is out, the intern is in as understudy, then leading lady and in the meantime, there could be a romance, but sometimes the best you can hope for is to fall in like. "The dialogue fairly crackles with wit and theatrical in-jokes. The show's a must see for theatre people and a delight for the rest of us." *Raleigh News and Observer*

(Not appropriate for very young audiences.)

Adults \$18, Seniors \$16, Students \$8

CHICAGO

Music by John Kander • Lyrics by Fred Ebb
Book by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse

Weekends, July 9 - August 1

In the Roaring Twenties, no place roared like Chicago. Join us as Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly vie for stardom in this tale of fame, fortune, murder and all that jazz. This full scale Broadway blockbuster is filled with hit numbers, hot jazz, sizzling dance numbers and its own steam heat.

(Not appropriate for very young audiences.)

Adults \$22, Seniors \$20, Students \$10

Catfish MOON

By Laddy Sartin

Weekends, August 27 - September 5

The old fishing pier out on the end of Cypress Lake has just fallen under the magic of another Catfish Moon. It was the favorite hangout for three best friends when they were kids — skipping school, skinny dipping and even experiencing the mysteries of kissing girls. Now, for adulthood. "... full of the most bodacious joviality ... the ending is pure delight, comic writing as sweet as it comes." *Charlotte Observer*

Adults \$18, Seniors \$16, Students \$8

BUDDY THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY

Music & Lyrics by Buddy Holly • Book by Alan Janes

Weekends, September 24 - October 17

The music of an era comes back with all the excitement that made a generation "Rock Around the Clock." Featuring the music of Richie Valens, the Big Bopper and others who shared the stage with the legendary Buddy Holly, this hit musical will take you back to a time when pop music made you dance in the aisles.

Adults \$22, Seniors \$20, Students \$10

THE LITTLE FOXES

By Lillian Hellman

Weekends, November 5 - 14

In the midst of some families are little foxes, scheming and vying for the prize and feeding off the misfortunes of others. Regina is one of the most skilled and ruthless. When she and her two brothers scheme mercilessly to make a fortune on a new cotton mill, Regina will let nothing stand in her way — not even her husband's life or her daughter's love.

Adults \$18, Seniors \$16, Students \$8

Season Tickets Available!

For Tickets: Call 828-456-6322 or visit www.sellingticket.com/HART

The Performing Arts Center at the Shelton House
250 Pigeon Street Waynesville, NC 28786

ADMIT ONE

performance

Asheville Symphony Presents

Heavenly Life, Earthly Pleasures



**Soprano
Deborah Selig**

BY STEVEN R. HAGEMAN

near perfect delivery. She achieves tempos and long phrasing that are usually only heard in violin and piano virtuosos.”

The Asheville Symphony will end its 49th season with a highly anticipated performance of the Symphony No. 4 in G Major by Gustav Mahler. The ASO is joining orchestras around

the world in celebrating the 150th anniversary of Mahler’s birth, and Maestro Meyer refers to this work as “a special journey into [Mahler’s] own sonic world, richly symbolic of nature, and his own emotions.”

A review written in 1901, when the work was premiered, noted “amusing but subtle and technically ultra-refined chatter on the part of the orchestra, which babbles, cackles, squeaks, burlesques, roars and creaks in every corner.” After numerous mood-swings, the finale sings (literally) of the pleasures of heavenly life, imagined through a child’s eyes.

That finale will be sung by soprano Deborah Selig, a rising young star in the world of opera. Her recent appearances in Carlisle Floyd’s opera *Of Mice and Men* at Kentucky Opera garnered a rave review in the prestigious magazine *Opera News*. Ms. Selig comes from Washington, D.C., and has performed major roles in works of Mozart, Rossini, Donizetti and Johann Strauss.

Two free presentations will be offered on the music and its background. On Friday, May 14 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Reuter Center on the Campus of UNC-Asheville, Mountaine Jonas will speak about the lives and times of the composers, and Music Director Daniel Meyer will discuss the musical works and introduce the featured soloists. Then, on Saturday, May 15 from 7 to 7:30 p.m., Meyer will present an abridged version of his talk on the musical works, and will introduce the soloists, in the Banquet Hall of the Asheville Civic Center. Both events are free of charge and open to the public.



Tickets for the performance are available through the Symphony office or the Asheville Civic Center box office, and range in price from \$53 to \$10 (with discounts available for students). Visit www.ashevillesymphony.org or call (828) 254-7046 for more information, and to inquire about subscription tickets for the Asheville Symphony’s upcoming 50th Anniversary season.

The Asheville Symphony Orchestra will conclude its 49th season of Masterworks concerts on Saturday, May 15 at 8 p.m.

The concert will consist of works by Rodrigo and Mahler, conducted by Music Director Daniel Meyer, with guitarist Ana Vidovic and soprano Deborah Selig as featured soloists.

The concert will begin with *Concierto de Aranjuez*, written in 1939 by Joaquín Rodrigo, one of Spain’s most beloved composers. Rodrigo lost virtually all of his sight at the age of three as the result of a diphtheria epidemic. However, the composer later felt that this misfortune led him toward a career in music.

He began musical studies at the age of eight, later continuing with teachers at the Conservatory in Valencia. The piece “evokes a vast array of colorful imagery and feelings,” Rodrigo said. “Being a history lover, especially Spanish history, when I created this concerto, I had in mind the courts of Charles IV, a Bourbon king of eighteenth century Spain, whose summer holiday residence was the palace of Aranjuez. Everything about it is awe-inspiring: its lordly palace; its gardens and fountains; its majestic views. Bearing this in mind while listening to the *Concierto de Aranjuez*, one can clearly visualize the fair maidens, noblemen, toreadors and commoners of the kingdom. Each listener is free to seek his or her own interpretation.”



Guitarist Ana Vidovic

23-year-old Ana Vidovic will appear as guitar soloist in the *Concierto*. Born in Croatia, Ms. Vidovic has already given over 1,000 performances. “It is difficult to know where to begin when discussing the enormous talents of Ana Vidovic,” said Stephen Griesbraber in the magazine *Guitar Review*. “Her dynamic range, beauty of sound, precision of articulation and virtuosity are such that listening becomes more of an absolute musical experience.” And Brian Roberts, Professor of Guitar at Wayne State University, has called her playing “the perfect balance between musical expression, excitement, and

Hendersonville Chamber Music

May Performances

May 2 - Pastyme

This versatile group’s eight highly trained voices takes its name from a madrigal written by Henry VIII that extols the virtues of “all goodly sport” in passing away the hours. You’ll have to agree as *Pastyme* brings you an exciting cross section of the wonderful world of a cappella song from Renaissance and rock to Bach and Broadway. Charleston’s Piccolo Spoleto Festival gave them rave reviews!

May 23 - Opal String Quartet

Sometimes one finds an outstanding treasure in one’s own back yard! Based in Asheville, the Opal Quartet is one such. Formed in January 2006 by professional musicians who both teach and perform with area orchestras, their playing rivals the technique, excitement



BY ROBERT WILEY

Pastyme

and sound of “name” quartets. Members include Amy Lovinger and Frances Hsieh, violins; Kara Poorbaugh, viola

and Franklin Keel, cello.



Concerts take place at First Congregational Church on the corner of Fifth Avenue and White Pine in Hendersonville. Performances are on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$17. Available at Hendersonville Visitors Center, Opportunity House, and at the door on the day of the performance. For more information call (828) 697-0455, (828) 890-4411, or visit www.hendersonvillechambermusic.org.

APRIL 30 - MAY 16 2010

Little Shop OF HORRORS



Fridays & Saturdays
at 7:30 p.m.
Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

TICKETS:
\$22 Adult \$12 Children
\$19 Seniors & Students

35 E. Walnut Street
Downtown Asheville

Lovable Hero, Sweet Girl, Murderous Plant

BOOK & LYRICS BY Howard Ashman MUSIC BY Alan Menken DIRECTED BY Mark Jones MUSICAL DIRECTION BY Gary Mitchell

Asheville Community Theatre

ON THE MAINSTAGE TICKETS ONLINE AT ashevilletheatre.org OR CALL 254 1320

Susan Marie Designs

FINE HANDMADE JEWELRY



4 BILTMORE AVENUE
Downtown Asheville
277-1272

Specializing in one-of-a-kind
and custom jewelry
DeBeers & AGTA Spectrum
Award-Winning Designer/Goldsmith

Asheville
Symphony

2009-2010
SEASON
Daniel Meyer,
Music Director



MASTERWORKS SEVEN

Saturday May 15, 2010 • 8pm

Thomas Wolfe Auditorium

Call
now for
tickets!



Ana Vidovic



Deborah Selig

RODRIGO & MAHLER

Daniel Meyer, Conductor

Rodrigo:
Concierto de Aranjuez

Ana Vidovic, guitar

Mahler:
Symphony No. 4

Deborah Selig, soprano

SPONSOR
THE LAYDEN FAMILY
FOUNDATION

SEASON
SPONSOR



828.254.7046 • www.asheillesymphony.org

performance

The Diana Wortham Theatre
2010 Mainstage Celtic Series Concludes With

Bua, America's Premiere Traditional Irish Music Ensemble

The virtuoso musicians of Bua, with musical roots in Ireland and Chicago, bring their driving traditional Irish music to the Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place Saturday, May 29 at 8 p.m.

Presented in partnership with The Swannanoa Gathering at Warren Wilson College, this

quintet comprised of some of America's most talented, young musicians, has been described by *Irish Music Magazine* as "the essence of a superb band," their sound "a throwback to the playing of the 1960s and 1970s, keeping the music down the path of tradition . . . where the musicianship is of the highest quality." It is no surprise then that Bua, meaning "innate gift" in Gaelic, has quickly risen to the status of America's premier traditional Irish music ensemble.

Singer Brian Ó hAirt's evocative voice has earned him great acclaim — the youngest and only American to become an All-Ireland Champion singer. His talent is a cornerstone of Bua's unique sound. Along with Chris Bain on fiddle, Seán Gavin on flute and uilleann pipes, Jackie Moran on bodhrán and Brian Miller on guitar, Bua have performed at numerous festivals including Boston's prestigious Irish Connections Festival, The Milwaukee Irish Festival, Cleveland's Irish Cultural Festival, Celtic Fest Chicago and The Saline Celtic Festival. As individuals they've shared the stage with a host of top Irish musicians including Martin Hayes, David Munnely, Liz Carroll, Larry Nugent, Paddy Keenan, Aoife Clancy, Pat Broaders, Dennis Cahill and John Williams.

Bua's most recent album, *An Spealadóir* — Gaelic for "The Harvester" or "Scythe-man" — draws from more than a century's worth of Irish traditional music and song cultivated in both the Midwest and Ireland. The collection, inspired by groundbreaking Irish traditional melodies collected by Irishman Chief Francis O'Neill.

Bill Margeson of the *Irish American News* captures Bua's essence concisely: "Clearly, this group is no locally-based collection of musicians trying to break out of



Bua Photo by Tanya Tucka

"The essence of a superb band"
~ *Irish Music Magazine*

BY JOHN ELLIS

Chicago. This is a group that has established itself [both] individually and as a group in the eyes and ears of the traditional community. . . . As other bands change, disband or simply fade away, the tradition is blessed by what seems to be an inexhaustible pool of talent that

comes to the front of the stage. It is Bua's time. Here they come."

Bua's May 29 Asheville performance is presented in partnership with The Swannanoa Gathering at Warren Wilson College, and is sponsored by Mainstage Celtic Series sponsors Don and Nancy Ackermann Cole and First Citizens Bank, with additional support from Media Sponsors WNCW 88.7 FM and Clear Channel Asheville.

The Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place is located in the heart of the Pack Square Cultural District in the center of downtown Asheville. The intimate theatre seats just over 500 and boasts exceptional acoustics and sightlines, making it the premier performance space in all of Western North Carolina.

The Mainstage Series is supported by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency. The Mainstage Series 2009/2010 season sponsors are Asheville Citizen-Times, Asheville Renaissance Hotel, Creative Energy, Laurey's Catering and Gourmet-to-go, and the North Carolina Arts Council.

Artist's Website:
www.buamusic.com



Mainstage Celtic Series
presents Bua, Saturday, May
29 at 8 p.m. Diana Wortham
Theatre at Pack Place.

For more information or to
purchase tickets (Regular \$30; Seniors \$28;
Students \$25; Student Rush day-of-the-
show with valid ID \$10), call the theatre's
box office at (828) 257-4530 or visit www.dwththeatre.com.

noteworthy

Diva*licious

THE MUSICAL THEATRE GALA AND FUNDRAISER OF ASHEVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE

Asheville Community Theatre is thrilled to announce two dates for Diva*licious, the musical theatre gala and annual fundraiser. For those who just like a good show, the Diva*licious Concert on Friday, May 21 will be singing only. But for those who want the full Diva experience, the Diva*licious Gala on Saturday, May 22 will include a catered reception, signature cocktails, and the concert!

The Diva*licious Gala will begin at 6:30 p.m. for drinks and a catered reception. The performance will begin just after 8:00 p.m. Contestants will vie for the title of ACT Diva through the magic and outrageousness of musical theatre. The audience will vote on their favorite contestant by donating money to Asheville Community Theatre. The contestant who raises the most money for ACT takes the title and the crown! Each contestant will sing two numbers of their choosing and perform in several group numbers. From Broadway and beyond, the songs will range from silly to serious, from jaw-dropping to heart-breaking.



*Diva*licious Concert*
– Friday, May 21, 8:00 p.m. at ACT.

*Diva*licious Concert & Gala*
– Saturday, May 22, 6:30 p.m. at ACT.

Tickets: \$20 Concert; \$35 Concert & Gala reception. Available online at www.ashevilletheatre.org or by calling (828) 254-1320.

Works by Marie Hudson on Display at Asheville Community Theatre

The work of artist Marie Hudson will be on display in the Asheville Community Theatre lobby through May 23, with a reception on May 7 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Marie Hudson has been referred to as one of Asheville's grande dames of painting. The scope of her work covers a lifetime of baring her soul and passions to the world, using paint on canvas.

"I am often asked where I get my inspiration," Marie says. "I can only say that I paint who I am ... what I am ... how I feel ... causes and dreams. I never



Painting by Marie Hudson

manage to come up to my own expectations ... that masterpiece that will blow me away. So far, I haven't gotten there; but I will keep on trying."



ACT is located at 35 E Walnut St. in downtown Asheville. For more information please call (828) 254-1320 or visit www.ashevilletheatre.org.



HANDMADE
in AMERICA

Craft, Architecture
& Design Expo

PHOTO COURTESY OF HANDMADE HOUSE AT THE RAMBLE ©2008 STEWART YOUNG

JUNE 25 & 26, 2010

The North Carolina Arboretum
Asheville, North Carolina

MORE INFORMATION AT:
handmadeinamerica.org/designexpo

AmericanAutoProtection.com

Never Pay for Expensive Auto Repairs Again!

If your car breaks down, you choose the repair shop, we'll cover the bill!

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Electrical System \$1,200 | Transmission Job \$3,000 |
| New Engine \$4,000 | Air Conditioner \$2,395 |

- ✓ New & Used Vehicle Coverage
- ✓ Pays 100% of Covered Repairs
- ✓ You Choose the Repair Shop
- ✓ Rental Car Reimbursement
- ✓ 24 Hour Roadside Assistance
- ✓ Towing Coverage

FREE Quote at 1(888)703-7965

Auto Manufacturers in this ad are registered trademarks and/or copyrights and owned by their respective corporations and do not sponsor this ad in any way.
*Depending on vehicle service protection plan chosen, a small deductible payment may apply even for covered repairs. Not all plans cover all types of repairs.

ProFlowers' MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL

Mom's Time to Shine, Your Time to

SAVE

100 Blooms for Mom

\$19.99
+s/h

FREE

Elegant Glass Vase



Supplies are limited. Not valid with any other offer.

Offer ONLY available at
proflowers.com/family
or call 1.888.373.1915

Say HELLO
to 35,000 of
Our Closest
Friends!

Advertise with *Rapid River Magazine*

(828) 646-0071

www.rapidrivermagazine.com

Save \$26 a month and lock in your price for *one year!*

DIRECTV satellite television

NOW GET OVER **150** CHANNELS

NOW FOR ONLY **\$29.99** per 12 months The CHOICE® package

local channels included!

For a limited time get:

- FREE** FOR 3 MONTHS* Get 21 movie channels! **starcz** **WYTIME** 12 Channels 7 Channels Over \$70 Value!
- FREE** DIRECTV® HD DVR Upgrade **\$199** Value **FREE** with any HD plan or upgrade!
- FREE** PRO INSTALL IN UP TO 4 ROOMS

Switch from cable to DIRECTV! **1-866-773-1134**

Credit card not required in HI and PR. *Eligibility for local channels based on service address. **DVR Schedule requires internet access via computer or mobile phone and directv.com login. Remote connections may vary. In some instances, scheduled recordings may not be accepted. Only available on certain receivers. Visit directv.com/choiceoffer for details. ***BILL CREDIT PROGRAMMING OFFER: Free SHOWNINE for 3 months, a value of \$18.97. Free Starz and SHOWTIME for 3 months, a value of \$72. LIMIT ONE PROGRAMMING OFFER PER ACCOUNT. Featured package names and prices: CHOICE \$29.99/mo., CHOICE XTRA \$34.99/mo. In order to receive this \$26 credit, customer must submit rebate form online and register account on directv.com prior to rebate redemption. Rebate will email address and must agree to receive rebate. Upon DIRECTV System activation, customer will receive rebate instructions. Rebate is in customer's best interest. Rebate is a separate mailing or, in the state of New York, from a retailer and must comply with the terms on the instructions. Rebate begins 8-8 weeks after receipt of online redemption, or 8-12 weeks for mail-in redemption. Account must be in good standing, as determined by DIRECTV, to be eligible for rebate. DIRECTV not responsible for late, lost, duplicate, unreturned, misdirected or postage-free mail. IF BY THE END OF THE PROMOTIONAL PRICE PERIOD (CUSTOMER DOES NOT CONTACT DIRECTV TO CHANGE SERVICE), THEN ALL SERVICES WILL AUTOMATICALLY CONTINUE AT THE THEN PREVALING RATES, INCLUDING THE BOUNDARY LEASE FEE FOR THE 2ND AND EACH ADDITIONAL RECEIVER. In certain markets, programming may vary. Package pricing at directv.com/packages. DIRECTV System has a feature that restricts access to channels. LIMIT ONE BILL CREDIT PER DIRECTV ACCOUNT. **NO CASH INSTANT REBATE! Advanced equipment instant rebate requires activation of the CHOICE XTRA (\$49.99/mo) package or above. HBO ULTRA or above. Additional, as any qualifying international service bundle, which shall include the PRO INSTANT CHOICE programming package, DVR service (\$9.99/mo) and HD Access fee (\$2.99/mo) required for HD DVR lease. LIMIT ONE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT INSTANT REBATE PER DIRECTV ACCOUNT. *OFFER GOOD: Purchase 24 months for advanced receiver of any DIRECTV base programming package (\$29.99/mo) or above or qualifying international service bundle. FAILURE TO ACTIVATE ALL OF THE DIRECTV SYSTEM EQUIPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EQUIPMENT LEASE AGREEMENT MAY RESULT IN A CHARGE OF \$150 PER RECEIVER NOT ACTIVATED IF YOU FAIL TO MAINTAIN YOUR PROGRAMMING. DIRECTV MAY CHARGE A PRO-RATED FEE OF SALE. RECEIVERS ARE AT ALL TIMES PROPERTY OF DIRECTV AND MUST BE RETURNED UPON CANCELLATION OF SERVICE, OR ADDITIONAL FEES APPLY. VISIT directv.com OR CALL 1-866-DIRECTV FOR DETAILS. Programming, pricing, terms and conditions subject to change at any time. Pricing residential. Taxes not included. Except for DIRECTV programming, subject to the DIRECTV Customer Agreement, copy provided at directv.com/legal and in your first bill. Starz and related channels and service marks are the property of Starz Entertainment Group LLC. Showtime and related marks are registered trademarks of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company. ©2009 DIRECTV, Inc. DIRECTV and the Capture Design logo, CHOICE XTRA and CHOICE are trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc. All other trademarks and service marks are the property of their respective owners.

Enjoy Great Savings, Service and Benefits ... with the **AARP Auto & Home Insurance Program** from The Hartford.

Call The Hartford Toll-Free Today to Request Your **FREE** Quote:

1-877-547-1373 CODE: 471103

Monday-Friday, 7AM-11PM Eastern Time
Saturday & Sunday, 8AM-6PM Eastern Time

Most AARP® members qualify for an immediate phone quote. Please have your policy handy.

AARP Auto & Home Insurance Program from **THE HARTFORD**



FREE Calculator/Clock!

Take our savings challenge! See how much we can save you over your current auto insurance, and you'll receive this calculator/clock ... just for requesting a quote.

The AARP Automobile and Homeowners Insurance Program is underwritten by Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates, Hartford Plaza, Hartford, CT 06155. CA License # 5152. In Washington, the Program is underwritten by Hartford Casualty Insurance Company. In Texas, the Program is underwritten by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company through Hartford Fire General Agency. Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates are not financially responsible for insurance products underwritten and issued by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company. AARP and AARP Financial Inc. receive from The Hartford payments for AARP's license of its intellectual property for use by The Hartford and for services rendered in connection with the Program. Amounts paid by The Hartford for this license are used for the general purposes of the Association and its members. AARP membership is required for Program eligibility in most states. Applicants are individually underwritten and some may not qualify. Specific features, credits and discounts may vary and may not be available in all states in accordance with state filings and applicable law. The Program is currently unavailable in Massachusetts, Canada and U.S. Territories or Possessions. All first time responders receive the free gift. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. The free gift offer is not available in Georgia, but residents may still request a quote. Homeowners product is not available in all areas, including the state of Florida.

stage preview

Little Shop of Horrors

BY WILLIAM TIERNAN

Asheville Community Theater presents the *Little Shop of Horrors*. A down-and-out skid row floral assistant becomes an overnight sensation when he discovers an exotic plant with a mysterious craving for fresh blood.



Soon "Audrey II" grows into an ill-tempered, foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore who offers him fame and fortune in exchange for feeding its growing appetite, finally revealing itself to be an alien creature poised for global domination!

One of the longest-running Off-Broadway shows of all time, this affectionate spoof

Little Shop of Horrors runs through May 16, 2010. Performances Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.; Sundays, 2:30 p.m. Tickets: \$22 adults; \$19 seniors and students; \$12 children. Tickets available at www.ashevilletheatre.org or by calling (828) 254-1320.



The Trip to Bountiful

A READERS' THEATRE PRODUCTION BY THE AUTUMN PLAYERS OF ASHEVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE

BY WILLIAM TIERNAN

The Trip to Bountiful, written by Horton Foote and directed by Anita Chapman, is the tale of the spiritual and physical journey of Carrie Watts as set in the South in the early 1950's.

Carrie, an aging widow, lives with her son and his wife in a small apartment in Houston. But she longs to return to the source and inspiration of her life: her birthplace, the land she farmed as a young woman, the place where she raised her child.

With her health failing and her anxious son and self-centered daughter-in-law opposing her, and the exigencies of an arduous bus trip, the path before her is uncertain. Imbued with a sense of urgency which comes

from knowing that the boundaries of life are closing around her, Carrie courageously confronts her obstacles. With dignity, determination and a resilient spirit, she sets out to do the one thing in the world she most needs to do for herself. Go home.



The Trip to Bountiful, May 7-8 at Asheville Community Theatre — 35below. May 9 at the Reuter Center. All shows, 2:30 p.m. Tickets: \$5 at the door or by calling (828) 254-1320.

GET TICKETS TODAY FOR BARBEZ

Barbez, unclassifiable icons of the downtown New York scene, weave a haunting mosaic of old-world cabaret, Eastern European folksong, contemporary classical and experimental rock into a uniquely beautiful and personal soundscape.



black emperor! and Russian composer Alfred Schnittke. Visit www.barbez.com for more information on the band.

IF YOU GO: *Barbez in concert*, Thursday, May 6 at 7 p.m. Asheville Art Museum Gallery 6.

With their unconventional lineup mixing a rock rhythm section and theremin, clarinet and classical percussion, one can hear echoes of such like-minded musical iconoclasts as Kurt Weil, Godspeed, you

Tickets: \$10 Members; \$12 Non-Members. Limited seating; reservations highly recommended. For more information or to reserve your seat, call (828) 253-3227.

asheville shops

The Art of Soy Candles

How many times have you bought a scented candle, lit it, and then smelled nothing? Have you burned a candle only to have to stand over it to smell it? How about a buried wick that can't be relit? How often have you had wax left over on the sides of the holder? Mary Elizabeth's local line of candles will change all of this.

Elizabeth's company, ME Candles founded in 2007, produces 100% soy candles that burn clean, last long and utilize all the wax in the jar.

The word candle comes from the Latin word "candere" which means to flicker. The Egyptians and Cretans made their candles from beeswax, as early as 3000 BC.

In Europe and the U.S. early candles were first made from various forms of natural fat, tallow, and wax. In the 18th century spermaceti oil produced by the sperm whale became quite popular but was replaced in the late 18th century by colza oil and rapeseed oil because they were far cheaper. By 1830 paraffin revolutionized candle-making, as it was an inexpensive material which produced a high-quality, odorless candle that burned reasonably cleanly.

The industry was devastated soon after by the distillation of kerosene in 1857 and the light bulb in 1879. Candles were destined to lose their reign as the "King of Light" saved only for emergencies and the occasional candlelit dinner.

In 1992, looking for a cheaper alternative to beeswax, candle maker Michael Richards invented soy wax. He soon realized there was a growing demand for natural wax candles.

The incorporation of soybean oil lowers the melting point of the candle, which translates into cooler burning candles and faster scent dispersion. "The lower melting point of soy wax results in a larger size of the liquid wax pool around the candle wick," Elizabeth adds. "It is from this liquid wax pool that the essential oils evaporate into the atmosphere."

As anyone who has ever had to deal with spilt candlewax know it's very difficult



Mary Elizabeth, owner of ME Candles.



BY DENNIS RAY

These 100% soy candles burn clean, last long, and utilize all the wax in the jar.



to remove paraffin wax from furniture or textiles. Soy wax spills can easily be cleaned up with hot soapy water.

"Paraffin has soot as a by-product of burning, which can blacken walls and place carcinogens into the air you breathe," Elizabeth says. "Soy burns clean and is nontoxic. Soy candles last longer because of their lower melting point, thereby enabling the candle to burn three times longer."

Each candle is scented and ME Candles offers over 300 scents to choose from. Her triple scented candles have three times more pure fragrance oil in them than any retail "store-bought" scented candle has.

ME Candles are a great gift especially to people that may have a respiratory disease and love the scent of an aromatherapy-based candle. This is because the soy candle does not put out the harmful fumes that a petroleum based paraffin candle does.

Soy candles are great to add to any room when you are planning to entertain friends and want to have the house filled with the wonderful fragrance of your choice. Imagine the joy your guests will feel when the candle brings back some childhood memory they may have forgotten about.

ME Candles are available at
Affordable Treasures
Located inside the Haywood Park Hotel
(828) 505-4530



Join us for Art After Dark
as we celebrate
"Women in Art."
May 7, 6-9 P.M.

Featuring
mother and daughter artists:
*Jenny and Rachel
Buckner*

TWIGS & LEAVES

98 North Main Street, Waynesville, NC 28786
(828) 456-1940 www.twigsandleaves.com

Tell them you saw it in Rapid River Magazine

INVEST IN YOUR *Health*

These days, people are investing in something a bit more dependable than the stock market or real estate - their health for instance.

We think that is an excellent idea.

Investing in your health can not only give you reliable returns, you also get the bonus of living longer and looking better!

It's just smart asset management.

Call us today or visit www.drhighsmith.com to see how the health of your mouth affects the health of your body and how we can help you invest in yourself today.

John M. Highsmith, DDS

CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR FOR THE LAS VEGAS INSTITUTE
FOR ADVANCED DENTAL STUDIES



GENERAL, COSMETIC & IMPLANT DENTISTRY

828-627-9282

78 Nelson Street, Clyde, NC

WWW.DRHIGHSMITH.COM



performance

Center Stage Dance Studio and Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance present

The Muses of Terpsicorps, Stars of Tomorrow

On Sunday, May 16, Asheville's professional ballet company, Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance, and Michele Lee's Center Stage Dance Studio will come together to present a show featuring five of the area's most remarkable young talents.

Lorraine Conti, Kelsey Lee, Logan Ling, Sarah Margaret Qualley and Anthony Sigler comprise The Muses of Terpsicorps. The new company, in its first season, is starting off with an intensely challenging show, even by professional standards. These precocious teenaged artists will be performing a variety of works, displaying a range of abilities and strengths.

The program will include excerpts from Terpsicorps' repertoire, original contemporary work created for the students by Heather Maloy, as well as pas de deux from the virtuosic classical works, "Don Quixote," "Les Sylphides" and "Sleeping Beauty". This is the last year in Asheville for four of the five students, three of whom will be moving on to the UNC School of the Arts' high school dance program in Winston-Salem next year. Two rising sophomores and one rising senior, this is a huge move for any young artist with the dream of being a dancer.

Terpsicorps artistic director, Heather Maloy, has been teaching alongside a talented staff of instructors at Center Stage since relocating

BY HEATHER MALOY

to Asheville in 2003. Since then, the school's ballet program has grown greatly and the students are not only winning awards at competitions, but also gaining entrance into programs that will push them further down the road to professional careers in dance. In the past four years alone, ten Center Stage students have been accepted into the UNC School of the Arts' high school dance program, arguably one of the finest and most competitive in the nation, as well as into the dance programs at Florida State University and the Alvin Ailey School in NY.

The close tie that Center Stage has with Terpsicorps brings with it many benefits for their students. The summer ballet workshop offers opportunities to see professionals rehearse, to take classes, and to perform with the troupe during the Terpsicorps outreach matinee for disadvantaged youth.

This year, for the first time,

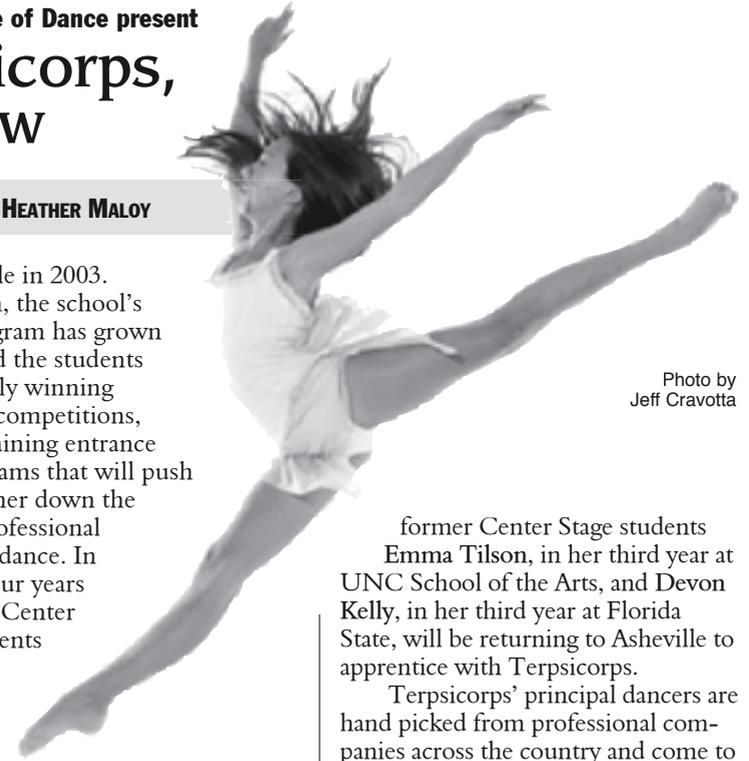


Photo by Jeff Cravotta

former Center Stage students Emma Tilson, in her third year at UNC School of the Arts, and Devon Kelly, in her third year at Florida State, will be returning to Asheville to apprentice with Terpsicorps.

Terpsicorps' principal dancers are hand picked from professional companies across the country and come to Asheville every summer to perform works by Heather Maloy. Working with them is not only an inspirational learning experience for these young apprentices, but also an invaluable networking opportunity. The dancers in June's *The Rite of Spring and Other Works*, will represent six of the nation's finest companies.

IF YOU GO *The Muses of Terpsicorps, Stars of Tomorrow* – May 16, at 7:30 p.m. Diana Wortham Theater in Asheville. To purchase tickets, call (828) 257-4530 or visit dwtheatre.com.

For more information on Center Stage Dance Studio and their pre-professional ballet division, call (828) 654-7010 or visit www.centerstage1.com

Alice in Wonderland

The students of New Studio of Dance and the Asheville Contemporary Dance Theatre bring you on a journey into Wonderland. This is not Walt Disney's *Alice* or even Tim Burton's *Alice*. This is a dance theatre experience unlike any other interpreted by the wacky and creative minds of Susan and Giles Collard.

New Studio of Dance's *Alice in Wonderland* will be a surreal experience that is epic yet playful, tongue in cheek yet filled with adventure and fun. You may already know about Alice, the Mad Hatter, and the Queen

of Hearts, but how long has it been since you've heard the story of the duchess and her pig/child? This dance theatre production will bring you back to the book where it all started, Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Alice in Wonderland runs for two weekends at the BeBe Theatre, so there should be plenty of opportunity to see the latest from New Studio of Dance and Asheville Contemporary Dance Theatre. These productions always sell out so if you are looking for a playful and colorful show where children turn into doors, cats disappear and reappear,

and Alice grows from tall to small and back again, you'll want to get your tickets today. And you just might get to find out what is really going on with that duchess and her pig/child!

IF YOU GO *"Alice in Wonderland" Dance Theatre for all ages.* BeBe Theatre, 20 Commerce Street, Downtown Asheville. May 14, 15, 21, 22 at 7:30 p.m. and May 16 and 23 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets in advance: \$10 student and seniors, \$15 general admission. At the Door: \$12 students and seniors, \$17 general admission. Call (828) 254-2621 for tickets or more information.

HOMEOWNERS!
30 Year Fixed Refinance Rates
4.875%
*APR 5.79%
 Lower Monthly Payments
 Consolidate Your Debt
 New Home Purchase Loans
 FHA Loan Programs
 FREE Loan Analysis
topdoj 1-877-273-8076

Only \$99 Learn How To Only \$99
MODIFY YOUR MORTGAGE
 Save HUNDREDS On Your Mortgage Payments Without Refinancing!
 Save Thousands In Fees ~ Step By Step Guide
 WRITTEN BY A REAL ESTATE ATTORNEY
 Utilize "THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE"
 call 877-299-3187

We \$olve Debt Problems
 CALL NOW and get an advocate on your side!

- We're **experts** at negotiating reductions with the credit card companies
- We can arrange one **affordable** monthly payment
- Save money** - Get out of debt **FASTER** than you can on your own
- Avoid bankruptcy and maintain your dignity
- Have an advocate deal with your creditors

If you have over \$12,000 in debt, **CALL NOW!**

FREE Consultation
 ⇨ No Obligation
 ⇨ Confidential

Debt Settlement USA
1-888-722-7471
Not available in all states

Awakening Our Deepest Nature

Do you know that you are Nature? – Zen koan

When I teach, I often will challenge students with koans. Koans are statements or questions meant to awaken insight into an entirely new perspective on the experience of being human. One of my favorites is: “Do you know that you are Nature?” I will often follow this by exhorting, “What else could you be!” Then I will explain, “I am not interested in whether there is an intellectual understanding of this, I want to know – Do you know it? To know is not an intellectual understanding. It is a feeling state. I want to know, Can you *feel* that you are Nature.”

Two words in the title of this column, “Awakening” and “Nature,” are at the heart of Zen. All of Buddhism is directed at “awakening” a human into their full potential, and into the realization that at the heart of that potential is the balance, harmony and unity of Nature.

Buddhism diagnoses as the cause for human emotional suffering the grasping after identity, security and happiness in human egoism, our abstracting mental capacity to separate, organize and prioritize the entire world as it relates to our separate self. And it prescribes as the cure the “awakening” into the *knowing* of our “deepest nature,” into the realization of the ground of our fundamental Beingness.

The needs of our separate egoic self, seeking security, not only for the physical organism, but also for our psychological safety and significance, are endless. Awakening into the truth of who we are is the realization that beyond organismic needs, our Being needs nothing. We are. Nothing else is needed. Nature is like this, but not civilized human beings. Nature is whole and complete just as it is. There is no anxiety in Nature. Even in dying of starvation, a bird or bear does not worry itself about whether it has led a significant life, whether it accomplished all it wanted, will it be remembered well, does anybody care.

The dilemma of humanity is that it has forgotten that in addition to being civilized, we are also Nature. The implications of this are at the core of the strife and turmoil that fills human history both for individuals and societies. Today, the implications are more critical than ever as we face individual psychological insecurity and collective social and ecological crisis.

Buddhism, and particularly Zen, teaches us to awaken into the paradoxical condition of being human. We are civilized Human Beings emerging within Nature. As we strive to master the conditions of our lives, it must be remembered that we can never master our

human egoism or have sustainable civilizations as long as we have lost touch with the Beingness of our Nature.

Another way of addressing this is that human egoic mind and the cultures and societies that the human egoic mind has created are fundamentally dualistic. Dualism means that every experience is divided into separate parts. Every experience is of the experiencer here, and that which is experienced over there. There is no inherent harmony, connectedness or unity. As a self-aware civilized human, our primary experience is of being alone in the vastness of a universe made up of separate parts, often in antagonism, competition and violence with each other.

*Our Being needs nothing. We are.
Nothing else is needed.*

From this perspective, we look at Nature, and see it as dangerous, where everything lives off of the demise of everything else. Nature is something to be conquered and then tamed to our purposes, and we have been so successful that we have even conquered, that is *tamed*, civilized and forgotten our own nature within. We look at each other and see either competitors for significance and success, or resources for our enhancement and pleasure.

Significance, acquisition and power become our coinage for security and happiness. Sometimes, the significance and acquisition seem to be helpful. Very often, the significance and the acquisitions, and particularly the power, are very transient, fickle and unstable. True to Nature, however, there never is total taming, and the outbreaks of our suppressed natural forces can be devastating.

In any case, even the best of acquisitions do not bring any lasting security or happiness. As the Buddha pointed out, impermanence is in the nature of forms. And death is the fate for even the luckiest among us, often, ignominiously accompanied by old age, infirmity and the sufferings of illness.

This is the human dilemma. In such a world, where is my safety and significance? Knowing no other way, we keep upping the ante in the world of form. More for me and mine is the unspoken guide of modern human existence. Individuals, groups and societies keep grabbing for more, taking from those “others” that are our competitors. All around us, both human and non-human denizens and manifestations of Nature are

looked upon as merely resources. How much is enough? There is never enough.

The anxiety, anger, cynicism, selfishness, shallow consumerism, boredom, ambition, aggressive competitiveness, quest for stimulation, and even despair that come with this way of life have become the norm. We grab for happiness that is fleeting and precarious, mistaking it for well-being. We always need more and more and more of what we think will bring our fulfillment, all the while, pushing away and fleeing from all that we think will detract from us.

Our individual and communal lives leave much to be desired. Meanwhile, as a consequence of lifestyles of selfish consumerism, the damage to humanity’s home, this planet, is approaching catastrophic and irreversible consequences and the environments we occupy are less and less nurturing to our souls, hungry for the harmony of Nature.

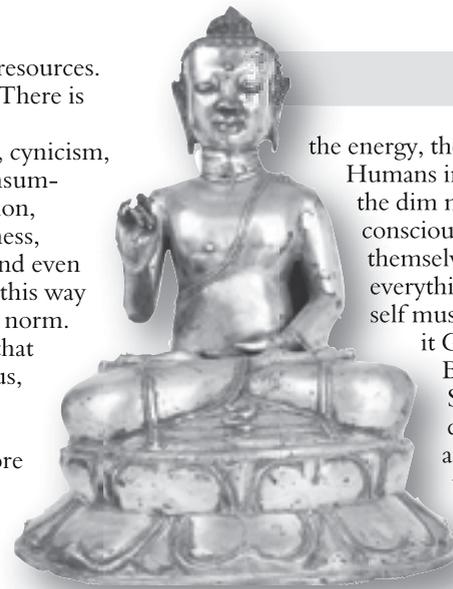
What to do? There is only a remembering.

“Do you know that you are Nature?”

And what is Nature? It is everything. It is the Universe unfolding as a single, unbroken field of energy that is also infinite in its forms. Nature is the unbroken web of these forms: animal, plant, rock, human, sky, water, fire, in which individual forms arise and pass, arise and pass, arise into form and pass out of form, are born and die, consume and are consumed in an endless dance of Life. This is Nature. This is the Universe. This is not dualistic. Forms come and go. The unbroken field of energy that is Nature does not. Forms only change within the web that is Nature, that is Life.

Pre-civilized and mystical civilized cultures, including Buddhist culture, know that the Universe is form and consciousness. Modern civilized culture does not, even though modern quantum physics is discovering that at the most elemental level, all form and its underlying energy contains consciousness and unity. But this discovery remains intellectual. It is not yet *known*; it is not *felt*. Except for mystics, not since humans left the forests where we lived within Nature has this been *known*. We must evolve, bringing to our civilization this remembering, going forward braced with this wisdom from our forgotten past.

Forms come and go. Consciousness does not. It is only manifested from form to form. It is in the energy that morphs from form to form, and it is in the unity of all



BY BILL WALZ

the energy, the great quantum whole. Humans in civilization, still holding the dim memory of this quantum consciousness, place it outside themselves; as in our dualism everything that is not our small self must be outside, and we call it God and create religions. Buddhists call it the Big Self, Big Mind, the Buddha or awakened Self, and it is *not* out there. It is within and all around. It is the Nature of Life that humans are within, that we humans are.

I look at Buddhism as an ancient time capsule from an era when civilizations were emerging into their full dominance over and separation from Nature. It is a warning, a guide and a message of hope. It is a diagnosis and a prescription for humanity to heal itself of this rupture. Its prescription is meditation and mindfulness, becoming aware of awareness as the essence of who we are beneath the insecure seeking and clinging of the ever-turbulent egoic mind. It guides us to awakening, to remembering, our true Nature and the true Nature of existence where there is no anxiety. It points to the end of destructive grasping where wise, compassionate, joyous and sane living begins – even within civilization.

Look into the sky. Listen to a mountain stream. Feel a cool breeze and the warmth of the sun and *know – I am of this*. Experience your own breathing. Be in deep presence with another human, and *feel* Nature in union. Be aware of awareness, and *know* this is who I am and this is my place. Nature is my place. Nature is my nature. Meditation is for the purpose of penetrating the veil of separateness to experience the net of unity. It awakens us to *know* our deepest Nature, not just when sitting in silence, but when in the world, vibrantly awake and engaged, mindful that the unifying background to all our activity is life and Nature.

To find yourself, you must stop running around trying to get somewhere, trying to be somebody. You are already in the most important of places – your life in Nature. Stop and breathe. Listen to the silence within and all around, find the silence beneath the turbulent noise of self in the world. Find the stillness that is dynamic and penetrates all movement. There you will find yourself, your true Nature. Then, you can engage the world, its circumstances, its civilization, and you will not get lost. You will *know* who you are and what needs doing.

Take a brisk walk in the sunshine, a slow walk in the woods, break into a

Continued on page 16

New Digs. New Look.

KARMASONICS

MUSIC VIDEO

19 Biltmore Avenue
Downtown Asheville
828.259.9949Same Great Service
Same Great Product Selection

KARMASONICS™

Asheville's Oldest & Most Unique
Music Video StoreProud to Support Local
Music in AshevilleCD • DVD • Blu-Ray
Vinyl • T-Shirts • Books & Morethe
greenerhomeSustainable Living Resource
for WNCgreener
is better

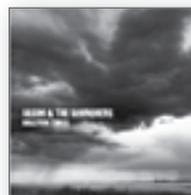
www.thegreenerhome.com

Custom Picture Framing, prints, photo
frames, easels, picture lights1103 Brevard Rd.
665-7730

spinning discs

CD Reviews

by James Cassara

**Jason and the
Scorchers**
Halcyon Times
**Courageous
Chicken Records**

It might be tempting to casually dismiss Jason and The Scorchers' first album in nearly fifteen years on principle alone: half the original band is no longer on board – leaving originals Jason Ringenberg and Warner Hodges to enlist a slew of replacements and guest musicians – while (despite the lengthy lay off) the dearth of original songs might indicate they've run out of ideas and are soldiering on primarily for the memories and a steady paycheck. But such assumptions would not only be wrong, they might deprive you of the pleasures found in what is one of the stronger albums the band has ever released.

Ringenberg and Hodges are more simpatico than ever, while the new kids on the block sound as if they'd been there all along. Drummer Pontus Snibb (replacing long time stick man Perry Baggs) is especially impressive, adding a degree of firepower that helps compensate for the sometimes perfunctory nature of the songs while bassist Al Collins anchors the low end with certitude and finesse.

Much of the album was recorded live in the studio – a smart approach that emphasizes the band's swagger and kick – and while Halcyon Days does sound too much like a warm up for the stage it partially recaptures much of the Scorchers' ethos. Songs like "Gettin' Nowhere Fast," and "Better Than This" may not be instant classics but they do remind us why we loved the band so much to begin with. Even the quieter moments (well, as quiet as these country thrashers ever get!) add a nice bit of soulful respite and charm.

I'd caution against labeling this a triumphant comeback: Mr. R. is well ensconced in his Farmer Jason persona while the other band members have moved on to new ventures. But if they're so inclined to occasionally get back together, plug in the amps, and kick out the jams, then Halcyon Days might just be a hopeful portent of greater things to come. ★★★1/2

Will Kimbrough
Wings
Daphne Records

While primarily known as a go to guy for some of country rock's elite hipsters Will Kimbrough has certainly knocked around the not-so-far edges of mainstream solo success. His



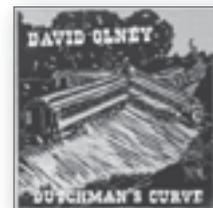
I'm back again with an unusually diverse selection of albums guaranteed to challenge your notions of music and (hopefully) expand your horizons. Just be sure to expand them at any one of our local independently owned record stores. They're the ones who help keep the music real!

recordings have long displayed a certain re-active charm – on one track he might sound a bit like Marshall Crenshaw while on another he might be channeling John Prine – which has resulted in a sound that, while fresh, suffers from a bit of an identity crisis.

His latest effort does go a long way towards more clearly defining Will Kimbrough the artist. Its universal themes of family and parenthood (hardly original but certainly worth re-exploring) resonate with a warm tone and affable delight.

On the opening "Three Angels" he reflects on the perfection he sees in his children and the singular joys he finds in them. It's a pleasant groove (and one Kimbrough likely mines a bit too often) but my preferences run towards the more soulful numbers. "Love To Spare" and "It Ain't Cool" display Kimbrough's southern roots by countering his own overly sweet voice with some kick tail backing vocals.

"Let Me Be Your Frame" is a forceful duet with Dawn Kinnard that adds some much needed fuel to a slowly smoldering fire. In fact it serves as a "what if" for the remaining tracks: it would be great to see Kimbrough record with a little less polish, setting aside the smooth edges and J. J. Cale vibe and really shaking things up. As it is *Wings* still leaves us wondering if Will Kimbrough will ever make a record as good as his reputation. ★★★

**David Olney**
**Dutchman's
Curve**
**Dead Beet
Records**

While David Olney is highly respected for his uncanny ability to fuse various musical influences into one, he is, at the heart of the matter, a folk artist. Even while he consistently nudges the boundaries of his songs in unexpected sonic directions (the multi-talented Olney plays an astounding number of instruments) it has never been at the expense of a good song or, more importantly, a heck of a tale.

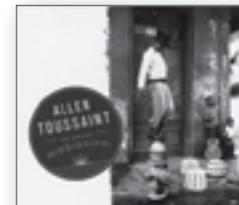
With *Dutchman's Curve* Olney has taken this a step further, constructing a song-cycle around a single and explicit incident. It's an approach that hearkens back to the groundbreaking folk albums of the past (a la Alice's Restaurant) and one that compliments Olney's scrappy baritone and literate wordplay.

The versatility of his song craft is evidenced by the pacing of the thirteen tunes found herein: the opening "Train Wreck" is a full throttle rocker but stands comfortably next to the more reflective "Red Tail

Hawk". "Where my legs go/I will follow/Where the wind blows/I don't care/As long as I know/That you love me/Wherever I go/You'll be there," is the type of straightforward no nonsense lyrics Olney excels at, the often lost art of saying more with less. Ditto for "Little Sparrow" a gorgeous and understated paean to the British singer Edith Piaf. Not all the songs connect directly one to another but that's clearly by design.

Olney is too smart a writer to limit his work to mere narration; he instead examines the lyrical heart of a song and fleshes out the emotional connections therein. As such the gently lolling "Mister Vermeer" (seemingly based more on the book *The Girl with the Pearl Earring* than on any actual events) fits beautifully with "Covington Girl".

The relationship between songs is as complex and unpredictable as that between lovers, friends, or our own hearts and minds. This is a major statement for Olney, a huge leap forward in his already impressive catalog. It's rarely wise to compare one artist to another but with the release of *Dutchman's Curve* David Olney now compares favorably to Kris Kristofferson, Townes Van Zant, Jimmy Webb, and the other great storytellers of the day. ★★★1/2

Allen Toussaint
**The Bright
Mississippi
Nonesuch
Records**

Although he's often skirted the edges of jazz – after all his native New Orleans does rightfully claim itself the birthplace of the form – Allen Toussaint has recorded relatively few of his many albums as straight jazz collections. Dating back to 2005 he ventured more directly into the genre but *The Bright Mississippi* is the first of his forays to achieve wide distribution and promotion.

It's also his first record since his highly successful duet disc with Elvis Costello and, as such, is likely to be heard by an audience wider than might otherwise have been the case. Toussaint is again teamed with producer Joe Henry and the results are nothing short of fabulous.

Henry's unencumbered production allows the music to flourish; it's a bright and spotless sound that allows the precision of Toussaint piano – not to mention that oh so soulful voice – to really shine. Teamed with some of the Crescent City's finest, including clarinetist Don Byron, trumpeter Nicholas Payton, guitarist Marc Ribot and

'CD's' continued on next page

what's happening

'CD's' continued from page 14

saxophonist Joshua Redman, the eighty year old Toussaint leads these "youngsters" through standards via Duke Ellington and Django Reinhardt by way of Louis Armstrong and Thelonious Monk.

If the choices seem a bit safe the arrangements are anything but. Toussaint and company stretch these familiar gems in every which way they unexpectedly can. Everyone involved gets to show their stuff but this is clearly Toussaint's day (as well it should be) and if any further evidence of his royalty need be presented here, it is.

While Toussaint would never hail himself as a jazz artist – the man is uncommonly humble – his deft touch and supple tone is perfectly suited for the nuance demanded by the form.

Upon first listen *The Bright Mississippi* sounds like another impressive addition to the already staggering career of Allen Toussaint. Repeated plays reveal even more, casting it as a rich and varied compliment to the encyclopedia of American Music. ★★★★★

Various Artists

Crazy Heart Soundtrack New West Records



Those who were ho-hummed by the movie should be dazzled by the soundtrack. Under the auspices of T. Bone Burnett the *Crazy Heart* Soundtrack might well do for country what *Oh Brother! Where Art Thou* did for traditional bluegrass and gospel. Dedicated to the late guitarist Stephen Bruton, an extraordinary musician and lifelong friend of Burnett's who passed away shortly after writing many of the songs performed by lead actors Jeff Bridges and Ryan Bingham, *Crazy Heart's* new material sounds authentically classic, while the hand picked older songs – including such gems as Waylon Jennings' "Are You Sure Hank Would Have Done It This Way?" and "Bucks Owens' delirious two minute romp of everyman's hurt and sorrow "Hello Trouble".

Most everything here clicks – only Lucinda Williams' monotonic "Joy" seems out of place. And while we all admire Jeff Bridges as an actor/artist, who knew he could sing? It's his performances that carry the day, delivering rollicking honky tonk numbers ("Somebody Else"), or weary on the road love songs (the raucous rocker "Fallin' and Flyin'") with authenticity and real chops.

Bingham, a songwriter and relative newcomer, holds his own with the movie's theme song, "The Weary Kind" but the unexpected thrill is Robert Duvall's a capella performance of Billy Joe Shaver's "Live Forever" that should send shivers down your spine.

Irish Vocalist Karan Casey to enchant Diana Wortham Theatre

BY JAMES CASSARA

Like many from her part of the world (in her case the southeastern side of Waterford in the Irish village of Ballyduff Lowe), Karan Casey grew up singing with her family, finding a communion and joy that helped counter the cloudy skies and long winter nights of her homeland.

As a child Casey sang in the church choir but later took up piano. While studying voice and piano at the University College Dublin – and later at the Royal Irish Academy of Music – Casey sang Ella Fitzgerald standards in a jazz duo at a local pub in Dublin, and formed her own short-lived jazz group. She credits jazz music for allowing her to "wholly approach and understand her skill in singing traditional Irish folklore," giving her a vocal dexterity uncommon among her peers. Dublin, however, was not the place for her to continue her exploration.

In 1993 Casey immigrated to New York to again find herself studying music as a jazz music major; this time at Brooklyn's Long Island University. During this period she rediscovered her fondness for Irish traditional music and made the rounds singing in local bars in Manhattan.

Perhaps the geographical separation from her homeland gave Casey a fresh perspective on her own roots. Such passion led Casey to briefly play with the New York based band Atlantic Bridge, but by the end of 1994, Casey joined Seamus Egan, John Doyle, John Williams, and Winifred Horan to form Solas.

The band quickly received critical acclaim, recording three albums for the Shanachie label, and in short order won several prestigious awards. Solas also toured America, Europe, and Japan, playing

alongside notables such as Bela Fleck, the Chieftains, and Iris DeMent.

In the midst of this, Karan Casey still found time to record a solo album (1997's *Song Lines*) and perform a slate of stand alone gigs. This led to a renewed interest in solo work, eventually leading to the 2001 release of *Winds Begin to Sing*.

To better control her demanding touring schedule – by this time she'd become a wife and mother – Casey eventually decided to leave the band, albeit on very good terms. After playing shows in North America and Europe (and appearing as a frequent guest on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*), Casey briefly returned to Solas for the group's 2006 release *Reunion*.

Following a three year and much needed hiatus, her fifth solo album, *Ships in the Forest*, was released in 2008. Casey has on several occasions been given the BBC Folk Award and has performed with Peggy Seeger, Liam Clancy, James Taylor, and Tim O'Brien. USA Today has called her work "shiver-inducing and excellent". But like any artist it is her most recent work in which she is most excited. Early this year Casey and former Solas member, John Doyle released the long anticipated *Exiles Return*. On the album, the two former band mates reunite to create a stripped-down collection that showcases the power of their collective voices and the songs they sing.

Casey describes the CD as a way of "pushing back a bit" to shine a bright light on the songs. Simplicity "takes much



Karan Casey

more depth," she says. "You have to be a lot more confident in your playing and singing to take an honest, direct, simple approach. You can't hide anywhere and there's no room for error. It's a very exposed album." The spare arrangements on *Exiles Return* cut right to the heart of the music, and that was the point.

"A song is very intimate," adds Doyle, "even if it's a very traditional song. Each song has a personal meaning." On this CD, he says, "all the songs have an element of loss and yearning. At the end of the day songs are what carry stories of love, and all human emotions."



Karan Casey and her band at The Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place: Friday, May 14 at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are regular

\$30, seniors \$28, students \$25, and children \$12. Go to www.dwththeatre.com for more information.

The rest of the set is filled out with tracks from Townes Van Zandt, the Louvin Brothers, Lightnin' Hopkins, and Sam Phillips that weave perfectly into the story's narrative thread. Be sure to buy the deluxe edition, containing an additional seven more cuts that only underscore the role of Burnett in bringing *Crazy Heart* to life. Here's to him, to Bruton, and to the rough patches of life that eventually lead to redemption and understanding. ★★★★★

John Zorn and Fred Frith

Late Works Tzadik Records

John Zorn and Fred Frith are both gi-

ants of improvisation, free form artists whose best moments occur between the lines. They've a long history between them, both as a duet and in various band incarnations, which sets a high bar for this release.

Recorded during a trio of unrehearsed sessions during October of last year, *Late Works* is, surprisingly, the first time the pair have brought their improvisational approach to the studio. Zorn's range of alto sounds is simply stunning, even if time has lessened his breadth ever so slightly, while Frith continues to wring sounds from his guitar that are nothing short of otherworldly.



If it weren't for the credits you would swear there was more than one guitarist in the studio. What's even more amazing is that the sessions were done without overdubs or editing: what you hear is what was played.

Zorn gets a sharp, almost harsh edge to his sound which perfectly matches Frith's own atonal wail. The connections between the pair are almost frighteningly telepathic (the lingering "Slow Lattice" is a cagy delight) and both artists know when to vary the pace and set the mood. It's a wild romp, and while this sort of abstract cacophony isn't for everyone it's a taste well worth cultivating. ★★★★★

music

Oh, Horsefeathers!

BY JAMES CASSARA



(L-R) Nathan Crockett, Justin Ringle, Heather Broderick.

Photo: Alicia J. Rose

The Portland, Oregon folk band Horse Feathers are a bit of an anomaly, not only because they hail from a city better known for grunge and early punk but in attaining their level of success the traditional way. Not by having a song on an iPod commercial (although they would hardly be averse to such!) or with pretty boy magazine covers that say much about style and little about substance, but rather by incessant touring and a working class commitment to making each record better than the last.

Initially consisting of singer/songwriter Justin Ringle (acoustic guitar, vocals, percussion) and a rotating cast of supporting musicians, including multi-instrumentalist Peter Broderick and several string players, the band has had a most interesting evolution.

Ringle grew up in Idaho and performed in several short-lived indie rock bands before moving to Portland, where he began playing shows under the name Horse Feathers. It was there that he met Broderick, a member of the established local act Norfolk & Western. The two spent much of 2005 writing songs and honing their live performances at various Portland open-microphone nights, effectively turning the "band" from a solo project into a duo. What they soon discovered was a shared love for much the same — although unusually paired — sounds.

Enamored by both the stark folk music of Bruce Springsteen's Nebraska and the work of Scandinavian composer Max Richter, the duo entered the studio in February 2006 to record *Words Are Dead*, a chamber-folk album featuring Ringle's high, reedy

vocals and Broderick's baroque filigree.

Words Are Dead was released on Lucky Madison Records in September 2006. The band inked a deal with the Kill Rock Stars label the following year and released *House with No Home* in 2008. *House with No Home* became one of the highest

selling debuts in the label's history. This-tled *Spring* followed in 2010, marking the group's first release without the recently departed Broderick.

The current line-up of Ringle, Nathan Crockett on violin and saws, Catherine Odell on cello and Sam Cooper on banjo, mandolin, percussion, violin, and harmonium (all four contribute vocals) is a fully rounded and diverse mix that beautifully compliments the nature of the material. It is also a testament to Portland itself. It may be known for Courtney Love and Gang of Four but Blitzen Trapper, Everclear, and Blind Pilot call it home. Not to mention the Kingmen recorded "Louis, Louis" there!

Opening for the band will be Seattle-based musician Barton Carroll. Carroll began touring with Crooked Fingers in 2002, playing guitar, steel guitar, and upright bass, appearing on their first three albums. Carroll has recorded four solo albums and remains a vital part of the Seattle scene.



Horse Feathers and Barton Carroll at the Grey Eagle. Saturday, May 8 at 9 p.m., with tickets priced at \$8 in advance and \$10 day of show.

'Awakening' continued from page 13

spontaneous dance of nature, cultivate a garden, contemplate a flower, sing like a bird, become still like snow falling in the night, even hug a tree. Love being alive and love the life around you. Love the life in others. Smile at and hug them too. Engage your human world and its responsibilities with a deep knowing of your own wild and wise nature.

Revere and save the woodlands, wetlands, meadows, tundra, glaciers, lakes, rivers and oceans. Revere and save the animals. Revere and save the planet. Revere and save yourself and others. Revere and help save humanity. There is no one else you need to be. There is nowhere else you need to go. You are home.



Bill Walz teaches meditation and mindfulness at UNCA and public forums, and is a private-practice meditation teacher and life-coach for individuals in mindfulness, personal growth

and consciousness. He holds a weekly meditation class, Mondays, 7 p.m., at the Friends Meeting House, 227 Edgewood.

He will hold a program on "Awakening our Deepest Nature" on Sunday, June 20 from 2-5 p.m. at JUBILEE Community Church, 46 Wall Street, downtown Asheville.

Info on classes, talks, personal growth and healing instruction, or phone consultations at (828) 258-3241, or e-mail at healing@billwalz.com. Visit www.billwalz.com.

BEST OFFER EVER!

GET OVER 120 TOP CHANNELS INCLUDING LOCAL CHANNELS (where available)



\$19.99 mo

FOR 12 MONTHS*

CALL TODAY AND RECEIVE The Lowest All-Digital Price Nationwide! Plus:

MOST HD AVAILABLE OVER 150 CHANNELS

FREE DVR UPGRADE (30/60/90 Day Service fee applies)

FREE 15 MOVIE CHANNELS INCLUDING HBO & SHOWTIME FOR 3 MONTHS (with agreement)



SAVE OVER \$380
1-866-506-6195

Digital Home Advantage offer requires 24-month commitment and credit qualification. If service is terminated before the end of commitment, a cancellation fee of \$17.50/month remaining will apply. Programming credits will apply during the first 12 months. All equipment is leased and must be returned to DISH Network upon cancellation or unreturned equipment fees apply. Limited leased tuners per account, lease upgrade fees will apply for select receivers; monthly fees may apply based on type and number of receivers. HD programming requires HD television. All prices, packages and programming subject to change without notice. Local channels only available in certain areas. Offer is subject to the terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer Agreements. Additional restrictions and fees may apply. First-time DISH Network customers only. Offer ends 5/31/10. HBO/Showtime Programming credits will apply during the first 3 months. Customer must downgrade at their current price will apply. HBO® and related channels and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. SHOWTIME and related marks are trademarks of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS company.

Top-Rated Medical Alarm

Medical Alert Monitoring 24/7

29.95 month



HELP AT THE PUSH OF A BUTTON!

- Free Equipment
- Easy Setup
- Free Shipping
- Nationwide Service

As seen in:

CVS/pharmacy

Medical Alert System

Order Now!
Call today:
1-888-461-8776



fine art

Shameless Self-Promotion

...BE YOUR OWN ART SPOKESMODEL!

I joke with friends about S.S.P. (“Shameless Self-Promotion”), but I’m actually serious, as telling the world what one does ultimately helps support that art habit.

For many, creating art is everything, so it can be a wise choice to take steps to at least try to make it pay for itself. The very confident are able to answer in full sentences when asked about their work. To the rest of us, they are seemingly flying effortlessly through flaming hoops while juggling chainsaws. Amazing! We “Oooohhh” and “Aaaahhh”. And then we buy something.

The wallflower-ish amongst us cringe when someone asks: “WHAT DO YOU DO?” It’s as if we’ve just been asked to perform an interpretive art-sales dance. Backwards! And in heels! In the parking lot. During rush hour. With onlookers’ jaws agape. (Hint: it works best to Beyoncé’s “Put a Ring On It.” But no leotards — please!)

The simple labels for these personality types are “Extrovert” and “Introvert”, respectively. “E” and “I” for short. But the situation is actually more complex than being an E or an I. It is also about where we get our energy.

E’s get it from interacting with others, while I’s get their power from within. And E’s are more Assertive (“A”), while I’s can feel inUndated (“U”). And even though all artists are Outstanding (“O”), once we have this intermingling of A, E, I, O and U, we have to ask, sometimes, “Why?”

My apologies for the vowel soup, but the answer is that most of us are actually a blend of all of the above, depending on the circumstances. By the way, I have this theory that more Introverts like llamas, so I was going to work-in the word “ungulate” for “U”. But it’s enough to drive a fact-checker mad...

If you fall into the “I don’t know why I do what I do!” group, there are some ways to get more comfortable.

1. Join an active art group. Showing



The wallflower-ish amongst us cringe when someone asks: “WHAT DO YOU DO?”

BY GREG VINEYARD

up and helping out increases experience with interacting with the public.

2. Identify your message and learn how to put it out there consistently. Local resources that specialize in this type of coaching can help greatly.

3. Have stuff available. This includes not only promotional materials, but also INVENTORY. If someone says, “Hey, I like your work, can you show me more?” and

all you have in stock is that teacup you’re drinking Ovaltine out of, you may not make the sale.

4. Locate your inner-passion for your work. Expressing what you LOVE about your art and/or process can do just as much to connect with a customer as the art itself. Plus, it can be a self-esteem-boosting journey to uncover those positive nuggets about yourself and your creations.

5. Be unique. You already ARE unique, so let that show through a bit. You don’t HAVE to dance in the parking lot, but what if a photo of you smiling with your work (with a llama!) jazzes up your sales display?

A little action goes a long way toward feeling confident, which can improve interactions with potential customers and future fans. So many visitors to Asheville enjoy both the art AND their chats with the artists. Trust that they are already interested, trust in yourself and your creations and you’ll find that being your own art spokesmodel is easy and fun!



Greg Vineyard is an artist and creative consultant in Asheville’s River Arts District. Find him and his Ceramics For Contemplation &

Connectivity at Constance Williams Studio & Gallery, 9 Riverside Drive in Asheville. Open every day 11 to 4 p.m.

Visit www.CURVestudiosNC.com

Sears Home Services

Central Heating & Cooling Systems

SAVE \$325*



OFFER CODE: 809-R1-H8-245-HVAC

- A full line of Carrier® and exclusive Kenmore® heating and cooling systems
- ENERGY STAR® qualified systems that may help save up to 20% on your annual energy costs[§]
- Manufacturer’s limited product warranty of up to 10 years**
- Flexible financing† and Satisfaction guaranteed†

SAVE UP TO \$1,500
WITH QUALIFIED ENERGY TAX CREDIT.**
SAVINGS RANGE FROM \$0 TO \$1500.



HURRY! Offer ends 06/12/10. CALL NOW:

1-888-668-5648

*Offer not valid on prior sales or in combination with any other offer. **Ask your Sears representative about written limited warranty details. †ENERGY STAR® estimates that ENERGY STAR® qualified cooling equipment, when properly sized and installed, can save up to 20% on your annual energy bills with a properly sealed duct system. Energy efficiency may vary depending on your home and climate. †See <http://www.searshomepro.com/info/guarantee.aspx> for Satisfaction Guarantee details. ††See http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits#c1 for details. Sears Home Improvement Products, Inc. is a division of Sears Roebuck and Co. ‡The following licenses are held by or on behalf of Sears Home Improvement Products, Inc. “SEARS”: AL (Res. Bldr. #3663; HVAC #8186); AZ (Res. Contr. #ROC117628; HVAC #ROC206649); AR (HVAC #1004181); CA (Gen. Bldg. Contr. #B-721379; HVAC #C20-721379, Glazing C17-721379, Roofing #C39-721379); CT (HVAC #303642S1; HIC #0607669); FL (Gen. Contr. #CGC012538; HVAC #CMC1249510); GA (HVAC #CN209991; HVAC #CNO03489; Gen. Bldr. #618720 - City of Columbus only); ID (HVAC #C-6134, HVAC #I-6133; Contracting Bus. #RCE-25219); IL (City of Chicago Home Repair #1248977); IN (Evansville Res. Remodeling Contr. #RR0185); KY (Master HVAC #M04667); LA (Res. Bldr. #84194; HVAC #45862); MD (HIC #87854; HVAC #6528; Contractor/Salesman #46542); MA (HIC #148607, All plumbing and electrical services performed by licensed subcontractors); MI (Res. Bldr. #2102131369; HVAC #7110944); MN (Res. Remodeler #20090017); MS (Res. Bldr. #RO5222); NV (Corp. Contr. #43242; Gen. Contr. #60609; Plumb. & Htg. Contr. #60610; Relg. & AC Contr. #60608; Gen. Serviceman #S1469; HVAC #A0072); NY (NYC HIC #1225166, Nassau County HIC #H1809170000, Rockland County HIC #9990, Suffolk County #41506-H, Westchester County WC #18371-H06, Putnam County #3189-A, City of Yonkers #4213); NM (Gen. Bldg. Contr. #GB 98 58598; HVAC #MM98 52598; Elec. # EE-98 58598, MHD HVAC #MM98 52598, MHD Elec. #EE98 C-58598); NC (Bldg. Limited. #47330; HVAC #15343 H-2, H-3-1, HVAC #26961 H-3-1); OH (HVAC #44752); OK (HVAC #106841); OR (Gen. Contr. #113202); RI (Res. Contr. #27281); SC (Gen. Contr. #105836-BD4; HVAC Res. #RBH-919); TN (HIC #2319; HVAC Contr. #54995); TX (Res. Bldr. Remodeler #9566; HVAC Dallas #TACLB00020401E, Houston #TACLB27482E, Lubbock #TACLB00027780E; San Antonio #TACLB00024674E); UT (Gen. Bldg. Contr. #B-100318604-5501; HVAC #S-350 318604-5501); VA (Class A Contr. #27-084717; HVAC #2710046587); WA (Gen. Contr. #SEARSH011A); Washington, DC (HIC #50006423); WV (Res. Bldr. #WV025882, HVAC WV025882); WI (Dwelling Contr. Cert. #15151; Dwelling Contr. Qualifier #982570; HVAC Contractor #15151). Some services performed by Sears’ associates. Other services and installation performed by Sears-Authorized licensed contractors; additional Sears license information available upon request. †Subject to applicant creditworthiness.

fine art

Patchwork Folk & Fabric Festival

During the Patchwork Folk and Fabric Festival held at the Jackson County Recreation Center in Cullowhee on Saturday, June 5, the traditions of spinning, weaving, quilting, caning, blacksmithing, sewing, hand stitchery, and other folk arts will be showcased and honored.

Traditional craft classes will be given during the week before the festival, June 1-4. Annie Lee Bryson, age 88, will be teaching corn shuck doll making, Dot Conner takes you to yester-year with old-fashioned tin punching, Judy Rhodes will be teaching the skill of ballad singing, Ron Yount will teach wood carving, Judy Chliger's students will quilt a "Rail Fence" wall hanging, and much more.

On Saturday, June 5, the talented Anne Lough will teach a two hour class on the dulcimer. Students will assemble a sample dulcimer and learn to play. Appalachian Homestead Farm & Preserve will also host an after school "Children's Cultural Activities" classes June 1-4 from 3:15 until 5:15 p.m. Please call (828) 399-0958 to register for classes.



Faile Fields, quilter

Presented by Catch the Spirit of Appalachia, Inc. (CSA), the Appalachian Homestead Farm & Preserve, and the Jackson County Parks & Recreational Department, the Patchwork Folk and Fabric Festival has drawn crafters in traditional dress from the region for 5 years to showcase old-time traditions. This year's festival holds excitement in its traditional demonstrations. As we celebrate the Blue Ridge Parkway's 75th Anniversary, this festival exemplifies our mountain culture.

IF YOU GO: *Patchwork Folk & Fabric Festival. Classes June 1-5, Festival June 5. Festival and Classes take place at the Jackson County Recreation Center, 88 Cullowhee Mountain Road, Cullowhee, NC. Call (828) 293-3053 for more information.*



Nan Smith, crocheting

Fiber Weekend at the Folk Art Center
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 8-9

Throughout Mother's Day weekend craftspeople at the Folk Art Center will be sharing their inspiration and expertise in a variety of textile arts as the Southern Highland Craft Guild hosts Fiber Weekend 2010.

Demonstrations on Saturday include: quilting, doll making, weaving, mixed media fiber arts, clothing design, printing and surface design, and natural dyeing. There will be hands-on activities for children hosted by Guild members Sandra Rowland and Jan Morris. Other artists participating include:

Martine House of Columbus, NC: Martine has been a member of the Guild since 2004. She uses embroidery, quilting, beading and various mixed-media techniques to achieve unique textures on three dimensional pieces.

Rebecca Kempson of Fairview, NC: Rebecca has been a member of the Guild since 2004. An expert doll maker, she writes in her artist statement: "My mother put a needle in my hand when I was three years old and the love of creating from fabric has never left me. Over



Martine House, "Mumtaz Mahal"

Photo: Eli Warren

BY APRIL NANCE

the years fiber in all forms has been a part of my life."

Georgia Bonesteel of Flat Rock, NC: Georgia has been a member of the Guild since 1974. For more than 30 years she has been a leader in the quilt world. As the creator and host of *Lap Quilting with Georgia Bonesteel*, produced with North Carolina Public Television (UNCTV), she has shared her enthusiasm and love of quilting on television since 1979. *Lap Quilting with Georgia Bonesteel, Series 1100 and 1200* continue to air on Create TV throughout the country.

For a complete listing of Fiber Weekend participants, visit www.craftguild.org.

On Sunday, the Folk Art Center's auditorium will be transformed into a runway for the Eleventh Annual Fashion Show of Wearable Art. Fiber artist Liz Spear will emcee the event. Participants in this year's show will be exploring the topics of recycling, repurposing and sustainability through their fiber art. Styles showcased will range from contemporary to traditional, from funky to classic, made by members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild. There will be two separate showings of the Fashion Show, at 1 and 3 p.m.

Fiber Weekend at the Folk Art Center offers a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the Blue Ridge Parkway, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. In honor of the anniversary, Parkway volunteer orga-



Georgia Bonesteel
Photo: Paul Bonesteel



Liz Spear, Red Flair Shirt with Marbling by Laura Sims.

Model: Chery Cratty
Photo: Mary Vogel

nizations such as the Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Inc. will be participating in Fiber Weekend on Saturday. They will be sharing information on Parkway history, the importance of stewardship and volunteer opportunities.



Rebecca Kempson, "Bird Lady of Sugar Hollow"

Photo: Steve Mann

IF YOU GO

Fiber Weekend is a free event on May 8 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and May 9 (two fashion shows, 1 and 3 p.m.) at the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway in east

Asheville. For more information, visit www.craftguild.org or call (828) 298-7928.

Studio B Custom Framing & Fine Art

Studio B Custom Framing & Fine Art, formerly in The Shoppes at Beaver Lake, has relocated 2 miles up the road to 171 Weaverville Highway into a larger facility.

Patti Bell established Studio B Custom Framing in 1981 in Ohio and relocated to Asheville in October of 2006. Studio B specializes in museum, conservation, textile and shadow-box framing and offers a large selection of framing choices, some exclusive to the Asheville area.

With almost 40 years of custom framing experience and 30 years of owning a gallery/custom framing business, owner Patti Bell offers extensive knowledge of color and design and competitive



pricing on anything from a simple photo to your most valued artwork or keepsake. All work is done on-site by the owner with attention to detail. Studio B also offers consulting and hanging services for business, corporate and residential spaces.

The expanded gallery area showcases artwork by regional, national and international artists. Currently on exhibit are original equine paintings by Patricia Ramos Alcayaga (Santiago, Chile), small quilts by Marla Hattabaugh (Scottsdale, Arizona) and giclee prints by Asheville artists Ray Byram, Deborah Squier and Coralie Tweed. The gallery also features original porcelain ceramic by Sarah Jaeger (Helena, Montana) and one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces

by Trudy Springer (Columbus, Ohio) and Amy Jacob (Charlotte, NC). Please stop by and see what we have to offer.



Studio B

171 Weaverville Hwy., Asheville, NC

Just 0.2 miles north of the Merrimon Ave./Woodfin exit, on the right (828) 225-5200

thoreau's garden

The Ponytail Palm

On rare occasions ponytail palms are found in the genus *Nolina*, botanical nomenclature that's easy to explain because this appellation is in honor of P. C. Nolin, a Frenchman who wrote on agriculture in the Paris of 1755. Unfortunately for Monsieur Nolin most authorities include it in the genus *Beaucarnea* which means beautiful flesh-colored something and because the flowers are usually white, I have been unable to find the true meaning.

The species found in cultivation is *recurvata*, and that's easy to explain because the leaves cascade to the floor in gentle curves (that on the way to the bottom often curve again), making it a most attractive plant to grow. Here's one of those great plants that make an architectural statement especially in a modern home or apartment with lots of glass, chrome, and white walls or in a place with the decor dedicated to the best of the American southwest.

In the wilds of southern Texas and Mexico, this tree-like plant can reach a height of 30 feet but in the usual home surroundings (where the owner can take advantage of its ability to survive in a small pot and withstand forgetful watering), the height rarely tops six feet — but what a stunning six feet. Those twisting leaves are flat, about three-quarters-inch wide, and often reach a length of five feet. A well-grown ponytail has a Rapunzel-like quality.

The other common name is the elephant-foot-tree and refers to the ponderous shape of the trunk's base, a shape that resembles a balloon made of rigid bark. This

swelling soaks up water like a sponge and allows the plant to store water. If watering houseplants is one of those chores you rarely remember to do, a large outdoor specimen ponytail can sometimes trudge on for up to a year. While a potted specimen will not put up with that intensity of neglect, it will survive for months without water if the basal swelling is in excess of four or five inches.

In fact there are two approaches involving care. The first is to provide the ponytail with an evenly moist soil and a spot with partial shade and the second is to keep the soil on the dry side and set the plant in a sunny spot. Just remember that a well-watered plant will grow twice as fast.

While ponytails can withstand temperatures in the high 40s, they prefer temperatures between 55°F and 70°F. A good soil mix consists of potting soil, composted manure, and sharp sand or bird gravel, one-third each.



Illustration by Peter Loewer

BY PETER LOEWER

Only fertilize once or twice a year.

The expanding trunks will adjust to crowded conditions but eventually they have to be moved to a larger pot. Perform this operation in early spring before the new leaves appear.

Many ponytails in cultivation have leaves about 3 feet long and belong to the var. *intermedia*.



Peter Loewer, shown here, examining the blossoms of early-blooming Lenten roses, is a well-known

writer and botanical artist who has written and illustrated more than twenty-five books on natural history over the past thirty years.

SEVEN SISTERS CINEMA PRESENTS

Documentary Films Focusing on Local and Regional Culture

Seven Sisters Cinema, a documentary film series at White Horse Black Mountain in Black Mountain North Carolina announces documentaries in May and June. Full information about the series can be found at www.sevensistercinema.com.

The filmmakers will be present to discuss their work and answer questions at the end of the program.

Films include "Why Old Time?" on May 20; a documentary about why young folks are continually attracted to the older styles of fiddle and banjo music of our forefathers.

On June 17, Seven Sisters Cinema will feature, "Beer Y'all," the record of a van full

BY DON TALLEY

of Ashevilleians who decide to visit every brewery in North Carolina. Micro-breweries are a relatively new part of our regional culture but they play an important role in tourism and the local economy.

All films are at 7 p.m. at the White Horse Black Mountain. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students with ID.

Seven Sisters Cinema is a project of Serpent Child Ensemble, a Swannanoa-based 501c3 non-profit organization. The film series focuses on films of regional interest and films by regional filmmakers. Serpent Child Ensemble is a community arts



organization focusing on the power of art for communities to tell their stories. The organization is currently working on it's own documentary production about Beacon Mill.

Ecology, Organic Farming, Trees & Gardens

Readings at Malaprops

Thursday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.

Anthropologist Shepard Krech III

Brown University anthropology professor Shepard Krech III is the author of *The Ecological Indian: Myth and History*, which the *New York Times* Book Review called "a good story and first-rate social science," among others. He will be discussing his most recent book, *Spirits in the Air: Birds and American Indians in the South*.

Thursday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.

The Organic Farmer's Business Handbook

Organic Farmer Richard Wiswall, who started Cate Farm in East Montpelier, Vermont where he has farmed since 1981, will share with us some of his knowledge about operating a farm. His book, *The Organic Farmer's Business Handbook: A Complete Guide to Managing Finances, Crops, and Staff – and Making a Profit*, is a useful tool for anyone involved in or considering organic farming.

Tuesday, May 18, 7:00 p.m.

Asheville's Eco-Future

Come by to meet Yuri Koslen, the City of Asheville's Transportation Projects Coordinator, and Woody Eaton, founder of Blue Ridge Biofuels, as they discuss Asheville's eco-future.

Monday, May 24, 7:00 p.m.

Re-Greening America

Keepers of the Trees: A Guide to Re-Greening America collects the stories of fourteen people – conservationists, loggers, tree doctors, and wood carvers among them – whose lives have been irrevocably shaped by trees. Ann Linnea herself has been an outdoors enthusiast and writer for many years and was the first woman to circumnavigate Lake Superior in a sea kayak.

Thursday, May 27, 7:00 p.m.

A Southern Garden

Elizabeth Lawrence, the author of the classic tome, *A Southern Garden*, was a woman ahead of her time in the 1930s and 40s. In *Becoming Elizabeth Lawrence: Discovered Letters of a Southern Gardener*, editor Emily Herring Wilson opens up the world of this unique woman through many letters to her friend and mentor, Ann Preston Bridgers.

Malaprop's Bookstore/Café

55 Haywood St. in Asheville

Phone (828) 254-6734 or visit www.malaprops.com

FROM FIELD to FOLLY

New Paintings by Karen Weihs

May 21st–June 5th

Opening Reception
May 21st, 6-9pm

Art - Wine - Food
Music by guitarist James Barr

Bovine Branch, Oil on Linen



BLACKBIRD
FRAME & ART

365 Merrimon Avenue
Asheville • 252.6036
blackbirdframe.com

Susan Marie Designs presents works by

Karen Newgard



Susan Marie Designs

4 Biltmore Avenue • Downtown Asheville • 277-1272

WALL STREET

shop, create, play

GOLDWORKS
Original Jewelry and Craft
GALLERY



18 Wall St. 828.254.2530
Find us on Facebook

Fired Up!

creative lounge

Paint Your Own Pottery!

26 Wall St.
Downtown Asheville, NC
828.253.8181
www.FiredUpLounge.com

FREE studio fee
with this coupon!
Expires 8/31/10. Not valid
with party discounts, sale
items or other coupons

BEADS and BEYOND

37 Wall Street
(828) 254-7927

Mon. - Sat. 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sun. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

10 Wall St.
Asheville, NC 28801

Pur's

Yarn Emporium

828-253-2750

Yarns, Books, Tools, Patterns and Encouragement

Mon-Sat 10-6, Sun 1-5
www.puris yarnemporium.com

Asheville Style

Beads and Beyond

Since 1984 beaders of all ages have come to Beads and Beyond on Wall Street. 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.

Fired Up!

Everyone can become artists at this pottery studio. No creativity? No problem! They offer tools, idea books, stamps, stencils, a little coaching and a lot of encouragement. You will have a relaxing, pleasurable experience while making those special presents or souvenirs. And, they now have a second store in Hendersonville, where you can create mosaics, clay and work on a pottery wheel.

come share in the FUN

asheville shops

The ARCH Relocates



The ARCH, your local showroom for architectural finishes, FSC-certified flooring, handmade art tile, wood-fired ovens and a number of artistic home accents, has relocated just two miles north of their former location in North Asheville. In fact, you'll find two new businesses at 171 Weaverville Highway — Studio B Custom Framing and Fine Art is right next door to The ARCH.

The showroom is conveniently located just off I-26, the neighborhood is friendly, the space is spacious and parking is plentiful. New green building products have begun to arrive at The ARCH and the space can accommodate larger workshops for a growing line of natural finishes.

The ARCH is also devoted to providing sustainable flooring such as EcoTimber FSC-certified flooring, Vida Cork, and Natural Fiber flooring. The ARCH refers local skilled artisans, ranging from craftsmen of concrete counters, fine woodworking, textile weavings, and various design services.

Catherine and Jim enjoy the creative design component of interesting projects.

Whether finishing the walls of a bedroom with a rich earth clay finish, designing a handcrafted tile fireplace surround, assisting with the design installation of a wood-fired oven for the cooking enthusiast, or

simply discussing copper house numbers for a new business front, it's the design talk and support among the community that is most gratifying.

The ARCH

171 Weaverville Hwy., Asheville, NC 28804

828 253 5455

cmsilver@thearchnc.com

www.thearchnc.com



As dealers of American Clay Earth Plaster, Catherine Silver and Jim Erskine have an extensive product understanding and Jim provides professional applications. Jim has worked on a number of Asheville homes and commercial projects with architects, designers and homeowners. Exciting new finish options are now available such as a Natural Lime plaster for interior and exterior applications and Vermont Natural Coatings- a premium natural waterborne finish for wood surfaces.

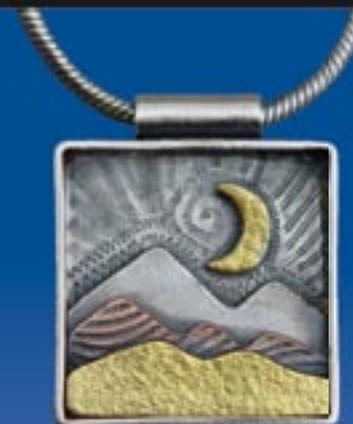
step out
of the
ordinary



blue

1 swan street biltmore village 277-2583

DISCOVER THE BEST OF REGIONAL CRAFT



JEWELRY: BARBARA JOHNSON

ALLANSTAND CRAFT SHOP
AT THE FOLK ART CENTER

MILEPOST 382 BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY, ASHEVILLE, NC
OPEN DAILY 9AM-6PM | 828-298-7025

GUILD CRAFTS

930 TUNNEL ROAD/HWY 70, ASHEVILLE, NC
OPEN MON.-SAT: 10AM-6PM | 828-298-7903

SOUTHERN
HIGHLAND
CRAFT GUILD
WWW.CRAFTGUILD.ORG

The Southern Highland Craft Guild is authorized to provide services on the Blue Ridge Parkway under the authority of a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

Studio 103 Fine Art Gallery



Tif McDonald

Tif McDonald is an Asheville encaustic artist. Her work will be on display through May 26. It is lyrical and poetic. Sabrina Cabada, a figurative artist from Washington, D.C., will have an opening reception for her work on Friday, May 28 from 5-8. Her exhibit runs through June 23.



Sabrina Cabada

103 West St., Black Mountain, NC.
Phone (828) 357-8327 or visit www.studio103fineartgallery.com for more details.

Sears
Home ServicesCustom Cabinet
Refacing & Kitchen
RemodelingSAVE
\$500*

OFFER CODE: 808-R1-K8-51-KITS

- Free in-home design consultation to help you build the kitchen of your dreams!
- Turn-key kitchen installation[±] with dedicated Project Coordinator
- Select from a wide assortment of wood finishes and door styles with coordinating handles and hinges
- An array of countertops:
 - American Countertop Collection Quartz Surfacing by Sears
 - DuPont™ Corian® & Zodiaq® quartz surfaces
 - SenSa® granite by Cosentino®
 - Laminates by Wilsonart®
- Flexible financing[‡] and Satisfaction guaranteed![‡]

HURRY! Offer ends 06/12/10. CALL NOW:

1-888-568-6027

*Offer not valid on prior sales or in combination with any other offer. Save \$325 on countertop only purchase when you spend a minimum of \$1500. †See <http://www.searshomepro.com/info/guarantee.aspx> for Satisfaction Guarantee details. Sears Home Improvement Products, Inc. is a division of Sears Roebuck and Co. ‡The following licenses are held by or on behalf of Sears Home Improvement Products, Inc. "SEARS": AL (Res. Bldr. #3663; HVAC #8186); AZ (Res. Contr.#ROC117628; HVAC #ROC206649); AR (HVAC #1004181); CA (Gen. Bldg. Contr. #B-721379, HVAC #C20-721379, Glazing C17-721379, Roofing #C39-721379); CT (HVAC #303642-51; HIC #0607669); FL (Gen. Contr. #CGC012538; HVAC #CMC1249510); GA (HVAC #CN209991; HVAC #CNO03489; Gen. Bldr. #G18720 - City of Columbus only); ID (HVAC #C-6134, HVAC#J-6133; Contracting Bus. #RCE-25219); IL (City of Chicago Home Repair #1248977); IN (Evansville Res. Remodeling Contr. #RRCO185); KY (Master HVAC #MO4667); LA (Res. Bldr. #84194; HVAC#45862); MD (HIC #87854; HVAC #6528; Contractor/Salesman #46542); MA (HIC #148607, All plumbing and electrical services performed by licensed subcontractors); MI (Res. Bldr. #2102131369; HVAC #7110944); MN (Res. Remodeler #20090017); MS (Res. Bldr. #R05222); NV (Corp. Contr. #43242; Gen. Contr. #60609; Plumb. & Htg. Contr. #60610; Refg. & AC Contr. #60608; Gen. Serviceman #S1469; HVAC #A0072); NY (NYC HIC #1225166, Nassau County HIC #H1809170000, Rockland County HIC #9990, Suffolk County #41506-H, Westchester County WC #18371-H06, Putnam County #3189-A, City of Yonkers #4213); NM (Gen. Bldg. Contr.#GB 98 58598; HVAC #MM98 52598; Elec.# EE-98 58598, MHD HVAC #MM98 C58598, MHD Elec. #EE98 C-58598); NC (Bldg. Limited. #47330; HVAC #15343 H-2, H-3-1, HVAC #26961 H-3-1); OH (HVAC #44752); OK (HVAC #106841); OR (Gen. Contr. #113202); RI (Res. Contr. #27281); SC (Gen. Contr. #105836-BD4; HVAC Res. #RBH-919); TN (HIC #2319; HVAC Contr. #54995); TX (Res. Bldr. Remodeler #9566; HVAC Dallas #TACLB00020401E, Houston #TACLB27482E, Lubbock #TACLB00027780E, San Antonio #TACLB00024674E); UT (Gen. Bldg. Contr. #B-100318604-5501); HVAC #S-350 318604-5501); VA (Class A Contr. #27-084717; HVAC #2710046587); WA (Gen. Contr. #SEARSHI0111A); Washington, DC (HIC #50006423); WV (Res. Bldr. #WV025882, HVAC WV025882); WI (Dwelling Contr. Cert. #15151; Dwelling Contr. Qualifier #982570; HVAC Contractor #15151). Some services performed by Sears' associates. Other services and installation performed by Sears-Authorized licensed contractors; additional Sears license information available upon request. ‡Subject to applicant creditworthiness.

youth culture

JOSEPH RATHBONE RECOMMENDS

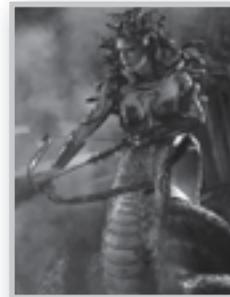


BY JOSEPH RATHBONE, AGE 11

This spring's release of *Clash of the Titans* is not so much a remake of the 1981 original film of the same name as it is a "rethinking" or even what some will call a "re-imagining" of the story.

Neither version will go down in cinematic history as being a great or even "artful" action movie, but both are pure popcorn fun, none-the-less, the later version being more entertaining if not a better film. Still, I was impressed with the claymation from the first and even enjoyed its corny dialogue at times, but felt the robot owl was added only because R2D2 the small robot in Star Wars had been such a big fan favorite at the time. Hollywood has no shame when it comes to ripping off other films.

Clash of the Titans is not in any way affiliated with the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series as some kids in my school have drawn that conclusion. Anyway, both



Medusa

Clash films are based on Greek mythology involving Perseus the son of Zeus in one of his most famous adventures, going after the woman with a head of snakes and eyes that can turn any living creature to stone, Medusa.

The new movie has tons of action and is probably the best action movie to come out this year. Unlike the 1981 version this time around it has a lot of humor and better acting (not

necessarily better actors). Some of the things that were similar were both movies involved a city at risk of being destroyed by the Cracken (a giant underwater creature), both had Medusa and the three Fates, both had Perseus as the main character, and both had Perseus' pegasus (a flying winged horse).



Sam Worthington as Perseus

The old movie stayed true to the mythology as far as some of the gifts from the gods Perseus received and some plot twists I don't think I'll mention here. However, the new one took a great deal more liberty with mythology; like having Perseus' pegasus being black, the river Styx was in the under world, and using Hades as a major part of the story.

I don't think it is possible to compare the two films other than to say they share the same title and basic plot outline. Rating them I give the old one two and a half stars, and I give the new one four and a half stars.

(Note: Parents should definitely watch both movies before letting a younger person watch it).

Summer Art Camp Registration is
Open and Filling up Fast!

The Asheville Art Museum offers its renowned Summer Art Camp to rising kindergarten through 12th grade students. Enrollment is limited and pre-registration is required.

Registration includes admission to the Museum and all materials necessary for each class. Classes are held in the bright and spacious studio of the Museum's WNC

Art Resource Center.

Each class will visit the Museum's galleries to inspire creativity. Students may sign up for morning,



2009 Summer Art Campers

afternoon or all-day sessions. All-day students will have a supervised lunch break.

IF
YOU
GO

For more information, call (828) 253-3227, x122, e-mail smcrrorie@ashevilleart.org, or visit www.ashevilleart.org.



Summer Art Campers

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.



Illustration of Michelle & Chip by Brent Brown.

BRENT BROWN is a graphic designer and illustrator. View more of his work at www.brentbrown.com.



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

For the latest **REVIEWS, THEATER INFO** and **MOVIE SHOW TIMES**, visit www.rapidrivermagazine.com

Questions/Comments?
You can email Chip or Michelle at reeltakes@hotmail.com

Centurion 🎬 1/2

Short Take: Standard sword and sandal epic recalls the days of Saturday matinees except for its never ending parade of brutal, bloody violence.

REEL TAKE: Neil Marshall's *Centurion*

was chosen to open the first ever Actionfest Film festival at the Carolina Cinemas here in Asheville. It certainly qualifies for that honor as it is mostly non-stop action, or in this case non-stop violence with numerous hacked limbs, head splatterings and the occasional sword, ax, or spear to the groin.

I'm trying to persuade myself that writer/director Marshall (*The Descent*) really intended to leave no cliché unused in crafting this throwback to the Saturday matinees of yore. Movies from *The Long Ships* and *The War Lord* to the Steve Reeves *Hercules* films come readily to mind, along with such weightier fare like *The Magnificent Seven* and *The Dirty Dozen*, not to mention *Gladiator*. If that is indeed the case then it's a sad day indeed when updating an old action/adventure film means adding videogame style violence to try and draw in today's more jaded audience.

The story, for those of you who care, concerns survivors of a massacred Roman legion in 2nd century Britain trying to get back to their lines before being completely picked off by the enemy, who are led by a fearsome female warrior. It's the standard plotline for many a war movie, which *Centurion* qualifies as, but it's not the familiarity that bothers me as much as it's the lack of sympathy for any of the characters. If we don't care about them then it really is videogame style killing only on a big screen and with better graphics.

Michael Fassbender (*300*, *Inglourious Basterds*) fits right into this Romans-vs-Picts story but to tell you the truth any actor with the proper physique could have done it (although with CGI even that isn't necessary). Olga Kurylenko (*Quantum of Solace*) gives the film's best performance as the female



Olga Kurylenko as Etain in the bloody *Centurion*.

warrior Etain. She doesn't speak a word of dialogue, her tongue having been cut out as a young girl. The rest of the cast of little known performers do what is expected of them, which is primarily to die, although Rachael Stirling as a Pict outcast provides a last minute love interest.

It was interesting to note and good to see that the film was shot entirely in England and Scotland rather than in some East European country. The photography is gorgeous and is the film's strongest asset, along with an effective score and less headache inducing editing than usual. The bottom line though remains that this is a picture with no heart whatsoever. Even the cheapest of the Saturday matinee features that *Centurion* tries to emulate had that. If you must see it, it goes into general release this August.

Unrated at this time but contains lots of bloody, graphic violence.

REVIEW BY CHIP KAUFMANN

Clash of the Titans 🎬🎬🎬

Short Take: Pointless CGI laden remake of the 1981 film is neither better nor worse than the original.

REEL TAKE: It came as something of a shock to me that the new *Clash of the Titans* was not significantly inferior to the 1981 original (see my DVD pick for the month). The special effects are technically superior and are consistent all the way through but they lack the charm and personality of Ray Harryhausen's stop-motion originals. The performances are better overall this time around but there just aren't enough of them. The Gods are reduced to a two man show (Zeus and Hades), there is no elderly sidekick to move the story along and provide running commentary, and Princess Andromeda, the key



Sam Worthington as Perseus in *Clash of the Titans*.

to the first movie and to the original myth, is reduced to a cameo appearance.

This isn't really surprising when you consider that in most of today's fantasy/horror/action movies the story is there to serve the special effects rather than the other way around and most of the performances we see in films of this nature are in accordance with that fact. The fact that the major performances in *Titans* fly in the face of that fact is a testament to the performers themselves who, in what was once the time honored tradition of movies like this, try to elevate the material they've been given.

Liam Neeson (Zeus) and Ralph Fiennes (Hades, who is not in the original movie) know what to do with stuff like this and though some may call it slumming, they are obviously having a grand old time. Sam Worthington (Perseus) is too earnest for his own good. He needs to lighten up. This is Ancient Greece not Pandora (even though he has his *Avatar* haircut), myth not fantasy (there is a difference), and he needs to act accordingly, although I really blame the triple screen-writing team of Travis Beachem, Phil Hay, and Matt Manfredi for his not doing so.

My biggest complaint about the new *Titans* is the shift in the focus of the original storyline. In 1981 and in the original myth, Perseus was motivated to undertake his trials and tribulations by his love for Princess Andromeda which gives him the strength and the motivation to triumph against the odds (and the Gods). This time around, in accordance with our more cynical times and emphasis on the negative, Perseus is motivated by hate and revenge for the murder of his family. This not only alters the focus of the story but the nature of the performances as well.

But who cares about the story anyway? This movie was made to show off its CGI and from Medusa to the giant scorpions to the all encompassing Kraken, it certainly de-

livers on that front and effects geeks won't be disappointed. Why it was even retooled in 3-D to make the effects more special (and ticket prices more expensive)? I did it the old fashioned way and saw it in 2-D. For me the added dimension wouldn't have made any difference.

Rated PG-13 for action violence, frightening images, and brief sensuality.

REVIEW BY CHIP KAUFMANN



Martin Lawrence, Peter Dinklage, Tracy Morgan and Chris Rock in *Death at a Funeral*.

Death at a Funeral 🎬

Short Take: An American remake of the 'old' (2007) British farce.

REEL TAKE: It's amazing to see what projects actually get green-lighted and

funded in the movie industry. Big bucks are spent on productions that really serve no point, while other worthy projects get rejected, circular filed or simply left to die. A case in point is Neil LaBute's recent remake of Frank Oz's 2007 *Death at a Funeral*.

The 2007 version was a dry British farce about the mayhem that ensues on the day of the funeral of the patriarch of a dysfunctional, stiff-upper-lip-type British family. The 2010 version is an Americanized duplicate of the story, replacing uppity Brits for upper middle class African Americans. The difference? Vulgarity is now used to elicit laughs versus the ludicrous farce itself.

Chris Rock plays the dutiful and responsible eldest son of the bereaved family and Martin Lawrence the Prodigal son. A menagerie of other characters round out the family and friends and include Tracey Morgan, Zoe Saldana, Danny Glover and James Marsden. Chaos (not be confused with hilarity) ensues from the get go; among the highlights, the undertaker delivers the wrong dead guy, LSD is mistaken for valium and ingested by more than one character, and a dwarf shows up claiming to

'Movies' continued on page 24

film reviews

'Movies' continued from page 23

be the long time lover of the dead patriarch and tries to blackmail the family. Ironically Peter Dinklage reprises his role as the secret lover. (Personally I thought this was odd at first, but then really liked that he is the one constant between the two versions.)

Much has been made about the decline of Neil LaBute's career of late, with this film being touted as the nail in the coffin (pun completely intended). When Tracy Morgan's hand is covered in Danny Glover's sh!t, it is hard to believe that this film is made by the same man who directed *Possession* and *In the Company of Men*. However, more people will go to see *Death at a Funeral* than ever went to see the aforementioned films. Maybe I'm just having a 'glass half full' day, but kudos to LaBute for taking chances and working to avoid 'typecasting.'

While I've sounded less than kind so far about this film, it's really not *that* bad. It's actually exactly what I thought it would be. The 2007 film (which I liked) certainly plays better as a classic farce. However, I couldn't have cared less about any of the characters and I didn't really laugh out loud. Perhaps it's just the difference of us 'Yanks' in general, but this version is warmer and you actually like some of the characters, in particular Chris Rock as the #1 son and James Marsden as the white, unwittingly acid-laced suitor of one of the nieces.

Theatre Directory

Asheville Pizza & Brewing Company

Movieline (828) 254-1281
www.ashevillepizza.com

Beaucatcher Cinemas (Asheville)

Movieline (828) 298-1234

Biltmore Grande

1-800-FANDANGO #4010
www.REGmovies.com

Carmike 10 (Asheville)

Movieline (828) 298-4452
www.carmike.com

Carolina Cinemas

(828) 274-9500
www.carolinacinemas.com

Cinebarre (Asheville)

www.cinebarre.com

The Falls Theatre (Brevard)

Movieline (828) 883-2200

Fine Arts Theatre (Asheville)

Movieline (828) 232-1536
www.fineartstheatre.com

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

Date Night

Date Night is about a suburban couple, Claire and Phil Foster (Tina Fey and Steve Carell), who want to take a break from their lives as parents and decide to go to dinner at a fancy restaurant in Manhattan. When they can't get in, they steal another couple's dinner reservations and try to enjoy their night. But it turns out that the couple that they're impersonating is involved in shady business, and the night that they hoped would be romantic and glamorous dissolves into a race from thugs who want them dead.

I am a big fan of Steve Carell and Tina Fey, so I was very excited to see this movie. But I have to admit that it



Tina Fey and Steve Carell in the action comedy *Date Night*.

I understand that most movies in the action/comedy genre generally don't make sense, but the plot of *Date Night* was illogical to the point of annoyance. It wasn't clear to me why the characters, two fairly straitlaced parents, continued to run around the city committing various

was not as good as I hoped it would be. The dialogue between the two leads was probably the most enjoyable part because Carell and Fey were obviously having fun working together, but overall *Date Night* wasn't very special.

TEEN
REVIEW
by Clara Sofia



felonies to try to get out of trouble.

There were also a few sequences where the action went on far too long without anything funny happening and that I found boring. However there were some redeemable moments that were funny enough to make up for the parts that dragged.

Date Night wasn't a complete waste of time and is probably worth seeing once, especially if you are a fan of Tina Fey or Steve Carell or if you enjoy movies that incorporate action and comedy. It certainly does provide some good laughs

but unless you're exceptionally eager to see it, I would wait until it comes out on DVD.

Rated PG-13 for sexual and crude content, language, some violence, and a drug reference.

That said, I still don't quite see why this film was remade or at least why it was remade so shortly after the original. Many classic French and English farces have played community theatres the world over, over and over again – maybe that's what's happening here. Maybe Almodovar or Ang Lee will redo it in another three years (with Peter Dinklage, of course).

If you are an Anglophile or a movie snob, you know you won't like it so don't even bother (unless it's just to tout the Brit version over the lesser American). If, on the other hand, *Death at a Funeral* sounds like a couple of hours of entertaining comedy, then have at it. Either way you've been fairly warned.

Rated R for language, drug content, and sexual humor.

REVIEW BY MICHELLE KEENAN

The Ghost Writer

Short Take: Roman Polanski returns to top form with this Hitchcock-like thriller about a man who knows too much and what happens as a result of it.

REEL TAKE: Roman Polanski is back in the celebrity news again as a result of his arrest and imprisonment (he has since been released) and possible extradition to the United States for a 30+ year old morals charge. He is currently being detained in Switzerland. All this publicity has tended to obscure his latest effort, *The Ghost Writer*, which is a return to the type of classic thriller



A wary Ewan MacGregor and bystander in Roman Polanski's *The Ghost Writer*.

he used to make back in his heyday. Much has been made about the similarities of this film to those of Alfred Hitchcock, and it is certainly there, but with one important difference. More about that later.

Like Hitchcock, Polanski is fascinated with putting ordinary people into extraordinary circumstances. Films like *Rosemary's Baby*, *Chinatown*, *The Tenant* and *Frantic* all exploit this theme to various degrees. *Ghost Writer* follows our unnamed hero as he accepts the routine job of ghostwriting the autobiography of a famous politician after the previous writer meets with an accident. It doesn't take long before he realizes that maybe it wasn't an accident and that the same thing could possibly happen to him.

Ewan MacGregor continues to expand his acting horizons by appearing in a wide variety of very diverse films. His ghost writer is far removed from *Angels and Demons* but then so is the source material. MacGregor's growing paranoia as he realizes what is happening is well handled by both actor and director. Polanski has always had a way with actors, getting performances out of them that you wouldn't expect. Pierce Brosnan's turn as the politician is also a testament to this fact. It shows him comfortably shedding the role of James Bond and settling in to become an established character actor following in the footsteps of Michael Caine.

In addition to his skill with actors, very few directors working today have the pictorial skills of Polanski. All of his films, even the lesser ones like *Pirates* or *Oliver Twist* are visually striking and are

worth seeing for that aspect alone. In *Ghost Writer* he creates a bleak and windy landscape (supposedly the Massachusetts coast but shot in Germany since Polanski can't come to the U.S.) that reinforces the isolation and growing fear that the protagonist feels and that we feel as well.

I cannot close out this review without mentioning Eli Wallach. The legendary actor is one of the last surviving members of the Actors Studio group of method performers that included Marlon Brando, Montgomery Clift and James Dean. He is now 94 years old and looks it but his brief appearance in the film shows that he still is capable of delivering a performance. The voice remains unmistakable.

Finally, it just occurred to me that I cannot keep my promise that I made at the beginning about telling you the one important difference between Hitchcock and Roman Polanski without providing a major spoiler and giving away the end of the film. Therefore I suggest that after you see *The Ghost Writer* or rent the DVD when it comes out, rent any of the classic Hitchcock thrillers like *The 39 Steps*, *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, *Saboteur* or especially *North By Northwest* and you can easily see the difference for yourselves.

Rated PG-13 for language, nudity, violence and drug references.

REVIEW BY CHIP KAUFMANN

Harry Brown

Short Take: This harrowing story about a geriatric vigilante is ugly, unpleasant, and unrelievedly grim despite fine performances from Michael Caine and Emily Mortimer.

'Movies' continued on page 25

film reviews

'Movies' continued from pg. 24



Michael Caine as the title character in the intense *Harry Brown*.

REEL TAKE:

I have been following the career of Michael Caine for over 40 years now. At the age of 77 he has

become an icon who can pick and choose what work he wants to do when he wants to do it. I'm sure the idea of returning to Britain to appear in the type of gritty, violent, crime thriller that he more or less inaugurated with the original *Get Carter* back in 1971 must have appealed to him if for no other reason than to show that despite his advanced age, like Clint Eastwood in *Gran Torino*, he still has an edge.

Harry Brown is a British version of *Gran Torino* which means that it's a grim, unflinching look at contemporary urban crime but without the other film's redemptive qualities. It also does not attempt to manipulate the audience the way Michael Winner did with *Death Wish* back in 1974. There is no rooting for Harry Brown as he gets back at the lowlifes who inhabit his tenement and murder his friend and chess partner. We watch him go into their world, do what he can about it (i.e., killing them), and then try to reemerge.

Emily Mortimer plays a police inspector who is systematically subjected to sexism on her job (like Helen Mirren in *Prime Suspect*) but who still manages to take a humanistic approach to her police work in spite of the hostile environment from her peers as well as the criminals. She wants to help Harry after the death of his friend, not realizing that he's the one responsible for the recent spate of killings.

The criminal elements who inhabit the world of this film are every law abiding citizen's worst nightmare. They are doped up, sexed out, cretins who revel in every violent act they can commit. What few sentences they can speak are laden with profanity. Compared to them the punks in *Gran Torino* are Sunday School kids. Of course Harry Brown eventually gets his revenge, but we don't cheer for him when they die. Harry's odyssey through their world, much like George C. Scott's journey through the world of porno in *Hardcore*, is a trip through Hell.

Caine is able to invest this unfortunate character with as much charisma as he can. Harry Brown is not unlikable, he's just not sympathetic. It's another fine performance showing that Caine can effortlessly play almost anything and make it believable.

Sharp as a Jack: The Films of Don Sharp

From time to time I like to focus on the little guy, the unsung heroes behind the camera who have given and still continue to give us pleasure and satisfaction in the works they created and left behind for us to enjoy. This time our unsung hero is the Australian director Don Sharp.

Sharp was born in Hobart, Tasmania (the same birthplace as Errol Flynn) in 1922. He began working in the theatre at an early age but dreamed of leaving Australia in order to make films abroad. Sharp came to England in the early 1950s and began working first as an actor for the BBC in some of their early TV programs and then as a director of children's theatre.

His first real break as a director came with Hammer Films in 1962. Hammer was famous for its horror films, a Frankenstein series with Peter Cushing and a Dracula series with Christopher Lee. Sharp had never seen a horror film when he was asked to direct a non-Christopher Lee film called *Kiss of the Vampire* about a cult of vampires at the turn of the 20th century. After viewing a few of the studio's early films, he jumped right in and gave Hammer a big success on a very small budget.

This success led to a costume picture (*The Devil Ship Pirates*) and then a couple of black and white B pictures for American producer Robert L. Lippert (*Witchcraft*, *Curse of the Fly*), which solidified his reputation as someone who could get the most out of the least. These pictures have since become cult classics especially in England. The success of these films brought Sharp into partnership with Christopher Lee and they made three

remarkable movies together.

Rasputin, The Mad Monk (1965) gave Lee one of his best roles as the infamous Russian mystic and libertine. Although worthless as history (to avoid lawsuits), it was beautifully made and very entertaining. Next were two films for exploitation producer Harry Alan Towers based on Sax Rohmer's Oriental villain, Fu Manchu. *The Face of Fu Manchu* (1965) and *The Brides of Fu Manchu* (1966) were good old-fashioned, politically incorrect thrillers that featured Sharp's trademark steady pace and visual mastery.

The 1970s saw Sharp move away from horror films into tense thrillers for which he was ideally suited. There was *Dark Places* (1973) about hidden loot and madness, *Hennessey* (1976) about an IRA plot to blow up Parliament and a remake of Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps* (1978) which was more faithful to the original material but did poorly at the box office. By then he had moved into television and directed a number of films there. His best known TV movie was a remake of *The Four Feathers* (1977) with Beau Bridges and Jane Seymour.

It was in 1972 that Sharp made his masterpiece, the deliciously subversive black comedy *Psychomania*. The title is meaningless and that's part of the joke. It's a biker movie that contains elements of



BY CHIP KAUFMANN

devil worship and teen suicide while having a healthy disrespect for just about everything. It satirizes *The Wild Angels* and *Night of the Living Dead* while giving Hollywood icon George Sanders a last memorable role as a satanic butler who knows how to deliver the witty and sardonic dialogue. You may not like *Psychomania*, but once seen you won't forget it, especially the out-of-left-field ending.

If Sharp's movies could be summed up in one word that word would be "foreground". Taking a page from the films of Fritz Lang, Sharp always seems to have something in the foreground of his shots. This not only makes his movies more interesting to look at, but it subliminally creates a sense of depth that draws you deeper into the film without your realizing it at the time.

Most of the movies mentioned in this article are readily available on DVD except for the late 70s ones which are available in Europe only for the time being. So if you enjoy disposable entertainment that turns out not to be so disposable then check out the movies of Don Sharp. They have a habit of staying with you long after they have finished and plenty of movies with much bigger budgets cannot make that claim.

Emily Mortimer, although much younger, is very similar. She can go from the heartfelt feelings of *Dear Frankie* to the slapstick of the recent *Pink Panther* movies to this grim world of crime without batting an eye. May her career continue to flourish.

Although the Brits are really good at this down and dirty type of urban thriller, most of the others have elements of humor, or at least black humor, to ease the burden of sitting through the really unpleasant bits. Such is not the case with *Harry Brown*. It's as harrowing and unrelenting a film as I've seen in a very long time, a film that can be admired for its look and for its performances but not one that you can enjoy (at least I hope not).

Rated R for strong violence, language, drug use, and sexual content.

REVIEW BY CHIP KAUFMANN

How to Train Your Dragon

1/2

Short Take: This animated feature recycles old material but makes for a pleasant enough outing with the occasional breathtaking 3-D effect.

REEL TAKE: Having sat through some rather heavy fare for this month's batch of reviews, I decided I needed a break and looked forward to seeing something upbeat and positive as well as something that would be just good old fashioned fun. *How to Train Your Dragon* was all of these things but ultimately I found it lacking.

While watching this I was not only reminded of countless other titles in this genre (*Pete's Dragon* and *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* to name two), but I was struck by how Disneylike this Dreamworks offering was. Dreamworks Anima-

tion used to be a Disney competitor. Their features, especially the *Shrek* series, were noted for their irreverence and the ability to update the old Disney formula of all's well that ends well and they all lived happily ever after by supplying an edge. But not this time.

This is strictly a paint-by-the-numbers effort of the young misfit who must prove himself to those around him and get the girl in the end. Not that there's anything wrong with that scenario but somehow *Dragon* just didn't involve me the way I wanted it to. Maybe it was the mood I was in. There were six others in the theatre for the afternoon showing I attended, two different families, and they thoroughly enjoyed the film. In the long run, it's their opinion and their money that counts.

'Movies' continued on page 26

film reviews

'Movies' continued from page 25

The story involves Hiccup (Jay Baruchel), a young, scrawny Viking who is the laughing stock of his village because of his size and lack of ability. The village is constantly being attacked by dragons and Hiccup's father, the uber-macho Stoick (Gerald Butler) lives to destroy them. In the meantime Hiccup has to undergo basic training in fighting dragons which, of course, he isn't any good at. Hardly the way to impress the girl Viking Astrid (America Ferrara) that he's fond of. One day while retrieving an errant invention, he discovers a wounded dragon he names Toothless and a friendship is born. This friendship transforms his life and those of the Viking villagers.



Gerard Butler is the voice of Stoick (on right) in *How to Train Your Dragon*.

It turns out that dragons aren't really bad by choice. The real villain of the piece is a gigantic monster dragon who holds the other dragons in bondage, forcing them to do the bad things that they do like raid and burn the Viking village. Can Hiccup and Toothless defeat the monster and save the village? Can Hiccup and his father ever see eye to eye? Will Hiccup win Astrid's love and respect? Is the Pope Catholic?

It isn't the predictability of *How to Train Your Dragon* that bothered me. A film of this nature is supposed to be predictable. That's part of what we go to it for. What did bother me was the blandness of it all. Even the 3-D failed to hold my attention after awhile, which just goes to show that you need more than 3-D (real 3-D in this case) to make a movie work. You need characters that the audience cares about and you need to be able to tell a familiar story in such a way that it engages the audience and doesn't seem so familiar.

Rated PG for action sequences, scary images, and some mild language.

REVIEW BY CHIP KAUFMANN

The Runaways

Short Take: Girls rock!

REEL TAKE: Dakota Fanning is all grown up and Kristen Stewart is free of vampires and werewolves in *The Runaways*. Both young actresses have left their former personas in the dust to play Cherie Currie and Joan Jett. Innocence is shed and hard core living is embraced in this story of the first all-female rock band in the mid-1970s.

Mostly known for her music videos, Italian director and photographer Floria Sigismondi is a good fit for this vehicle. She adapted Cherie Currie's autobiography *Neon Angel* and serves as director. While the film is good, it's a pretty standard bio-pic. A few startling shots and a rawness give it a certain edge, but do not elevate it to greatness. What is remarkable is how easily we forget that as recently as the mid-70's societal attitudes still didn't allow women the freedoms we enjoy today.

At 15 years old Joan Jett had a clear vision of what she wanted to do; she wanted to rock and she wanted to rock with women. She didn't want to be part of a 'boys club' nor did she want to be manipulated by a male dominated world or industry. As we all know, Jett had the stamina and fortitude to survive and thrive.



Dakota Fanning and Kristen Stewart rock it in *The Runaways*.

Cherie Currie, on the other hand, did not. As a young girl on the threshold of womanhood (as the first shot of the movie so aptly conveys), she grows up altogether too fast when she's handpicked to be the part-Bar-dot, part-Bowie, part school-girl lead singer of the world's first all female rock band *The Runaways*. She falls prey to sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll and loses herself by the ripe old age of 17.

The Runaways caught me by surprise.

Standard bio-pic fare and drug addiction don't usually hold my attention or rouse my sympathies. Here though it was almost fas-

cinating to watch. I don't know if it was just a slightly naïve and maternal instinct, but I was aghast that no one looked out for these girls – no one at home, no one on the road. Regardless of how tough they were or how ready they thought they were, the record industry slices, dices and calls the shots.

I was impressed at the performances by Fanning and Stewart; the nuanced understanding of their characters belies their youth, and I look forward to seeing more from them both as they mature. Michael Shannon, (*Revolutionary Road*, *Pearl Harbor*) turns in another wonderful and colorful performance as Kim Fowley, the producer who launched *The Runaways*.

All in all, *The Runaways* is a worthwhile view, but, like the band itself, it doesn't have staying power.

Rated R for language, drug use and sexual content - all involving teens.

REVIEW BY MICHELLE KEENAN

Chip Kaufmann's Pick: "Clash of the Titans"

Clash of the Titans (1981)

Clash of the Titans was the last film to be made by stop motion animation specialist Ray Harryhausen and despite some typically marvelous effects such as Pegasus, Medusa, the scorpions and the two headed dog, the film is seriously hampered by budgetary constraints and the unfortunate decision to combine too many animated figures with live action ones without properly matching them up. Bubo, the R2-D2 owl is also something that'll you'll either love or hate.

Despite the occasional effects shortcomings, this *Titans* has a much better story than the new one thanks to screenwriter Beverley Cross who knows his mythology. He even persuaded wife Maggie Smith to perform in it and that is this film's other strong suit. It has a much stronger cast (Laurence Olivier, Claire Bloom, Burgess Meredith, Sian Phillips) and a script that actually gives the women characters (goddesses and mortals) something to do.

The major difference between the two is this film's emphasis on Love as opposed to Hate. It is Love that motivates Perseus (Harry Hamlin) to seek out, win the heart of, and eventually rescue the Princess Andromeda (Judi Bowker) who is no shrinking violet and is definitely worth saving. The new film has Perseus motivated by hatred and revenge and Andromeda is merely an excuse to trot out the monstrous Kraken.

I haven't seen the latest DVD incarnation of this film which was rolled out

May DVD Picks



just in time to cash in on the new film's release but the first version was a less than sterling transfer which magnified the special effects deficiencies. The film looked much better on the big screen and hopefully this new transfer will have made the necessary corrections.

Despite its flaws, *Clash of the Titans* remains an ideal film for the young and the young at heart. It imparts a positive message and features a cast of seasoned professionals who know how to get the most out of the mythological material. The sad thing is that soon everyone will only think of the 2010 version and this one will appear outdated, its message of courage and hope lost among the CGI spectacle of its successor.

Death at a Funeral (2007)

After watching the recent remake of *Death at a Funeral*, I thought the 2007 version would be a great DVD pick for the month. Chances are you didn't see it when it was out and you may not have even known about it to rent it. If you see

Michelle Keenan's Pick: "Death at a Funeral"

the new version it's fun to compare the two and the audiences for each. If you are someone who just knows you won't like the new version, you're probably are someone who will like the other.

Frank Oz directed the 2007 version. It's a dry, classic British farce. The story is identical to the new version (see review on page 23), but instead of upper middle class African Americans we have uppity Brits. Matthew MacFadyen (*Pride & Prejudice*) is Daniel, the eldest son of a dysfunctional British family gathered to mourn the loss of the patriarch of the family. He, like Chris Rock in the new version, is the central figure in a day of mayhem. The undertaker delivers the wrong body, his cousin's fiancé has mistakenly ingested hallucinogenic drugs, and a dwarf that nobody seems to know turns out to be his late father's longtime lover and is prepared to blackmail the family for a certain sum of money.

While it has a few guttural moments, the Brit version plays with less vulgarity and is straight farce. Hence it is the better of the two farces, but perhaps the lesser for laugh out loud comedy. Critically, it is clearly the better movie, but many more people will see the new version and many more Americans will prefer it to the Brit version. If you are an Anglophile, or if this simply sounds better than Tracy Morgan helping a crotchety old wheelchair bound Danny Glover in and out of the bathroom, then you may want to rent the 2007 version of *Death at a Funeral*.

poetry & books

The Art of Teaching ... the Craft of Poetry

A major reason for the enduring relevance of poetry — an ancient art form — in our routinized society is that certain people have dedicated their lives to keeping the spirit of poetry alive in our minds and hearts. I'm referring to poets, public champions of poetry, or teachers. And, of course, some people serve in all three roles.

Truly dedicated poets are champions of poetry and — whether or not they ever set foot in a classroom — teachers, because by their example they demonstrate to younger generations that words (even in our image-conscious society) still can wield the power to make us aware of — and perhaps inspire us to move toward — a deeper experience of life.

Words can wield the power to make us aware of a deeper experience of life.

Any person who has discovered poetry (or perhaps I should say, any person whom poetry has discovered) can remember a moment or moments when poetry awakened in him or her some transcendent revelation (however grounded that revelation might have been in quotidian reality). I can recall a few formative memories in which my fate was first cast to the powerful, unpredictable winds of poetry.

At the age of sixteen, having previously written a range of juvenile poems, I produced the first of many failed attempts at composing a "serious" poem. On my seventeenth birthday, my mother, a "Britophile," gave me two paperback books that had in common the distinction of being, as she put it, "important examples of modern British poetry." One book featured the exuberant poems of Dylan Thomas and the other the rather austere work of T. S. Eliot. I was intrigued by the powerful communication lurking within the words of those challenging yet compelling poems.

Three years later, in 1980, after transferring to the University of Minnesota as a second semester freshman, I enrolled in Michael Dennis Browne's class entitled "Advanced Poetry Writing." The first creative writing class I ever took, Michael's class was a highlight of my time as a college student. Thereafter, any confidence I mustered in my ability to write poetry was a direct result of Michael's encouragement.

Shortly before enrolling in that class, while attending my previous college, I had given a group of my poems to another teacher, who had returned the poems to me with the following hand-written note: "In five years time you'll disown every one of these poems; in ten years time you'll forgive yourself having written these." However correct that assessment, I had begun to doubt I would ever discover "my own true voice."

BY TED OLSON

Michael's approach to critiquing such formative efforts at poetry was markedly different. He recognized strengths in some of my individual poems, and he intuited the larger trajectory of my poetry. His written comments on drafts of my poems were always spot-on, sensitive to human frailties and generally positive in nature yet helpfully critical. Michael knew that the students in that class were writing poems for a purpose beyond simply gaining college credit, and he conveyed to each of us his sense of what that purpose might be if we applied ourselves.

As represented in Michael's class, poetry was an exciting if ultimately mysterious realm — we students savored class gatherings, and several of us discussed poetry outside of class. We were all impressed with Michael's ability to negotiate his roles as a gifted, widely published poet, a dedicated advocate for poetry on and off campus, and an accessible and insightful teacher.

It was a sad day for us students when that class ended. As it turned out, Michael's support for my poetry continued. After I had left Minnesota, my mother very occasionally crossed paths with Michael on campus (where she likewise worked), and he apparently would tell her that he thought I was a promising poet.

Such support meant a lot to me — I had graduated and was off working in a world that didn't particularly care whether or not I would ever compose a single worthwhile poem. Many years later, after some of my poems had been published in periodicals and after I had received an offer from a small-press publisher to collect those and some other poems into book-form, Michael graciously offered to write a blurb for the book's

cover. He is that rare teacher who cares about students long after a class is over.

Recently, three decades after I took his class, I received notification that the U. of M.'s Department of English would mark Michael's retirement from teaching by celebrating his extensive service to the department, to the wider community, and to poetry. I received an email encouraging me to reminisce about studying poetry with Michael, an invitation apparently sent to 38 other former or current students (39 being the number of years he has taught at that school).

I was honored to be asked, and while jotting down my memories of Michael's influence on my own journey to and through poetry, I have realized the considerable extent to which he has been a role-model (to me and obviously to many others) of how to proceed into poetry's mysterious realm — without a map, perhaps, but with a clear sense that the journey is well worth taking.



Ted Olson is the author of such books as *Breathing in Darkness: Poems* (Wind Publications, 2006) and *Blue Ridge Folklife* (University Press of Mississippi, 1998) and he is the editor of numerous books, including *CrossRoads: A Southern Culture Annual* (Mercer University Press, 2009). His experiences as a poet and musician are discussed on www.windpub.com/books/breathingindarkness.htm.

Poets who would like for their poetry to be considered for a future column may send their books and manuscripts to Ted Olson, ETSU, Box 70400, Johnson City, TN 37614. Please include contact information and a SASE with submissions.

Cold Rains of Spring

The cold rains of spring
come every year;
Driving down from the heavens,
Flashing from the dark cloud masses,
Creating a muddy mess of bogs, puddles,
and torrential streams.

Humans hunched over
against the gusts scurry about
Encased in Gore-Tex and plastic
grimacing at the windy wetness.

Cars and trucks driving on
dirt roads and grass driveways,
Spinning tires helplessly boring tracks
into the sodden turf.

Cold winds whip the rain
into a pagan frenzy,
Piercing every crack and cranny,
Thundering upon the rooftops,
battering against windows and doors,
Wetting all, inside and out, like
the waves of a stormy merciless sea.

Beasts of the fields huddle
furtively under bushes and rocks;
In their dens praying
with their primitive minds while
Hungry bellies rumbling, beseeching,
cry out for a coming soon of
Sunshine, warmth, dryness
and life-giving food.

Only poets and madmen
wander around on such days
Staring upwards with mouths agape,
Feeling the pressure of the rain
on their upturned faces;
Laughing joyfully, manically —
with complete abandon.

Wondering, hoping, willing
for the wildness of it all,
The spiritual connectiveness
to all things — praying that the
Cold rains of spring last forever;
For at least this year...

CARL LOBST
MARCH 17, 2010

APPRECIATING POETS AND TEACHERS

Sunday, May 2 - 3:00 p.m.

Poetrio – Featured poets are Joseph Bathanti, Ava Leavell Haymon, and Peter Blair.

Tuesday May 4 - 7:00 p.m.

Teacher Appreciation Night – Join us for an evening with Danny Kofke, author of *How to Survive (and Perhaps Thrive)* on a Teacher's Salary, and Elizabeth Hubbell, author of *Learning: A Challenge to Parents, Educators, and Legislators*. Enjoy free coffee, free books, free items for the classroom, and conversation with fellow teachers and our guest authors!

Wednesday May 12 - 7:00 p.m.

Men's Poetry Workshop with Trey Moore – Helpful feedback from fellow poets.

Thursday May 20 - 5:30 p.m.

Women on Words – Members inspire and critique the presented poems. New members are always welcome.

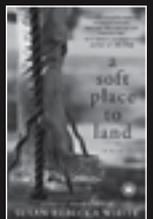
Malaprop's Bookstore/Café, 55 Haywood St. in Asheville. Phone (828) 254-6734 or visit www.malaprops.com.

Poet Susan Rebecca White Appears in Asheville

Susan Rebecca White, author of *Bound South*, will be on tour in the area promoting her latest book, *A Soft Place to Land*.

IF YOU GO: Friday, May 21 at 5:30 p.m. *Cyrano's Books*, 390 Main Street, Highlands, NC.

Friday, May 21 at 7 p.m. *Malaprop's*, 55 Haywood Street.



book reviews

Going Rogue: An American Life

Written and read by Sarah Palin

Years ago, I listened to Nancy Reagan's autobiography (*My Turn, the Memoirs of Nancy Reagan*), which she herself read. Although the book didn't change my politics, it did turn my head 180-degrees about Mrs. Reagan and I now count her as a personal heroine of mine.

So I hoped it was with an open mind I ventured into *Going Rogue*, the autobiography of Sarah Palin, former governor of Alaska and Republican Vice-Presidential candidate. I chose the audio version (Harper Audio, unabridged) on the theory that hearing Palin's voice would tell me more about her than looking at disembodied words on page.

My first problem with the audio book was unexpected. Ms. Palin's delivery is folksy ("You betcha!") and her wit is keen ("What's the difference between a pitbull and a hockey mom? Lipstick.") But her nasal, clipped speaking style is distracting. When she says "fill" for "feel" and "big dill" for "big deal," I want to shout back "loosen up and love your vowels!"

The early parts of her life were the most interesting. I learned Sarah Palin and I have a lot in common. We were born Catholic, come from large, lower-income families and worked our way through colleges that weren't fancy eastern finishing schools. We both love the outdoors, manly men, and single color suits. I come from a military family and married a Marine; she has a son in Iraq. We even wear the same eye glasses.

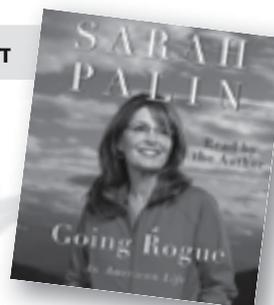
I responded positively to all her personal stories of marriage to Todd Palin and mothering a brood of five. She touched me deeply with the description of her decision not to seek an abortion when she found out the child would have Down's Syndrome. Head-on she dealt with the disappointment she felt at the news of daughter Bristol's pregnancy. I agree with her that Bristol should have been off limits to press coverage. Children are children even if they're pregnant.

Palin let the daggers fly in her version of what happened on the national campaign and it was interesting to learn her behind-the-scenes viewpoint. It seemed obvious to me at the time that in the chaos of the campaign she was mishandled and treated unfairly by some campaign staffers — I doubt a male candidate would have had to go through such indignities.

Being a former journalist however, I disagree with Palin's interpretation of what happened with the infamous Katie Couric interview. Among other things, Palin feels Couric was demeaning by asking the same question several times. For the record, repeating the same question in different ways

REVIEW BY CAULEY BENNETT

"...short...
energetic...
snarky..."



is standard interviewing technique when the subject is trying to be evasive. Couric was only doing her job. Ms. Palin needs to accept she was at fault for reacting with annoyance instead of diplomacy.

By the end of the book, 8 hours on 7 discs, I came away feeling I knew Sarah Palin the person, a little better. I'd like to go hiking with her someday, just the two of us and our dogs. I think we'd have a lot of things to laugh about.

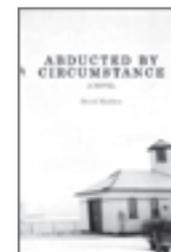
But her autobiography didn't positively influence my opinion about her readiness for national office. In the entire book Palin did not say one thing that lead me to believe she has acquired the depth or self-analysis that a true leader needs. "Don't retreat — reload!" is not an expression of wisdom, it's a sound bite.

Other than a brief tribute to Ronald Reagan ("We win. You lose.), never does Palin discuss great men or women who have influenced her. She never reveals the soul-searching process, hard-won from education and experience, that a person must take to be worthy to lead the #1 country in the free world. No where does she indicate any philosophy noble enough to inspire others, other than her conviction that when "one door closes, another opens."

I enjoyed reading *Going Rogue*. It was short and informative, and the energetic, sometimes snarky tone was entertaining. I'm also glad I didn't have to pay for it. I got it for free in the library. You know, one of those big, overblown government things.

— Cauley Bennett is an Asheville writer.

MAY BOOK REVIEWS

BOOK REVIEWS BY CAULEY BENNETT
ADDITIONAL REVIEWS BY DALE BOWENTwo Readings
by Author
David Madden

Prolific novelist, poet, critic and playwright David Madden will read

from his tenth novel, *Abducted by Circumstance*. It tells the story of a woman whose life is unraveling and what happens when she glimpses a woman who disappears.

IF YOU GO: Saturday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m. Malaprop's Bookstore/Café, Asheville. Saturday, May 15, at 1:00 p.m., Blue Ridge Osondu Books & Café, Waynesville. (828) 456-6000.

Historical Novelist
Ann Herendeen Reads at
Local Bookstores

Photo by Fred Gary

If you like historical fiction with bi-sexual heroes and heroines you'll be fascinated by Ann Herendeen's books. She's making a quick tour of WNC bookstores.

IF YOU GO: Thursday, May 6 at 7:00 p.m. Blue Ridge Osondu Books & Café, Waynesville. (828) 456-6000.

Friday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. Malaprop's Bookstore/Café, Asheville. For more details call (828) 254-6734.

Saturday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m. City Lights Bookstore, Sylva. For more details call (828) 586-9499.

A Literary Witch Awakens in the Blue Ridge Mountains

What happens when a novice witch confronts the vengeful ghost of her beloved's long-dead mother?

In her recently published gothic fantasy romance *The Witch Awakening* (426 pages, \$14.95), author Karen Nilsen tells the story of Safire of Long Marsh, a young psychic whose unusual talents are considered witchcraft and punishable by death at the stake in her skewed Renaissance world.

Nilsen is currently revising *Tapestry Lion* and writing the first draft of *Phoenix Ashes*, the next two novels in the witch series. Visit www.karennilsen.com for more information.

IF YOU GO: Nilsen will be selling signed copies of *The Witch Awakening* at the Self-Published Book Fair (see article on page 30) on Saturday, May 15 at Kenilworth Presbyterian Church in Asheville, NC.



Bookstore Happenings

Saturday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m. It's a Zombie Crawl. Join children's librarian Carol Dennis and author Eric Brown for a night of the living dead.

Tuesday, May 4 at 10:00 a.m. Book Babies.

Thursday May 6 at 7:00 p.m. Meet Ann Herendeen, author of *Pride/Prejudice* and *Phyllida and the Brotherhood* both published by Harper Collins.

Friday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. Art After Dark.

Saturday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. Live Music.

Tuesday, May 11

- 10:00 a.m. Book Babies
- 6:00 p.m. Mountain Writers. New members welcome.

Thursday, May 13 at 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Book Club.

Saturday, May 15

• 11:00 a.m. Teddy Bear Picnic with our very own Allison Best-Teague. Bring your favorite teddy bear and come and hear about bears. We may even have a bear expert to talk with us.

• 1:00 p.m. David Madden, author of *Abducted by Circumstance*, will read and sign books.

• 6:30 p.m. Music with Jonathan Martin.

Monday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m. Nonfiction Book Club. New members are always welcome.

Tuesday, May 18 at 10:00 a.m. Book Babies.

Thursday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. Spirit Seekers Book Club.

Saturday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. Live Music with Chris Minick.

Sunday, May 23 at 3:00 p.m. Meet poet Scott Owens who will read from his new collection *Paternity*. Books will be available for sale.

Tuesday, May 25

- 10:00 a.m. Book Babies
- 6:30 p.m. All Gender All Genre Book Club. New members are always welcome.

Saturday, May 29 at 6:30 p.m. Live Music with Lorraine Conard.

**Blue Ridge
Osondu Books & Cafe**
152 S. Main St., Waynesville, NC
(828) 828-456-6000
www.brbooks-news.com

book reviews

Farewell Navigator

Debut collection of short stories by Leni Zumas

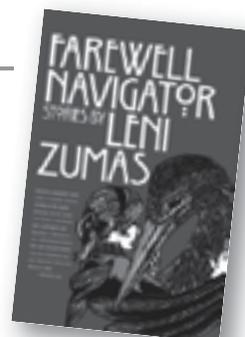
Dive into *Farewell Navigator* (Open City Books 2008), by local author/teacher Leni Zumas, and it's guaranteed your people-watching skills will never be the same. Zumas observes her characters — often the oddball, the zany misfit, the down-cast stranger — with attention so exquisite you'll be unable to see such people ever again without empathy.

The ten stories in this collection aren't high adventure on the salty yonder. Rather

they are metaphors for lost souls tossed about in the murky sea of life. Zumas' characters taste the picking of their own skin, they con and get conned, or they slip in and out of reality. A few are suicidal, or anorexic or vengefully overweight. One is addicted to tapioca pudding. Another one commits bigamy on the run in an attempt to practice sorcery. Since Zumas' close inspection is tempered by compassion, readers feel compelled to respond to her tales with awe and wonder.

Zumas' protagonists search for that star to follow to their personal port of home. In *Farewell Navigator*, the title story, a boy is the only child of blind parents. He's highly talented and at the age where he is considering his plans for college. The boy balks when his school counselors goad him into going away to university. One day, tardy from his classes, he contemplates the dilemma of leaving his disabled parents alone. He sees a small parade of blind children on a field trip, being carefully led by their teachers. All the children look happy and normal except for the flutter of their eyes. The boy then recognizes his lonely jealousy, "They have teachers' hands to pull them. Nobody expects them to know where to go."

In *Thieves and Mapmakers*, another proverbial star gazer is a teen girl bored sick by her town. "In those hot guts of August I would wake up drenched with fears of walking in the Town until I died. My sweat smelled like rust."



REVIEW BY DALE BOWEN

The author weaves tiny beads, threads, and bits of maritime references to underscore her characters' navigation through their rough currents. In *Waste No Time if This Method Fails*, a mental patient keeps *The Odyssey* on his nightstand "so his roommate will fear him." Residents of a nursing home for the young take smoke breaks on a porch in *What a Wicked Son He Was*, as "wind gusted off the great plains to churn in frozen tiding against its rails." One of the young men senses another's disdain for him. "I felt the contempt like a dull radar beam."

Zumas' unique talent is to spin poetically into humanity's secret darkness and steer readers into the breaking light of its textured heart. In *Heart Sockets*, an older woman lusts over a young man and says to him, "What last thing did you think of last night before sleep? Mine was black stars lashed to the bottoms of canoes."

Insightful, outrageous, wildly inventive, hilarious — if you read only one short story collection this spring, let it be *Farewell Navigator*.

IF YOU GO: Leni Zumas and Travis Nichols will have a joint reading Saturday, May 29 at 7:00 p.m. Malaprop's Bookstore/Café. For more information call (828) 254-6734.

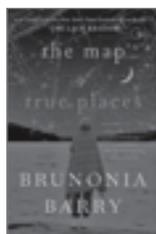
— Dale Bowen is an Asheville writer.

Author's website: www.lenizumas.com



Best-Selling Novelist Brunonia Barry Appears at Malaprop's

Brunonia Barry, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Lace Reader*, discusses her compelling new novel, *The Map of True Places*. It's the emotionally searing tale of a psychotherapist who returns to her childhood home in Salem, Massachusetts, to find her true place in the world.



IF YOU GO: Wednesday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. Malaprop's Bookstore/Café, Asheville (828) 254-6734.

Mountain Born

A Recollection of Life and Language in Western North Carolina. Written by Jean Boone Benfield

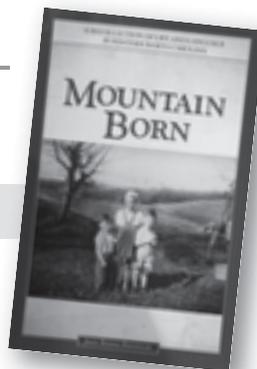
The hand-drawn map on the end pages of *Mountain Born* illustrates the small world in the 1950s that local author Jean Boone Benfield remembers — from Boone Holler and Bear Creek Road in West Buncombe to Haw Creek in the east. Concentrated in that isolated area, the centuries-old traditions from England, Wales and Scotland lived on as if time stood still.

Benfield divides her book into three sections: her memoirs, food, and mountain expressions. The memoir of her childhood is brief, almost pithy, written in a clear, accessible style that makes you eager for more. The second section, plain as grits, without recipes or photos, is about "vittles," or the special food of the mountains. How mouth-watering all this info would be if it were

incorporated into stories or a lavishly photographed cookbook.

The final section is like an archivist's collection of mountain expressions, their history and definitions written with academic precision. Some of the expressions I remember from my own childhood in rural Ohio. My mother was always warning me not to "get up on my high horse." Our school teachers railed against my "ornery" brothers and me because no matter how they tried to civilize us, we were "set in our ways."

Other expressions are particular to the mountains. An exasperated mother might shout at her unruly brood, "You cut that out



REVIEW BY CAULEY BENNETT

or I'm gonna get on you 'like a hen on a June bug.'" Jealous women might complain about a prettier lass — "She was woman enough to make a preacher lay his Bible down."

To put a "bee in your bonnet," Ms. Benfield, I say, don't "tarry" in non-fiction. It would "behoove" you, and Asheville readers, to try your

talented hand at fiction, in a collection of short stories or a novel.

Mountain Born is self-published by The Reprint Company in Spartanburg, It can be ordered at local bookstores.

IF YOU GO: Two Jean Boone Benfield readings: Saturday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. Malaprop's Bookstore/Café, Asheville.

Tuesday, June 9 at 8:00 p.m. Leicester Library.



Bringing a wealth of Reading and Writing to Asheville and WNC for 27 years.

MALAPROP'S
BOOKSTORE/CAFÉ

www.malaprops.com

MAY 2010 Partial Listing - Visit malaprops.com for more events

Friday, May 7, 4:00 p.m.
Wordfest poets reception and signing.

Sunday, May 9, 3:00 p.m. - Fred Flaxman presents *Sixty Slices of Life ... on Wry: The Private Life of a Public Broadcaster*.

Monday, May 10, 7:00 p.m.
Curtis W. Wood, Jr. & Michael Beadle present *Haywood County: Portrait of a Mountain Community*.

Friday, May 14, 5:00 p.m.
Jeffrey Stepakoff presents his first novel, *Fireworks Over Toccoa*.

Friday, May 14, 7:00 p.m.
Poet Paul Guest presents *One More Theory About Happiness*, a gripping memoir.

Saturday, May 15, 7:00 p.m.
Mike Roselle presents *Tree Spiker: From Earth First! to Lowbagging: My Struggles in Radical Environmental Action*.

Sunday, May 16, 5:00 p.m.
Emily Gould presents her new book, *And the Heart Says Whatever*.

Friday, May 21, 7:00 p.m.
Susan Kelly author of *Now You Know* and *How Close We Come*, presents *By Accident*.

Saturday, May 22, 7:00 p.m.
Susan Rebecca White presents her latest novel, *A Soft Place to Land*.

Tuesday, May 25, 7:00 p.m.
Join us for the Fret Knot Radio *LIVE* podcast from Malaprop's Café!

Wednesday, May 26, 7:00 p.m.
Rice Freeman-Zachary will discuss *Creative Time & Space: Making Room for Making Art*.

Friday, May 28, 7:00 p.m.
Glenn Taylor presents his second novel, *The Marrowbone Marble Company*.

Saturday, May 29, 7:00 p.m.
Travis Nichols will read from his book *Off We Go Into the Wild Blue Yonder*.

Tuesday, June 1
Malaprop's 28th Anniversary Sale!

55 Haywood St.
828-254-6734 • 800-441-9829
Monday-Saturday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Downtown Books & News

Over 30,000 Used Books
Over 1,000 New Magazines
European & Domestic Papers
Out-of-Print Book Searches
dbnbooks@mindspring.com

www.myspace.com/downtownbooksandnews

67 N. Lexington Ave - Asheville
Open: M-Th 8-6 • F-Sat 8-8 • Sun 8-6
(828) 253-8654

book reviews

Impatient with Desire

Fiction version of an American tragedy written by Gabrielle Burton

I read this book because it has one of the most beautiful covers I've ever seen. It was so attractive, I figured the designer must have been inspired by the book's contents. Upon further inspection I noted a lovely map on the inside front pages and an inviting design and lay-out throughout. If the artistic team of the publishing company (Voice, a subsidiary of Hyperion Books) respected this book

COMING NEXT MONTH – BLOODROOT, written by Amy Greene. A haunting debut novel set in the hills of East Tennessee. So lyrical you feel like singing its beautiful mountain language, and so haunting you can't stop thinking about it.

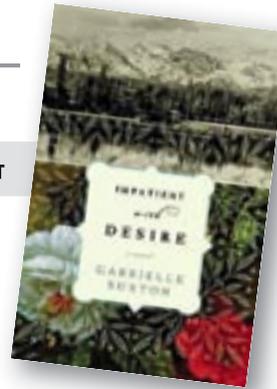
REVIEW BY CAULEY BENNETT

enough to give it their all, then obviously it was worthy of my attention.

I began *Impatient with Desire*, a first novel by Gabrielle Burton, and couldn't put it down till I'd finished it early the next morning. Burton's prose shimmers. Her scope is epic but her focus is exquisite. The characters she created, based loosely on historical figures, are uncannily full of life, even as they're dying. It's as if they're telling their stories by appearing from the ether and materializing before the reader.

The story of the trek across the plains and then the four horrifying months trapped by the Sierra Nevada snow, would ordinarily depress me enough to stop reading. But in Burton's hands the story spirals in time, back and forth, rising and falling, amidst dreams and despair, while floating like a rose petal a weary lover wishes to hold aloft with urgent exhalations.

Forty-five year old Tamsen Donner, mother of five daughters, wife of the expedition leader George Donner, has an incurable wanderlust. Her husband didn't have to talk her into venturing on the long, treacherous journey to a new Promised Land. Tamsen was jumping to go. She was, as people said of her always "impatient with desire." Starting over again in a new land was a dream she would do anything to accomplish.



"...extraordinary achievement in historical fiction..."

A skilled artist and botanist, Tamsen drew pictures of the flowers she saw along the way. She wrote letters to loved ones back home. She kept notes of the daily passage in a leather bound journal, whose cover she and her family would one day have to eat. No one has ever found her journal. But author Burton conjures it up as lucidly as if Tamsen were channeling it.

Many years in the making, *Impatient with Desire* is not merely a labor of love. It's an extraordinary achievement in historical fiction. It stands as tribute to all pioneers who made this great country. In the Author's Notes at the end of the book Burton describes the long process of writing the story and how she adjusted historical truths to imagine the creative fiction. If you enjoy knowing history before its dramatization, you might want to read that section first. In fact, the story behind *Impatient with Desire* is so fascinating Burton wrote another book, a memoir called *Searching for Tamsen*.

The designer of the book jacket deserves to be named — she's Laura Klynstra. *Impatient with Desire* is one of several books produced by a publishing group dedicated to women's work. For more information about these authors see EveryWomansVoice.com.

— Cauley Bennett is an Asheville writer.

Author's website www.GabrielleBurton.com

BOOK FAIR FOR SELF-PUBLISHED LOCAL AUTHORS

If you're like everyone else in Asheville, you're thinking of publishing a book. Now's your chance to meet authors who already did it, buy their books, and chat with them about their experience. It's about time we had a book fair like this one!

It's BYOB: Bring your own books, you're responsible for sales. Used books, goodies, and more.

IF YOU GO

Self-Published Book Fair, Saturday, May 15, from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Kenilworth Presbyterian Church, 123 Kenilworth Rd., Asheville.

Fee is \$10 for participants. Free to attend. Sponsored by the Candy Maier Scholarship Fund for Women Writers. For more information contact Cheryl Dietrich at (828) 277-1757 or email thecandyfund@yahoo.com.

The Girl Who Chased the Moon

Magical happenings in a North Carolina barbecue town.

Written by Sarah Addison Allen

REVIEW BY CAULEY BENNETT

Asheville author Sarah Addison Allen's third novel, *The Girl Who Chased the Moon* (Bantam Books 2010), is as enchanting as her two previous novels. Her fans will love it.

It includes all the things we love about Allen's stories — echoes of fairy tales, quirky southern ways, gentle magic, long-held secrets, tasty eats, characters in search of redemption, and a satisfying ending that makes closing the

"Shining on everyone is the seductive power and soothing touch of moonlight."

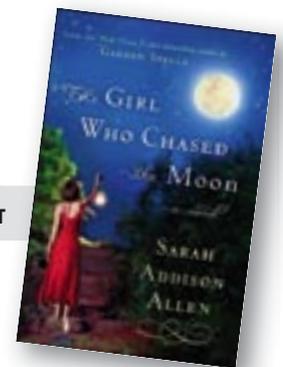
book an act of regret. Shining on everyone is the seductive power and soothing touch of moonlight.

Mullaby is a small southern town where barbecue is king, and the smell of hickory smoke wafts through the air morning and night. A new aroma enters — a siren-call of sweetness from the exquisite cakes baked by Julia. She's a former punk teen with pink hair who has returned to pay off her father's debts — and maybe some of her own.

Young Emily comes to Mullaby for the first time to discover the truth of her dead mother's history. She stays with her grandfather, a reclusive giant; flirts with a strange boy whose father hates her; sees ghostly lights dancing through the trees; and watches the wallpaper in her room eerily change to match her mood.

Will all the secrets be revealed? Will everyone who's hankering to fall in love get the spunk to do it? Will the magic stay no matter how ordinary humans try to ignore it? Oh, of course — Allen's books are fun!

Author's website: www.sarahaddisonallen.com



Let your passion flourish!

CAREER TRAINING

- ★ Fast, Convenient, and Flexible
- ★ Get a Job in Culinary, Fashion, Design or Other Hot Fields

SPEAK TO AN ADVISOR

9 A.M. - 5 P.M. EST
1-866-252-5243

A DEGREE, DIPLOMA, OR CERTIFICATE CAN HELP YOU:

- ✓ Start A New Career
- ✓ Earn More Money
- ✓ Advance Quickly
- ✓ Secure Your Future

Let us help you find the school or program that fits your goals.

FREE Education Advisors Are Ready To Help You!

collegebound Changing Lives Through Education Since 1987

Local Author Ed Nielsen at Accent on Books

Local author Ed Nielsen signs and discusses his highly praised first book, *Warriors*, unique interviews with 19 Vietnam War vets.



IF YOU GO: Saturday, May 15, from 3 to 6 p.m. Accent on Books, 854 Merrimon Ave., Asheville. Call (828) 252-6255 for details.

music

Versatile Pianist and Jazz Artist to Perform May 14

Being hailed as “one of the hottest young pianists in the world,” Anthony Molinaro’s stunning performances and unique versatility have captivated audiences and critics alike since his victory at the 1997 Naumburg International Piano Competition in New York City.

Acclaimed for his “edge-of-the-seat brilliance” and “musically imaginative mind,” Molinaro’s performances have taken him to major music centers throughout the country including Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Miami, Philadelphia, and New York’s

Alice Tully Hall. He has been featured on Ravinia’s Rising Stars Series, The Young Artist Series at the Kravis Center, The Santa Fe Jazz Festival, The Charles Vanda Master Series in Las Vegas, The Grand Teton Music Festival and Eastern Music Festival among many others.

Recent concerto engagements include the Arkansas, Boise, Lake Forest, Louisville, Napa Valley, Naples, Richmond, and Syracuse Symphony Orchestras. He has also performed with the Canton, Cape Cod, Eugene, Flint, Savannah, and Catskill Symphonies as well as with the Chicago Sinfonietta and Chicago Jazz Orchestra. Outside the U.S. Anthony has recently played in France, Germany, The Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, and Canada.

In addition to his traditional concert repertoire, Molinaro is also a gifted composer and jazz artist, giving him a musical dimension uncommon to artists of his generation. He often plays his own cadenzas in Mozart and Beethoven concerti, and his “free-wheeling” and “unconventional” rendition of Rhapsody in Blue features improvised cadenzas. In November 2004 he premiered his first Piano Concerto with the Catskill Symphony and later that year returned to The Chicago Jazz Orchestra to debut his big band arrangement of Rhapsody in Blue.

Molinaro records exclusively for Nineteen-Eight Records, a label he founded in 2001 to support creative music of all genres. His debut CD, “The Bach Sessions” features The Goldberg Variations and the F Minor and A Major Concertos with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Orchestra conducted by Andrew Litton. His follow-up recording, “New Blue,” is a



Classical pianist, composer, and jazz artist Anthony Molinaro.

BY KAY S. MILLER

Gershwin collection featuring his own solo version of Rhapsody in Blue. Titled “New Blue,” the disc also includes Three Preludes and Molinaro’s arrangements and improvisations on the Gershwin classics *Summertime*, *Someone To Watch Over Me*, *Embraceable You*, and *I Got Rhythm*. His most recent recording, “The Molinaro-Levy Project, LIVE” is a collection of performances from The Green Mill in Chicago and a pair of venues in upstate NY.

Molinaro currently lives in his native Chicago. He studied at the University of North Texas and Northwestern University and has won several awards in addition to the Naumburg Prize, most notably the William C. Byrd International Piano Competition and the 1995 National Piano Fellowship from the American Pianist Association.

When he is not performing, Molinaro devotes considerable time to music education. For three summers he has coordinated a music program for physically challenged children in South Hampton, New York. In August of 2008 Molinaro joined the music faculty at Loyola University in Chicago. He is also an avid runner and recently took up the sport of triathlon.

For more information about the Anthony Molinaro concert as well as other programs or events, visit the Haywood County Arts Council website at www.haywoodarts.org. The Concert is sponsored in part by WCQS Radio (88.1FM), John Highsmith, DDS and Mrs. Sandra Hayes, and New Meridian Technologies.

Mr. Molinaro will also be a guest on WCQS Radio with host Dick Kowal on Friday, May 14 at 2 p.m. Classical pianist, composer, and jazz artist Anthony Molinaro will perform in Waynesville on May 14.

IF YOU GO *The Haywood County Arts Council presents Anthony Molinaro in concert, Friday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. The Performing Arts Center, 250 Pigeon Street, in Waynesville, NC.*

Concert tickets are \$20 per person with a limited number of FREE student tickets available. A reception follows the concert.

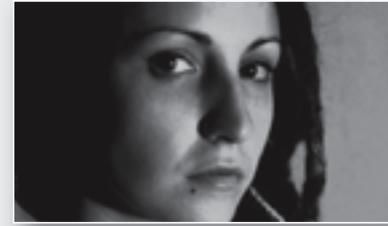
Laura Reed returns to Asheville with Grammy Award-Winning Band

After a year-long hiatus Laura Reed will be returning to the international music scene with new projects and collaborations.

Reed will be appearing live at The Grey Eagle on Friday, May 7 with her newest all-star band. The lineup features the Grammy Award Winning rhythm section comprised of Yonrico Scott and Todd Smallie, both of the Derek Trucks Band, with platinum album producer Buzz Amato (formerly Curtis Mayfield’s Music Director) on keyboard.

Laura’s music has roots going back to her country of birth, South Africa. Laura has absorbed a diverse range of musical influences throughout her deep travels. Her first public appearances at ‘open mic’ venues at the age of 15 led to her debut as the front-woman for the soul/funk outfit, “Laura Reed & Deep Pocket” in 2006.

Musically Laura’s sound is diverse and encompasses the many rhythms and styles she has been exposed to and absorbed over the course of her young life. Laura’s influences range from North American soul/R&B/funk/jazz to South African Xhosa harmonies and township music, to Brazilian Bossa Nova and samba. Her music is a personal reflection and fusion of these different styles, languages, and cultures.



Laura Reed

BY KATHERINE POWELL

Laura has recently returned from a month long trip in Brasil with many more musical influences, as well as a new proficiency in Portuguese to enhance her music

and performances.

From her sultry introductory ‘Hello, my name is Laura Reed...’ to the final note of the evening, the air is infused with a spiritual energy that is immediately absorbed by the audience. Laura’s soulful vocals incite dance, reflection and sometimes, even tears. Laura holds much reverence for live performance and the power music can have on one’s life, and it comes through with every song.

“I find music to be medicine; it has changed my life and provided me with insight and empathy that I feel is a beautiful thing to share.”

For more information on Laura Reed please visit www.laurareed.com.



Laura Reed in concert, *Friday, May 7 at 8 p.m. The Grey Eagle, 185 Clingman Avenue in Asheville. (828) 232-5800 or visit www.thegreyeagle.com. Tickets: \$8/advance, \$10 door. All ages.*

DIVAS AND DRAFTS

White Horse Black Mountain will host a new series – Sunday Classics Concerts! Classic music from opera, art song, musical theatre, chamber and chamber music.

Daniel Weiser, a recent transplant to the Asheville area from New England, will co-ordinate the Sunday Classics series, with the aim of bringing the highest quality chamber and vocal music to this informal and more relaxed type of venue.

Weiser, who co-founded and still directs an award-winning chamber music series in New England called

Classicopia, has long been a strong advocate for performing classical music in non-traditional venues.

Kim Hughes, who co-founded White Horse Black Mountain with her husband, Bob Hinkle, is herself a trained opera singer, having sung several “leading lady” roles in New York City, including Puccini’s *Madame Butterfly*, *Tosca*, *La Boheme*, and *Gianni Schicchi*.

IF YOU GO: *Sunday, May 30 at 2 p.m. \$12 adult, \$8 student. Tickets available at www.whitehorseblackmountain.com or by calling (828) 669-0816. White Horse Black Mountain, 105C Montreat Rd., Black Mountain, NC.*

Jerusalem Garden Cafe

www.jerusalemgardencafe.com

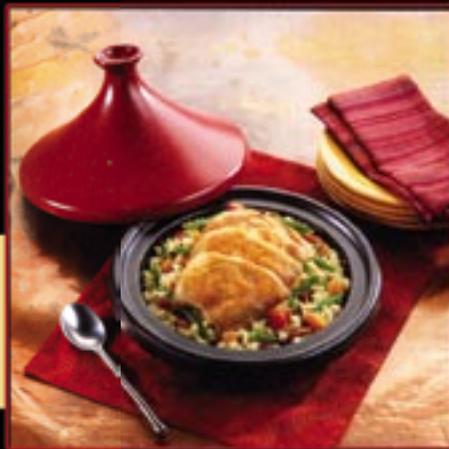


Moroccan and Mediterranean Cuisine

We bring the flavors of Turkey, Lebanon, Cairo, and the Holy Land to you!

Serving Lunch & Dinner

*Best Southern Brunch
Saturday and Sunday!*



Let Us Host Your Event!

We serve small and large groups including weddings.



An evening here will take you to Moroccan nights with authentic music and belly dancing.

78 Patton Ave.
Downtown Asheville

(828) 254-0255

*Belly Dancing & Live Music
Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday Night*

stage preview

What the Butler Saw

What the Butler Saw is a farce with a bite, even 41 years after its premiere. Dr. Rance: "Why are there so many doors? Was this house designed by a lunatic?"

In Joe Orton's brilliantly subversive farce *What the Butler Saw*, the answer of course is "Yes."

Dr. Prentice operates a successful psychiatry practice out of his London home, but when he attempts to seduce his attractive new secretary, it sets off a chain of seductions, cover-ups, mistaken identity and double-crosses.

What the Butler Saw has all the hallmarks of a classic farce, including a higher-than average number of doors. What sets Orton's work apart, however, is the biting social commentary underneath the absurdity. No one escapes unscathed, as Orton gleefully questions our assumptions about psychiatry, government, sexual mores – even the concept of a nuclear family.

Before Orton's untimely death, he shocked, amused, and outraged audiences with his scandalous (and sometimes macabre) comedies. At the premiere of *What the Butler Saw* in 1969, audience members actually shouted at the actors on stage, and tore their playbills to shreds. The *Christian Science Monitor* wrote that the play was "impregnated with evil."

It was only years later that the play became considered a classic of 20th century comedy. Of a 1989 revival of the play, the *New York Times* wrote "to settle for calling Orton's comedy funny is not to do it justice. In this work, the author of "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" and "Loot" wrote that rare



All the hallmarks of a classic farce, combined with biting social commentary.

thing, a truly revolutionary play."

Ron Bashoford directs a stellar local cast in this comedy: Matt Burke, Charlie Flynn-McIver, Casey Morris, Rebecca Morris, Graham Smith and Vivian Smith.

North Carolina Stage Company opens the run of *What the Butler Saw* on Wednesday, May 12 with a Pay What You Can Night sponsored by Minx Boutique. On Pay What You Can Night, tickets are subsidized so that patrons can see the show for as little as \$6. The only catch? You must call ahead to get on the list, and when you get to the show, you have to pay for your tickets in cash, with exact change.

IF YOU GO

"What the Butler Saw" by Joe Orton. Directed by Ron Bashford. May 12 - 30 at North Carolina Stage Company in downtown Asheville.

Regular tickets are \$16 - \$26, varying by day of the week. Call (828) 239-0263 or visit www.ncstage.org.

**Mellow Mushroom
Pizza Bakers**

(828) 236-9800

Open 7 Days a Week



50 Broadway - Asheville, NC

Specialty Pizzas • Spring Water Dough • Salads
Vegan Soy Cheese, and other Vegetarian Options!

Bring in this Ad
and We'll Take
15% Off
Your Order
(Excluding Alcohol)

Delicious
Hoagies & Pretzels
Fresh-Baked Calzones

Wireless
Internet Access!



CRAFT BEER, A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

joe's brew notes

PART 2 Try and Compare: How to Conduct a Tasting with Friends

This second article of a four part series looks into the future of Craft Beer. The first article was about the dramatic growth of beer sales and number of micro breweries. That growth is driven by availability, variety of styles and flavors, and the public's desire to try and enjoy new taste sensations. This and the remaining articles are intended to help expand your flavor palate and influence your choices.

When I was younger, I selected beverages based on the social situation; wine for food and family, beer for pizza and parties, liquor for conversation and contemplation. As I learned about and sampled an ever-increasing variety of imported and craft beer styles, I realized my old habits and prejudices prevented me from full enjoyment of the

Brew News

Craggie Brewing unveils its Antebellum Ale (based on an 1840's American recipe that contained water, molasses, ginger, a touch of yeast, and spruce tips), a pale ale spiked with the flavors of molasses, ginger and spruce, 5%. They collaborated with The Hop Ice Cream Cafe (thehopicecreamcafe.com) to produce a delicious Antebellum ice cream.

French Broad Brewing has opened a new beer oasis, their back patio. Buy a beer and enjoy it and the weather out back. Opens 3 p.m. daily, weather permitting, through the fall.

The Thirsty Monk has a pint night with Magic Hat Brewing that features rare and unusual kegs with a custom Monk/Magic hat logo glass; week of May 10, both locations. On May 20 or 21, they will have a special event with Terrapin Brewing Company from Athens, Georgia. One of the founders, Brian "Spike" Buckowski, the creative force behind Terrapin's uniquely flavored beers, will be in attendance.

Wedge Brewing's Witt bier is now on tap; a delicious Belgian style wheat beer, spiced with coriander and orange peel, light and refreshing, 4.9%. The outdoor movie series starts Saturday, May 1 and continues every Saturday through September. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy; a drive in without the car.

Asheville's Beer City Festival – The festival showcases the beer from 40 North and South Carolina breweries and is scheduled for Saturday, June 5 at Roger McGuire park in downtown Asheville. Tickets (\$35 each) are available at all nine local breweries, Brusin' Ales and Barley's. Buy early, it's expected to sell out.

occasion. Experience improved my taste preferences and flavor became my objective. So why not use a robust porter to make a rich beef stew and enjoy it with a Scottish ale instead of a cabernet. A quiet conversation can be enjoyed with a barley wine or oak aged porter as readily as a top shelf brandy. One beverage type does not exclude the other but rather provides additional options.

To really appreciate what you eat or drink, it helps to consider and discuss why they are enjoyable — the look, the aroma, the flavor. Although my preferences were developed over a long period of time, yours might be expedited by having a tasting that features wine, beer, or a combination of the two. For advice and suggestions on how to conduct a tasting, I spoke with some local experts; Rob Campbell (Wine Guy), Alex Buerckholtz (Hops and Vines) and Jason Atallah (Brusin' Ales).

The experts agree that first and foremost a tasting should be simple and fun. A time when you and your friends discover and enjoy new flavors and share why you like them. It's not what's best in the show, it's what's best in your show. All tastings have a number of common elements — a theme (unifying factor), glassware or plastic cups, water to drink, food to clean the palate, paper and pencils, time to record and discuss your impressions, and an amount of beer or wine appropriate for the number of people attending. Also provide a receptacle for people to pour unwanted samples.

The theme for a tasting can be as simple as presenting 3 bottles of red or white wines that you enjoy, or as complex as a comparison of California, Australian, and French cabernets (for example three of each priced under \$15). For beer the theme can be a comparison of pale ales, one from each local brewery or, more elaborate, styles that are associated with a country, like a German pilsner, an English pale ale, an Irish stout, a Belgian abbey, a Flemish sour, a U.S. IPA. Serve drink samples in order from lightest to richest in flavor; which is normally lightest to darkest in color.

Appetizers and water should be served to refresh the taste buds. The food can be very simple; for example, serve a mild bread with a cheese selection that varies from mild to strong. Cheese is a good choice because it



Rob Campbell, wine consultant and author, Wine Guy.



Alex Buerckholtz owner of Hops and Vines.

BY JOE ZINICH

goes well with both wine and beer. The key is to provide food that does not overpower the taste and aroma of the beverage.

Since a tasting is about the discovery of new flavors and aromas and why you like them, supply a pencil and paper or a scoring card (these can be purchased or found online). Present a description of each beverage served; this will help participants to find words for flavors and aromas, enliven discussions, and help them remember their favorites. Plan for the tasting to take 1 to 3 hours (sometimes more) to complete.

For a wine tasting, each sample should be 2 ounces (or less); one 750-ml bottle can serve 10 – 12 people. To prevent palate fatigue and potential inebriation, serve a maximum of 6 – 8 different wines (the equivalent of 2 – 3 glasses per person). For a more complex tasting, serve the wines in flights of 3 (4 maximum) and don't mix red and white in a flight. A "reception" wine (white for a white wine tasting, red for red, champagne for either) gets the palate ready for the tasting to come. Put a numbered cover over the bottles and serve everyone a sample of each wine in the flight then ask them to record the number of their favorite. Tally the votes, uncover the wines, and discuss the results. Repeat for the remaining flights.

For a beer tasting, each sample should be 4 ounces (or less); one 12-ounce bottle can serve 3 people. Plan to serve a maximum of 8 to 10 beers; the equivalent of 2 – 3 pints per person. If a certain style of beer is presented (example, all IPA's), put a numbered cover on the bottles. If the tasting is more about exploring beers from around the world, numbered covers may not be necessary. Then serve, sample, record, tally and discuss.

As might be expected, a combined beer and wine tasting is best done with food. This tasting is different than the others because the combination of food and beverage together is what's being explored. As an example, invite some friends, grill some red meat, select a shiraz, a stout, a porter, and a lager. Have everyone take a sip of cabernet then eat a cube of meat and record their



Jason Atallah, owner of Bruisin' Ales.

Alex Buerckholtz's passion for home brewing and love of flavorful beers and wine led him to open **Hops and Vines** in West Asheville. Alex is an award winning home brewer, conducts home brewing lessons at his store, and is ranked as a recognized beer judge by the prestigious BJCP organization.

hopsandvines.net

Jason Atallah has been passionate about flavorful imported and American craft beers since the end of his college days. He and his wife Julie have researched and traveled the country to find the beers they enjoyed. Acknowledged "foodies", many of their favorite recipes have been as an ingredient. Together they own **Brusin' Ales**, an all beer (800 different kinds) and beer merchandise store ranked number three in the world.

brusin-ales.com

Rob Campbell successfully opened Atlanta's first wine bar and restaurant. In 1999 he moved to Asheville and opened the **Wine Guy** stores. A wine professional for over 25 years, he is a judge for local and international competitions, a writer for the Laurel of Asheville, and a consultant for wine related events.

Contact him at wino4now@aol.com

experience. Follow that approach with the lager and finally the porter. The discussion should prove to be fun. Most people find the flavors of the shiraz and the lager will contrast with the roasty, caramelization of the meat, the flavors clear. However, the roasty, caramely flavors of the porter enhance and harmonize with the flavors of the meat, the flavors linger.

It's all about flavor. Take the time to taste, enjoy, and explore.



For eight years, Joe Zinich has been taking a self-guided, high-intensity tour of the Asheville beer scene. Contact him at: zzinich@bellsouth.net.

restaurants & wine

Not-So-Random Tales Involving Wine

Wine Spectator Falls for a Hoax

The latest addition to my smart-alek hall of fame is wine critic and author Robin Goldstein, who totally fabricated a fictitious restaurant and applied for *Wine Spectator Magazine's* Award of Excel-

May at the Weinhaus

Reservations are required for these events, please call the Weinhaus at (828) 254-6453 or 1-800-283-1544.

Tuesday, May 4

A fine wine dinner will be held at the Broadmoor Country Club near the Asheville Airport in their clubhouse overlooking the golf course. Catered by Dwight Butner of Vincenzo's, the meal promises to be extraordinary. The time is 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$60 all inclusive.

Tuesday, May 18

Ophelia's restaurant and chef Jamie Allred will present a dinner of classic dishes paired with classic wines provided by the Weinhaus. The time is 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$55 all inclusive.

Friday, May 28

Friday night flights at the Weinhaus will feature A Taste of Northern Italy. The price is \$10 for a tasting and light hors d'ouvres. From 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Held at the Weinhaus, 86 Patton, Ave. Asheville.

Monday, June 7

Sinbad Restaurant in Hendersonville with their fine classical and middle eastern food will prepare a four course wine dinner with appetizers on the deck. The time is 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$55 all inclusive.

The Weinhaus

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

lence. He named the restaurant "Osteria L'Intrepido" (which translates to The Fearless Restaurant), arranged a Google Map locator in Milan, and paid the \$250 application fee. He got the award.

Goldstein posted the imaginary menu and wine list on the internet and listed wines the *Wine Spectator* had actually denounced in previous wine reviews, including an Amarone that had been compared to paint thinner. There were even customer reviews about the nonexistent restaurant on the Chowhound website.

There are two sides to this story. The magazine has long been accused of giving higher ratings and better publicity to advertisers and paying applicants. Yes, they have lost some serious vineyard cred by falling for Goldstein's hoax, but the awards have also drawn attention to deserving restaurants that have worked hard on their wine programs.

There are thirty restaurants within 50 miles of downtown Asheville who have earned the *Wine Spectator* award.

How Fine Wine Foiled a Capitol Crime

The international press went wild for a day in mid-July when a terrifying Capitol Hill robbery got nullified by an intuitive guest and a glass of fine wine. An armed man crashed an outdoor Soirée, pointed the gun at the head of the fourteen year-old daughter, and demanded cash.

One guest, Christina "Cha Cha" Rowan said to the robber: "We were just finishing dinner. Why don't you have a glass of wine with us?"

It worked. He accepted a glass and stuck the gun in his waistband. "Damn, that's good wine," he said. This story does not end before the robber asked for a group hug, and got one. He left with a

BY MICHAEL PARKER

generously filled glass, which was later found empty in a nearby alley, unbroken.

The media made the wine, Chateau Malescot St-Exupery, the hero in this tale rather than the quick-thinking Cha Cha. The wine alone is not due the credit - it took an ambassador from the world of wine (and probably one who goes by the name Cha Cha) to transform this potentially deadly situation. Either she possesses amazingly accurate intuition, or she is a damn lucky risk-taker who deserves a good slap from a specific fourteen year-old girl.

I still wonder if she was trying to distract him so another guest could have the chance to knock him over the head. In a group-hug setting like that, there must have been a least one little concrete garden Buddha within reach. But then again, that would explain the absence of anyone with the fortitude to use it. Further, Cha Cha did offer the robber the whole bottle. Perhaps she really did deserve a good slap.

The press did not report the vintage, but there will be people who buy this label for its temporary fame and a good story, a story that will surely be mangled at most of the dinner parties where it will be told. I am interested in its age just to know whether it was drunk too soon. The current release needs a decade of ageing. Will the robber return when he finds out he drank this wine before its time?

This took me back to a robbery in a downtown Asheville loft in the fall of 2005. In that case, the burglar entered the house while the owner was away and made himself quite at home. As he drank a bottle of white wine, he put a premium Silver Oak Cabernet in the freezer.

The liquid expanded during the process, as water-based liquids do, and pushed



its way through the neck and oozed down the outside of the bottle, creating the frozen ring. Perhaps the burglar's first bottle of wine lent to his forgetfulness. Whatever, it was a shameful, stupid waste that may have been prevented if Cha Cha had been there to keep the red out of the freezer.

A Tale of Two Sakes

I adore sake of all types. Brewed from rice, it is certainly not a wine, but we still tend to call it that. I think that's OK. We know it does not come from grapes, but are comfortable calling it wine because it is a complimentary word for the drink.

I recently considered two brands side-by-side on the store shelf, Gekkeikan for seven dollars and Hakutsuru for fifteen. I bought them both so some friends and I could have a taste test. It was the same day as the Environmental Conservation Organization's tour of green homes.

The two brands were almost identical in taste and quality. Hakutsuru, which is brewed in Japan, offered only a little more fragrance for twice the money. Gekkeikan is brewed in California.

Sake breweries have long been up and running in America and are doing just fine. If you are loyal to Japan, then good for you, but for the green-minded (both environmental and monetary), the green-bottled Gekkeikan better serves those goals.

They always buy the ten cent wine...

Ernest Said Something About That

Michael Veseth, writing for his own excellent Wine Economist blog, tells the story in an April 28, 2008 post:

"The story is told of a sales call that Ernest Gallo made to a New York customer in the dark days of the depression. He offered sample glasses of two red wines — one costing five cents per bottle and the other ten cents. The buyer tasted both and pronounced, 'I'll take the ten-cent one.' The wine in the two glasses was exactly the same. Clearly, the customer wanted to buy an identity — the image of someone who wouldn't drink that five-cent rotgut — even if he couldn't actually taste the difference. 'They always buy the ten cent wine,' Ernest Gallo said."

I wouldn't worry about Hakutsuru's sales figures.

Great values & styles

FREE Wine Tastings on Saturdays from 2 to 5 p.m.

Tasting wine is not only fun, but it presents a chance to learn about wine and what it is about a particular wine that you like, or don't like. You can sip while you shop. Find some new favorites — try it before you buy it. We will usually have a few whites and a few reds open, with the occasional guest speaker. Please stop by!

Wine Retail ~ Tastings ~ Wine Classes
Great wines for any occasion and budget.



555 Merrimon Ave.
(828) 254-6500



STUDIO

(828) 225-5200

Tuesday - Friday
10:00 to 5:30
Saturday 10:00 to 3:00

Custom Framing & Fine Art

- Museum, Conservation, Textile, and Shadowbox Framing.
- Large Selection, Competitive Pricing.
- Consulting and Hanging Service.
 - Attention to Detail
- Regional, National, and International Artwork.

www.galleryatstudiob.com

NEW LOCATION: 171 Weaverville Highway

Just 0.2 of a mile North of the Merrimon Ave./Woodfin Exit

The **ARCH**

Architectural Finishes, Flooring, & More

A resource for designers, architects, renovators, homeowners, and artists.

- Architectural Finishes
- HandMade Art Tile
- FSC-Certified Flooring
- Wood-Fired Ovens

(828) 253-5455

Tuesday - Friday 9:30 to 5:30 • Saturday 10:00 to 3:00



www.thearchnc.com

GTS GREAT TRADE SOLUTIONS inc.

www.GreatTradeSolutions.com

**Stop Spending Your Money
Use Barter**

- ✓ Use Barter **\$\$\$** to Pay the Dentist
- ✓ Pay for Brochures and Other Marketing Materials with Your Barter **\$\$\$**
- ✓ We'll Help You Trade What You Have to Get What You Need
- ✓ Experience the Ultimate Vacation with Your Barter **\$\$\$**

GREAT TRADE SOLUTIONS will show you how to keep more of your money by spending less of it. You can barter for many of the goods and services you are currently using your hard earned money to buy.

Barter is a traditional method used for thousands of years. **GREAT TRADE SOLUTIONS** barter system gets you what you *need* and *want* with a 21st century approach. It's just a smart way to do business.



Call us at **(704) 567-9770**

or email info@GreatTradeSolutions.com

Receive a FREE \$50 Trade

And have our \$295 registration fee waived when you sign up before 6/30/2010.

www.GreatTradeSolutions.com

GTS GREAT TRADE SOLUTIONS

(704) 567-9770

info@GreatTradeSolutions.com

what to do guide™

May 4-8

Asheville Wordfest

Asheville Wordfest 2010 will take place downtown. This year's visiting poets include Mark Doty, Natasha Trethewey, Nickole Brown, American Sign Language Poetry duo The Flying Words Project, Raul Zurita, Linda Hogan, and David Whyte. You can also hear your favorite local and regional poets including Holly Iglesias, Katherine Soniat, Kathryn Stripling Byer, John Hoppenthaler, Glenis Redmond, Laura Hope-Gill and Keith Flynn. Visit www.ashevillewordfest.org.

May 5 - June 8

Juried Photography Exhibition

The 3rd Annual Juried Photography Exhibition will be held from May 5 through June 8 at Grace Centre. This event is open to all photographers. Drop off dates for photograph entries are from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, May 5, and 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, May 6. Fee is \$10 for one entry and \$15 for two.

The opening reception will be 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 8, where awards and cash prizes will be announced. Jurors for the event are Asheville photographers Jenny Bowen and Rebecca D'Angelo. An entry form can be downloaded at www.graceinfo.org or

can be filled out at the time the work is dropped off.

Grace Centre is located on Highway 280, three miles west of the Asheville Airport next to the Land Rover. Contact Craig Lotz, Arts Director (828) 231-2700 or CraigLotz@gmail.com for more information.

Friday, May 7

The Megan and Moe Show

Local artists Moe Donnelly and Megan Stone will be showcasing their work in the F.W. Front Gallery at Woolworth Walk for the month of May. Moe of Sew Moe Designs creates unique women's clothing. Megan uses collage, decorative papers, paint, colorful threads and more to decorate her handmade books. Meet the artists on May 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. Woolworth Walk, 25 Haywood Street in Asheville. Gallery Hours: Monday through Saturday 11 to 7 p.m., Sunday 11 to 5 p.m. Phone: (828) 254-9234.



May 7-29

River District Artists Exhibit

Henderson County Arts Council, 538 North Main Street, 2nd Floor, in downtown Hendersonville. Free and open to the public.

Saturday, May 8
Chuck Palahniuk Reading

Chuck Palahniuk will be reading from and signing copies of his new book *Tell All* at 7 p.m. at the

Asheville High School auditorium, 419 McDowell St. Tickets are \$30 plus tax and include a signed copy of *Tell All*. There are 100 Golden Tickets (also \$30) available. These 100 VIPS will get to meet Chuck and have their books personalized. Tickets available at Malaprop's Bookstore, or call 1-800-441-9829. Books and tickets must be picked up prior to the event and are available beginning Tuesday, May 4.

Sunday, May 9

Mother's Day Greek Luncheon & Bake Sale

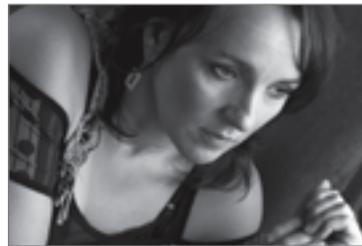
The Annual AHEPA Mother's Day Luncheon will be held at the Hellenic Center of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 227 Cumberland Ave. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

As always it will be Cafeteria Style with a variety of Greek Gourmet dishes like Lamb Shank with Manestra, Baked Chicken with rice, Spanakopita,

Pastichio, Moussaka, Spanakopita etc. We will also have a variety of our pastries, cookies and breads, like our famous Baklava, Napoleons Kourabiettes, Melomakarouna, Koulourakia, Paximathia, etc. Our Greek folk dance troop will perform the traditional Greek dances dressed in the authentic costumes. Tours of our newly renovated Byzantine Style Sanctuary will also be available.

Carry out will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. To place your order call Andrea Zourzoukis at (828) 258-3938 the church office at (828) 253-3754 or the Hellenic Center at (828) 254-7424 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

AHEPA stands for American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, and its mission is to promote Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family and individual excellence. Portion of the proceeds will benefit local philanthropic causes.



Karan Casey Photo: Robert Hakalski

Friday, May 14

Karan Casey Band

Hailed as "the most soulful singer to emerge in Irish traditional music in the past decade" by the *The Glasgow Herald*, Karan Casey brings her warm and evocative voice to Diana Wortham Theatre with her band. Mainstage Celtic Series. Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place. 8 p.m. Friday, May 14. Regular \$30; Senior \$28; Student \$25; Children 12 & under \$12; Student Rush day-of-the-show (with valid I.D.) \$10. Tickets/Info: (828) 257-4530 or online at www.dwththeatre.com.

Saturday, May 15

Black Mountain Garden Show and Sale

The Fifth Annual Black Mountain Garden Show and Sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sutton Avenue (across from the old train depot). Local vendors will offer a wonderful variety of perennials, annuals, ornamentals, herbs – both kitchen and medicinal, vegetable plants, native trees and shrubs, gardening books, and garden accessories.

Throughout the day there will be rain barrel demonstrations and sales; free Children's Activities from 1 to 4 p.m.; and a Silent Auction featuring household and garden items.

Proceeds from the Silent Auction will

HandMade: The Western North Carolina Craft, Architecture & Design Expo

Friday, June 25 & Saturday, June 26

A two-day event inviting the public to join artists, architects, builders and designers to share and learn about successful collaborations between craft artists, home owners and industry professionals.



Drawing from the tremendous craft resources that are a unique and vital part of Western North Carolina, the event will emphasize craftsmanship in architectural elements and design for both high-end and mid-range home markets.

Model home rooms utilizing handmade objects will be featured. Educational sessions, craft demonstrations inside and on the Arboretum grounds, and craft commission opportunities for artists will also be offered. Tours of homes and offices that exemplify the use of craft in the built environment will be scheduled for both days.

HandMade in America is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to grow handmade economies by creating tools, markets, and partnerships that honor craft, cultural heritage, and a spirit of community. Since its founding, HandMade in America's vision has been to make WNC known nationwide as the center of the handmade object.

The North Carolina Arboretum, 100 Frederick Law Olmstead Way, Asheville, NC. For additional information please visit www.handmadeinamerica.org/designexpo

Barry at (828) 338-0042 or visit www.TheChristSoul.com.



Photo: Tanya Tucka

Saturday, May 29
Bua in Concert

Described as "the essence of a superb band" by *Irish Music Magazine*, the young and highly talented

quintet Bua brings driving traditional Irish music to Asheville. Mainstage Celtic Series. Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place. 8 p.m. Saturday, May 29. Regular \$30; Senior \$28; Student \$25; Children 12 & under \$12; Student Rush day-of-the-show (with valid I.D.) \$10. Tickets/Info: (828) 257-4530 or online at www.dwththeatre.com.

Sunday, May 30

Asheville Community Band

The Asheville Community Band presents a free program of Patriotic music at 3p.m. at the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Seating is available in the auditorium or bring a picnic and enjoy the music on the grassy area outside. For more details contact Ralph Campbell, (828) 254-2234.

go to support the work of the Black Mountain Beautification Committee volunteers who plant and maintain the public Town of Black Mountain garden sites. There is no admission charge to attend the Garden Show.

Sunday, May 16

Amanda Horton and Dewitt Tipton in recital

"First Love, Last Love": Amanda Horton, soprano, and Dewitt Tipton, piano, present music for piano and voice. Music from Mozart, Grieg, Sibelius, Liszt, Bernstein and the American songbook. Sunday May 16 at 4 p.m. at the Cathedral of All Souls, Biltmore Village, Asheville. Suggested donation: \$10 general public, \$5 musicians.

Sunday, May 16

Up The River

Second Annual Studio Open House, 2 to 5 p.m. Third Floor Studios, Riverside Business Park, 2000 Riverside Drive. For more information: randy@randysiegelart.com

Thursday, May 27

Free Christ Meditation Teleconference Call

The Christ Meditation is being offered via free teleconference call on Thursday, May 27th, 8-9pm, to anyone who wishes to experience blessings for greater oneness with their Christ presence. To sign up contact Mary &

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 Or mail to: 85 N. Main St, Canton, NC 28716. 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.

MAY EVENTS ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ CLASSIFIEDS

what to do guide™

Hangout Beach Music and Arts Festival

Friday, May 14 - Sunday, May 16

The Hangout Beach, Music and Arts Festival will take place on four stages including two main stages located directly on the beach. Take in the diverse lineup, then go on a deep-sea fishing adventure, putter around on a number of championship golf courses, enjoy fresh seafood from a seaside restaurant, or build sandcastles on beach.

During this inaugural festival attendees will be treated to three days of music from national headliners and Grammy award winners of rock, country, soul, bluegrass, funk, and blues.

Friday, May 14 – Zac Brown Band, Alison Krauss and Union Station featuring Jerry Douglas, The Black Crowes, North Mississippi Allstars Duo, Girl Talk, Pnuma Trio, Orianthi, Brett Dennen, Jeff Austin and Friends featuring Larry Keel, Davy Knowles and Back Door Slam, Rachel Goodrich, Kirsten Price, El Cantador, Ben Arthur, and Hightide Blues.

Saturday, May 15 – John Legend, The Flaming Lips, Jakob Dylan and Three Legs featuring Neko Case and Kelly Hogan, Gov't Mule, Funky Meters, Rodrigo y Gabriela, Grace Potter and the Nocturnals, Jerry Jeff Walker, Ozomatli, The Whigs, Toubab Krewé, Moon Taxi, A.A. Bondy, Wild Sweet Orange, Jon Black, and Rustlanders.

Sunday, May 16 – Trey Anastasio and TAB, Ben Harper and Relentless7, Ray LaMontagne, Michael Franti and Spearhead, Guster, NeedToBreathe, Matisyahu, Keller Williams, OK Go, Blind Boys of Alabama, Black Joe Lewis and the Honeybears, ALO, Matt Hires, Kristy Lee, Roman Street, Rollin' in the Hay, and The Cary Laine Band.

Hightide Blues, Ben Arthur, Jon Black, The Cary Laine Band, and Rollin' in the Hay, the winners of the Hangout band search hosted by Sonic Bids, will also perform.

Festival tickets are available online at www.hangoutmusicfest.com. 101 East Beach Boulevard at the southern end of AL-Hwy 59, Gulf Shores, AL. Tickets: \$159 Three-Day Pass; \$79 Limited Day Pass. VIP travel packages start at \$500. Phone 1-888-512-SHOW.

www.hangoutmusicfest.com

Plein Air Painting with John Mac Kah

May 24 -28, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Traditional methods in direct painting (alla prima) and indirect painting on location, Painting two days using each method. We start in studio, with one day for technical procedures and demos, summary and critique.

Come prepared with a lightweight field easel, oil paints, folding chair, notebook, and a packed lunch. Tuition: \$450. Space is limited, so register now to guarantee your seat in the class. You can also email info@fineartsleague.org or call (828) 252- 5050 for more information. Fine Arts League of the Carolinas, 362 Depot St., in Asheville.



Best in Show

by Phil Juliano



Callie & Cats

by Amy Downs



Corgi Tales

by Phil Hawkins



Dragin

by Michael Cole



Concerts at St. Matthias Church

Concerts start at 3 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, May 2 there will be a concert by a chamber choir and orchestra performing Bach's Cantata 214 and Handel's Coronation Anthem and more under the direction of Milton Crotts. Soloists include: Kristina Pontin, Amanda Porter, Brandon Herder, and Jonathan Ross. This will be part of the First Sunday Classical Chamber Music Series.

Sunday, May 9 the Richard Schulman Trio will perform a concert of jazz music for piano, bass and percussion. This will be part of the Second Sunday Jazz Series.

Sunday, May 16 the Horn Society of the Carolinas will present a program for an all horn ensemble.

Sunday, May 23 the Silverwood Trio will perform a program of classical music for two flutes and cello. The flutists are Jo Northup and Georgia Presseman, and the cellist is Elizabeth Glatstein.

A free-will offering will be taken for the restoration of the beautiful and historic church. St. Matthias' Church is over 100 years old and is on the national historic register. In some cases the offering will be shared with the performing group. The church is located in Asheville just off South Charlotte Street at Max Street on the hill across from the Asheville Public Works Building (1 Dundee St.).

Call for Artists and Food Vendors

The Haywood County Arts Council is seeking artists and food vendors for its 25th Annual International Festival Day to be held Saturday, July 31 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Main Street in historic downtown Waynesville, NC.

Food vendors selling international cuisine and artists in all media are encouraged to apply. All art must be original work to be juried into the show. There will be over \$1,000 in prizes awarded. Booth spaces are 10 x 12 feet and all are corner spaces. Interested artists and food vendors can download an application at www.haywoodarts.org, or email info@haywoodarts.org, or call (828) 452-0593.

Music at French Broad Chocolates

Wednesday, May 5 – Wine Wednesday with Geoff Weeks and his talented soul / jazz piano stylings.

Friday, May 14 – The High Gravity Jazz Trio. Intimate jazz standards and originals, in the style of Chet Baker and Cy Touff.

Friday, May 21 – Juan Holladay, guitar, and Eliza Sydney, harp, will be playing at 8 p.m. at the Chocolate Lounge, 1st floor.

Friday, May 28 – Paul Cataldo - This acoustic guitar player and singer will bring the house down!

Friday, May 29 – The High Gravity Jazz Trio. Intimate jazz standards and originals.

French Broad Chocolates

10 S. Lexington Ave., Asheville, NC • (828) 252-4181

www.frenchbroadchocolates.com

CLASSES ~ LECTURES ~ ARTS & CRAFTS ~ READINGS

Save up to 75% on Term Life Insurance!

Save time, too! Call Matrix Direct for a quick, accurate quote—*right over the phone.*

Why pay more for the quality life insurance coverage you need to help protect your family? Take advantage of big savings on quality term life insurance coverage with term choices from 10 to 30 years. Call now for your FREE, no obligation, life insurance quote. Expert advice, convenient service, and affordable rates...with one easy phone call to 1-888-355-0394!

Look at how little you could pay each month.*

| | | Guaranteed Level Premium Period | |
|-----------------|--------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Coverage Amount | | 10 year \$250,000 | 10 year \$500,000 |
| AGE 35 | Male | \$12.60 | \$16.98 |
| | Female | \$10.63 | \$15.23 |
| AGE 45 | Male | \$18.94 | \$31.85 |
| | Female | \$17.19 | \$28.35 |

Call Toll-Free
1-888-355-0394

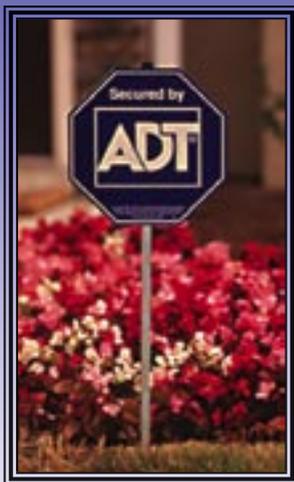
matrixdirect
INSURANCE SERVICES

*Matrix Direct, Inc. is a subsidiary of American General Life Insurance Company (AGL) and an affiliate of The United States Life Insurance Company in the City of New York (USL). Rates current as of 11/1/09. Preferred Plus Underwriting Class. Form #07007, issued by AGL, Houston, TX. Premium charges depend on evidence of insurability. Premiums increase at the end of the guaranteed term if renewed. Death benefit remains level. The policy may be contracted for two years from date of issue for material misstatements or omissions on the application. Policy is limited to return of premium paid in the event of suicide within first two years. The underwriting rules, financial and contractual obligations and support functions associated with products issued by AGL, are its responsibility. AGL does not solicit business in the state of NY. Policies and riders not available in all states. In NY State, term life insurance is available through USL, Form #07008. Comparison based on monthly premium rates as of 11/1/09 for a 10 year level term policy, issued at each company's best published rates for a female, age 30, non-smoker. Agency services provided by Ronald J. Oehrl Harris in VA, TN and VT, Matrix Direct Insurance Services in CA (90057619), NC, NH, and OK, Matrix Direct Insurance Agency, Inc. in UT, and Matrix Direct, Inc. in WI (4296412) and all other states, except SD.

FREE Home Security System!

At no cost to you for parts and activation with only a \$99 installation fee and the purchase of alarm monitoring services. Terms & Conditions below.

\$850 Value!



- ✓ Front and Back Doors Protected
- ✓ Infrared Motion Detection Sensor
- ✓ Digital Keypad with Police, Fire, Medical, and Emergency Buttons
- ✓ Warning Siren
- ✓ Control Panel with Battery Back-Up
- ✓ Lawn Sign and Window Decals

CALL NOW and receive a
FREE wireless remote control
with **PANIC BUTTON!**



1-877-694-8308

Mon-Fri 9am - 10pm - Sat 9am-7pm - Sun 11am - 6pm EST

Ad provided by MediaBids.com. 1-866-236-2259.



Protect Your Home

\$99.00 Customer Installation Charge. 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$35.99 per month (\$1,295.64). Form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account. Offer applies to homeowners only. Local permit fees may be required. Satisfactory credit history required. Certain restrictions may apply. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Dealer customers only and not on purchases from ADT Security Services, Inc. Other rate plans available. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Licenses: AL-08-1104, AZ-ROC217517, CA-AC06320, CO-110357041, CT-ELC.0193944-L5, DE: 07-212, FL- EC13003401 GA-LVA205157, ID-PS070009, IL-128-000169, IN-124-001506, KY-City of Louisville: 4836, LA-F1082, MD: 30339155,107-1375, MN- TS01807, MO-5870395, City of St. Louis LC7017450, CC354, MS-15007958, NC- 25310-SP-LV, NE-14451, NM-353366, NV-68518, NY-Licensed by the N.Y.S. Department of State UID# 12000286451, OH-Reg #AC86, OK-1048, OR- 170997 PA-3186237, RI-3428, SC- BFS.11674 BAQ, TN- C-1164, TX-B13734, UT-6422596-6501, VA-115120, VT-ES-2382 WA- 602 588 694/PROTEYH934RS, WI- City of Milwaukee M-0001599, WV- WV042433.

fine art

Two Asheville Artists Featured in Virginia's William King Museum

BY KATHY LOWDERMILK

William King Museum opens its next exhibition, *The Subject of Being*, May 14, featuring works by Megan Van Deusen and Gabriel Shaffer.

Megan Van Deusen's subtle, almost monochromatic figures evocatively emerge from the creases and folds of the material she works on. Her figures are suggestive of academic life-drawing, but the process of layering and draping the fabrics transforms a traditional two-dimensional work into a sculptural installation.

Similarly, Gabriel Shaffer's paintings on salvaged materials and collage emphasize the object-hood of his work as well as the journeyed process in which they are created.



Gabriel Shaffer, "Dreamin, Breathin, Berlin" Mixed media on box style canvas.

celebrating the opening of *The Subject of Being: Mixed Media Works* by Megan Van Deusen and Gabriel Shaffer. Free and open to the public.

Megan Van Deusen studied art at the Interlaken School of Art, Stockbridge, MA, Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, and received her

BFA in 2009 from the University of North Carolina at Asheville. She is a recipient of the 2009 Doris P. Deal Fellowship Fund for Emerging Visual Artists administered by Theatre Art Galleries of High Point, NC.

Gabriel Shaffer is the son of renowned folk/visionary artist Cher Shaffer. He was raised within the self taught medium and had contact with many folk and outsider artists as a young boy. Some of Shaffer's most notable collectors include members of the rock bands Nirvana, Nine Inch Nails, Cat Power, and best selling Sci Fi/Fantasy author Tad Williams.

The exhibition will be on view through October 24, 2010.



Megan Van Deusen, "Re-Presentation" Acrylic, oil, coffee, bleach, graphite on linen.

His figures are graphic, brightly colored and display wild and boisterous personas. While aesthetically dissimilar, both artists share an affinity for experimentation and the ability to defy conventional views of figuration.

Join William King Museum on Thursday, May 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. for a reception

IF YOU GO William King Museum is located at 415 Academy Drive in Abingdon, VA. Free parking is available and the facility is fully accessible. Hours of operation are Tues. 10-9, Wed. - Sat. 10-5, and Sun. 1-5. For more information, contact the Museum at 276-628-5005 or visit www.williamkingmuseum.org.

Contrast – FW Front Gallery at Woolworth Walk

Glass artist Kyle Keeler and fiber artist Brenda McVey will be featured in the F.W. Front Gallery at Woolworth Walk for the month of June. Kyle creates gorgeous functional and decorative glass pieces including but not limited to jewelry, vases, perfume bottles, and sculptures.

Providing a delightful juxtaposition to Kyle's glass works are Brenda McVey's soft fiber pieces. Brenda uses variegated yarns to help expand the color palette

and to create movement in her work. She strives to create hand woven articles which are artful in design and elegant in function. Opening reception, June 4 from 5 to 7 p.m.



Kyle Keeler

IF YOU GO: Woolworth Walk, 25 Haywood Street in Asheville. (828) 254-9234 Hours: Mon. through Thurs. 11-6 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11-7p.m., Sun. 11-5 p.m.

healthy lifestyles

The Truth About Prostate Cancer

BY MAX HAMMONDS, MD

Martin Ware sat on the edge of the exam table, dressed only in his underwear, barely covered by a thin, paper examination gown. "I hope we get this over with soon," he thought. Martin was worried.

Dr. Doren breezed into the room, a patient chart in his hand and a smile on his face. "Good morning, Martin. How are we doing today?" The doctor's eyes quickly took in the stiff posture and the worried facial expression of his patient.

"I'm a little worried – about what's going to happen today." Martin fidgeted on the end of the table.

Dr. Doren sat down on the little roll around stool and crossed his legs. "What about?" he asked.

"I've been reading in the papers about prostate cancer and I know you had them draw my PSA last week." Martin was talking rapidly, anxiously. "And I saw that some doctors want to do digital exams every year and some don't think you need to. And my friends said that I was in for it today. And I just wondered . . . what would happen."

Dr. Doren gazed up at the ceiling for a long moment. "Well, let's start at the beginning," he began. "First of all, you are here for a yearly physical exam – an exam of all of you, not just your prostate. So my concern is for your total health, body and mind and spirit.

I'll be talking with you about many areas of your life. Your prostate isn't even among the top three subjects."

"Second, you are uniquely you. While there are guidelines for investigation and treatment of many diseases, I have to take into account your unique factors – your family history, your propensity to disease, your other risk factors – in deciding what questions to ask, what specific physical exams to do, and what lab tests to order." Dr. Doren stared at him seriously. "Don't make medical decisions based on newspaper articles and discussions with your friends, Martin. If you are concerned, come talk to me."

Martin shrugged his shoulders to relieve the tension. So far, nothing he had heard had removed his worries.

Dr. Doren continued, "Now so far as prostate cancer is concerned – this is a disease of older men, men over 60 or 70. You are . . ." He flipped to the front of the chart he held in his hands. "You are 52," he said looking up. "Your chances of getting prostate cancer are very small." Dr. Doren paused and held up his hand. "But let's ask. Did your father or your brother have prostate cancer?"

"No," Martin answered.

"Did your mother or any of her relatives have breast or ovarian cancer?"

Martin thought about it. "No." "And you aren't African-Ameri-

can. So you aren't in any of the high risk groups. And your chances of prostate cancer are very small indeed. Feel better yet?"

"A little," Martin said with a small laugh.

Dr. Doren again checked the chart. "I did a rectal exam and an initial PSA on you two years ago – when you turned 50. Your prostate was normal size then and your PSA was 1.3. The PSA we drew last week is 1.5. So there is no need to go any further. No rectal exam today."

Martin laughed out loud. "Okay, now I'm not worried."

But Dr. Doren was still straight-faced. "However, if your PSA had been over 2, we would be doing a rectal exam. And if it had been over 3, I would be sending you to a urologist. It's not the PSA number so much as it is how fast the number is climbing. When the PSA climbs rapidly, it's worrisome." Then he smiled, "But that's not your numbers and that's not your situation." Then, shaking his head Dr. Doren mumbled to himself, "Lab tests and exams should not be stopped blindly or done arbitrarily by some non-personalized guideline."

Dr. Doren looked up. "Now as to your cholesterol levels – we have some talking to do."

Martin took in a deep breath and listened.

SETTLE IRS TAXES

For a fraction of what you owe

If you qualify we can:

- ✓ Stop wage garnishments
- ✓ Remove bank levies, tax levies, property seizures
- ✓ Settle state and business payroll tax problems
- ✓ Eliminate penalties, interest charges and tax liens

GET THE BEST POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT WITHIN IRS GUIDELINES

AMERICAN TAX RELIEF

If you owe over \$15,000 in back taxes **CALL NOW**

FREE CONSULTATION

- No Obligation • Confidential



1-888-722-1888

Now You Can Find Freedom From Debt!

CONSOLIDATED CREDIT COUNSELING SERVICES, INC.
When debt is the problem, we are the solution.

- ☞ Lower monthly payments
- ☞ Reduce or eliminate interest rates
- ☞ Pay off debt faster
- ☞ Rebuild their credit rating
- ☞ With FREE confidential counseling and financial education

Call 1-888-707-5475

Vegetarian Dinner, Silent Auction & Concert

Women's Wellbeing & Development Foundation will host a Vegetarian Dinner/Silent Auction & Concert to benefit a local service project for women.

Women's Wellbeing & Development Foundation is an international socio-spiritual organization whose purpose is to elevate the status of women worldwide. WWD-F continues to provide food, shelter, clothing and education to hundreds of Haitian families. Locally, we are starting a rural self-sufficient community for women. This event is a benefit for work on this developing project.

Join us on May 15 for a sumptuous feast, silent auction and concert! The silent auction features health and wellness opportunities, entertainment

vouchers and tickets, hand-crafted and vintage accessories, table-top accessories, garden items, items for your children, jewelry, earrings, necklaces, and much more.

The Women's Wellbeing & Development Foundation Vegetarian Dinner, featuring international cuisine, will be held Saturday, May 15, 2010 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Asheville at 6 p.m. Silent auction bidding ends at 8 p.m. World Music will be performed at 7:30 by Anjali Na and Rene Ochoa. Tickets are \$20.



For more information visit wwd-f.org/events.html, or contact Mirra at (828) 423-4909.

Haywood County Quilt Trails Project

The Quilt Trails projects help communities find and tell their stories. Quilt squares represent a much-loved symbol of comfort, family, heritage, and community. The trails provide splashes of color in the rural countryside.



If you would like to purchase a quilt block for your barn or building, applications may be requested

via email at info@haywoodarts.org, by calling (828) 452-0593, by visiting the Haywood County Arts Council at 86 N. Main Street, Waynesville, or by downloading an application from www.haywoodarts.org.

Have You or One of Your Loved Ones Experienced Negative Side-Effects From Using Yaz®, Yasmin® or Ocella®?

We Can Help.

FDA Warning: Yaz®, Yasmin® or Ocella®, the popular birth control pill has serious risks.

- Stroke
- Blood Clots
- Deep Vein Thrombosis
- Heart attack
- Gallbladder disease
- Pulmonary Embolism

If you or a loved one has used Yaz®, Yasmin® or Ocella® and suffered any of the serious side-effects listed above, call Zimmerman Reed at 1.888.313.1216. These are potentially life threatening complications.



Attorney: Stacy Hauer
651 Nicollet Mall, Suite 501
Minneapolis, MN 55402



Call now for the help you deserve. **1.888.313.1216**

Sandwiches • Soups
Malts • Floats • Shakes
Organic Coffee



Meet me at
the SODA FOUNTAIN

W
WOOLWORTH WALK
25 Haywood St.

828.254.9234
woolworthwalk.com

The
Chocolate Fetish

Enjoy and Give the Best™

Award Winning Handcrafted Chocolates

We Ship Nationwide
Order Online Now
www.chocolatefetish.com

Voted Best Chocolate Shop in Western
North Carolina Twelve Consecutive Years!



36 Haywood St. • Downtown Asheville, NC • (828) 258-2353

\$500 MILLION

Look us up...
NationalHealthLottery.com



Workshops ~ Classes
Open Air & Studio
Gallery, Demos

Spring & Summer
Painting Classes

Cotton Mill Studios
122 Riverside Drive

www.JohnMacKah.com
828-225-5000



John Mac Kah

double exposure

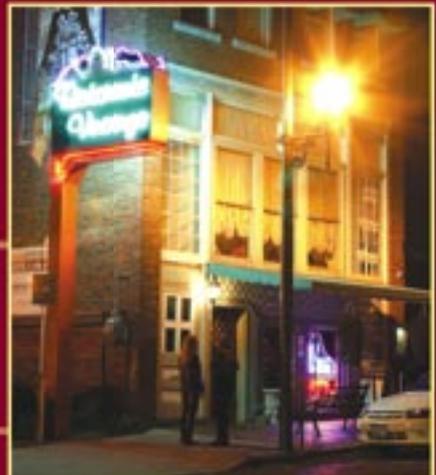
Giclee
Fine Art Printmaking

828.299.8180
Asheville, NC
doubleexposureart.com



Vincenzo's
Ristorante & Bistro

Dinner: Mon.-Thurs. 5:30-10:00
Fri. & Sat. 5:30-11:00
Sunday 5:30-9:00
Reservations Suggested



frugal framer
established 1975

knowledgeable assistance
conservation framing
conscientious craftsmanship
on-site production

95 Cherry Street N
Downtown Asheville
(828) 258-2435
www.frugallframer.com

2145 Hendersonville Road
Skyland Springs Shopping Center
Arden, NC
(828) 687.8533

MON - SAT 9:30 - 5:30

Making Memories Every Night

- Time Honored Recipes of Old Italy
- Live Music (Jazz, Blues & Standard)
- 1/2 Price Happy Hour Appetizers
- Daily Italian Wine and Drink Specials

10 N. Market St. 828-254-4698

www.Vincenzos.com