

# Festive Top Hat Dinner Thursday evening

The Top Hat dinner signaling the start of the Art in the Redwoods festival was originally on Friday night for many years, but since 2007 the Top Hat dinner on Thursday has been the gala kickoff to the annual event.

Each year Gualala Arts honors an artist or friend of the arts. In 2007, Duane Gordon was honored, in 2008 it was Dwight Eberly. Elaine Jacob was feted in 2009 and last year Bob and Edith Holmes shared the honor.

The Top Hat opening dinner and wine celebration at the Gualala Arts Center starts at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 19 this year. Retired Bay Area caterer and event planner John Linderman is on board this year as the executive chef. John has been active in the community and has donated his talent and food to many organizations and Gualala Arts is thrilled to have him.

His company, Cheese Please Catering in San Mateo, carries on the tradition of exceptional food by his son Erik. Last year he was honored as the most valued member of The San Francisco Professional Food Society. He spends his time between The Sea Ranch and Bali and promises an outstanding dinner for all. John believes in team spirit and has rounded up the help of some local providers.

Gualala Arts would like to thank Chuckie Sorensen of Gualala Super, Jennifer Arana from Let Them Eat Cake, Mark and Paulo from Gelati Pazzo Marco and Tim Dan from Saag's Meats. A big thanks goes to Rich from Red Dog Farms for his donation of local organic leg of lamb.

John and his team have put together a terrific menu that includes appetizers and a four course dinner including an *amuse bouche*, salad, main course and dessert.

"We know this year's 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner will be one to remember," says Gualala Arts. "Thanks to John, his team and all the people who have donated to make this a true fundraiser for Gualala Arts."

Top Hat diners will enjoy a sneak peek preview of the Fine Art Exhibit even before it is judged during the cocktail hour before dinner.

The event this year honors Kathy DiMaio and Betty O'Neil for their founding concepts that led to the creation of Art in the Redwoods and on to Gualala Arts. A separate in-depth story is on page 7.

By attending the Top Hat dinner you also receive a VIP Festival pass. Reservations for dinner (\$150, includes \$100 donation) are recommended as it usually sells out. If you missed this year's dinner, please sign up early for next year.

Included in the VIP Festival Pass is the Friday, August 20 Champagne Preview from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. with award presentations and the judge's critiques. The fine art will be available for viewing and the first opportunity to purchase when doors open to the gallery at 4:30.

The heart of the festival is the magnificent exhibit of fine art throughout the building, including oil paintings, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, drawings, photographs, sculpture, woodworking, stained and fused glass, jewelry and fiber arts - most of them for sale. The Top Hat VIP Pass also includes admission on Saturday and Sunday August 21 & 22.

# Entertainment

The Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers will fill the air with the sounds of beautiful music each day. Joining them will be Eric Kritz on clarinet and Karl Young on shakuhachi.

Names of Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers

photo Rick Jackson.

Back row: Bill Halderman, Linda Bostwick, Claire Skilton, Lucienne Allen, Irene Leidner, Gail Thompson

Middle row: Jim Iversen, Jeanne Jackson, Sita Milchev, Sue Hansen, Michael Alexander

Front row: Rachel Kritz, Suzanne Kritz, Remi Alexander, Elise Allen

Not pictured: Sandra Brewer, Eric Kritz



John Micka, a 30-year resident of our area, is self taught on the classical guitar. It has been a personal teaching journey of twenty years and he has even started making guitars. He says if he had known how difficult the journey was he might not have taken it on. It has been very rewarding.

Once again, Joel & Linda Crockett from **Four-Eyed Frog Books** will share stories with youngsters of all ages in the enchanting Fairy Circle at Gualala Arts. Don't miss this opportunity to create a great memory with the young ones in your life.



The Farallons come from western rootstock. That is, the dust in their bones comes from the western third of the North American continent. The dust in their musical soul comes from folk, rock, classical, jazz, country, latin . . . you name it. It all appears in the music, some in more of a cameo role than others.

"We are really excited to be playing there again. It's such a wonderful festival."

Thanks again for having us back,"

Linda Weber, Tom Richardson and Terry Mills

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