

Volunteer of the Month Lynne Atkins – The Play’s the Thing

Several years ago while feasting at the Culinary Guild’s Madrigal Banquet, Lynne Atkins and Kathye Hitt cooked up the idea that has become Gualala Arts own acting company – Arts Center Theater (ACT). Their ambitious dream is an inspiring tale of the power of volunteerism married to dormant artistic talents.

At the age of eight Lynne organized a neighborhood show complete with admission tickets and a cast party barbeque. At ten, after being enchanted when seeing a performance of Peter Pan, she tried to write a script of the story casting herself as Peter – the boy who never wanted to grow up.

Later, she received scholarship help and earned a Master of Arts degree in Theater and Communications Arts at University of the Pacific in Stockton where she later taught in those departments. While working as an actor on location for Quinn Martin Productions – the production company that aired “The Streets of San Francisco” among other hit television series – she was offered a position as assistant director.

The continuous “on location” lifestyle, however, appeared unsuitable for a mother with a boy and a girl to raise, so she refused the offer. She proudly reports that the theater gene was passed on to both children. Her daughter, who lives in Marin, sings in two successful bands and is cutting her fourth CD. Her son, who resides in Hayward, writes music for video games.

After a successful career as a manager of software development, Lynne has returned to her first love and now

directs productions for Arts Center Theater, the Gualala Arts company that is currently staging the musical version of Frances Hodgson Burnett’s “The Secret Garden.”

With the organizational skills learned in the corporate world, and her lifelong love of theater, Lynne is ideally suited for the monumental task of mounting two productions a year. She works closely with Kathye Hitt and Assistant Director Linda Warnock. Don Krieger and Sita Milchev produce the musical numbers.

Coordinating, planning, and directing two productions a year is a full time task, but Lynne and Kathye also select other productions to stage at Gualala Arts from the many requests that the arts center receives. Next is the April 26 concert by the Gilbert and Sullivan Company, Savoy Express. They will also present a musical medley of songs from the Victorian collaborators’ oeuvre called “Aspects of Love.”

Lynne’s husband of 38 years, Phil, who has a college degree in voice and possesses a lovely tenor voice, has a lead role in this year’s play after performing in both “Scrooge” and “Annie.” Like many cast members he commits hours of rehearsal despite running a full time interior design business – Pro West Interior Services.

Lynne serves as one example of the many volunteers who make Gualala Arts exceptional. She has fulfilled a personal need and enriched the community. For more information about sharing talents as a Gualala Arts volunteer, contact the art center office at 884-1138, or go on-line at www.GualalaArts.org

Hansine Pedersen Goran Lecture on Carpets for Hearts and Minds December 11 at 7 p.m.

In her illustrated lecture entitled, “Unique Carpets Underfoot,” Hansine Pedersen Goran will lay down some concepts about carpet design that range from creating harmony in the home to considering Jungian personality types.

Goran, one of a small number of artists in the United States who create custom hand-tufted contemporary carpets, will explore the spatial transformation that occurs when using different carpet sizes and shapes, and the way designs can be intimately tailored to the needs of individuals, couples, and groups.

For Goran carpets need the right colors, textures, and design balances to make people comfortable and to integrate the components of a room to reflect the individual and the environment. Her pieces blend traditional craftsmanship using only New Zealand Fernmark wool and the crisp lines of modern design.

A Board Member of the DeYoung Museum Textile Arts Council, Goran has received the International Award for Design Excellence every year since 2001. She holds a PhD degree in Identity, Culture, and Mentality.

Her studio, Current Carpets, is located at 35590 Verdant View, in The Sea Ranch where her work may be seen. Her website is at www.currentcarpets.com. Goran’s carpets and interior designs have been featured in magazine and newspaper articles across the country.

This presentation promises to be informative for every one interested in learning how to better decorate a room, and in conveying a message to the viewer.

A donation of \$5 is suggested.

