



With a little help from our friends...

We try to keep our doors open to welcome in the public on beautiful spring days. As I was peering out at an empty Foyer this week I noticed 2 Junco birds hopping around the slate floor looking for bits to eat. I kindly greeted them and let them know that we were between exhibits and that they would actually prefer to stay outdoors. One of them listened and proceeded to hop out the front door. He flew around to the front window and looked in on his companion. I let the one still inside know that he should follow his friend's lead and proceed towards the exit.

I moved towards him to guide him to the door but he panicked and flew into the window where his friend was looking in. He was flapping his wings, flying up and down and not realizing he was just banging his head on the glass, becoming his own worst enemy. So I approached him with a kind and loving voice and repeated that the door was over there not through the window. I let him know that if he just settled down I would show him the way outside. He looked at me and turned his head and sat there quietly.

I told him I would carry him outdoors to his friend. When I reached down he panicked again and proceeded to flap his wings, wasting time and energy trying to do it his own way. I repeated in a calm loving way, "I am here to help you and if you would just stop, take a deep breath and trust me, I will reunite you with your friend."

I reached my hand down, he looked me in the eye, I smiled and said, "It's ok, we will do this together." I put my hand around him, his head poked through my thumb and index finger so he could still look at me as we proceeded towards the front door. We turned the corner outside and his friend, who was watching us the whole time, flew up to us. I opened my hand, he winked at me and they flew off together.

To me, this was a perfect example on how sometimes we can waste so much energy trying to get something done. We bang our heads against a wall trying to do it ourselves/our way, when if we just took a deep breath, looked around and allowed someone to help us we would get the results we were hoping for in a much quicker time frame with less energy expended.

This is one of the gifts of the Arts Center that never ceases to amaze me. We achieve so much when we allow ourselves to give the act of receiving. I received much more by giving a moment of my day to those birds than they received from me by allowing me to help them.

Gualala Arts would not be what it is today if we did not allow and encourage this interchange of giving and receiving.

The gift of spring is in the air...I hope you will allow a little help from your friends...



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sus" or "Susalla".

David 'Sus' Susalla
Executive Director
Gualala Arts, Inc.