

EDITORIAL

If there can be such a thing as a theme for this issue of *Sketches*, which covers so many diverse activities, it would have to be workshops. Up until two years ago workshops were not a major focus for Gualala Arts.

This changed when Barbara Pratt began to volunteer. When asked how she got all this started, Barbara answered: "Here is an arts center and I saw too few art workshops being scheduled. When I inquired about who was building the workshop program, I was surprised that no one had taken on the job. A few instructors had set up classes, but I envisioned at least a class a week being offered. I thought that having instructors from out of the area would provide inspiration and new ideas, so I contacted instructors from the Mendocino and Sebastopol art centers and helped them to develop our workshop program.

We have a very good set-up for the instructor and the upstairs classroom is a joy to work in. Prices are kept very reasonable for students, but there is enough for the instructors and to cover the expenses at Gualala Arts.

Since I started working full time as publicity coordinator a year ago, Gerda Randolph has taken on the job of expanding the workshop program. I am very pleased that not only have more instructors been interested in giving classes for us, but also our that our members, who have contact with other artists, have facilitated in their coming here.

Forms for proposing workshops are online at GualalaArts.org/Groups/Workshops.html. At the bottom of the page are all the printable forms needed to set up to a proposed workshop. There are also forms and information for attending any of the ongoing workshops.

In the future, I would like to see the workshop program tied in with our local rental agencies. We have a perfect destination for a scenic vacation combined with great accommodations, good food, and in addition, we can offer a two- to four-day workshop in art. Believe me, this is a place where instructors love to come."

Barbara Pratt

Sketches Newsletter of Gualala Arts Center

Editor – Jane Reichhold

Art Editor – Barbara Pratt

Copy Editor – Dave Jordan

Proof Reader – Sita Milchev

Production Manager – Nancy Spencer

Mailing Staff: Suzanne Hansen, Helen Klembeck, Paddy Batchelder, Sharon Jones, Shirley Welch, Ginger Alexander, Bobbie Penney, Diane Cunningham, Marilynn Balch, JoAnn Harris, Colleen Jackman, Carrie Krieger, Sharon Nickodem, and Sonja Thiene.



Sketches is printed on 100% recycled paper out of concern for the planet. Taking care of trees is a part of our job.

New Tax Break for IRA Owners for 2006 - 07

If you are an IRA owner, age 70 ½ or over, you can directly transfer tax-free, up to \$100,000 per year to an eligible charitable organization. This option is available in tax years 2006 and 2007. Eligible IRA owners can take advantage of this provision, regardless of whether they itemize their deductions. Only distributions from employer-sponsored retirement plans, including SIMPLE IRAs and simplified employee pension (SEP) plans are not eligible.

To qualify, the funds must be contributed directly by the IRA trustee to the eligible charity. Amounts so transferred are not taxable and no deduction is available for the amount given to the charity. Not all charities are eligible under this provision, but Gualala Arts is a valid option for this program.

Check with your tax consultant to see how you can help Gualala Arts to help you with your financial planning. Put your money to work in your community.

Bob Rutemoeller

As a Member of Gualala Arts. . .

You are invited to the Annual Membership and Board of Directors' Meeting on Wednesday, February 21 at 7 p.m. in the Coleman Auditorium. At this open meeting will be reports on activities, financial accounting, and plans revealed for the future. You can vote for new officers and directors and then get to know them over coffee and cookies.

Donate that Unwanted Whatever to Gualala Arts

Out with the old and in with the new! Make room in your life for new happiness. Donate your artwork, art supplies, furniture, well-cared for household items (no clothes, magazines, or books) to the Recycle Your Art and Second-Hand Sale to be held Saturday, February 24. Call the office, 884-1138 for pickup of large items or bring in what you can by February 21.

A Huge Thanks to:

- The many people who have responded so generously to the fund-raising campaign. It has been very up-lifting to see your support.
- The cast, crew, and directors of "The Secret Garden" for so many professional performances. Each one was sold-out! The community is still buzzing about the fabulous shows and with amazement over the talents of everyone.
- Miriam Owen for donating her complete ceramic equipment and supplies to the GA clay studio. The slab roller and wheel are already getting a work-out.
- Clapping hands and hugs for everyone who made the New York New Year's Eve Party such a fun event. These people know how to party!

Deadline for information for *Sketches*
on events in **March** is
Wednesday, January 31.