

Art Angels...from Page 10

their grandparents by donating the funds to create the Frances and Bill Saville Memorial Kitchen. Of course, art angels can always choose to remain anonymous.

For further information about what is entailed in becoming a sponsor, contact the Fund Development Committee through the Gualala Arts office at (707) 884-1138. The committee chairperson Michele Marshall or Executive Director David "Sus" Susalla will be happy to discuss the wide variety of events available for sponsorship at costs to fit all budgets.



Gualala Arts volunteers dug the new elevator shaft by hand.

Volunteers keep those improvements coming

Ask "What's up?" to one of the many Gualala Arts volunteers and chances are the answer is "a new elevator."

The \$100,000 needed for this project was raised in record time. A little over a year after the May 23, 2010 "Lift Off" party started raising funds, the elevator is a reality. It is a testimony to the attitude that permeates Gualala Arts and the volunteers who have built, maintained and improved the facility since 1961.

Now the facility complies with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Also, everyone has access to the lower level classrooms, pottery equipment, woodworking classes and workshops as well as to the mezzanine level library and multipurpose room.

The outdoor wood-fired pizza oven in the picnic grounds, also new this year, is another example of volunteer efforts to enhance the grounds. Cooks have been experimenting in ways to best prepare rustic pizzas hot out of the oven. Everyone has enjoyed the novelty of self-made pizzas hot out of the oven while learning how to best cook in this rustic manner.

Anyone who has become bored with hiking, golfing or reading and wants to make a difference, should consider volunteering at the Gualala Arts Center. It is an excellent way not only to donate time to a worthwhile cause but also to develop friendships and to become more intimately involved in the coastal community.

Work crews pitch in on building projects every Tuesday and on landscaping every Thursday. Volunteers for these activities gain some practice in carpentry or some landscaping tips for the local climate. The Culinary Arts Guild members cook for both dinner events and receptions in a well-appointed kitchen. The Dolphin Gallery and Gift Shop is always eager to train new volunteers.

Literally, hundreds of volunteers help with exhibits, support all the productions, raise funds, and run the multiple arts and cultural activities and events of Gualala Arts, Inc.



Gualala Arts Celebrates 50 Years

About this time, a half a century ago a seed was planted. That seed was a vision of our community getting together, throwing a party and sharing their art with friends, family and neighbors. In August of 1961 that seed sprouted and a team of volunteers organized an art and garden show at the Gualala Community Center and brought the redwood forest indoors and hung the first "Art in the Redwoods." Community members shared art from their hearts, flower bouquets from their gardens, and nourishing food from their family recipes.

After five years, Gualala Arts, Inc. was formed...a non-profit with the simple mission, "to promote public interest and participation in the arts." With a

tremendous effort by the community, the Gualala Arts Center was built and opened in 1998. Since then, it has become a vibrant and active year-round arts association supporting a variety of programs for both residents and visitors to the area.

What will be the vision for the next half a century? In October of 2010 the Board of Directors and a group of stakeholders got together for a dynamic facilitated two-day workshop exploring what worked in the past and establishing objectives for the future of Gualala Arts. These objectives are being reviewed and prioritized quarterly by the Board. Thanks to everyone involved who are helping to nurture and shape the future of Gualala Arts!

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