

San Benito County Arts Council

To Promote, Assist, and Provide Access to the Arts in San Benito County
www.sanbenitoarts.org



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ART EXPOSED

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR ARTS COUNCIL MEMBERS

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October 2008

CONNECTING WITH BANJO-OLOGIST

Benjamin Chase, age 13, wants to learn how to play the banjo, and after hearing Gordy Ohliger (a.k.a. the Banjo-ologist), Ben has truly been bitten by the bug. He is eager to learn how to cluck, one of many terms used to describe the method of strumming a banjo.

The crowd was enthusiastic "clapping and laughing throughout the evening, and the gathering on stage at the end was very warm," wrote Gordy in a thank you note to the Board. Benjamin was just one of many students in the crowd, but he and Gordy connected, with a lesson right then and there on the stage. Only the dimming of house lights brought the pair back to reality.

Gordy expressed his own enthusiasm after everyone had gone home. Interacting with students like Benjamin who are eager to learn, is Gordy's greatest reward.



After the show, the Banjo-ologist only paused for a moment to wipe his brow before explaining his banjos to members of the audience, including 13 year old Benjamin Chase (far right).

His eyes sparkled even though the hour was late, and he had a boomalacka rhythm in his step that only a banjo player could mimic.

Gordy has been contacted by a local teacher to do some school shows, and the Gilroy Museum would also like a program. If you missed his performance in September, you will want to attend the next time he is in the area; Gordy has proven his banjo chops! ✍

A LETTER TO THE BANJO-OLOGIST

"Its me Ben just saying hi. I got a book and a tuner, to start off. Thanks for the information about banjo stuff, it was lots of help. The show was really good. The part I like the most was when you yelled "party" and made my brother jump. The banjo with the muffler is really cool, and the sticker joke was funny."

—Benny Boy

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Items of Interest

- Space is still available in Alyson Stanfield's workshop, *I'd Rather Be in the Studio [But I Have to Eat]*. Save \$30 and register by December 1, 2008. Get more information on our website.
- Call for Artists to participate in Open Studios 2009. The deadline to enter is January 9, 2009. Applications are available on line.

Community Events

- **Sep 19 to Oct 12**, Images of Pinnacles National Monument at Galeria Tonantzin
407 Second Street
San Juan Bautista
- **Oct 25**, San Benito Stage Company presents *Murder at the Banquet*
Pietra Santa Winery
Tickets available at PostNet
- **Oct 26**, Aromas Hills Artisans Autumn Art Sunday—Make a piece of art and take it home!
9:00 to 11:30 am
- **Nov 14-16**, San Benito Stage Company presents Disney's *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.*
- **Nov 21-23**, San Benito Stage Company presents Disney's *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.*
- **Dec 6-7**, Aromas Hills Artisans Holiday Open Studio
- **Dec 7**, Oriana Chorale Christmas Concert
Trinity Lutheran Church
2300 Airline Highway 2:00 pm
- **Dec 10**, Oriana Chorale Christmas Concert
Mission San Juan Bautista
7:30 pm

OCTOBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER 2008

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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JANUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

INCLUDE YOUR EVENT

If you would like to include your Arts event in this newsletter or on our website, please provide us with all the perti-

nent information by calling the office at 831.636.2787 or sending email to info@sanbenito.arts.org.

MEET THE ARTIST—SYLVIA NICHOLS

Sylvia began her art career with a watercolor of her church as a primitive art assignment for school. Her mother entered the watercolor in a regional art show, and Sylvia received her first award for the Wisconsin Rural Art Program.

Most recently, Sylvia entered a Linocut in the annual exhibit

Celebrate Agriculture with the Arts in Madera. "I entered my vegetable block prints from time to time, and after a hiatus, entered my linocut of Bertuccio's unique, old truck, full of its wonderful advertisement signs," and Sylvia was very pleased to win

first place in the Farm Machinery category.

Block prints became interesting to Sylvia in college when she took a

course in fine printmaking. Today her ideas for linocuts and woodcuts come from her sketches of local interest and world trips. She does her cut-

ting outdoors at the picnic table (the sun warms the linoleum) and printing by hand in her kitchen.

In addition to block prints, Sylvia also paints wonderful watercolors of many historical homes in Hollister.

"I entered my vegetable block prints from time to time, and after a hiatus, entered my linocut of Bertuccio's unique, old truck full of its advertisement signs."



San Benito County
Open Studios
April 25-26, 2009

HELPING HAND IN TOUGH TIMES

Christmas came early for five local arts organizations in the form of a Technical Assistance Program established by the Arts Council. Many organizations are having to do more with less, and the Arts Council is pleased to be able to help during these economically challenging times, distributing funds provided in part by the California Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. In total, \$7,500 was distributed for a variety of projects.

Aromas Hills Artisans are a rapidly growing organization that needs assistance with their bookkeeping. An Accountant will be hired to establish a new system of record keeping.

El Teatro Campesino will be able to enhance their ability for promotion of their production "La Virgen del

Tepeyac" this holiday season. With a mass mailing of 20,000 patrons (both email and bulk mail), they could really use the extra funds.

The Hollister Art League is publishing a calendar featuring local artists in celebration of their 45th Anniversary as an art organization. The calendar will also honor Fay Kennedy, their first president and a local artist.

Oriana Chorale will use the funds to hire additional musicians for their concert programs, including two Christmas productions; advertising expenses are always tough to meet.

San Benito Stage Company is applying their funds towards royalties that must be paid to publishing houses for every play that the Stage Company produces, a very large portion of their budget. ✍



ART ACADEMY IN DOWNTOWN



The San Benito Street Studio Art Academy opened

its doors in 2008 and Evelyn Pogrowski is passionate about her community art center tucked into an old Victorian home in Hollister. Evelyn is very determined to succeed, "I am providing a service that is really needed in this community."

Currently beginning its third semester of art classes, the academy offers a variety of subjects for artists of all ages. An introduction to art will be offered this month enabling the student to develop critical thinking, creative problem solving, effective visual communication, and teamwork. On the lighter side, cartooning-silly and serious-will be offered using pencil and/or charcoal.



Students (left to right), Tiffany Wade, Nicole Vallejo and Amy Alvarez enjoy art.

In December, what could be more appropriate than a Christmas card and craft corner followed by color wheel theory in January to chase away those gloomy days.

Evelyn has been teaching art for 35 years. Give her a call at 831.726.4004 to reserve your spot today! ✍

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FILM FESTIVAL MOVED TO MAY 2009

Determined to have a Student Film Festival in Hollister, the Arts Council recently decided that May of 2009 would be a better month to have such an event. Executive Director Sharlene Van Rooy said, "We really want to have an event that is successful and instill confidence in the students who submit films," empowering them to create additional films, and to really be jazzed about filmmaking as a career.

A committee will begin meeting in October, including teacher Mary Maio from San Benito High School and the Executive Director of CMAP, Kathy Bisbee. Their expertise in the

film industry will help the Arts Council achieve this goal.

We are still looking for ideas for a guest speaker during the festival, so if you know anyone in the film industry that would like to talk to the students about what its like to be successful behind the camera, please let us know.

Applications to enter the Student Film Festival are available on line at www.sanbenitoarts.org. Students must be in grades 5-12, attending Gavilan College, or a resident of San Benito County.

And that's a wrap for now! ✍