



Good-bye?

It's funny when two words
can mean so much ...

The next morning, Bob walked out to get his daily newspaper, as he always did, had a heart attack and made the transition we all will make eventually.

I learned that morning that every minute is more meaningful than I could ever imagine. I carry Bob's message, strength and inclusive spirit with me every day.

Karel Metcalf did retire in 2004, after working for Gualala Arts for 17 years, and now in 2013 is moving back to Idaho. We had a nice send-off party in the Metcalf Terrace for her this month. I did not say good-bye but as my mom always says, "I'll see you later!" I could not have asked for a better mentor. I will do the best I can to make sure that the Arts Center that you (our membership), the volunteers and donors created will stay strong and vibrant for generations to come!

It is a bit like the Hotel California here at the Gualala Arts Center, you can check out anytime you want but you can never leave...

Your spirits will remain here as a strength for all of us to call on!

No good-byes...hope to see YOU soon!

I am thankful this season for all the past, present and future conversations.

We carry these words around with us and use them quite often. In my position they could be easily used every day from a couple to literally hundreds of times! Between the emails, phone calls and meetings with tourists, artists, members, friends, family, patrons, community members and -- well, you get the idea -- I communicate with a lot of people.

Early on in my career here at Gualala Arts in 2002, Bob Hocker, then Board President, took me for a ride in his car. He set it up as a pretty serious discussion. He talked about the importance of my role (at the time) as Operations Manager. He mentioned the current projects: risers for the auditorium, building the JAMI amphitheater, computer upgrades, and Karel Metcalf's impending retirement.

He pulled up to the Arts Center to drop me off and parked out front. As we were sitting there, he stressed the importance of working with volunteers and donors to keep their morale up, and how the Arts Center should be welcoming to the entire coast. He then wrapped it up and said that he felt I was "the guy" and then said, "thanks for all that you are doing, keep up the good work and good-bye."

David 'Sus' Susalla
Executive Director
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