

Fall back?!

This time of year is always a hard one for me...

Days are getting shorter...I mean really short! It seems way too early for the sun to set at 5pm. Technically, the sun set at 5:13 pm on November 1 but it seemed like it was getting dark around 4pm at Gualala Arts.

One of my goals this year has been to leave the arts center in daylight....this has been much more achievable with no events...but this daylight savings thing has thrown a real wrench in that plan.

This is just another example of letting go and adjusting to your surroundings. If my goal is really to leave in the daylight hours, I just need figure out a way and do it. I need to realize I am not in control of this change, accept it, adapt to the new set of circumstances and plan accordingly.

Our Arts Center is nestled into a redwood forest, but our volunteer landscapers planted some donated non-native coniferous trees. I am glad they did as this is always a reminder that we must take the beauty and knowledge that those leaves have given us over the past several months and plan for the winter and following year. With leaves changing colors and falling all around us it is not only a metaphor but a physical reminder of the cycles in life that we need to recognize, embrace, adapt to our new surroundings and plan for what the future may (or not) have in store for us.

YUP...You guessed it...it's budget time at Gualala Arts (October & November.) My education and professional career was Accounting before Gualala Arts so I usually feel pretty comfortable with the process. However, 2020 into 2021 is a real game changer for me...and everyone else in the world.

I am really proud of our board of directors for not crawling under a rock and hiding to wait the storm out. With some savvy planning, creative reimagining and to the generosity our donors, sponsors and membership, we have come up with some new program offerings and learned a lot while doing so. We have taken that experience and have budgeted for 2021 and are planning for a productive fall, winter and next year!

I hope you will join us in this changing season and take time to stop and appreciate your surroundings, access what you are in control of (or not), adjust to our new situation, embrace the next season and find a way for you to make a difference!

With sincere love, gratitude, appreciation and cautious optimism,

David "Sus" Susalla
Executive Director
Gualala Arts